

# The Rapid Pulse

June 2003

Faces and  
Places

## *The Director's Perspective*

By Dr. Eugene Migliaccio

In this month's installment of *The Rapid Pulse*, I want to focus on the importance of the Commissioned Corps Readiness Force (CCRF) and what our Division can do to continue to support the CCRF and become CCRF qualified.

Under the leadership and direction of the US Surgeon General, the Public Health Service (PHS) is undergoing a positive transformation, including bringing the PHS into parity with other uniformed services, and making the Commissioned Corps a fully deployable entity to respond to a variety of national emergencies and public health situations.

President Bush has called for 30 percent of the Commissioned Corps to be enrolled in CCRF by the end of this fiscal year, 50 percent by the end of next year, and 70 percent by the end of 2005. CCRF membership will also be a consideration in all future promotion and assimilation boards starting in the 2004 promotion year cycle.

DIHS wants to serve as a leader and role model in this transformation. One of the ways we can do this is by continuing our support of the CCRF and ensuring that all DIHS Commissioned Officers are CCRF fully qualified.

DIHS is proud that we have been able to support CCRF on a variety of special missions and deployments, including the

World Trade Center disaster site and the anthrax attacks of 2001. Even in the midst of staffing shortages at some of our sites, we have continued to support CCRF. Equally important are those individuals who do not deploy with CCRF, instead remaining at their site or providing a TDY to another site to ensure the continuity of care for our detained population. We appreciate their dedication as well.

Every DIHS officer must either maintain their CCRF qualification, or become CCRF qualified if they have not done so already.

The CCRF is sending every active duty Commissioned Officer a training module via a CD-ROM. Those DIHS officers who are not already CCRF qualified must become CCRF qualified by taking the following steps:

- Apply for CCRF membership, which can be done online at the site <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/CCRF/Database/applicat.htm>

*see CCRF- Page 2*

## **WELCOME**

### **El Paso, TX :**

LT Elizabeth Escalera  
LT Dennis Slate

### **Florence, AZ:**

LTJG Geri Booth

### **Port Isabel, TX:**

LTJG Daniel Hanks  
LT Jack Sibal

### **San Pedro, CA:**

LTJG Connery Lee

### **Washington, DC:**

ENS Andrew Hickey  
Ed Sheppard

## **FAREWELL**

### **Washington, DC:**

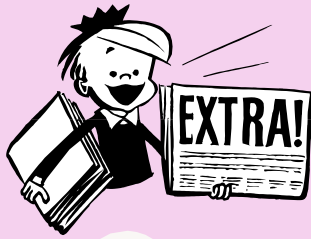
Angela Briscoe-  
Shillingford

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Please mark your calendars for October 4-11, 2003 for the annual DIHS Leadership Symposium.

The conference will take place in Austin, TX at the Hampton Inn.

Topic: Strategic Planning

*CCRF- from Page 1*

- Complete BLS for Healthcare Providers (or CPR for the Professional Rescuer)
- Meet physical fitness requirements (this can also be found online at <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/CCRF/whatis.htm>)
- Get immunizations updated
- To be deployed in a clinical role, ensure that you have worked a 112 hours per year in that role
- Complete the training module on the CCRF website at <http://oep.osophs.dhhs.gov/CCRF/training.htm>.

It's important to remember that you need to be qualified for the CCRF in order to be in the PHS, not just to be deployed. There are some who will qualify for the CCRF but may never deploy. DIHS will continue to do all that it can to support CCRF and continue to fulfill our mission to the detained population we serve.

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**BOTC Training**

By Dr. Sara Newman

How familiar are you with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps? Here are a few questions to test your knowledge.

1. Why does the anchor on the PHS insignia have a chain wrapped around it?

2. When you are home on a Saturday and not on annual leave (assuming your normal workday is Monday-Friday) are you on leave?
3. If you work part of the day and have to go to a medical appointment for yourself, what kind of leave should you take?
4. If you meet an Admiral, should you extend out your hand to shake his/her hand, or wait for him/her to offer his/her hand?

The answers are: 1) It's a fouled anchor symbolizing distress, 2) Yes, you are officially on station leave, 3) DIHS policy requires that you take sick leave (and fill out a leave slip) when you attend a medical appointment for yourself, and 4) You should never initiate a handshake with an Admiral, but should return a handshake if it is extended to you. In fact, you should never initiate a handshake with any senior officer.

How did you do? These questions are only a few of the many that are covered in the Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC) offered through the Commissioned Officers Training Academy.

Officers attending BOTC receive an introduction to the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps emphasizing the Corps as a Uniformed Service. The Academy offers a five day course designed to assist new and Senior COSTEP officers in their transition to the corps. There is also a three day course for experienced officers. Some of the topics introduced during this course include military bearing and courtesy, career development, promotions, leave, compensation, awards, and resource utilization.

I attended the course this April with five

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## *BOTC-from Page 2*

other DIHS officers, most of whom had also recently joined the PHS as commissioned officers. This course provided an excellent introduction to the policies and benefits of the Corps and provided lessons on how to properly conduct oneself as an officer. The instructors were enthusiastic and patient, and used humor to get us through some of the lengthy and detailed sections of the course—especially the section on uniforms. The course also provided an opportunity for us to learn about special benefits available to officers such as Space-A travel, military base services, and other benefits. We even learned to sing the USPHS March. Although we all felt a bit silly learning and attempting to sing the March, by the end of the course, I did catch a few classmates humming the tune out the door.



