

I. Introduction of Members in Attendance (AUGUST 2007 N-PAC MEETING)

N-PAC Voting Membership					
Rank	Last Name	First Name	Agency	Term	Attending
LCDR	Davis	Wendy	BOP	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Excused
LCDR	Strong	Donna	BOP	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Absent
LT	West	Christine	CDC	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
CAPT	Rossi-Coajou	Mary	CMS	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
LT	Zorrilla	Delia	DIHS	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Absent
CDR	Berkhousen	Katherine	FDA	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
LCDR	Hunter-Thomas	Serina	HRSA	Oct 04 – Sep 07	Present
CAPT	Stephens	Leslie	IHS	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Absent
CDR	Lincoln	Carol	IHS	Oct 05 – Sep 08	Present
CDR	Tsosie-Robledo	Theresa	IHS	Oct 04 – Sep 07	Absent
LCDR	Peterson	Cheryl	IHS	Oct 05 – Sep 08	Absent
CDR	McGuire	Moira	NIH	Oct 04 – Sep 07	Present
LCDR	Fuller	Barbara	NIH	Oct 04 – Sep 07	Present
LCDR	Hunter	Lori	NIH	Oct 04 – Sep 07	Absent
CAPT	Kelly	David	OS	Oct 05 – Sep 08	Excused
CAPT	Hunter	Joan	PSC	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
CAPT	Rael	Melissa	SAMHSA	Oct 04 – Sep 07	Absent
CDR	Blevins	Justin	USMS	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members					
RADM	Romano	Carol	OSG/NIH	Open	Excused
LCDR	Gordon	Veronica	OS	Jul 07 – Sep 09	Present
CAPT	Merced	Florentino	SAMSHA	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
LCDR	Magnotta	David	OS	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
CAPT	Bangs	Gary	EPA	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Absent
LCDR	Brown	Claudia	HRSA	Oct 05 – Sep 08	Absent
CAPT	Poindexter	Michelle	USDA	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
LCDR	Doan	Jenny	DoD	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Present
CDR	Denis	Patrick	OS	Oct 06 – Sep 09	Excused
CDR	Wade	Theresa	DHS	Oct 04 – Sep 07	Absent

Attendance Roster			
Rank	Name	Rank	Name
AHRQ			
BOP			
CDR	Bridges, Paula	LCDR	Murphy, Yvonne
Civilian	Osten, Jan	LCDR	Pollard, Anita
CDC/ATSDR/NIOSH			

CMS			
CAPT	O'Malley, Jeannine	LCDR	Karikari-Martin, Pauline
CDR	Moore, Thelma	LCDR	Poindexter, Ed
CDR	Casey, Marie	LT	Krishnan, Malini
DHS/USCG			
LCDR	Hieber, Lysa		
DOD/TMA			
DIHS			
CDR	Belsito, Linda Jo	LCDR	Gonsalves, Steve
CDR	McGinnis, Jerri	LT	Jones, Jennifer
DOJ/USMS			
FDA			
CAPT	Matraska, Kathy	LCDR	Humbert, Jason
CDR	David, John	LCDR	Robb, Melissa
CDR	Zeigler, Shirley	LCDR	Samuels, Sherbet
FOH			
CDR	Porter, Terry		
HRSA			
CAPT	Puente, Ana Maria	LCDR	Howell, Robert
CAPT	Hench, Karen	LT	Mix, Aisha
CAPT	Montoya, Eva		
IHS			
CAPT	Sorrelman, Carmelita	LCDR	Ruslavage, Michelle
CDR	Stuart, Dixie	LT	Mather, Judith
CDR	Gaalswyk, Judy	LT	Ayral, Jake
LCDR	Walsh, Faith	LT	Coachman, Leslinn
LCDR	Pryor, Thomas	LT	Hoverson, Brenda
LCDR	Palucci, Lisa		
NIH			
CAPT	Walsh, Diane	LCDR	Lerner, Ruby
CDR	Barnhart, Lisa	LT	Cozzarelli, Tara
		LTJG	Morris, Randall
NOAA			
CAPT	Powers, Priscilla		
OS/OPHS/OSG			
CAPT	Chern-Hughes, Betty	CAPT	Prince, Joyce
CAPT	Dandridge, Beverly	LCDR	Robinson, Maryanne
CAPT	Wasem, Cathy	LTJG	McBryde, Stacey
PSC			
SAMSHA			
CAPT	Merced, Tino	LCDR	Rubio, Cynthia

