

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ¹
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

1. Attendees:

1.1. OPAG Members

- 1.1.1. CAPT Greg Ketcher (Chair)
- 1.1.2. CDR Carmen Palma (Vice-Chair)
- 1.1.3. CDR Mike Candreva
- 1.1.4. CDR Nancy Nichols (HSO PAC member and ex officio OPAG member - Absent)
- 1.1.5. CDR Kim Lewandowski-Walker (OPAG secretary/treasurer)
- 1.1.6. CDR Barbara Massey
- 1.1.7. Dr. Michael Duenas (CDC Representative – Absent)

1.2. Guests

- 1.2.1. CAPT Richard Hatch (I.H.S. Eye Care Coordination Committee Chair)
- 1.2.2. CAPT Terry Schleisman (I.H.S. Optometry Clinical Consultant)
- 1.2.3. CAPT Sui Wong

2. Meeting called to order at 11:05am

- 2.1.1. Approval of minutes from November 02, 2005 OPAG meeting performed via e-mail to OPAG members

3. Old Business/ Standing Agenda Items

3.1. Retention pay (ORSP)/Loan Repayment

- 3.1.1. Nothing new to report. Optometrists still cannot receive loan repayment and ORSP concurrently.
- 3.1.2. CAPT Ketcher reported that resolving this issue would likely be a long process since the instructions in the Commissioned Corps manual would have to be re-written and re-signed by the ASH.
- 3.1.3. CAPT Hatch suggested investigating whether I.H.S. Headquarters would be amenable to exempting I.H.S. loan repayment from the pay policies of PHS, which may allow the concurrent receipt of LRP and ORSP. CAPT Hatch also reiterated the need to obtain the support of I.H.S. flag officers, Chief Medical Officers, and Area Directors.

3.2. Medical Benefits - nothing new to report. Tricare information is available on-line at www.tricare.osd.mil. TRICARE has many different e-newsletters you can subscribe to by visiting the website. The Fact Sheets subscription is useful to keep up with benefits changes.

3.3. Transformation – nothing new to report.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP 2
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

3.4. Pay - The new automated, online Payroll System is scheduled to go live for Active Duty Officers on March 31, 2006.

3.5. Uniform Policies – CDR Palma forwarded this website, www.PHSstore.com, which sells PHS BDU clothing, etc. They are based in Window Rock, Arizona (spouse is a PHS officer). They seem to be pretty good. No regular uniform as of yet but if you visit the website, it is pretty informative about where to place patches, etc.

3.6. Retirement – tentative retirements

- 3.5.1.** CAPT Hatch, mid-2006
- 3.5.2** CAPT Siu Wong, March 2006
- 3.5.3** CAPT John Garber, August 2006
- 3.5.4** CAPT James Hughes, August 2006

3.5.5 There have been instances of officers submitting PHS Forms 1373 (Separation of CO) through their supervisory channels to OCCO for processing. This can work well if the 30 day rule is not an issue. However, it causes delays in the effective date of separation if the 1373 arrives at OCCO without giving 30 days notice to OCCO (from last day at duty station).

Officers should fax a copy directly to OCCO, Assignments Division, Fax number 240 453 6030 and simultaneously forward a copy through their supervisory channels/Fiscal/Administrative Officer.

Prior to the electronic forms, we used to use the carbon copy 1373 where one of the 2 carbon copies went thru supervisory channels and the original copy went directly to OCCO (DCP).

Officers have always been encouraged to fax a copy directly to OCCO immediately after filling out Part A in order to meet the 30 day rule. This has not changed.

3.6 OPAG Position Papers

3.6.2 A Loan Repayment Position Paper has been developed and forwarded to the Chief Professional Officer of the HSO PAC in hopes of more optometry loan repayment contracts being awarded in the future.

3.7 Title 38 – Civil Service Reclassification – Pay Issues

3.7.1 Nothing new to report.

3.7.2 I.H.S. Headquarters is still revisiting the request for an optometry special salary rate.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ³
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

3.7.2.1 I.H.S. Headquarters is requesting more information in terms of national reports and corroborating salary reports.

3.7.3 Reclassification of positions using the civil service 600 series doesn't appear likely due to the cumbersome and lengthy process, which would involve all agencies and multiple disciplines.

