

PPAC MEETING MINUTES, 5-3-07 FINAL  
The Tower Building, Lower Level Conference Room  
1101 Wooton Parkway  
Rockville, MD 20852

### CALL TO ORDER

CAPT Jeffrey Kopp called the meeting to order at 1305.

### **ATTENDEES (MEMBERS)**

See attached Attendance Roster

### **GUESTS & EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS**

See attached Attendance Roster.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 8, 2007 meeting were approved with correction (CAPT Pam Stratton, not CDR)

### **CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER REPORT (CAPT DAVID RUTSTEIN)**

- The President's health diplomacy issues for the Western Hemisphere established through the Secretary involving PHS officers working on the USMS Comfort have been set up. The ship will visit 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries over the summer. Although initially an oral health mission, it has been extended now to involve many team members such as medical, veterinary, and nurse officers. Four sequential teams are planned serving a month at a time, with an OIC on board for the entire time. Physician teams will consist of Family Medicine or ER doctors, preventive medicine specialists, internists, and infectious disease specialists. The first team will depart from Norfolk, VA on 6-13 and return 7-16. Advance teams will pave the way for the PHS teams to spend 7-8 days ashore in each port
- The ASH has signed off on 3 teams of 5 officers each to participate in US Navy missions to the Pacific Rim and Pacific Islands, also this summer, aboard the USS Peleliu, for one month at a time. Requirements include: agency concurrence, government credit card, official passport, no adverse actions pending, and CPO concurrence. This mission will be concurrent with the Comfort and will occur at the time of hurricane season so may be a challenge to fill.
- Budget to support officers is a problem this year, however 1.5 million dollars has been budgeted for missions next year.
- In late April Secretary Leavitt rolled out a new campaign using media to recruit for the 4 PHS categories (medical, dental, nurse, and pharmacist officers) that

have large needs. There are many print ads now out for physicians, for example in medical school or residency publications and in listings such as those put out by the American College of Physicians. Print ads are expected to be effective, highlighting junior officers

- Contact with the OCCO staff represents the first tier of recruitment, with further referral then to associate recruiters. The number of daily phone calls now numbers about 150 compared to about 10 a day 3 weeks ago.
- The “bottleneck” of the Commissioned Corps application process is expected to be relieved by the electronic call to duty (ECAD), planned to come soon, allowing on-line applications.
- The USPHS website will be revamped with revamping of the category websites to conform to this; format, not content, will change.
- Pay issues for the Corps are expected to be influenced by an agency group meeting to address the issues, (DOD, DHS, Department of Commerce, and DHHS.) There are 7 different pays for the uniformed services, 4 of which are applicable to the PHS. It is anticipated that there may be special pays from agencies as health provider bonuses or incentives pays and that this may significantly increase medical officer pay. The increase in pay may come about for medical officers due to difficulties in recruitment and retention. Shortages of physicians in all services have stimulated this effort which is being shepherded by the Department of Homeland Security. It is anticipated that health provider pay will be applicable to other health professionals in the Corps, not just physicians, and that there will be contractual mechanisms in place for the pay.

## **PPAC CHAIR REPORT (CAPT JEFFREY KOPP)**

- The time and location of the PPAC meetings was discussed. It was decided to keep the PPAC forum open call meeting every 8 weeks on Thursday afternoon. The Tower Building has been used for PPAC meetings but few officers have attended in person, therefore the next regular PPAC meeting will be held at the Parklawn Building.
- The Medical Corps has approximately 3000 inactive reserve officers. Some of these officers have expressed an interest in greater participation in the PPAC (i.e. voting membership). The charter states that members must be “full time.” CAPT Kopp will get an opinion from OCCO to clarify this and recommends that inactive reserve officers participate in committees and meetings.
- CAPT Kopp has been working with the compensation and special pays committee, examining issues such as the special pay differences in specialties such as pediatrics and is working on documenting the needs for physician groups.
- About 75 officers are now able to access the PPAC Portal. Contact CAPT Kopp to set up access.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

### ***Awards (CAPT Calman Prussin)***

- No report at this meeting.

