



MACHINATORES VITAE

Engineer Newsletter

From the Chief Engineer Officer



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Are You Personally Prepared to Deploy??

Once again we are in the midst of hurricane season with the potential for disaster deployments. These deployments would be on top of a tremendous amount of current activity by OFRD (Office of Force Readiness and Deployment) which is part of the Office of the Surgeon General and headed by CAPT David Rutstein. OFRD currently is managing for the PHS, the USNS Comfort and USS Peleliu humanitarian missions. In addition, OFRD is heading up the Tier 1 and Tier 2 training currently underway in Texas and preparing to kick-start the new HAMR (health and medical response) teams once funding is made available. Meanwhile, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) headed by RADM Craig Vanderwagen is not only preparing for hurricanes and other potential emergencies, but has been working steadily over the last year with other Federal and state agencies, as well as with the Assistant Secretary for Health, to prepare for a possible avian influenza epidemic.

Since September 2001, the Federal government has made fundamental changes in the way it prepares for and responds to emergencies. Hurricane's Katrina and Rita emphasized the need for the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the use of ICS (incident command system) as well as highlighted the importance of ESF-8 (emergency support function number 8) which outlines the Federal government's health and medical response role in federally declared emergencies. Reevaluations

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and new assessments of all aspects and levels of emergency response and preparedness are resulting in rapid changes that seem almost overwhelming to keep up with.

“Not to Worry” as one of my college professors use to say. You don’t need to know everything. However, as an individual engineer officer, there are some things that you can and should do to prepare. These are:

- o Prepare your family
 - o Prepare your self for a quick departure
 - o Get familiar with the big ICS picture
 - o Understand your specific deployment role and responsibility if in Tier 1 or 2
- Be familiar with some essential communication techniques while in a disaster zone.

Thanks to many engineer officers, including CDR Dan Beck, CDR Jim Simpson, and CAPT Sven Rodenbeck, the value of engineers during deployments has been proven and documented. Engineers are now considered essential to the success of ESF-8 operations. As the response to Hurricane Katrina revealed, engineers served in many diverse roles from serving in ICS command positions to managing mobile health clinics to conducting infrastructure assessments. Engineers are desired for their management, analytical, and problem solving skills. As an engineer, you are more valuable than you realize.

Prepare your Family:

Regardless of whether you will deploy or not, each family should be prepared for a disaster. Fortunately, there are many great resources available to assist us in getting prepared. The American Red Cross has a lot of information on their website (<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/> or <http://www.prepare.org/>) Additional information and resources (e.g. downloadable

checklists) about disaster preparation are also available from the Department of Homeland Security at <http://www.ready.gov/america/index.html>. Your plan should cover your immediate family and those you watch over (Grandma, elderly neighbor) and pets. For example, consider having some cash hidden under your mattress. ATM machines, credit cards, and banks may not work if the power/phone systems go down. You may only be able to buy food and gasoline with cash. OFRD has established a pre-deployment checklist <http://ccrf.hhs.gov/ccrf/how.htm> under their FAQ section that is very helpful for preparation of your family just before your deployment.

Prepare Yourself:

When you are on-call, you must be accessible (for notification of deployment) and be ready to go.

Now is the time to get familiar with a number of great resources that can assist you both professionally and personally while deployed. The PHS engineer website is the first place to start: <http://www.usphsengineers.org/EmergencyPreparedness/default.htm>. It contains useful background information as well as information about specific engineering roles that you may be asked to perform such as medical facilities disaster recovery. It also contains the IHS Environmental Health Handbook and the USAID Field Operations Guide – necessary sanitation (water, wastewater, food, hazmat, etc.) references that will be useful for such things as disaster camps – which you can download. It cannot be overstressed the importance of a “go bag” when you are on call for deployment. Your bag should include your uniforms, personal gear, professional references, and needed tools. Your agency and

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family responsibilities must be in good order for a quick departure during your on-call month. OFRD has established a pre-deployment checklist http://ccrf.hhs.gov/ccrf/faq_gobag.htm under their FAQ section that is very helpful for preparing your “go bag”.