4. New Business and Liaison Reports

4.1 Guest Report – CAPT Sui Wong

4.1 CAPT Wong was present to speak about Beta Sigma Kappa and the American Public Health Association

4.1.1 Beta Sigma Kappa (BSK)

4.1.1.1 BSK is the only optometric honorary society and is approximately 80 years old

4.1.1.2 BSK honors students and funds student optometric research

4.1.1.3 BSK also recognizes Noteworthy Practitioners via nomination

4.1.1.4 CAPT Wong is the Chancellor of Beta Sigma Kappa. There is a Board of Regents and Council that govern BSK and reviews research proposals from optometry schools for student research.

4.1.1.5 BSK currently has one international chapter in Canada, but is working to expand into other countries.

4.1.1.6 BSK is currently partnering with the World Council on Optometry to develop a travel fellowship to increase international participation.

4.1.1.7 See the BSK website at www.betasigmakappa.org for more information

4.2.1 American Public Health Association (APHA)

4.2.1.1 Approximately 30,000 public health professionals from various disciplines.

4.2.1.2 Considered the premier public health organization

4.2.1.3 Approximately 300-400 optometrists are members

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP 4
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

- 4.2.1.4** APHA has a Vision Care Section, which has been welcoming of O.D.s from its inception
- 4.2.1.5** The Vision Care Section has supported O.D.s with various initiatives and resolutions, including helping to defeat an ophthalmology resolution to prevent O.D.s from obtaining therapeutic privileges and supported resolutions to involve O.D.s in reporting of domestic violence and promoting children's vision screenings.
- 4.2.1.6** APHA has a Native American Caucus, which supported a resolution decrying the lack of funding for I.H.S.
- 4.2.1.7** APHA is an excellent organization for PHS O.D.s to become involved and has opportunities to run for APHA offices and become involved in committees.
- 4.2.1.8** See the APHA website at www.apha.org for more information

4.2 OFRD Report – CDR Larry Zubel

- 4.2.1** CDR Zubel is in the process of drafting a letter describing the clinical contributions optometrists can make in a disaster response. Some would like to see us utilized as clinicians more than in other non-clinical roles. At least the OFRD should be aware of what we can do in such situations. The first drafts of the letter have been forwarded for comment. Once the content and message are agreed upon, CDR Zubel plans to get support for it from the Area Chiefs of Optometry and the Area CMO's, and then send it to the OFRD.
- 4.2.2** The hope is that the clinical services we can provide will not be overlooked in the future. This is not intended to state or imply that we won't or can't deploy in whatever role we might be needed to do.
- 4.2.3** SERT Basic Course January 2006 - The SERT training will now be presented in an on-line format utilizing the Blackboard system. This will permit students to participate in the program without having to travel to a site to attend a class. The classes will be offered each month of 2006. The course takes about an hour a day for 3 weeks. Questions can be directed to tell@hhs.gov

4.3 Eye Care Coordination Committee Report – CAPT Richard Hatch

- 4.3.1** The latest Fullerton meeting agenda is available. All PHS optometrists with IHS or other agencies, commissioned or civil service are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP 5
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

- 4.3.2** The ECCC will be represented at the NEI National Eye Health Education Program meeting in Santa Fe March 22-25 with Mark Horton and Brian Hudson attending. The ECCC will be meeting next at the IHS National Councils Meeting in Phoenix February 1. We continue to review IHS CHS priorities in relationship to eye care.