USDA			
GUESTS			

II. Acceptance of Minutes

July 2007 minutes were presented to the committee members for acceptance and approval. LCDR David Magnotta made a motion to approve the minutes as written and a second was made by CAPT Joan Hunter. The minutes were approved and will be sent to the PHSNURSING-L@LIST.NIH.GOV for distribution. The Nursing Professional Advisory Committee website is temporarily unavailable for posting. We will make an announcement as soon as it resumes operation.

III. Chief Nurse Officer Report – CDR Katherine Berkousen for RADM Carol Romano

PHS Leadership

Effective September 4, 2007, Admiral John Agwunobi has resigned his commission and position as Assistant Secretary for Health. He has been a passionate voice for advancing the health care of all Americans and leading the renewal of the Commissioned Corps.

Our Acting Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Kenneth P. Moritsugu, will be retiring after a career of over 36 years of outstanding service. A retirement ceremony, Change-of-Command, and farewell reception in his honor is planned by the Commissioned Officer’s Foundation and the Commissioned Officer's Association on October 4, 2007. This will be an opportunity to thank him for his service and wish him well on his next endeavor.

Readiness

Our Rapid Deployment Force, Applied Public Health, and Mental Health teams completed field training at Camp Bullis, Texas, and have demonstrated outstanding performance in staged simulations and a field exercise. I have attended FEMA hurricane training for Principle Federal Officials and will be traveling to Louisiana this month to meet with local, State, and federal staff. Hurricane season is upon us and we all pray for a safe season as we prepare for the worst-case senario. Our country needs its nurses to be ready to respond if needed.

We continue to deploy commissioned officers on two separate Navy ships undertaking health diplomacy missions.

The USNS COMFORT completed its second of four team assignments. Health care providers have conducted 178,137 consultations with 45,094 patients and distributed 53,022 pharmaceuticals during these humanitarian visits in Latin America and the Caribbean. They also partnered with Project Hope for 700 training sessions for 20,000 students.

The USS PELELIU is completing the second of three assignments to several Pacific islands. They have directed improvements in sanitation and solid waste management, assisted with emergency evacuation plan development, conducted environmental health surveys, taught occupational health, assessed urgent medical needs and performed necessary surgeries.

Nursing Leadership and Outreach

I participated with other PHS nurses on a National Panel for The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculty to prepare a resource document for advanced practice nurse education for emergency preparedness and all hazards response. It can be found on line at <http://www.nonpf.org/NONPF2005/APRN%20Emergency%20Preparedness.htm>.

In addition, I met with the Acting Surgeon General regarding the need for emphasis on nurse recruitment and retention and proposed strategies that were endorsed by the nursing leadership in DHHS and the agencies they support. I am hopeful that our voice for nursing will remain a priority during the changes in PHS leadership.

My work with the Federal Nursing Service Chiefs from Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense (DOD) and the American Red Cross allows for the sharing of nurse recruitment strategies across federal nursing. You can read about the VA Academy at <http://www1.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=1365> and the DOD / US Army /university partnership pilot at <http://nursing.umaryland.edu/news/2007/6-18.htm>.

Career Development

Our category career counseling program is moving forward. Senior nurse officers have been selected and agreed to serve in this leadership role. They will receive training and begin advising officers and facilitating action plans for career assistance to individual nurse officers in September. This counseling will be limited to officers identified by the Chief Nurse.

Now is a good time to review your electronic official personnel file in preparation for the promotion and basic readiness status evaluations. For those of you who have earned a new degree, it is recommended that you place a copy of your diploma in your file. If you are close to completion of a degree, then you should send a transcript and note on the cover sheet that the degree is "in progress." Do not put the degree initials after your name until the degree is awarded.

American Journal of Nursing [June 2007 Volume 107(6)] published a supplement, State of the Science on Diabetes Self-Management: Strategies for Nursing. This is an evidence-based report in the form of continuing education modules on how nurses can promote better self care. You can view this online at www.nursingcenter.com/ajndiabetes

The World Health Report 2007, *A Safer Future: Global Public Health Security in the 21st Century* was officially launched on Thursday 23rd August. The full report and overview are freely accessible on the WHO web site at <http://www.who.int/whr/2007/en/index.html>. The report "marks a turning point in the history of public health, and signals what could be one of the biggest advances in health security in half a century."