Understanding the Big ICS Picture:

By now, you should have taken the online FEMA courses to get a basic understanding of the NIMS (national incident management system), the NRP (national response plan), and ICS (incident command system). You should know that while deployed, you are part of a broader response system and accountable to a team leader, the Incident Response Coordination Team (IRCT), or other appropriate link in your chain of command.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is responsible for ESF-8, health and medical response functions, under the NRP (see <http://www.fas.org/irp/agency/dhs/nrp.pdf> for more information). As such, HHS is responsible for all deployed health assets including the Medical Reserve Corps, Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs – see <http://www.ndms.dhhs.gov/>), VA and some DoD health assets, the PHS Commissioned Corps and HHS civilians who are deployed, and federalized volunteer health professionals. All of these health assets are under the command of the HHS Secretary and managed by the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR). The Secretary’s Operation Center (SOC) in the Hubert H. Humphrey (HHH) Building in D.C. is the HHS command center. The EMG (emergency management group) is housed there and is in constant communication with the IRCT located near the disaster area, which is coordinating with DHS/FEMA locally and pro-

viding onsite management of all the deployed Federal health assets (noted above). Together the EMG and IRCT manage strategy, personnel and information regarding everything from casualty triage, to mobile health clinics, to patient movement, to establishing federal medical stations, to animal health issues, to mortuary operations, and in-between.

All of the planning, strategy, and operational decisions are guided by written CONOPS (concepts of operation) and “playbooks”, which are pre-established procedures for ESF-8 disaster response activities for different scenarios. The ASPR website also contains useful information about specific types of disasters: <http://www.hhs.gov/disasters/>

Understanding Your Specific Deployment Role:

The first thing you need to know is whether you are on a Tier 1 RDF (Rapid Deployment Force) team, Tier 1 IRCT (Incident Response Coordination Team), Tier 2 APHT (Applied Public Health Team), or in Tier 3. If in the Tier 1 or 2 groups, you should be in regular contact with your team leadership. You also need to know your rotational roster, see <http://ccrf.hhs.gov/ccrf/ResponseTeamRosterAssignmentMonths.pdf> so you know when you are on-call to deploy. For Tier 3, you may be called to supplement Tier 1 and 2 units or be assigned more diverse roles depending on your skill set. It is also quite possible that Tier 3 engineer officers could deploy more frequently than Tier 1 and 2 officers. RDF # 2 has a website: <http://www.phs2.org/>

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Communication:

Before you enter a disaster site, prepare your frame of mind and your attitude. At disaster locations, engineers usually find

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themselves mixed in with a diverse group of people including medical responders (physicians, pharmacists), disaster victims, military units, local government officials, NGO's (non-government organizations such as the Red Cross), FEMA officials, and unorganized volunteers. Among the mix, and usually in the middle of a chaotic situation, is the media, which is video taping and preparing stories for their news organizations. The most important thing that we can do, which is very difficult under stress (chaos, lack of sleep, uncomfortable environment), is to act, look, and speak as professionally (calm, positive, factual) as possible. This means being culturally sensitive and empathetic to the disaster victims and local leaders, wearing the uniform and saluting properly, supporting state and local decision makers (rather than telling them what to do), building relationships with others to accomplish your mission successfully, and communicating with the news media in a professional and courteous manner.

In general, if you think you will be approached by the media, you should immediately discuss this with your team leader for guidance on proper chain of command procedures. Usually each IRCT has a PIO (public information officer) that you can refer to the press. Know that person's name and phone number. If you suddenly find yourself with a camera on you and/or a reporter asking questions, be positive, honest, and give short answers. Give only correct information. Don't guess, or speculate on hypothetical questions; admit that you don't know the answer, but can find out for them. Disaster victims want to know what is safe (water, air, shelter) or

not safe, and where to go for assistance, especially if they are injured, exposed, or homeless. Regardless of the specific question asked by the media, let the media know who you are, what you are doing, what you know about the situation, what you don't know, and what you are doing to get answers. Show empathy and respect for the victims, action in terms of your mission, and avoid blame or negative opinions.

