

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Engineer Professional Advisory Committee
Thursday April 17, 2003

The Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC) welcomes your input and participation. Meetings are open to all PHS Engineers and Architects. Those who are not able to attend in person may attend via conference call. Please contact the Executive Secretary at 301-443-1367 for the place and conference access number.

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

- A. CAPT Cuzme, EPAC Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. EST in Rockville, MD. The March 17, 2003 minutes will be held open for two weeks for comments. If no comments are received then they are approved as is. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday May 27 at SAME conference, Sheraton Hotel 2nd floor, Douglas room at 1pm PDT, 4pm EDT in Seattle, WA. The agenda will be sent by email.

II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. **Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE):** Not available for meeting.
B. **EPAC Chair:** CAPT José Cuzme reported the following.
i. PAC chairs will meet April 24. CAPT Poneleit will be attending on CAPT Cuzme behalf.
ii. This April meeting focus on the promotion precepts.

III. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Held for next meeting.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

CAPT Cuzme opened discussion on new business:

- A. Commissioned Corps / American Legion: CDR Kevin Milne

CDR Milne a current member by prior naval service felt that PHS should be Eligible. He appealed for past, present and future PHS officers to be eligible for American Legion Membership. Resolution wording has passed the Office of Surgeon general, COA director past and present, PHS historian, and Membership director of American Legion at the national level. West Virginia Local level passed it, and West Virginia District meeting. Review by state level and National Level is still required. Hope to have it passed this year. Resolution will be sent electronically to EPAC members. A key benefit is that it makes the Commissioned Corps more equal with the other services. This strengthen the transformation of the Corps.

- B. Open discussion of commissioned corps benchmarks.
i. Awards subcommittee's comments were included through CAPT Rodenbek report.
ii. Building subcommittee: no comments

- iii. Career Development: LTCDR Martin
Sub Committee drafted a 7-page document by looking at general priorities and then going through the matrix and writing down some specific benchmarks. Provided comments for the first 3 priorities. They would like clarification on how the benchmarks will be used. How are they going to be scored and is there any historical data available? The sub-committee's main concern or issue is #4, Characteristics of career officer and service to the corps. They feel it is excellent addition, but feel that civil service managers may feel that Commissioned Corps may be a liability due to extra curricular activities and felt weight was high on this item and recommend a lower weight.
- iv. Comment from John Hamilton, Phoenix area IHS. Include service to local community service as well as just the corps activities.
- v. Comment from CDR Harris.
Create a list of activities that are deemed to fall in this category. Require that an officer should satisfy three items from a broad list to reflect officership. Try to eliminate subjectivity. These benchmarks will cut down on the current subjectiveness. We really need to consider the corps officers in remote locations, realize they do not have access to the opportunities in urban or metropolitan areas.
- vi. Emergency Preparedness: CAPT Rodenbeck
Degrees Certification and Licensure may not be expected of a person by the O4 level, but at the O5/O6 levels some type of licensure is almost mandatory.

Continuing education was discussed extensively. As far as licensures and certification requirements there are usually continuing education so that 3 CEU's equates to a weeklong training course per year on average. The subcommittee favors the concept of aggregating CEUs with coursework and other training activities.

For number 4 COA, ROA, AMSUS, SAME and other professional associations should be added. Membership relates to the O4 level and active participation in some associations by the O5 level.

The concern of field engineers having access was voiced.

- vii. Information – CDR Coene
Expressed some issues with Mobility and Geographic area.
- viii. CDR Milne commented
As a lab engineer he does not agree with mobility requirements. Could be detrimental to the program if you move around and more difficult to become a recognized expert. It is hard to put a blanket statement across all engineers for training and licensure since each type of engineering has different things available to them. Engineer's handbook has listings of different certifications that you can get.
- ix. Mentoring CDR Scofield
Committee did not meet to discuss these items. Geographic limitations and program funding limitations could keep officers from receiving training.
- x. Rules: CDR Poneleit
Committee did not meet. CDR Poneleit is concerned with the licensure and training, since different specialties require different certification. Agency differences were also noted as IHS people may have more opportunity for licensure and FDA may not depending on cultural and historical past. Consideration for community commitment should be added.
- xi. Comments from LTCDR Ondelancy
Deployed officers directly serving the public should receive recognition. An also officer working in hardship areas where turnover is a problem should be given credit for staying at that location. In this case the non-mobility helps the agency to perform its mission.
- xii. Comments from CAPT Casamento
Hardship Isolated positions should be considered as being deployed. They are in the field dealing with the public, and that meets the spirit of the Commissioned Corps. This should be considered as a new precept. Professional Societies should be incorporated as part of the organizations that the corps members can belong to.

C. Proposal to form a taskforce to consider all the comments at the leadership seminar and mold a final proposal for EPAC was unanimously approved. This will include for consideration all comments presented to date. Meeting will be held Tuesday evening. CAPT Cuzme will get members present together..

V. **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. **Building Design and Construction**: Mr. Brian Kong Reported the following:

Met April 8 and 14. One member resigned. Update on SG workshop; proposed for two days with speakers from WHO and Institute of Medicine and the agenda will have to clear the OSG to determine invitees. HHS is now a member Construction Industry Institute and it is a research institute for improving the competitiveness of the construction industry. HHS is participating in research projects and needs to advance certification for project managers. Next meeting to be held in the DC area in June/July.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**: The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. EST.

EPAC MEETING PARTICIPATION:

Participants: (Members in bold, with alternates attending matched by number to the members absent)

LCDR David Ausdemore (CDC), CDR Michael Coene (FDA), CAPT José Cuzme (IHS), CDR Scott Earnest (CDC), CDR Bradley Harris (NPS), Mr. Kyung Kim (NIH), Mr. Brian Kong (NIH), LT Jennifer Martin (CDC), LCDR Susan Neurath (ATSDR), LCDR Denman Ondelancy (IHS), CDR Kathy Poneleit (At Large), CAPT Sven Rodenbeck (At Large), CAPT Rao Surampalli (At Large), CDR Todd Scofield (IHS), CAPT Gene Sullenger (FDA), CAPT Kevin Chadwick (IHS, Ex-officio), LCDR Nicole Wolanski (FDA, Ex-officio), LCDR Claire Karlson (DCP Liaison), CAPT Jon Casamento (COA Liaison)

Members Absent:

Ms. Crystal Allen (NIH), Mr. Michael Adjodha (FDA), LCDR Meredith Bond (EPA), LCDR Scott Helgeson (IHS), LCDR Jamie Natour (HRSA), CAPT (Ret) Bedick (NIH, Ex-officio), LT Sean Boyd (FDA, Ex-officio), Ms. Lisa Hayes (ATSDR, Ex-officio), LCDR Nate Tatum (ATSDR, Ex-officio), RADM Robert Williams (ATSDR, Ex-officio), CDR Maurice West (NPS, Ex-officio), CDR Dan Beck (TISP Liaison), LCDR Hilda Scharen (SAME Liaison), LT Mathew Martinson (Jr. Eng Liasion)

GUESTS:

CDR Mark Thomas, CAPT Dennis Barber, CDR Kevin Milne

AUTHORIZATION:

I have recorded the above EPAC meeting minutes:

LTJG Allen Bollinger
Executive Secretary, EPAC

Date

I have read the above minutes, which accurately describe this meeting, and on behalf of the EPAC approve their distribution:

CAPT José F. Cuzme, P.E.
Chairperson, EPAC

Date

I authorize distribution of these minutes:

RADM Robert C. Williams, P.E.
Chief Engineer, USPHS

Date