Comment

We are saddened by the deaths of the first nurse to be killed in combat in Iraq, U.S. Army Capt. Maria I. Ortiz, and our own Indian Health Service nurse, Patricia Ann Reese (Pat). Death reminds us of the fragility of life and of the important role that nurses play in protecting and defending it. We honor all nurses who fight for freedom and for health. Continue your vigilance in protecting our Nation’s health. Thank you for your dedicated service.

IV. Treasurer’s Report- CAPT Florentino Merced

General N-PAC Fund (member’s donation).....	\$241.95
Nursing coins, Mugs & T-shirts Fund-raiser.....	\$ 2860.14
PHS Key Rings.....	\$ 2180.62
TOTAL	\$ 5282.71

** CAPT Merced reports he had to return four (4) checks due to non-availability of nursing coins.

**V. N-PAC Chair Report- CDR Katherine Berkhusen for CAPT David Kelly
General Updates**

FY 2008 Call for Nominations to serve on the Nursing Professional Advisory Committee

I am pleased to announce a call for nominations of interested individuals to serve as an Operating Division (OPDIV)/Staff Division (STAFFDIV) or non-Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) organization (Agency) representative to the N-PAC. The Nursing PAC is composed of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (Corps) nurse officers, civil service and tribal nurses working in the OPDIV/STAFFDIV/non-HHS organizations.

The N-PAC serves as an active link between the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG) and the nurses working in the various HHS-related programs. Therefore, the N-PAC is seeking dedicated, hardworking individuals for membership. You must be willing to participate actively for the duration of your 3-year term appointment. Corps officers must maintain basic readiness and set the example in order to be a representative.

Representatives will:

- * Participate in monthly N-PAC Business Meeting (generally first Friday of each month for one hour)
- * Attend monthly N-PAC General Membership Meeting (generally third Friday of each month for two hours)
- * Participate in the N-PAC strategic planning meeting (generally at the beginning of the year, may be half or full day retreat) Chair a N-PAC sub-committee, workgroup or initiative (generally a few hours per month)
- * Develop others on your sub-committee, workgroup or initiative
- * Respond to requests from the OSG for feedback or insight from group you are representing

Eligibility:

- * Be a full-time nurse employed in one of the OPDIV/STAFFDIV/non-HHS organizations listed below
- * Maintain employment in your current OPDIV/STAFFDIV/non-HHS organizations for duration of term
- * Be able to serve for three years starting October 2007 and run through September 2010
- * If Corps officer, meet basic readiness and licensure requirements
- * Have permission of supervisor to participate as indicated under "Representatives will"

Agency representation openings for N-PAC term appointment FY08 through FY10:

BOP: 1 vacancy for voting member

DHS: 1 vacancy for voting member

HRSA: 2 vacancy for voting member

NIH: 2 vacancy for voting member

SAMHSA: 1 vacancy for voting member

At-Large*: 1 vacancy for voting member

* Note: The At-Large representative will be responsible for representing nurses in the following agencies: ACF, AHRQ, DOD, EPA, and USDA. This option provides all agencies an opportunity for representation based on by a vote of the majority of voting members in a vote conducted in July 2007.

Interested individuals should complete the N-PAC Self-Nomination Form on the next page with signed approval by your supervisor. Submit the form with a copy of your current Curriculum Vitae for your nomination. To submit via email, scan the Self-Nomination form (to electronically incorporate the supervisor signature) and attach your CV. Fax number is listed below to submit by that method.

All materials must be received by August 24, 2007 to the email address or fax number.

New Policies

Authorization of USNS *Comfort Belt Buckle*
http://dcp.psc.gov/eccis/documents/POM_07_003.pdf

POM 07-003

This Personnel Operations Memorandum (POM) authorizes the wearing of the USNS *Comfort* belt buckle by officers of the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service detailed aboard the USNS *Comfort* in support of the 2007 Health Diplomacy Mission to Latin America.