The CDC has a terrific website [<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/>] that has much information on disaster preparedness and response. One of the best aspects of it is the advice and tools regarding communicating with disaster victims such as [<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/firsthours/>]. The CDC training website <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/training/> has many references and courses on risk communication during a disaster <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/erc/cerc.asp>. These can be very helpful in trying to understand what is the most important thing to communicate as a Federal responder to victims of a disaster. One training module is titled, "Working with the media in crisis".

PHS engineers continue to impress me with their leadership and enthusiasm. As a category, you are widely admired by the rest of the Corps for your skills and inventiveness, which is evident by the number of ideas that are adopted by the other categories. Thanks for all you do to support both your agency and the Corps.

As you think about and prepare for the eventuality of being deployed, please also have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Machinatores Vitae!

RADM Richard Barror



2007 EPAC Chair

CDR David Ausdemore

Wouldn't it be nice to have an annual event in which we could get together with our fellow engineers and share best practices, tell stories of exaggerated engineering feats that we accomplished over the years, and learn of the latest emerging engineering technologies? The PHS Environmental Health Officers attend the annual training conference sponsored by the National Environmental Health Association and other PHS categories, such as the nurses, doctors, and veterinarians, have their professional conferences. But what about the engineers? Is there a training conference that we can focus on the engineering profession that has material broad enough to catch the interest of the wide spectrum of engineering specialties that are included within our category? Such a conference does exist. The Society of American Military Engineers provides a training conference that is top notch technical session that all PHS engineers could benefit from.

I had a chance to attend this year's SAME conference and it was great! In addition to learn about the engineering sessions that ranged from readiness to facility topics, there were plenty of opportunities to network with old acquaintances and to meet new contacts. CDR Geoff Wachs is on the program committee for next year's conference and will be doing his best to incorporate topics that will be especially interesting to the PHS engineers. Events like the SAME conference always give me a boost and I always have a few best practices that I want to implement when I return to the office.

SAME in general is a great organization that allows us the opportunity to stay in contact with fellow engineers and often learn about

the latest engineering projects that are being conducted by our peers in the civilian world. If you are not involved with your local SAME Post, I encourage you to do so. I have personally been involved with the Atlanta Post which has provided me an additional professional group that focuses primarily on advancing the engineering profession and have developed close relationships with the other POST members. I have also served in leadership positions with the Post and it is a true pleasure working with the leaders. Most of the SAME members are veterans, with the majority being retired senior military officers which also gives you exposure to some of the best leaders around. Instead of rambling on about all of the great benefits of belonging to SAME, I have developed my own "Top 10" list of the reasons why a PHS Engineer should be involved with SAME. Here it is:

Top 10 Reasons to be active in your local SAME Post

1. Meet fellow engineers working in your local area.
2. Learn about various engineering projects featured during Post meetings;
3. Sharpen leadership skills by serving in leadership positions with other SAME leaders (who are often retired military colonels and generals/admirals)
4. Promote the engineering profession through SAME events
5. Assist future engineers with Post sponsored scholarships
6. Educate Post members of the PHS engineers (who knows, maybe they'll recruit a future officer)
7. Recruit fellow members to the PHS (I actually recruited somebody from a

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- SAME luncheon who ended up working in my office)
8. Identify other organizations' best practices that we may incorporate into the PHS engineering mission.
 9. Enjoy great food served at the lunches.
 10. Earn CEUs to maintain PE certification.

On a final note, I would like to make one last plug for the SAME training conference.

For those of you who have not had the opportunity to attend a SAME conference, I highly recommend it. In fact, I would like to urge all of our engineers to make the SAME conference one of their annual training events that they attend. As a category, we need an annual event that focuses on engineering and SAME is the one conference that can provide the technical, contracting, and networking resources that can help us to advance the PHS mission.

Highlights from Engineer Category Day

CDR Sue Neurath

Engineer Category Day, historically one of the best sessions at the USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, set a new standard of excellence on June 5th! This year's agenda covered various aspects of project management for PHS engineering. Presentations discussed the role of project management in the successful development of the final product and the wide variety of tools and methodologies available to improve project management. Dr. Carlo Montemago, Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Cincinnati, delivered a fascinating presentation on the future of engineering and provided many interesting details of his research in

developing nano-machines powered by living cells.

