

PPAC MEETING MINUTES, 6-28-07 DRAFT  
The Parklawn Building, 7-07  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

## CALL TO ORDER

CCR Narayan Nair called the meeting to order at 1300.

## ATTENDEES (MEMBERS)

See attached Attendance Roster

## GUESTS & EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

See attached Attendance Roster.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 13, 2007 meeting were approved without correction

## CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT (CDR NARAYAN NAIR for CAPT DAVID RUTSTEIN)

### PPAC OFRD issues

- Many CC officers are on a Health Diplomacy Mission to Central America and the Pacific Islands on two hospital ships [Peleliu and Comfort], the largest PHS deployment on Navy ships in history
  - The PHS has received great feedback from the ship's Captains and from other Navy personnel regarding the quality of CC officers and the service that they are providing. In fact, the Secretary of the Navy relayed to ADM Moritsugu and CAPT Rutstein, how truly impressed he was and is with the caliber of service that is being provided by CC officers on the Comfort and Peleliu and also on the PHS dental missions to Camp LeJeune and Camp Pendleton
- Secretary Leavitt will join the Comfort between Nicaragua and El Salvador
- Several administrative problems/issues were identified with the deployments on Comfort and Peleliu
  - Officers were required to obtain maroon official government passports, which were difficult to obtain. These were to be obtained through their respective agencies; however, some difficulty with Agency support in obtaining the Official Government Passports
  - There were also difficulties in obtaining Entry Visas, which were directly linked to lack of a Government Passport
  - These travel arrangement delay issues arose due to the need for GovTrip related responsibilities to be transferred to OFRD

- To avoid similar problems, it would be useful if all deployable officers had Official Government Passports
- There is training that is occurring for officers on PHS RDF teams 1 and 2 held in CAMP Bullis, TX, which is costing \$1.2 million; it is anticipated that there will be 70-75% participation from these PHS RDF teams

## **SG PAC MEETING (CDR NARAYAN NAIR)**

- ADM Moritsugu's Notes
  - ADM Moritsugu stated that COA was well attended; however, he didn't think that the SEC of HHS would endorse COA or COF meeting as an official meeting
  - New nominee Dr. James Holsinger for SG, expectation that in July there will be a Congressional hearing to discuss the nomination
  - ADM Moritsugu stated that once new SG transitioned in, after 37 years of service, he will be retiring;
  - ADM Moritsugu will be traveling for promotion ceremonies, BOP in N.C., Atlanta ATSDR promotion ceremonies
  - There is a new SG call to action to address underage drinking; 5000 alcohol related deaths, accidents/suicides/homicides; encouraging officers to support this initiative
- Sec HHS launching a new website to be able to compare care in hospitals at [www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov](http://www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov)
- The new awards policy that is circulating, is close to being finalized (before the first of August), and is designed to expedite the award process. Awards that were to be cleared at a higher level, now can be cleared at a lower level.
- Uniform policy is currently under review by Sec HHS; ASH felt that we should be in harmony with the Navy. The main change would be eliminating the Salt/Pepper uniform. However, it was noted that there were many objections from numerous categories and respective PACs to removing this uniform.
  - OCCO intends to phase in any uniform changes, and will keep officers informed about the changes. The anticipated time of implementation of this new policy is unknown.
  - With proposed changes, and the possibility of having to purchase new uniforms, there were inquiries as to whether there will be a new uniform allowance. The decision will depend on the budget.
- ADM Moritsugu promoting the AMSUS awards; PHS officers have won these awards in the past; encourage physicians to nominate others and yourself; PHS officers are competitive
- Information regarding the Inactive Reserve Corps
  - The mission of the Inactive Reserve Corps is to assist in surge capacity for the corps
  - Inactive Corps plays a major role in the transformation initiative
  - There are 4000 members in the Inactive Corps, (physicians are largest group) and consists of individuals, to some extent, who were prior PHS