This mission is scheduled for the period June 2007 through October 2007. The authorization to wear the USNS *Comfort* belt buckle is limited to officers detailed aboard the USNS *Comfort* only for the period of their deployment. Post deployment (tour) wear is not authorized. The USNS *Comfort* belt buckle shall be worn in accordance with U.S. Navy Uniform Regulations.

Uniform and Personal Appearance and Grooming Standards

The Assistant Secretary of Health has approved policy recommendations that will make revisions of uniform, personal appearance and grooming standards. Although these decisions will align our uniform policy with the U.S. Navy, please wait until official policy is released before instituting these changes. The Office of Commissioned Corps Force Management (OCCFM) will post these changes to the electronic Commissioned Corps Issuance System as soon as they are available.

Transformation Update

Recruitment

The Commissioned Corps website is going under significant change on the web and behind the scenes. The changes will allow the applicant and agency representatives to interact electronically with an applicant and the information submitted for the Commissioned Corps. Although we have seen an increase in interest, we still need every nurse to be a recruiter.

Three H Assignments and Family Support

The ASH approved the recommendation for Assignment Incentive Pay that provides agencies an opportunity to provide additional funds as an incentive. The OCCFM will write policy so this program can start. The Family Support portion of transformation is developing a survey that will identify services that may provide resources for persons in 3H sites. As soon as the survey is available, field-testing will start.

Officer Profile and Selection

The transformation officers are working on establishing an officer profile to enable officer's better access to opportunities for assignments and details. This review and development of Officer Profiles and Selection is in its early stages. It will provide significant information to help the Corps identify and match officers to opportunities in the future.

Billets

The beta test for the category-specific billets is almost completed. It is anticipated that officers will participate in their billet review just after the release of the 2007 COER. More information will be released as soon as it is available.

Training

The Officer Basic Course (OBC) will replace the Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC) for all new calls to active duty. The OBC will be a two-week training that covers the fundamentals

necessary for a new officer entering the U.S. Public Health Service. Officers not recently called to active duty will attend the BOTC until the end of the year, as space is available. In FY2008, the Commissioned Officer Training Academy (COTA) will stand-up an Officer Intermediate Course (OIC) that officers not recently called to active duty will attend. The OIC will pull together changes made to the OBC and further the development of officers in leadership, communication, and project management. Training will become a hallmark for Commissioned Officers in the development over a career.

Career Development

The Working Policy and Design Group (WPDG) are working on establishing career pathways with the support of the categories. As these areas move forward, a policy, career-guidance manual and other resources will be shared with the Corps.

VI. Current Projects

Fund Raising – NO August Report submitted.

Beta Testing - Jan Osten, BOP posed a question regarding Beta Testing. She wanted to know if others were experiences difficulty with the Beta Testing website. Ms. Osten reported that most nurses do not have experience with this software and that it is not user friendly. LCDR Magnotta responded by stating that OCCO is aware of the issues and that anyone with questions may refer their inquiries to CAPT Byron Bailey or CDR McMillan via 240-453-6000 (OCCO directory line).

Uniform Policy – CAPT Rossi-Coajou inquired about the timeframe for the implementation of the new uniform policy. LCDR Serina Hunter-Thomas responded by stating that the uniform policy is now in its endorsement phase and is estimated to be implemented in about 12 – 18 months. CAPT Rossi-Coajou also commented on the USNS Comfort stating, “The navy vessel enroute with PHS Officers stopped in South America to assist in the support of earthquake victims”. Kudos to those PHS Officers!

Comment to Beta Testing – CAPT Walsh reported that the nurses that are providing her with feedback implies there are problems with the dropdown menu box and it is not clear as to whether this is a universal problem or just with those that provided feedback within this arena.

VII. Quarterly Verbal Committee Reports

Awards Committee – LCDR Serina Hunter-Thomas

LCDR Hunter-Thomas reported that the current *Mentoring Award has been tabled until further notice, pending a meeting/conference with the Mentoring Committee per CAPT Kelly*. Preparation is underway for the 2008 Awards Cycle in the following categories: COA, MANE, AMSUS, Publishing, and Nurse Responder of the Year. It is anticipated that the committee will provide support in the facilitation and encouraging of nominations. The Nurse of the Year award is a very honorable award and scheduled to be presented at the Nurse Recognition Day Ceremony as it has been historically. The Awards committee is asking for confirmation on a

deadline for the awards nominations (December-January deadlines in the past) and whether Leadership will continue to offer cash awards for the COA award and if so, at what amount. Information will be provided via the Nursing Website as soon as it becomes available for posting.