The following are some highlights of this year's activities.

The Honorees

RADM Moritsugu, Acting Surgeon General, RADM Williams, Chief of Staff for the SG, and RADM Barror, recognized the 2007 Engineer Category Award Winners.



RADM Barror congratulates LT Vivian Iskander Porter (right), Chair of the COF Category Day Planning Workgroup and the COF Engineer Representatives, CDR Mary Dahl (center) and LCDR (select) Tammy White (left).

Those honored included: CAPT G. Scott Earnest, CDR Ken Mead, CDR Scott Lee, CDR William Murphy, LCDR Ronald Hall, LCDR Shari Windt, LCDR Michael Young, LT Duane Hammond, LTJG Rebecca Valladares Carlo,



Dr. Terry Woods, Ms. Amy Fang, Ms. Rachel Rudd, Mr. Bryan Beamer, Mr. James Bennett, Mr. Kevin Dunn, Mr. Alberto Garcia, Mr. William Heitbrink, and Mr. Robert Wilson.

President of the Cincinnati COA Chapter, presented RADM Barror with a crystal mug to honor his dedicated service to the Commissioned Corps and the Engineer Category.



The Presenters

A special thanks to the Category Day speakers! CDR Mark Aguilar, CDR Dave Ausdemore, CDR Dan Beck, CDR Dave Harvey, CDR Scott Helgeson, CDR Chuck Kardous, CDR Scott Lee, CDR Kelly Leseman, CDR Geoff Wachs, LCDR Tracy Gilchrist, LT Bradley Cunningham, and LTJG Kurt Kesteloot did an outstanding job of preparing and delivering informative, relevant and interesting presentations.

Additional Items of Interest

RADM Moritsugu visited with the engineers during the awards luncheon. We thought it was a joke when he tried to grab an extra piece of chocolate cake saying it looked better than the dessert he had with his lunch. Turns out, it was true – some of the other categories had a non-chocolate dessert. Our good fortune was likely due to our dedicated Category Day Reps!

Following the Engineer Awards presentation, Tony Zimmer, PHS Engineer and

LCDR (select) Tammy White modeled the latest in maternity uniform wear; our newest PHS Engineer-in-Training is due in just a few months.

CDR Kelly Leseman, the first speaker after lunch, demonstrated probably the first non-PowerPoint presentation ever witnessed by some of our young engineers.

LTJG Kurt Kesteloot led the engineers and almost all of the participants through the Surgeon General's 5k fun run and walk! He said he would have been faster except for that second piece of chocolate cake at lunch....

A large number of the engineer participants gathered for dinner and theoretical discussions on nano-machines, deck construction, Corvette vs Mustang GT, and crab grass eradication techniques. Unfortunately we ran out of napkins before the Space/Time Transport Machine was fully designed.

During an ad hoc meeting after the general Category Day session, CDR Randy Gardner

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presented project management tips on how to maximize the value of your limited training budget.

We discovered that several of our category members are accomplished musicians! Mary Dahl plays the flute, Edward Zechmann plays the trumpet, Mike MarcAurele and Brad Cunningham play the saxophone,

and Mick Koehmstedt is a singer. All performed in the PHS Ensemble's presentation on Monday night!

Planning for Engineer Category Day 2008 begins next month. Contact LT Vivian Iskander Porter, Chair of the Category Day Planning Subcommittee to get involved!

Engineering Recruitment & Retention

CDR Chuck Kardous

Where we are today?

Recruitment of new officers to the PHS has been identified as one of the top priorities of the Corps' transformation plan. The Chief Engineer and EPAC have also targeted more efforts to improving the recruitment of engineer officers. While the total number of engineers at the various HHS agencies has remained relatively constant over the last several years, the number of commissioned corps engineers continues to decline at an alarming rate. From its peak level of 600 engineer officers in the early 1990's, the category strength stands at fewer than 400 today. In the last five years, the engineer category was one of four categories who have shown declines in numbers (Figure 1) while the other seven categories have experienced very healthy gains.

