

# USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium

## Category Day, Wednesday, June 6, 2018

### Environmental Health Officer Agenda

8:00 AM - 8:15 AM **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**

8:15 AM - 9:45 AM **CPO & EHOPAC Chair Update**  
RADM Kelly M. Taylor, CDR Chris vanTwuyver

The goal of this session is to provide an update on the Environmental Health Officer Professional Advisory Committee (EHOPAC). Participants will have a better understanding of the purpose of the EHOPAC and the current framework in which the EHOPAC operates. This session will describe how environmental health officers can serve on the EHOPAC as a voting or a non-voting member and the benefits of serving on the EHOPAC. The accomplishments of the EHOPAC and how they impact the EHO category will be discussed. Participants will be able to ask questions or provide feedback in writing about the EHOPAC during the question and answer portion of the session.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. Identify the purpose and framework of the EHOPAC.
2. Describe how Environmental Health Officers can serve on the EHOPAC, as a voting or a non-voting member.
3. Explain the benefits of serving on the EHOPAC.

9:45 AM - 10:15 AM **Networking Event**  
LTJG Sam Frank, LCDR James Gooch LCDR Beth Wittry

This exercise will provide attendees the opportunity to interact and allow EHOs to get to know each other. The event will facilitate collaboration and promote team building.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. Practice cooperative learning.
2. Describe something about their colleagues that they didn't know before.
3. Apply this exercise to foster new ideas.

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM **FDA's Interstate Travel Program: Passenger Vessel, Aircraft, Train, and Bus Inspections**  
LT Amanda Schaupp

This session will provide attendees the opportunity to learn about one of the specialized programs at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In June 1969 many activities formerly associated with the Public Health Service were transferred to the FDA. Among these was the responsibility for carrying out the Interstate Quarantine Regulations (IQR). The IQR and the associated Public Health Service activities originated from an Act passed in 1893. The transfer of IQR to the FDA occurred in 1975 and resulted in the establishment of the Interstate Travel Sanitation program, now known as the Interstate Travel Program (ITP). The major objective under the ITP is to prevent the introduction, transmission, and spread of communicable diseases from one state or U.S. Territory to another via conveyances.

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The conveyances inspected by the FDA include aircrafts, trains, buses, and passenger vessels. The size of the U.S. passenger conveyance industry is huge with approximately 1 billion passengers boarded on interstate conveyances each year. The program also inspects the support facilities for conveyances including caterers, commissaries, watering points, and service areas. The ITP also reviews blueprints of the interstate conveyances and support facilities before construction or changes can be made to them. Airports and airplanes have a variety of different inspections that need to be accomplished annually. The support facilities known as caterers are the manufacturers that make the boxed meals on airplanes and the commissaries are the warehouses that hold the food and water for the airplanes. At airport's FDA inspectors not only inspect the aircrafts, but the areas that provide potable water and remove sewage from the aircraft. Whenever an aircraft undergoes significant changes such as modifications to the potable water system or new galley shells the aircraft will be inspected by the FDA if the airline company wishes to be issued a Certificate of Sanitary Construction.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. Define the FDA's Interstate Travel Program (ITP) and list its major objectives.
2. Identify the various conveyances and support facilities that FDA inspects.
3. List the different types of inspections FDA does related to airports and airplanes.

10:45 AM - 11:15 AM

### **An Industrial Hygiene Approach to Diisocyanate**

LT Sarah Maynard

In May of 2017 I earn a M.S. in Industrial Hygiene at Colorado State University. I participated in a graduate project that focused on diisocyanates. My research was to assist in the writing and editing of a manuscript to be published on diisocyanates. I would like to discuss what I learned to increase visibility because I feel it directly relates to this year's category day theme of "Ensuring Health for Generations to Come: Science Matters".

Diisocyanates, commonly referred to as isocyanates, are all around us in our everyday lives and can be purchased from home improvement stores. A person can become sensitized causing an immediate asthmatic reaction. This reaction after the initial sanitization can be deadly. I would like to take the opportunity to teach other EH/IH so they can know how to anticipate the presence isocyanates, describe and recognize the main health effects from exposures, Prevent exposures and finally identify means of controls.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. Explain a brief history of diisocyanates.
2. Identify ways to sample diisocyanates to include the difficulties of capturing the total exposure.
3. Identify and recognize the effects of exposure, prevention and controls.

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11:15 AM - 1:00 PM **Exclusive Exhibit Hall Time**

Please use this time to visit our exhibitors. There will also be exhibitor showcases which some categories can receive continuing education for.

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM **Environmental Health Awards Luncheon**  
CDR Jaime Mutter

Awards will be presented to EHOs by the EHOPAC Awards and Recognition Subcommittee. These awards include: Edward (Ted) Moran, John G. Todd, John C. Eason, and Thomas E. Crow and the Responder of the Year Awards.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. List the EHOPAC awards that are bestowed by the EHOPAC Awards and Recognition Subcommittee.
2. Recognize the skills and experience demonstrated by EHO award winners to be selected for an EHOPAC award.
3. Describe the accomplishments of EHOs, awarded and recognized for their dedication, passion, and support to the USPHS mission.

2:30 PM - 3:00 PM **During Deployments EHOs Lead the Way!**  
CAPT John Smart, CDR Chris Fletcher LT Brian Czarnecki

Three USPHS Environmental Health Officers deployed in three different roles during the USDHHS response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands:

- Environmental Health assessment team leader
- HHS/ASPR Incident Response Coordination Team (IRCT) Safety Officer
- HHS/ASPR IRCT Commander

These deployment roles have unique responsibilities within and outside of traditional Environmental Health, and required use of different leadership skills. This session will provide attendees with strategies the officers used to ensure they effectively deployed into a variety of environmental health and leadership roles.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. Describe environmental health deployment roles and responsibilities in support of response to Hurricanes Irma and Maria.
2. Recognize the skills that Environmental Health Officers used to succeed in each deployment role.
3. Identify key leadership characteristics that Environmental Health Officers relied upon during deployments.