The Awards Subcommittee is in need of a two new Subcommittee Co-Chairs. There is possibility that a current member may volunteer to fill the vacancy, however that decision has not been confirmed. In the meantime, the awards team would like to open the vacancy to any eligible nurse officer that may be interested in this role.

As a reminder, there are awards nominations writing tips and instructions on the N-PAC website

Mentoring – LT Barnhart for CDR Antonowsky

LT Barnhart reported that the Mentoring Site is active, averaging 10-11 hits (active contacts with questions) every two weeks. There are about one (1) new mentor added to the resource directory every month. The Subcommittee is planning to update the mentoring website/resource directory from the 1 March 2007 date. LT Barnhart stated that the team is anticipating the development of a more user friendly and structured mentorship program. They are also expecting to work more closely with the Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee. The Subcommittee Chairs representing both teams are schedule to meet and discussion a partnership.

JOAG – LCDR Thomas Pryor

The newly elected leadership of JOAG will assume their roles beginning October 1st. LCDR Aimee Treffiletti, EHO, will assume the role as Chair and I, LCDR Thomas Pryor will become ex-officio Chair. A complete list of the 2007-08 leadership will be made available on the JOAG website. As part of the newly elected voting membership (pending SG approval) LCDR Diane Paraoan and LCDR Philantha Bowen will represent the Nurse Category for the next two years. LCDR April Kidd, will remain the NPAC liaison through completion of her term which will end October of 2008. JOAG is fortunate to have 3 nurse category slots and as Chair I am confident that they will serve JOAG well and represent their profession to the highest regard. Other junior nurse officers that may be interested in these opportunities with JOAG can find out more by joining the list serve. Nominations for junior officers for 2008-2010 will be made available between February and March of 2008. For more information check out the website and join the list serve.

JOAG has recently completed its 5-year strategic plan in addition to standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the various committees and workgroups. These documents will be made available on the JOAG website in the next month. JOAG continues to encourage junior officers to get involved and can find more information about the various activities on the website: www.joag.org

JOAG continues to make the Core Value Coin available to interested officers. An order form is available on the website for those who may be interested and as a reminder all proceeds go to COF to support officer development and the junior officer scholarship fund.

In an effort to make JOAG meetings available to any officer, JOAG will be linking audio files of the meetings to the website. The first recorded meeting occurred this month with a Transformation update provided by RADM Williams and CDR Eckert and will be made available in the near future.

The various committees continue to demonstrate an interest in making the Corps better for all officers and are actively soliciting junior officers that may be interested in participating throughout the year. For more information please contact any of the Chairs and Co Chairs for additional information.

Monthly Written Committee Reports

Nurse Applicant Committee Report FY 08			
August			
Nurse Applicants			
Current total number of applicants in NAC packet	126	Total calls to active duty (CADs) by month and agency	5
Current # of conversions	34	HRSA	2
Current # of new applicants	25	I.H.S.	1
		BOP	1
OCCO		USDA	0
Total Applications on hand	279	NIH	1
General Duty	261	SAMHSA	0
IRC	4	CMS	0
JR Costep (Apps)	10	OS	0
Sr Costep (Apps)	4	FDA	0
Total Separations per month and by type	6	Current Status - Total Strength of Nurse Category	1373
Retirements	3		
Inactivations	1	Nurse Category Top Four Agencies	
Terminations	2	I.H.S.	505
IRR Terminations		BOP	231
		HRSA	212
		NIH	112

CAREER DEVELOPMENT – NO August Report submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS - LCDR C. Peterson and LCDR M. Robinson**Web site work plan:**

The group is developing plans to address website migration. Plans are developed to establish team member roles for the website to distribute the workload. Committees will be contacted from the group to review their content on the website is current and accurate.

Resource Manual work plan:

The manual revisions have been sent back to the resource manual group who will make the edits needed. This will be completed and resubmitted by early Sept.

Collaborative Work Group:

The group has asked for a group lead nomination as CDR Robinson is co-lead for the committee. The group is asking if there are other projects to assist.