The average gains per year were around 21 engineers while the average loss was around 25. Losses are mainly due to retirements and some early separations; with the aging of our category, this phenomenon will accelerate if our recruitment efforts fail to offset these losses. Over the next 2 years, approximately 30% of the entire category will be retirement eligible. It is imperative that we accelerate our recruit-

ment efforts and improve our retention rates if we want to continue to be an important component of the U.S. Public Health Service.

What are we doing now?

The Chief Engineer, EPAC, EPAC recruitment and retention subcommittee, and the Engineer Associate Recruiters are working closely to address recruitment and retention issues, and have developed and implemented several programs and strategies to improve the category numbers. These efforts are summarized below:

1. Develop and maintain a database of general duty and COSTEP applicants
2. Develop, maintain, and disseminate a list of engineering vacancies
3. Coordinate with associate recruiters leads the recruitment activities and assignments
4. Coordinate the civil service to Commissioned Corps conversion initiative
5. Coordinate with the office of the Chief Engineer to identify hiring managers and available positions
6. Update recruitment materials and website information

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Currently, we have close to 150 engineering prospects in our recruitment database. There are 31 active applications for general duty and 48 COSTEP in the OCCO system. The associate recruiter program has 93 engineer officers who are actively recruiting new engineers at their local universities and colleges and helping guide applicants through the commissioning process.

What are the challenges we face today?

Recruitment of a PHS officer has always been a challenging task mainly due to the dual process that a new applicant has to follow; applying for a corps commission while searching for open positions at an HHS agency that offer corps assignments. This process can be long and cumbersome and not many applicants are usually willing to endure, especially new college graduates. There are several factors that have contributed to prolonging the hiring of a new engineer, mainly due to the lack of coordination between the PHS and hiring agencies and the limited engineering opportunities that become available in a given year. Limited funding for associate recruiters to attend recruitment events and university career fairs has also hampered many of our recruitment efforts.

The new transformation plan on recruitment aims to address many of these issues through providing a centralized and dedi-

cated recruitment program within the Office of Commissioned Corps Operations (OCCO) and through the introduction of a new online call to active duty system that should expedite and facilitate the application process.

Where we go from here?

We need your help! Our engineers work in every agency and at every level within HHS or on assignments to other departments. We need your help identifying the hiring officials in your organizations (or if you are a hiring official, let us know that as well). We need your help to let us know if engineering positions may become available in your areas. We need your help in trying to anticipate open positions that may be vacated when engineers retire or leave. We need your help to let us know if your agency or your division is embarking on a new hiring initiative that may be filled with someone with an engineering background.

The office of the chief engineer and EPAC are developing a system to collect this information so we can be more proactive in our recruitment efforts and more responsive to the needs of our fellow engineers.

If you have any questions or comments, please direct them to CDR Chuck Kardous, ckardous@cdc.gov (EPAC R&R chair) or CDR Keith Foy, keith.foy@fda.hhs.gov (Assistant to the Chief Engineer).

5-Year Gains & Losses by Category (2002—2006)			
CATEGORY	TOTAL GAINS	TOTAL LOSSES	NET GAINS / LOSSES
MEDICAL	307	545	(238.00)
DENTAL	111	226	(115.00)
NURSE	577	356	221.00
ENGINEER	106	125	(19.00)
SCIENTIST	122	114	8.00
EHO	94	88	6.00
VETERINARY	39	46	(7.00)
PHARMACIST	449	286	163.00
DIETITIAN	36	16	20.00
THERAPIST	48	38	10.00
HSO	527	306	221.00
TOTAL	2416	2146	270.00



2007 USPHS (formerly Engineer & Environmental Health Officer) Leadership Development Seminar

CDR Hilda Scharen-Guivel

By the time you read this newsletter, the USPHS Leadership Development Seminar will be underway in Charleston, South Carolina. As you may have heard, the Assistant Secretary of Health decided to open up registration to all categories and officers in the Public Health Service. This decision allowed us to achieve beyond our minimum goal of 68 participants needed for this seminar and get over 92 registrants. In fact, we are ahead of our initial goal this year as we were initially only going to open up the Leadership Development Seminar to engineers and environmental health officers and open-up next year to all categories.

