

PPAC MEETING MINUTES, 8-23-07
The Parklawn Building, 7-07
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

CALL TO ORDER

CAPT Jeffrey Kopp 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 with typo correction (CDR Nair)

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT (CAPT DAVID RUTSTEIN)

RECENT ANNOUNCED CHANGES IN PHS LEADERSHIP/SR. LEADERSHIP

- ADM Agwunobi will resign effective 9/4/07; a replacement acting Assistant Secretary of Health has not yet been announced and there is an ongoing effort to appoint a permanent ASH.
- ADM Kenneth Moritsugu, acting Surgeon General, plans to retire in early October.
- Dr. James Holsinger is still before the Senate awaiting confirmation as SG; when ADM Moritsugu retires, there will be an additional vacancy (for deputy SG).
- Commissioned Corps plans to continue to move forward in Transformation plans; it is statutory that ASH and SG must be MDs but not the deputy.

HEALTH DIPLOMACY MISSIONS

- 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.

READINESS

- Readiness will be analyzed quarterly now, i.e. we will all be aware of when this happens.

- This is not the first “go-round” for the policy; the “run” to check it again will be on 9/30/07.
- The 4 dates will be important for promotions so improvement is expected.
- Efforts by the readiness committee to improve medical officer readiness suggest that in many instances the officer did not enter data.

MEDICAL SPECIAL PAY

- An ad hoc committee has begun discussing this issue.
- OCCO feels that this discussion is timely, i.e. the philosophy of what we do and eligibility for pays.
- DOD legislation that is forthcoming will allow different pays between different branches and possibly in 2009 the combining of pays.
- Anticipated impact for PHS is to maintain or increase special pays.
- Clinical competence and specialty pays and the deployment arena all need to be balanced, not necessarily by the number of hours spent performing medical specialty duties and readjustment may be on an annual basis.
- It was noted that physicians get a five year retirement credit for training when they have served for 20 years (but that after 25 years and until year 30 this lessens).

PROMOTION PROCESS

- An officer in the lowest decile for 3 years must undergo counseling to remain in the Corps.
- The CPOs will begin doing this.
- Career counseling is for documentation purposes and will be meshed in with counseling from supervisors.
- It was suggested that mentors may help out with this.

SG PAC MEETING (CAPT JEFFREY KOPP)

- No SG PAC meeting was held.

PPAC CHAIR UPDATE (CAPT JEFFREY KOPP)

- CAPT Kopp has been working on medical officer promotions.
- He encourages all officers to help individuals up for promotion.
- A slide presentation of CVs, awards, helpful tips on promotions is being developed.
- The presentation may be during a PPAC forum and will be posted to the website.