On our last day of class, we were honored with a visit from the Surgeon General, Admiral Carmona. He inspired us with his vision of a transformed Corps that is highly visible, highly respected, and relied upon in the most critical of times by the nation it serves. He challenged us to raise the bar for excellence in our Commissioned Corps.

The week at BOTC made it clear that this is an exciting time for com-

missioned officers. Recent world events have presented immense challenges to the public health professional. For the Corps, these are extraordinary opportunities to demonstrate our value to the world.

DIHS has been an enthusiastic supporter of the BOTC training program. Our Division is committed to ensuring that each newly commissioned officer attends the earliest BOTC available upon employment with DIHS. And the Division's support is growing. In 1998 DIHS sponsored five officers for BOTC training; this year 57 officers were scheduled to attend BOTC. Even within this year we have seen our Division's increased support. After May 2003, 56% of our commissioned officers will have attended BOTC; this is up from 36% as of the first quarter of the 2003 fiscal year.

I think many of us in the class gained a new respect for the Corps and its impact on our nation's health and well-being. In fact, many classmates said that they wish they were offered the course much sooner. Some expressed the hope that their supervisors and co-workers would take the course so that we all work toward the same mission and from the same frame of reference.

In a recent phone conversation with CAPT Frank Behen, the Director of the Academy, he said "we welcome experienced senior officers and even civilians to join in any or all parts of the course. By participating they get a feel of what the junior officers are going

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Have You Heard?

- Through a Memorandum of Understanding, HHS is teaming with the Department of Homeland Security to fight SARS.
- Our San Diego facility recently celebrated their one year anniversary by opening an infirmary!
- Show your esprit de corps! DIHS officers are encouraged to work the booth at the COA Conference-Hospitality Room.

through and gain a better understanding of the transformation happening within the Corps.”

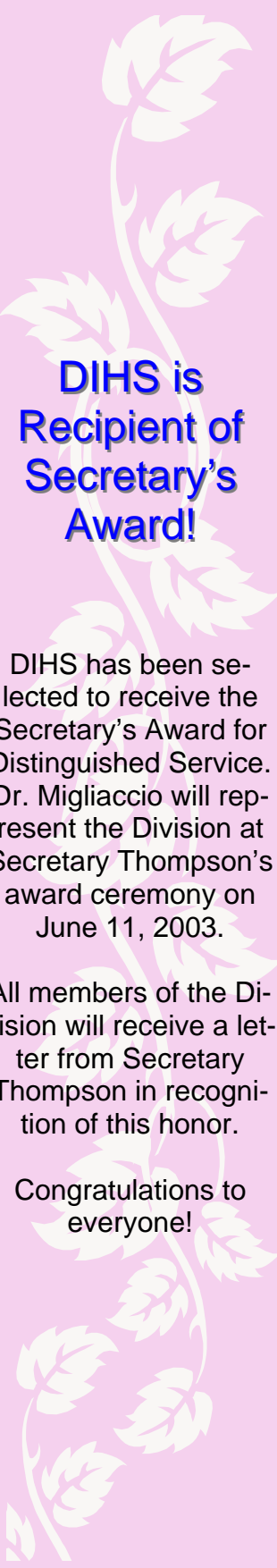
Opportunities for the new commissioned officer to learn about the Corps do not end after BOTC. Officers successfully completing the course can then enroll in the web-based Independent Officer Training Course (IOTC). Those who earn an 80% average score on the examination series receive the Commissioned Corps Training Ribbon.

BOTC will equip you with the tools you need to navigate the large and complex Uniformed Service system. You will learn how you can best serve the Corps and how the Corps can best serve you. This information will help you make the most of the many benefits available to you as an officer and maximize your career potential. So, if you have not yet taken advantage of the opportunity, maybe now's the time. But plan early, because the demand is high and space is limited!

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*Congratulations to those DIHS Commissioned Officers who were recently promoted! Thank you for your continued hard work and accomplishments within DIHS!*

LT Rhondalyn Cox	to O4
LT Eileen Falzini	to O4
LT Abnnah Forbes	to O4
LT Andrew Ganzon	to O4
LT Melissa George	to O4
LT Joel Johnson	to O4
LT Tracey Karshner	to O4
LT Delia Marquez-Ellis	to O4
LT Robin Moyers	to O4
LT Edward Narbuth	to O4
LT Nelson Reyes	to O4
LT Joe Tittle	to O4
LT Victoria Vachon	to O4
LT Paul Wetherill	to O4
LCDR Peggy Mathis	to O5
LCDR Alan Sokolowski	to O5
CDR Philip Jarres	to O6



## DIHS is Recipient of Secretary's Award!

DIHS has been selected to receive the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service. Dr. Migliaccio will represent the Division at Secretary Thompson's award ceremony on June 11, 2003.

All members of the Division will receive a letter from Secretary Thompson in recognition of this honor.

Congratulations to everyone!