The Engineer and Environmental Health Officer categories and the Society of Military Engineers (SAME) have worked together as a “virtual team” of members from across the country to put this exciting program together. This is an excellent example of the type of communication and effective teamwork that will be presented at the 2007 USPHS Leadership Development Seminar.

We are delighted to announce that Harry Chambers, an award winning author whose recent publications include “My Way or the Highway: the Micro-Management Survival Guide” and “No Fear Management”, will be joining us again this year. The theme of this seminar is Leadership with a main focus on Conflict Resolution and Communication Effectiveness. Other outstanding leaders and motivational speakers will provide their wisdom and guidance and there will be scenario exercises developed by the committee.

Thanks to all of you who are participating in this seminar, I look forward to seeing each of you in Charleston. Please stay tuned for a summary report and future information on next year's event.

Highlighted below are the committee members and other contributors whose hard work has made this Leadership Development Seminar possible:

CDR Hilda Scharen-Guivel - Chair
CDR Steve Blackwell (OS) - Environmental Health Officer
LT Roger Dahozy (IHS) - Engineer
LCDR Theresa Gallagher (IHS) - Environmental Health Officer
CDR W Lynn Hodges (USDA) - Environmental Health Officer
LCDR Norman Hepner (IHS) - Engineer
CDR John Longstaff (IHS) - Engineer
CAPT Mary Miner (NPS) - Engineer
CDR Jeff Murray (IHS) - Engineer
CDR David Robbins (IHS) - Environmental Health Officer
CDR Mike Stover (IHS) - Engineer
Russell Patterson, President SAME Charleston Post
Anna Lucas, Member SAME Charleston Post



Reading List: Book Review

CDR Darrell LaRoche

The Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal 1870-1914

by David McCullough

This book is not on the engineer's reading list yet, but has been suggested for inclusion on the list. The author, David McCullough, is a great story teller of history. He is also the author of *1776*, which is on some of our sister services' reading lists. The length of the book is somewhat longer than what most engineers like to read, but it is well worth the effort.

The book is presented in basically three parts: 1) the background of the decision to build the canal and where the canal would best be located, 2) how the public health problems with sanitation, yellow fever, and malaria were solved, and 3) the actual engineering description of the canal and how it works. I believe this is an important book for especially engineer managers to read because it looks at the whole situation rather than focusing on the strict technical aspects. It provides insight into how great feats in engineering are something determined not by the most logical engineering method, but by the political and business forces at work. An important aspect of this book for U.S. Public Health Service engineers is the link between public health and engineering. McCullough illustrates this point by showing that the technology, engineering knowledge, and logistics were adequate to construct the canal; however, until the problems with yellow fever and malaria were solved, workers could not sustain their health working in the jungles of Panama. The last part of the book provides a description of the lock systems and operations of the canal. It is interesting to keep in mind how engineering feats such as the canal have affected world commerce, economics, defense, and even the size we build ships.

As an interesting follow up to reading about the history of the Panama Canal, I would suggest reviewing the *Proposal for Expansion of the Panama Canal: Third Set of Locks Project*, April, 2006 that can be accessed on the Panama Canal website at www.pancanal.com.



PHS Deployment Teams Need YOU!

CDR Kevin Milne

Rapid Deployment Force (RDF)

There are 5 RDF teams of 105 officers each, classified as Tier 1 response. Individuals assigned to Tier 1 will be expected to report to a point of departure within 12 hours of notification. They have a geographic focus because the ability to rapidly gather in a centralized location to train and deploy as a unit is important. The RDFs will have a clinical focus, with some applied public health personnel, as well as embedded leadership and management staff. The RDF mission is to provide primary medical and mental health care and public health services for a sheltered population.