4.4 I.H.S. Optometry Clinical Consultant Report – CAPT Terry Schleisman

- 4.4.1** Of the 140 filled FTE positions, 52% are Commissioned Corps Officers, 34% are Tribal Hire, and 14% are Civil Service. The current trend is for more IHS optometrists to be employed as Tribal-Hire and less and less as Commissioned Corps Officers. This is probably because more and more Tribes are beginning to manage their own health care through self-governance (638 compacting). The result is they can often offer more competitive salary packages to optometrists without the bureaucratic limitations found in Commissioned Corps and Civil Service.
- 4.4.2** The following doctors are new to the IHS: Dr. Barbara Cohn (Harlem, MT), Dr. Jacqueline Jones (Bethel, AK), Dr. William Thomas (Rocky Boy, MT), Dr. Patrick Britton, (Rapid City, SD), Dr. Stacey Holdsworth (Gila Crossing, AZ), Dr. Kathleen Wooten (Hunter, OK), and Dr. Rodney Bendure (Stillwell, OK).
- 4.4.3** The following positions are currently vacant, and in need of qualified applicants: Ketchikan, AK; Ft. Defiance, AZ; Pinon, AZ; Phoenix, AZ; Polacca, AZ; San Carlos, AZ; White River, AZ; San Jacinto, CA; Browning, MT; Lame Deer, MT; Dulce, NM; San Fidel, NM; Shiprock, NM; Zuni, NM; and Rosebud, SD.
- 4.4.4** CAPT Schleisman has the most recent IHS Equipment List. He would like to update this list, so if you have excess equipment that you are trying to find a good home, or if you have equipment that you need, please let CAPT Schleisman know, and he'll get this list updated.

4.5 COA Liaison Report – CDR Dawn Clary – nothing new to report

4.6 HSO-PAC Liaison Report – CDR Nancy Nichols

- 4.6.1** OCCO
 - 4.6.1.1** Revamping associate recruiter program – sounds like it will be more active program than it has been recently
 - 4.6.1.2** There will be a 2 week BOTC course after the first of the year for new corps officers
 - 4.6.1.3** Check your OPF for NACI (National Agency Check w/Inquiries) security clearance. Later they will be looking at re-certifying officers who have been in over 10 years.
- 4.6.2** CPO Report

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP 6
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

- 4.6.2.1** Revised HSO benchmarks are posted on the website & sent out via listserv
- 4.6.2.2** PY 2006 deadline for submitting your documents is 1/23/06. No dates have been posted for officers up for promotion to meet readiness standards, but it is strongly suggested that all officers meet readiness standards by 12/31/05 and keep current!
- 4.6.2.3** The CPO have recommended that proposed 6th precept (isolated hardship/hazardous/hard to fill) not be used for this coming promotion year.
- 4.6.2.4** Three new CPO have been appointed: Engineering, Nursing, EHO
- 4.6.2.5** CPO meeting again w/higher ups to discuss the 3 and freeze policy
- 4.6.2.6** 2006 Chair Elect: CDR Cardarelli
- 4.6.3** Membership Subcommittee
 - 4.6.3.1** The appointment letters for the new PAC members are at the Surgeon General's Office. Hopefully they will be sent out soon.
- 4.6.4** Next meeting: February 03, 2006
- 4.6.5** CAPT Jose Belardo is the new HSO-PAC Chair

4.7 JOAG Liaison Report – LCDR Greg Flaitz

- 4.7.1** The Junior Officer Advisory Group Meeting Friday, December 9, 2005, 1300-1500 EDT discussed the need to ensure that all officers have a National Agency Check with Inquiries - or N.A.C.I
- 4.7.2** If you deployed to Hurricane Katrina/Rita, or have deployed in the past to situations where you worked with other services, please take time to complete the AMSUS Survey and offer your perspective. Please visit the AMSUS website (<http://www.amsus.org/>) to complete the survey on joint operability - designed to capture perceptions about joint interoperability (JI) among the military services of the Department of Defense with the U.S. Public Health Service and Department of Veteran's Affairs.
- 4.7.3** The Reserve Officers Association will be holding its Mid-Winter Legislative Conference from February 5 through February 8, in Washington D.C., at the Washington Hilton and Towers.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP 7
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

- 4.7.4** COA is requesting for junior officer participation with the annual COA conference in Denver. We also are seeking JOAG representation on three sub-committees involved with logistics for the conference.
- 4.7.5** COA/COF continues to invite junior officers to participate in various committees within COA.
- 4.7.6** We would like to make the mentoring program a more cohesive program with more interaction with the various PACs and COSTEP preceptors. We are also asking our volunteers if they have experience with the mentoring program, to feel free to give comments on what you they liked or didn't and suggestions of how to improve it.
- 4.7.7** We are planning to put out a newsletter in early 2006 and have asked our committee volunteers to start thinking of topics/articles they would like to see included.
- 4.7.8** USAA has an unsecured 2% loan for \$25,000 for newly commissioned officers. A couple of conditions are: (1) you need to get a **USAA** checking account and (2) you're basic pay needs to goes into the **USAA** checking account and 3) it is only for officers that have been commissioned for less than 12 months. Call 1-800-531-2265 for more information.
- 4.7.9** NEXT MEETING: Jan. 13, 2006 at 13:00 - 15:00PM

