

The Rapid Pulse

September 2002

The Director's Perspective

By Dr. Eugene Migliaccio

In this installment of *The Rapid Pulse*, I want to reflect on the events of one year ago, when our nation was attacked in ways we never imagined. We witnessed the evilness of hatred, but we also witnessed a re-birth of the American spirit and a renewed sense of patriotism. In the aftermath of last year's attacks, the Public Health Service played a vital role in the recovery efforts, and I was never more proud to be a Commissioned Officer.

The one-year commemoration of September 11 is the perfect time for all in the Public Health Service to reflect on the role we play in protecting the health and safety of the American public. Our fellow citizens depend on us

to be deployable at a moment's notice to respond to a variety of public health needs. I want to thank the more than 30 DIHS officers who rose to the occasion last year. I also want to thank those who stayed at the field sites to conduct our daily business. Thank you for your hard work.

Finally, the new Surgeon General of the United States, VADM Richard Carmona, recently visited with members of our staff in the New York and New Jersey areas. His visit is proof that DIHS is becoming a more highly visible organization, and the word is being spread about the vital work we do each day. I am proud to be Director of this great organization!



DIHS staff with the Surgeon General of the United States VADM Richard Carmona (l-r): LTJG Jonee Mearns, LTJG Jamie Seligman, LCDR Linda Jo Bel-sito, LCDR John Gary, LTJG Michael Chuley, CAPT Gilberto Cardona, VADM Carmona, LT Stephen Gonsalves, LT Suzzie Choi, LTJG Ron Pinheiro, CDR Roldie Jones, and LCDR Chae Chong

Faces and Places

WELCOME

Miami, Florida:

LTJG Denise Morrison

San Diego, California:

LT Joel Johnson
Telma Goertz

Washington, DC:

LCDR Karen Bryant
CDR Jim Sorenson
LT Tom Hochberg

FAREWELL

Florence, Arizona:

LT Larry Highsmith
LT Tracy Branch

San Pedro, California:

LCDR Denise Howell

Washington, DC:

LTJG Rob Steiner
CAPT Sheila O'Keefe

Have an idea or suggestion for a future issue of *The Rapid Pulse*? **Don't delay!**

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Accreditation Update

By CDR Mary Bowling

It will come as no surprise to many of you that the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHO) is considered the hallmark of accreditation. In a health care delivery system such as ours, accreditation is critical because it helps us strive to maintain and exceed detention standards, and provide the highest quality of health care possible.

Through trial by fire, some of you know that JCAHO surveys are getting tougher! Moreover, an unannounced survey could occur at any time! Therefore, I'd like to focus on some key issues that were raised during recent JCAHO surveys.

Performance Improvement Monitoring and Analysis:

Each facility should maintain the routine monitoring activities. They are the tools for identifying opportunities for improvement. It's important to document the review and analysis of your routine performance improvement monitoring (including incident reports, grievances, medication errors, etc).

The analysis should include

comparisons to previous data as well as speak to the significance of the current data.

Credentialing: Make sure that licensing and credentialing information is current and available, including contract service providers. All service providers coming into your facility must have an 'orientation.'

Sustained Performance Improvement Activities: Surveyors are looking for evidence that we are identifying opportunities for improvement, implementing improvement measures, and monitoring for their effectiveness over extended periods of time.

As I've traveled to our field sites to participate in JCAHO surveys, I've been impressed by the level of preparedness of the facilities, and it shows in the survey results! Now, more than ever, it's important to focus on the areas addressed above.

If we do that, I have confidence that DIHS will continue its history of remarkable accreditation not only by JCAHO, but by our other accrediting bodies, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) and the American Correctional Association (ACA).

Correction:

In the last issue of *The Rapid Pulse*, CAPT Carol Lindsey's phone number was listed as 305-616-1035. Her phone number should read **202-616-1035**.



Our
Mission:

We promote global health through the delivery of primary care to undocumented migrants.

Career Development

By CAPT Marylouise Ganaway

All officers should maintain a current CV in their Official Personnel Folder (**OPF**). Normally an annual update in December is all that is required. However, if you do receive a new assignment or change your current position, it is a good idea to send in an updated CV at that time.

Your OPF may be reviewed at any time by authorized personnel who may be considering you for a new position, award, or other possibility. Having a current CV can often make the difference!

For those of you up for the Promotion Cycle 2003, it is imperative that you submit all the necessary information into your OPF by December 31, 2002. After that date, only OFFICIAL submissions to your OPF are accepted. There are NO EXCEPTIONS to this policy. I have developed an OPF Review Form that tells you exactly what should and what can be in your OPF.

The DIHS sites that I have visited have copies of this form. It should be posted on the web site soon; however, in the meantime, if you would like a copy, please e-mail me and I will send a copy

to you. (e-mail requests only, please.)

It is imperative that your OPF reflect you as the professional that you are. Remember, any authorized person reviewing your OPF may only have knowledge of you from what is in your OPF. If your OPF is not complete, then you appear as being incomplete also!

If you do not know how to go to the Division of Commissioned Personnel's (DCP) web site to review your OPF, please go the web page at dcp.psc.gov and you will find directions. Also, you can e-mail them at dcp-help-desk@psc.gov or call at 301-594-0961 to get your password or if you need additional assistance.

It is important that everyone up for promotion start reviewing their OPF **now** while comparing its contents with the OPF Review Form. Sometimes materials that you thought you sent in are not in the OPF. If you start reviewing now, you will have ample time to re-submit items as well as submit all the new ones.

Now, how do you know if you are up for promotion? Good question! It is based on your Training & Experience (T&E) date. Add the appropriate years to your T&E date:

see Career- Page 4

Career— from page 3

#1

03 = 8 years of T&E (non-competitive promotion done by supervisor).

04 = 12 years of T&E

05 = 17 years of T&E

06 = 24 years of T&E

#2

Promotion Year = July 01 to June 30 (actually April 01). Boards meet annually in Spring.

#3

There are 4 actual T&E dates: July 01, October 01, January 01, and April 01.

#4

Take your T&E date & add the appropriate pending-rank years (as noted above in #1).

#5

SAMPLE Calculations:

04 adds 17 years to T&E date:
T&E = July 01, 1986

Promotion Board will meet in
Spring 2003

05 = $\frac{+}{\text{July 01, 2003}}$ 17

If selected, is eligible to pin-on
July 01, 2003

04 adds 17 years to T&E date:
T&E = April 01, 1986

Promotion Board met in Spring
2002

05 = $\frac{+}{\text{April 01, 2003}}$ 17

If selected, is eligible to pin-on
April 01, 2003

(T&E date which completes the
2002 Promotion Year).

REMEMBER: The Promotion Year is from July 01 to June 30 (crosses two calendar years). The Promotion Board deals with Promotion Years (not calendar years).

Each officer should plan out their future based on their promotion eligibility so that you are meeting the requirements for each advancing rank. Advanced ranks **require** billet and geographic **mobility** as well as advanced degrees and continuing education.

Don't pass up an advancement opportunity as it may jeopardize your future promotions and possibilities! It's your career, take charge!

Out and About



Midnight ceremony marking the opening of the DIHS medical clinic in San Diego, CA



This issue of *The Rapid Pulse* is dedicated to those who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks one year ago, September 11, 2001.