Mental Health Team (MHT)

There are 5 MHT teams of 26 officers each, classified as Tier 2 response. Individuals assigned to Tier 2 will be expected to report to a point of departure within 36 hours of notification. The memberships of these teams will generally be geographically dispersed. The MHT mission is to provide expertise in disaster mental health with a public health perspective. Their purpose is to assess mental health needs and provide effective intervention in the aftermath of disaster. MHT providers will primarily include clinical psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrists, with a base technical contingent to cover Logistics, IT, and Communications. An MH Team may also select health care providers such as nurses, physicians and pharmacists to support the mission and complement the team.

Applied Public Health Team (APHT)

There are 5 APHT teams of 47 officers each, also classified as Tier 2 response with a generally dispersed membership. Each APHT

will be capable of replacing or augmenting a decimated county health department, as team members possess skills that reflect the functions found in public health departments. They provide comprehensive technical support to state/regional and local public health authorities and assure that the basic public health needs of the affected community are met during a major disaster or emergency event. The APHT mission is to assist a community and its population to reestablish essential public health services impacted by terrorism, disaster, or a public health emergency when local resources are overwhelmed or non-existent.

Field Medical Readiness Badge (FRMB)

Accordingly to a recent OSG directive (CCI 551.02), one of the eligibility requirements for the FRMB is to have participated in a deployment within the past 3 years. Joining a Tier 1 or 2 deployment team makes it much more likely that you will remain eligible to receive this badge (can you say 'promotional benchmark'?).

Deployment Team Training

Here are more facts to throw some excitement into the mix. OFRD has received funding to provide field training at Camp Bullis, San Antonio, Texas. The schedule is as follows:

15 July – 21 July:
RDF-5, MHT-5 for Earthquakes

23 July – 27 July:
RDF-1, MHT-1 for Hurricanes

5 August – 11 August:
RDF-3, MHT-3 for Earthquakes

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12 August – 15 August:
RDF-4, MHT-4 for Earthquakes

21 August – 24 August:
RDF-2, MHT-2 for Hurricanes

If you act quickly, there is still time to get placed on a deployment team and make sure those BDU's you bought for Katrina still fit. This should be an excellent trip for all involved.

Team Contacts

For those interested in signing up for even more fun and profit than usual, contact one of the following officers:

CDR Kevin Milne - Logistics Chief,
MHT-2, (kevin.milne@fda.hhs.gov)

CAPT Sven Rodenbeck – Team Leader,
APHT-3, (svr1@cdc.gov)

CDR Jim Simpson – Logistics Chief,
RDF-1, (james.simpson@fda.hhs.gov)

Group Highlight: Information Subcommittee

So many people selflessly give their time and energy in service to the Corps. Nowhere is that more apparent than when you look at the rolls of the category Professional Advisory Committees. During the course of a career, we see the names of those who are always involved with Corps activities.

Many times, these names are associated with an agency, sometimes not. We tend to forget that the person behind that name has an existence beyond some committee where they are cranking out overtime to make the Corps a better place.

In this installment of the Group Highlight column, members of the EPAC Information Subcommittee are highlighted. Please note that I have taken the liberty of using recently promoted ranks, even though some are not effective as yet.

CDR Hilda Scharen-Guivel, FDA/Center for Drugs, Office of Executive Programs. She is a Senior Program Manager Consultant, focusing on Center Strategic Planning and budget processes, and is the Center Liaison for Office of Emergency Operations. She likes golf, swimming, running, international travel, and family.

CDR David Ausdemore, CDC/Office of Safety and Health, Atlanta, GA. Environmental Program Team Leader, concerned with environmental compliance for facilities and operations. He enjoys family, outdoor activities, and running.

LT Nazmul Hassan, FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs, Import Operations, Jamaica, New York. He is an investigator, reviewing entry documents, inspecting imported commodities, and collecting samples for analysis. He enjoys travel and sight-seeing.

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CDR Ramsey Hawasly, IHS/OEHE, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, Rockville, MD. He is responsible for a national sanitation facilities data system, primarily used to report IHS sanitation deficiencies to Congress. He enjoys family time, computers, and travel.

LT Vivian Iskander Porter, IHS/OEHE, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, Escondido, CA. She is a Senior Environmental Engineer, working on Community water systems. She is on the 2007 COA Category Day Agenda team and enjoys travel, home remodeling, mentoring/tutoring youth.