4.8 AFOS Liaison Report – CDR Keith Cespon – no report received

4.9 AMSUS Liaison Report – CAPT Clifford Brown – no report received

4.10 PHS HSO PAC Recruitment and Placement Sub-Committee Liaison– CDR David Bellware

4.10.1 Applicant Summary of 4th Quarter

4.10.1.1 APPLICANT:

- 4.10.1.1.1** Rodney Bendure: Accepted contracted position with the OK College of Optometry (Wilma P. Mankiller Clinic).
- 4.10.1.1.2** David Doss: “Boarded” and awaiting medical clearance. Applicant is prior service –Army is having difficulty locating/producing his personnel file...USPHS can not process him without this file. He is working with the USARMY to resolve this.
- 4.10.1.1.3** Darcy Jones: Applicant placed at Phoenix Indian Medical Center –effective 1 NOV 05.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP 8
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

4.11 FDA Optometry Report

4.11.1 CDR Kim Lewandowski-Walker is conducting international inspections of medical device firms in Costa Rica and Italy from January 06 – 27, 2006.

4.11.2 The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2006. Over the years, FDA has provided Americans with increasingly comprehensive, science-based protections that ensure the highest quality of products essential for health and survival. Today, these products represent almost 25% of all consumer spending and include 80% of the national food supply and all human drugs, vaccines, medical devices, tissues for transplantation, equipment that emits radiation, cosmetics, and animal drugs and food.

4.12 New Academy Fellowship and Diplomate

4.12.1 Academy Fellowship required for Non-Physician Board Certification for optometry

4.12.2 OPAG members were informed that CDR Charles Jaworski recently received Diplomate status in the Public Health Section of the American Academy of Optometry. The Diplomate in Public Health is an achievement which recognizes Fellows of the Academy with knowledge and expertise in public health and environmental vision. Congratulations on this achievement.

4.12.3 OPAG members were informed that the following individuals earned Fellowship in the American Academy of Optometry

4.12.3.1.1 LCDR Greg Flaitz

4.12.3.1.2 LT Loretta Flaitz

4.12.3.1.3 LT Cameron Scott

5. Career Development/Promotions/Awards

5.1 Billets

5.1.1 Nothing to report. Issue is on hold at headquarters and OCCO until the Corps transformation.

5.1.2 The billet issue did receive some renewed interest at the category level after the comments from the 2005 HSO promotion board indicated that optometrists appeared to have more responsibility than their billets indicated.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ⁹
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

- 5.1.3** OPAG members, CAPT Schleisman, CAPT Hatch, and CAPT Wong discussed the importance of descriptive billets versus broad billets. The decision was made to wait until HQ and OCCO comment on the billets as submitted before making additional changes.

5.2 Promotions

- 5.2.1** Permanent promotions have been announced – check the OCCO website for the promotion lists.
- 5.2.2** Although much progress has been made during the past year to develop a new 6th Promotion Precept, a final consensus was not reached for its implementation. The implementation of the 6th Precept is postponed until PY 2007.
- 5.2.3** Officers eligible for competitive permanent promotion in PY2006 will not be promoted unless the Medical Affairs Branch has on file a current "Report of Medical History" (including a signed "Disclosure Statement"), within 1 year prior to the expected permanent promotion effective date AND a current physical examination (within the last 5 years). Officers, who are NOT within medical compliance at the time these files are checked, will be DENIED permanent promotion for the 2006 Promotion year cycle. See the following website if you need forms:
<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/efoms/dd2807-1.pdf>
- 5.2.4** Officers eligible for competitive temporary grade promotions in PY2006 will not be promoted unless basic readiness is achieved and maintained. Log into the OFRD website to check your basic readiness status and the expiration date of your immunizations and fitness test.
- 5.2.5** The CCMIS website now has the 2006 Promotion Information Page:
http://dcp.psc.gov/promotion_pages/promo_info_main.aspx

