

**Meeting Minutes of the  
Engineer Professional Advisory Committee  
Thursday, August 28, 2008**

The Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC) welcomes your input and participation. Meetings are open to all Public Health Service Engineers and Architects.

Next meeting date: Sept 18th, 2008, 3:30-5PM Eastern Standard Time

Conference Line Information:

**Toll-free: 1-866-614-6551**

**Passcode: 8768444**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

CAPT Sue Neurath called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM EST. Attendance was taken and a quorum of EPAC members was present. Tab A shows the EPAC meeting attendance to date.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

CAPT Neurath identified two modifications were made to clarify the minutes and stated that they will remain open until the end of the following month. At the end of that month, the minutes will be considered finalized.

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Office of the Chief Engineer (OCE):** RADM Barror provided the following:

- Revised Assimilation Standards
  - The Office of the Chief Engineer sent the revised standards to the Surgeon General.
  - This is the first revision in 10-15 yrs. The major change will allow for otherwise qualified applicants with a Bachelor's degree from a university outside the US to be commissioned.
  - We hope the standard will be approved within the next 6 months.
- Revisions to the Engineer coin and logo.
  - Celebrate our 1914 roots; USPHS Engineers were symbolized by a triangle with a caduceus. CDR John Longstaff has been working on getting the design.
  - The Office of the Chief Engineer is looking for the PAC to review the design.
- Hurricane Gustav is in the gulf headed towards the Gulf. The Corps is beginning to mobilize. Be aware that we may call more to duty than usual.

**B. EPAC Chair:** CAPT Neurath provided the following:

- Corps activated to prepare for Gustav; expect landfall in the Gulf area on ~Sept 1.
  - Currently no MA from FEMA, but that is expected later today. The MA is expected to authorize pre-deployment certain assets for a quick response.

- Training Opportunities
  - AMSUS; held in San Antonio, TX, November 9-14, 2008
    - Leadership Development
    - Hospital Development/Protection
    - Joint Humanitarian Operations
  - Integrated Training on Public Health Response, Dallas, TX, April 2009
- FY2009 COER
  - Expect an Oct 1 release
  - Currently testing two versions; testing may be open to all, but volunteers need to self identify before Sep 5. Volunteers will evaluate two versions and take a survey.
    - Expect more information later, send Sue an email if you're interested receiving the follow-up information
- Transformation – this summer the Corps exceeded the sizing target of 6150
  - Most categories increased; physicians and dental though experienced a 3-4% loss
- Health Diplomacy Future
  - Secretary Leavitt continues to strongly support and advocate for health diplomacy and encourage OPDIV heads to also offer their support
  - OFRD exploring options to encourage OPDIV support:
    - Invite OPDIV heads to visit missions in progress
    - Improve communication to and beyond OPDIV heads of secretary's support
    - Improve communication to non-HHS OPDIV heads
    - Continue to support HAMMR teams to support longer missions

#### **IV. Subcommittee Announcements:**

##### **Steven Bosiljevac, Building Design and Construction**

- The committee will move to change the name at the October EPAC call; the new subcommittee, focused on best engineering practices, will support engineers across all agencies (EPA, National Park Service, etc.).

#### **V. Liaison Announcements:**

None

#### **VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- Officer Health Program
  - Presentation organized and presented by LCDR Jennifer Proctor  
Officers not in the medical field can give talks to children about health care, but the majority of the committee are health professionals. The pharmacy PAC has a presentation dealing with child obesity and will share it with anybody. They use it in schools to discuss child obesity. Boy Scouts have a merit badge for health, including topics such as diet, physical activity and health. Counselors could sponsor for a merit badge. CDR

Birch-Smith presented on this topic before. Today's presentation is not focused on making a decision, but on thinking in the context of the strategic plan. A proposal was put forth that Sue and Jennifer work together to draft an email to ask about the plan and share any developments in the announcements at the next meeting.