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3:00 PM - 3:30 PM

### **Medical Waste Management: A Putrefying ESF-10 Case Study from the USVI following Hurricanes Irma and Maria**

LT Steven Merritt

This session will provide attendees with an Emergency Support Function 10 case study from St. Croix, USVI, where EPA Region 2 was tasked with the disposal of accumulated medical waste from the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital. EHOs will first get an overview of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's role under the Stafford Act and Emergency Support Function 10 before taking a deep dive into the particulars of the mission assignment at the hospital. The case study will cover the circumstances that led to over 450 cubic yards of "red bag" waste being stockpiled within the open-air incinerator building and four 20' shipping containers behind the hospital. The presentation will then cover the hazard assessment for the waste, the facility, and the disposal mechanisms available to EPA under the circumstances, augmented by video and photos to provide an overview of the site. There will be a vignette about personnel readiness, engineering controls, PPE availability, and the need for reach-back support to ensure the safety of contracted responders. There will also be a vignette about the logistical constraints of shipping medical waste to mainland incinerators, which caused a scramble to screen the waste for medical isotopes historically used at the hospital to prevent container rejection. The presentation will then detail the operational methods EPA was able to use to remedy the medical waste problem at the hospital, including a comparison between initial estimates and final resource requirements. It will conclude with a discussion of lessons learned and the challenges associated with preventing recurrence in the future.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. List three of the typical ESF-10 mission assignments given to EPA following natural disasters.
2. Identify hazards associated with hospital medical waste streams and treatment facilities.
3. Describe the process EPA used to screen, package, and dispose of medical waste from U.S. territories.

3:30 PM - 4:00 PM

### **Health Clinic Assessments in Puerto Rico Following Hurricanes Maria and Irma**

LCDR David Bales, CDR Jamie Mutter

When deployed after a disaster, environmental health officers conduct many types of assessments to support response and recovery activities. This presentation will focus on the importance in conducting the health clinic assessments following hurricane Maria and Irma by explaining the purpose and steps taken. The presenters will also share some of the best practices they used to overcome some of the unique challenges they experienced in their Puerto Rico deployment. By sharing these experiences and knowledge gained, the presentation will share key lessons learned that may be helpful to Environmental Health Officers in their day to day positions or in the event of a deployment.

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At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. Describe the purpose and improvements made while conducting health clinic assessments in Puerto Rico following hurricanes Maria and Irma.
2. Identify the best practices for overcoming barriers and challenges to conduct assessments in a disaster setting.
3. Explain the capacity of an Environmental Health Officer during future deployments and identify the correct tools to perform assessments.

4:00 PM - 4:30 PM

### **Disaster epidemiology and the role of the ASPR Division of Fusion during the 2017 hurricane response**

LCDR Latasha Allen

The session will describe the role of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response, Office of Emergency Management, Division of Fusion during the 2017 hurricane response. During this presentation participants will learn how the Division of Fusion supports the Secretary's Operation Center as well as the services and tasks that the Division of Fusion provides to the Incident Response Coordination Team (IRCT) and the Joint Field Operations (JFO) when deployed to the field. The attendees will learn about the Data Analytics and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) products produced during the response to provide situational awareness. The presentation will also discuss the Fusion PHS augmentee program and how the commissioned corps officers work with the Fusion team during a response. Lastly, the session will include a synopsis of the experience of environmental health officer epidemiologist when deployed to Puerto Rico to serve in the JFO.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. List the roles of the Division of Fusion during the 2017 Hurricane Response.
2. Describe what the Fusion PHS Augmentee Program is, and how these officers are utilized during a response.
3. Define Disaster Epidemiology.

4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

### **Learning Core Leadership: Building and implementing a Commissioned Corps Service-oriented leadership framework and training**

CAPT Calvin Edwards

Developing leadership skills and qualities is a continuous lifetime journey. As Commissioned Corps officers, we are challenged in mapping our journey by the dispersed environments in which we operate, the breadth and depth of our roles, responsibilities and activities in public health and the organizations, communities and locations we serve. There is no shortage of books, trainings, consultants, and "centers of excellence" to choose from in mapping your own journey. Many of these resources describe behaviors, skills and techniques to be a better leader, a set of "what to do" recipes to improve your leadership competency. What most of them do not do is help you understand "how to be", missing the critical self-awareness and understanding of your own motivation that determines your effectiveness and actual influence as a leader in your relationships with others regardless of the environment. This "how to be" is tied

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to the Commissioned Corps' core value of Service and offers an opportunity to build a broad framework and collaboration that leverages our diversity. This presentation will discuss a current multi-disciplinary and multi-agency program for leadership development officers may choose to engage in to enhance and align their leadership and professional growth.

At the end of this session attendees will be able to:

1. Identify one foundational leadership competency for Commissioned Corps officers in their commitment to the core value of Service.
2. Describe a framework for officer leadership development and collaboration that leverages the diversity, breadth and depth, of the Commissioned Corps within and across professional categories.
3. Apply this framework to their own leadership development plan and identify opportunities to enhance their impact on public health and leadership as a Commissioned Corps officer.

5:30 PM - 6:00 PM

**Closing Remarks**