CDR Darrell LaRoche, IHS/OEHE, Albuquerque. For the ALB area, he is Director of Health Facilities and Emergency Coordinator, also Deputy Logistics for IRCT-6. He enjoys reading, running, and traveling with his family.

CDR John Longstaff, IHS/OEHE, Division of Facilities Planning & Construction, Rockville. He is a project engineer, setting national priorities for hospital and clinic construction in Indian country, including database design and maintenance. He enjoys flying, SCUBA, and web design.

CAPT James Ludington, IHS/OEHE, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, Rockville. He is Deputy Director of Sanitation, where they work to provide sanitation facilities for Native American homes.

CDR Kevin Milne, FDA/Center for Devices, Office of Science and Engineering Labs, Silver Spring, MD. A Program Manager, he is the Liaison for Postmarket Activities and Administrator for the Center Scientific Computing Network. He likes waterskiing, fishing, family, and reading.

CDR Jennifer Mosser, OS/OPHS, Office of Commissioned Corps Force Management, Rockville. As a Senior Policy Advisor, she develops standards and policies concerning the comprehensive force management of the Corps. She also enjoys SCUBA, gardening, cooking, and reading.

CDR Jamie Natour, NIH Office of Research Facilities, Division of Property Management. She is reporting soon to a new position as a Senior Facilities Management Engineer, focusing on management and maintenance. She is interested in Web 2.0, science, travel, and dancing.

CDR Delrey Pearson, IHS/Tuscon, Sells Hospital, AZ. He is a supervising Facilities Manager, focusing on keeping the hospital working so the medical staff can provide patient care. He is also working on a Civil Engineering Master's at Norwich University and plans to enjoy life at a later date.

LCDR Nikhil Thakur, FDA/Center for Devices/Office of Compliance, Rockville. A Senior Regulatory Operations Officer, he focuses on assuring that medical device companies comply with federal regulations. He enjoys spending time with his wife and son, and loves to travel, but finds

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equal fulfillment in doing absolutely nothing on a lazy Saturday afternoon.

LCDR Darrall Tillock, IHS/OEHE, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, Nashville. As a District Environmental Engineer, he works to ensure safe drinking water and proper waste facilities for Native Americans. His family time is very important to him.

CAPT Hung Trinh, DHS/ASPR, Critical Infrastructure Protection for Healthcare & Public Health Sector, DC. Policy Analyst and

CC Liaison to DHS. A long term goal is to have all three of his girls scuba certified.

CDR Geoffrey T. Wachs, IHS District Office, Rhinelander, WI. He is a management supervisor, focused on healthcare facilities engineering. He was involved with 2006 COA Category Day Rep, Welcome Package, and Engineer Recognition. He enjoys travel, history, collecting, fishing, hunting, motorcycle, and music.

The Editors would like to sincerely thank CDR Mitch Constant for his vision and leadership during the creation of the *Machinatores Vitae* newsletter. As those of you who worked with Mitch know, he retired in May after serving twenty years in the Indian Health Service. His departure has left not only a void in the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, but also on the EPAC where Mitch was Chair of the Information Subcommittee and a driving force behind this newsletter. His absence will be sorely missed but we are excited for Mitch as he pursues his interest in emergency medicine and future training to become a physician's assistant.

The Editors would like to welcome CDR Hilda Scharen-Guivel to the team. Hilda graciously accepted the challenge of leading the Information Subcommittee and the *Machinatores Vitae* group. Welcome Hilda, we look forward to working with on this rewarding endeavor!

The *Machinatores Vitae* is published quarterly and distributed electronically through the USPHS Engineer Professional Advisory Committee distribution list. The next issue of the newsletter will be published in October. The deadline for submitting articles is September 15, 2007.

If you have suggestions or comments about the newsletter, or would like to submit an article, please contact the editors CDR Hilda Scharen-Guivel, CDR Kevin Milne, CDR Geoffrey Wachs, or LCDR Jennifer Mosser at epac@usphsengineers.org.