5.3 Awards

- 5.3.1** OPAG received several nominations for the Commissioned Officer Optometrists of the Year and Civil Service/Direct Hire Optometrist of the Year.
- 5.3.1.1** The Lester Caplan Award is to recognize a PHS tribal direct hire or PHS civil service optometrist who has demonstrated exemplary work as evidenced by a specific accomplishment(s) toward the mission of the PHS. This award may be presented annually by the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG).
- 5.3.1.2** The Edward Hamilton Award is presented to a career USPHS Optometry Commissioned Officer who is recognized by his/her

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP¹⁰
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

peers for outstanding work as evidenced by a specific accomplishment(s) toward the mission of the PHS. This award may be presented annually by the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG).

5.3.1.3 A special OPAG members only meeting will be held on January 18, 2006 at 11:00am CST to vote on the Lester Caplan and Edward Hamilton awards.

5.3.2 The Health Service Professional Advisory is seeking nominations for the “Health Services Responder of the Year” Award. It will be presented at the Category Day luncheon on May 2, 2006 in Denver, Colorado by the Surgeon General. Nominations may come from a supervisor, professional colleague or anyone who, through a professional working relationship, can attest to the impact of the nominee’s contributions. Self-nominations will **NOT** be accepted and current HS-PAC members are **NOT** eligible for this award. The HSO selected will also be submitted to OFRD for consideration for the PHS Responder of the Year Award. Please send nomination electronically to **BOTH LCDR Frances Placide** (Frances.Placide@ihs.gov) and **CDR Elise Young** (EYoung@hrs.gov). See the HSO PAC website for more details.

5.3.3 The Asian Pacific American Officers Committee (APAOC) is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2006 RADM Samuel Lin Award (for officers O-5 and above), and the 2006 Junior Officer Award (for officers O-4 and below). These awards have been developed to promote the future leadership of Asian Pacific Americans in the Public Health Service (PHS) by honoring members of the Commissioned Corps or equivalent Civil Service professionals who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the Nation's health. The nomination documents must be submitted online through the APAOC website. To submit your nomination, please visit APAOC's website at <http://www.usphs-apaoc.org> and click on "Award Nomination Form."

These awards are open to both PHS Commissioned Corps officers and Civil Service professionals. Nominations may come from a supervisor, professional colleague, or anyone who through a professional working relationship can attest to the impact of the nominee's contribution to the advancement of public health. Self-nominations will not be accepted, and current APAOC voting members are not eligible for these awards.

Nominations will be accepted through February 28, 2006. The awards will be presented in Denver in May at the 2006 Public Health Professional Conference which is sponsored by the Commissioned Officers Association (<http://www.coausphs.org>).

5.3.4 Beta Sigma Kappa accepts nominations for Noteworthy Practitioner awards. Contact CAPT Wong with ideas for nominations.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP¹¹
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

5.3.5 CAPT Sui Wong, O.D., received the 2005 American Public Health Association Vision Care Section Distinguished Service Award. This award is given to an individual who has made substantial contributions to the eye and vision care needs of the nation. Congratulations to CAPT Wong!

5.3.6 DEA Numbers: Federal Service OD's are eligible for a fee-exempt DEA number, but ONLY if they are licensed in the state where they are stationed. We cannot transfer our numbers from base to base like physicians and dentists can. This is because in the eyes of the DEA, we are considered Mid Level Practitioners (MLP). The DEA number is no good in a state where you are not licensed. Contact CAPT Schleisman if you meet these requirements and need the form, or see the DEA website.

5.4 Readiness/ORFD

5.4.1 Any officers not meeting readiness who require assistance should contact CDR Zubel.

5.4.2 Commissioned Corps Personnel Policy Memorandum (PPM) 06-001 Revised Influenza Vaccination Policy for Basic Level of Force Readiness and Promotion Year 2006 states that the influenza vaccine waiver expired December 31, 2005. You must provide proof of influenza vaccine to MAB and update your vaccination information in your officer summary page of the OFRD website to avoid losing basic readiness.