EVENTS – NO August Report submitted.**RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION** - CDR Ron Keats & LCDR Wendy Davis

The Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee is currently in the process of establishing a 2007 Action Plan Draft and Mission Statement pending review and continual development. During their last Conference call (August), the subcommittee discussed the implementation of the Mentor Subcommittee role in the “Every Nurse is a Recruiter” initiative. The two subcommittees have established a partnership to accomplish this effort. CDR Keats will draft a SOP related to the communication of the monthly “Call to Active Duty” nurse list from the R&R Subcommittee to the Mentor Subcommittee enabling the mailing of a welcome packet from the mentor group to each new nurse in an effort to assist transition to active duty.

PUBLICATIONS – LCDR Joe Creager and LCDR Donna Strong

Review of current subcommittee structure: It was discussed that similar concerns with the current team structure were voiced, such as, too many conference calls already, too fragmented, and low participation in the team calls. Motion was made by CDR Renteria to eliminate the current team structure in favor of delegating particular tasks, projects or activities at the monthly meetings.

Discussion on clinical narratives:

The team suggested that any formal action be delayed until the strategic plan for next year is completed and see how the clinical narratives are addressed. It was suggested that the committee expand clinical narratives to include non-clinical issues and call them Nursing Narratives. It was reported that the editor of the nursing spectrum is interested in getting articles and that the editor is actually waiting for PHS Nurses to submit a clinical narratives. The Nursing Spectrum is also interested in articles such as autobiographies and agency related interest items.

LCDR Creager explained the process of submitting an article to one of the titles owned by Gannett Publishing, such as Nursing Spectrum and NurseWeek. He will circulate a document outlining the steps for submitting an article to Lippincott, Williams & Wilkins, another large

publisher of healthcare related journals and newsletters. He also offered to contact the DC area Editorial Director, Pam Meredith, and extend an invitation to present at one of the Lunch and Learn sessions.

CDR Renteria suggested that we use documents, papers, manuscripts, etc. that were written by subcommittee members (maybe in grad school, etc.) as a "practice run" for review by the subcommittee, and possibly to submit to a particular publication. She also commented that targeting magazines instead of journals would be a good way to avoid "stepping on toes", so to speak, regarding the other subcommittees who may be targeting journals.

CDR Bassett: In her agency, writing clinical narratives is part of the expectation for advancement. She also serves on a board that reviews clinical narratives, and brought up that we had previously discussed the idea that "clinical narratives" should be replaced with "nursing narratives" to include all areas of nursing.

READINESS AND RESPONSE –

Increasing Awareness of Basic Readiness – CAPT Rossi-Coajou

A number of Nurse licensing boards now issue only electronic license verification rather than a hard copy through the mail. This will require printing the license verification and faxing it for inclusion into the OPF and ORFD data bases. This could be of critical importance to nurses and their maintenance of readiness status. This information along with additional general update information (e.g. ORFD quarterly dates for revisions of basic readiness status) will be posted on the Listserv.

Web Site Development – LCDR Chamberlain

A month ago it was reported CC data will be moving to a new server; No updates to this server change available at this time. Readiness & Response Committee Web site is up-to-date and ready for moving to the new server.

Tales from the Field Update – CAPT Middleton

Group is working on second installment.

Education – CAPT Collins

Data movement to a new server has affected posting of disaster preparation PowerPoint presentation. CAPT Rossi-Coajou will follow-up with CAPT Kelly to ascertain status.

Training for CC Nurse Readiness - Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support (BDLS/ADLS) CDR Susan Orsega/ LCDR George Gentile

BDLS course attended by CDR Orsega and LCDR George Gentile; eight hours with didactic and practical components. Basic course objectives: identify critical needs to establish health care preparedness for disasters; define all-hazards nomenclature; identify local, state and national disaster response structure and relationships; identify triage models; identify man-made and natural disasters. Multidisciplinary target audience: First Responders (e.g. police and fire), EMT, EMT-P, Nursing, Mid-level providers, and Physicians. BDLS/ADLS supported by the American Medical Association. There are several programs throughout the country which

enable standardized training. Certification is valid for three years. BDLS pulls together much of the basic information Corps nurses obtain from the ORFD Web training. ADLS will provide Corps nurses with hands-on training. Course directors will allow CC additions to the course emphasizing the federal role and the Corps response. Train the trainer opportunities exist which will help control costs. Recommendation is to go forward with proposal submission to ORFD. CAPT Kelly received the proposal and indicated he has some questions. Workgroup will attempt to meet with CAPT Kelly within the next few weeks. Rationale: Components of the courses may be redundant for some CC nurses who have ready access to training or have been deployed; however, these courses will provide a cost-effective basic level skill set for all Corps nurses.