- LCDR Birch-Smith reported that the proposed program is an expansion of the PharmPAC's current Injury Prevention presentations and is based on the Officer Friendly Program used by police officers. The goal is to educate elementary school children about health issues and interact with them in a positive setting. The Officer Friendly Program tries to humanize children's perception of police and reduce crimes of children. Police visit elementary schools in cities. The program was initiated after going to schools and seeing the need for health education. Health issues include injury prevention, obesity, tobacco use and other safety issues. Her thoughts are to improve health literacy and increase visibility of the public health service. This opportunity is available to all PHS officers inside and outside of D.C. They are looking at selecting topics from the surgeon general's priorities. Scripts for the talks may be made for consistency.
  - LCDR Birch-Smith indicated that she is looking for what from the EPAC? The white paper draft is going thru the committee, but it is not ready for presentation to the PAC chairs. They want to present it to the PAC chairs and, if it is approved, they want to present it to the surgeon general PAC. They may wish to expand it to cover other areas like injury prevention and emergency response.
  - This presentation is to help the EPAC understand what is being asked of us; we will evaluate the request in concert with our Strat Plan goals and objectives next month and provide a response.
- Focus Area: Professional Development
    - Based on discussion and comments a few revisions were made to the Professional Development Focus Area of the Strat Plan; check out the sections in bold send comments to Sue
  - New PHS Engineer Coin
    - Several comments were discussed. It was decided that those with comments would provide them to CDR Longstaff

**VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jennifer Caproso announced that we are nearing the end for a chance for PHS speakers in Salt Lake City on May 12-15, 2009. If anyone is interested, contact her. Tracks and topics will be in the next announcements.

The date for next month's call is changed to September 18<sup>th</sup>.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**


CAPT Neurath adjourned the meeting at 5:00 PM EST.

TAB A  
2008 EPAC Member and Guest Attendance

Rank	First	Last	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
ADM	Richard	Barror	x	x	E	x	x		x	x				
CAPT	David	Apanian		x	x	E	x		E	E				
CAPT	Dan	Beck		x	x	x			x	x				
CAPT	Steven	Bosiljevac	x	x	x	x	x		x	x				
LT	Bradley	Cunningham		x	x	x	x		x	x				
CDR	Mary	Dahl	x	x	x	x			x	x				
LCDR	Roger	Dahozy	x		E	x			x					
CAPT	Bradley	Harris	x	x		x	E		x	x				
CDR	Charles	Hayden	x	E	x	x	E			x				
CDR	Churci	Kardous	x	x	E	x	x		x	x				
CDR	John	Longstaff	x	x	x	x	x		x	E				
CAPT	James	Ludington	x		x	x			x	x(alt)				
CDR	Michael	MarcAurele	x	x	x	x	x		E	x				
CAPT	Susan	Neurath	x	x	x	x	x		x	x				
LCDR	Vivian	Porter							x	x				
LCDR	Varsha	Savalia	x	x	x	x	x			x(alt)				
CDR	Hilda	Scharen	x	x	E	E	x		E	x				
CAPT	Adam	Scully	x	x	x	x			x					
CDR	James	Simpson	x	x	x	x	x		x	x				
CDR	Emil P.	Wang	x	x	x	x	x			E				
Dr.	Tonia	Burk	E	x	x	E	x		x	x				
CDR	Keith	Foy	x	x	x	x			x	x				
CAPT	Raelene	Skerda	x											
CAPT	Randy	Gardner		x					x	x				
LCDR	Jonathan	Rash	E	x	x	x	x		x					
CDR	Geoffrey	Wachs		x	x	x			x					
LCDR	Jennifer	Caparoso		x		x			x					
CDR	Ed	Dieser		x		x			x					
	Nazmul	Hassan		x										
LTJG	Kim	Love		x	x	x	x			x				
LCDR	David	Mazorra		x										
CDR	Jamie	Natour	x	x	x	x			x	x				
CAPT	Kathleen	Downs					x							
LCDR	Thomas	Pryor					x							
LCDR	Jennifer	Proctor							E	x				
LCDR	Steven	Sauer							x	x				
LCDR	Nathan	Epling							x	x				
LT	Jill	Hammond								x				
CDR	Peter	Nachod								x				

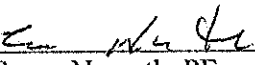
**IX. AUTHORIZATION**

I have recorded the above EPAC meeting minutes:

  
Ms. Tonia Burk  
EPAC, Recorder

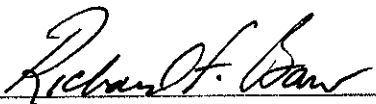
1/22/09  
Date

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

  
CAPT Susan Neurath, PE  
EPAC, Chair

1/22/09  
Date

I authorize distribution of these minutes:

  
RADM Rick Barror, PE  
Chief Engineer, USPHS

1-22-09  
Date