5.4.3 CAPT Mc Sherry alluded that a reproof letter may be placed in the OPF of those officers not meeting basic readiness by November 30, 2005. Failure to meet basic readiness by a second target date (to be determined) may result in a letter of reprimand that will stay in your OPF for 2 years and may result in the loss of special pays, removal from promotion lists, and removal from assimilation lists.

5.4.4 See section 4.2 of these minutes for the OFRD Liaison report.

5.5 Assimilation

5.5.1 Assimilation year 2004, the list of nominees has been prepared and is awaiting nomination by the President and the confirmation by the Senate.

5.5.2 Board review for Assimilation year 2005 is complete. Success rates are being determined. When success rates are approved, successful officers will undergo an administrative review (current with certification/licensure, COER's, basic readiness, NACI security clearance and adverse actions resolved). Once complete all officers will be notified of their disposition.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP¹²
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

5.5.3 The deadline for Assimilation year 2006 is February 15, 2006. Applications are available on the CCMIS website under official forms (PHS form 7034). Examples of officer statements can be obtained by contacting your agency liaison or by request to the assimilation coordinator, Camille.hawkins@hhs.gov.

5.6 Pay

5.6.1 The 2006 military pay rates are available at <http://www.dod.mil/dfas/money/milpay/pay/>

5.6.2 The 2006 civilian pay tables are available at: <http://www.opm.gov/oca/06tables/index.asp>

5.7 Positions

5.7.1 The most recent Recruitment Announcement can be found on the IHS Optometry Website at www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Optometry/Optjobs.cfm.

6 Communications

6.1 The Optometry Web Board has been developed. The address is <http://www.forum.ihs.gov/~optometry>. This Web Board will be used to post announcements regarding I.H.S./P.H.S. optometry.

6.2 CAPT Ketcher reported that the OPAG has a web page on the HSO PAC website. Contact CAPT Ketcher if you wish to put information on the OPAG web page, such as awards, meeting minutes, etc.

7 Meetings and Recruitment Activities

7.1 SECO/AFOS - February 24-26, 2006; Georgia World Congress Center and Omni Hotel Atlanta, Georgia. Information can be found at www.secointernational.com
CAPT Ketcher is planning to attend.

7.2 COA – next meeting - 2006 Conference Planning is Underway. USPHS Conference in Denver, CO. First week of May, 2006 Theme: Crisis Response

7.3 IHS Eye Care Biennial 2006 Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled May 8-12, 2006 at the Southern California College of Optometry Fullerton campus. CAPT John Garber will again organize and conduct the continuing education program. The meeting is open to all I.H.S and PHS optometrists. Contact Ms. Sue Atkinson at SCCO for registration information or CAPT Hatch if you need the registration form.

7.4 AOA Convention - Next AOA – June 21-25, 2006 – Las Vegas, Nevada. Information is available at www.aoa.org

7.5 AMSUS – November 05-10, 2006 – San Antonio, TX.

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP¹³
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 1:00pm, Wednesday January 04, 2006

7.6 AAO Annual Meeting –. December 7-10, 2006 at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. Information can be found at www.aaopt.org

7.7 BOTC – Upcoming events

January 9th – 13th ** Anchorage, AK Contact: CAPT Michael Keiffer

February 6th – 18th Rockville, MD Contact: COTA in OCCO

March 6th – 10th ** Farmington, NM Contact: CAPT John Fugate

April 28th – 30th COA Contact: COA

May 5th – May 7th COA Contact: COA

July 29th – August 2nd ** Minneapolis, MN Contact: LCDR Ron Keats

8 Action Items

8.1 CAPT Schleisman will continue to investigate the billet issue

8.2 OPAG will continue to look into the civil service special salary rate issue.

9 OPAG Meetings

9.1 Next meeting scheduled for March 01, 2006 at 11:00 CST.

9.1.1 CAPT Richard Hatch and CAPT Terry Schleisman will be invited as guests at the next meeting.

9.1.2 OPAG liaisons should submit their activity reports to CAPT Ketcher by close of business February 27, 2006 so they can be shared with the OPAG members.

9.1.3 OPAG members should use the same conference call number and password

9.1.4 Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm

Minutes prepared by CDR Kimberly Lewandowski-Walker, FDA Representative to the OPAG

Distribution: HSO CPO, HSO PAC, PHS Optometrists