Basic Readiness Update – CDR Rossi-Coajou/LCDR Nicole Chamberlain

Request sent to ORFD for August run; awaiting response (unofficially Nursing is below 80% basic ready; exact percentage to be forthcoming). When ORFD forwards run report it will be sent to R&R members for review. Please note the status of the Nurse Officers you contacted and see whether or not they complied with their individual basic readiness requirements. Once noted, please send an E mail to LT Nicole Chamberlain with outcome(s). Contacting Nurses who did not meet their agreed-upon deadlines is optional. Close-out report will be forwarded to ADM Romano. Committee Discussion: a) CC Liaison identified as a possible recourse for following up with non-compliant Officers b) R&R members following up with individual supervisors of non-compliant Officers is not an option; policies supporting this intervention are nonexistent c) Promotion Board precepts encompass readiness status but only year prior to promotion is awarded points (5).

RESEARCH – LT Christine West and LCDR Stephen Gonsalves

PAC Survey

The draft report for the survey is being written and near completion. Clarification was obtained about each of the member's assignments in writing the document for a deadline of September 17, prior to the next all hands NPAC meeting.

Lunch and Learn

We agreed that November would be good to present our topic, Survey Techniques and Pitfalls for the NPAC Lunch and Learn discussion. Our request is pending for the November slot to CDR Sweeney.

Website Update

We are consolidating updates to the N-PAC research webpage, which will include: posting biosketches of each of the members, soliciting for updated nursing publications, and helpful research-related links.

Participation w/ Tri-service Benner Study

- Our PAC liaison, CDR Debisette, continues to maintain a working relationship with the Tri-service Research Group.
- Data analysis has been completed on 1st phase of the study along with discussions with key members of the Tri-service team. They are preparing to write a monograph for completion by November (primary deliverable and training document).
- Discussed second phase of the study with a March 2008 submission date

VIII. New Business

Impact of Agency Restructure on Voting Membership Opportunity

CDR Linda Jo Belsito posed a question in regards to the changes in the agency. CDR Belsito reported that the Department of Immigration Health Services (DIHS) is scheduled to detach from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). She wanted to know how this would impact voting members representation. LCDR Gordon responded by explaining that the number of voting members for any given agency is determined by the number of nurses assigned to the respective agency. When DIHS separates from HRSA, the number of nurses assigned to each agency will be recalculated, thus readjusting the number of voting members that may represent each agency.

N-PAC Voting Member Nomination Update – LCDR Veronica Gordon

LCDR Gordon reported that there had only been four (4) nominations received at this time; (2) from HRSA, (1) from NIH, and (1) from SAMHSA. Corrections to LCDR Gordon telephone number was clarified with the correct number: 240-453-6066 and fax number 240-453-6134 and the fax number for CAPT Kelly: 240-453-6109. Nominations for voting membership will be accepted until 24 August 2007.

IX. Round Table

Career and Assignment Manager (CAM) Positions – LCDR David Magnotta reported that the first round of the call for CAMs position applications has been extended and that OCCO will continue to interview applicants to fill these vacancies. It is anticipated that the positions will be selected and filled categorical with team leads. LCDR Magnotta will be the Team Lead for the Nurse Category. The initial focus will be to meet the goals of transformation, increasing the number of commissioned officers on active duty by filling billets appropriately and mentorship.

Nursing Coins – There was a question about nursing coins availability and that all resources had been exhausted. CAPT Ana Maria Puente responded by stating that during the COA conference a list was generated and distributed among the officers that solicit for endorsements to support ordering more coins.

*The Next N-PAC Meeting Is Tentatively Scheduled For:
21 SEP 2007 from 1300-1500
Surgeon General Conference Room, Parklawn Building (18th Floor)*