

## DHPAG CONFERENCE CALL

July 6, 2005

Present: CDR Beth Finnon, LCDR Karen Sicard, LCDR Rhonda Plake, LCDR Renee Roberson

Absent: CDR Cathy Hollister, LTJG Kate Glassock, LTJG Charles Brucklier, LTJG Kim Myers

Guests: CDR Kathy Heiden, LCDR Carol Czerniak

### Items Discussed:

Promotions: discussion focused on planning and being responsible for our own careers, planning for career moves, higher billets, interagency transfers, expanding our job skills, reserve crops and attaining a master's degree.

COA: Emphasis was placed on attending COA and our category events. Many other disciplines feel the need to divide themselves between clinical continuing education and category day. We cannot strategically place ourselves within our category if we do not participate in Health Services Officer events. There were actually seven dental hygienists at COA. With more thought and planning, the HS-PAC would help coordinate a dental hygienists' forum at future COA meetings. Membership in JOAG was encouraged for junior officers to keep them informed about career development issues.

Billets: many officers seem unaware of the wide variety of billets available to them.

Billets can be rewritten to better define the skills and responsibilities of a dental hygienists. FDA and CDC have their own agency billets. Generic HSO billets are also possibilities. A link is planned for the DHPAG website to access a description of these billets.

ADHA: Membership in our professional organization is encouraged. The ADHA is critical to the advancement of the dental hygiene profession. They are our advocates and voice for policy change. The Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner (ADHP) may be an opportunity for us to expand our areas of expertise in the future.

OFRD: Basic readiness qualification is required to further our careers. It can affect promotions, HSO awards, and PAC selections. Several of us at COA spent some time in discussion with CDR Jaskow concerning our roles in OFRD. Currently, most of us choose public health educator or compete for specialty roles such a liaison officer. If we want to have any influence regarding our deployment roles, we need to be more involved and have representation on the Readiness Subcommittee.

DHPAG Website: LCDR Rhonda Plake is diligently creating the site and welcomes any and all suggestions for its format.

Next conference call is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21 at 2:00pm EDT