Letter From the Chair, CDR Cara Nichols

Summer’s over and fall has officially arrived! I hope everyone had a great summer with family and friends. Some of you may have even made PSC and are now living somewhere new. I myself did some traveling. We spent the 4th of July smoldering in Moab, Utah to see the arches and hike. What was I thinking!! I also had my share of being stranded at airports this summer. Thank GOD for CDR Alspach and his family for coming to my rescue.

I want to start out by congratulating our MLS officers who were promoted this cycle. Whether to Lieutenant Commander or Captain, they are all equally important and each of you worked very hard to get there. Promotion is no easy task and is not just a given. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication with both your daily duties as well as your Corps activities. I have always said; being in the Corps is like having two full time jobs. So I commend each and every one of you for your commitment to both the field of laboratory medicine as well as the USPHS. Again, congratulations to all the new promotions.

COA was held this year in Raleigh, North Carolina. We were able to present our MLS Junior Officer of the Year award in person to LCDR Richard Bashay III. We had a few new faces emerged within our ranks and we were excited to be able to meet these new officers. It is always nice to put a face with a name. We had two MLS officers, LT Jennifer Tate and LCDR Babatunde Oloyede present at the round table discussions. We had MLS officers help with various booths during the exhibits. Our very own CDR Todd Alspach held a meet and greet during the COA, which was a great success. These are just to name a few. I want to thank each of you for your participation in these events. It is events such as these that help bring out our profession in the public light and earn recognition for our category. The next COA next year will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. So start saving your money! I hope to see as many of you there as possible.

It takes a lot of work to keep the PAG going from day to day. There are a lot of volunteer hours that go towards making it successful and it takes the efforts of each and every one of you. With the year going so fast, solicitations will start to go out for new Executive Leadership as well as Voting Members. There are also numerous subcommittees needing volunteers. I hope that you will find it within yourself to help fill these slots. It truly is a team effort. I would like to give a big thank you to the Communications Subcommittee for turning out the newsletter each quarter/season. I know it is time consuming to collect articles, format the paper, proofread, etc. My hats off to you for taking on this project.

Wow!! What a deployment summer for those who were sent for the Unaccompanied Minors mission. This was tough one for everyone that deployed. From a Laboratorian’s view, our worst nightmare has emerged: Ebola. As we all know, 65 officers are being deploying to Liberia, which could last a few months. Be alert and stay basic ready. In closing, I wish everyone a safe and scary Halloween. I look forward to our next meeting!!
Staying Safe in the Fun & Sun!

By LCDR Jessica Damon

On July 29th, 2014 our Acting U.S. Surgeon General, RADM Boris D. Lushniak, issued a Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer. As medical laboratory scientists, we recognize the devastation of the pathology of skin cancer as we are frequently involved in management of the biopsies sent for histopathology review and diagnosis. RADM Lusniak stated that “Each year in the United States, nearly 5 million people are treated for skin cancer at a cost that exceeds $8.1 billion”. A quick review of the Centers for Disease Control statistics on skin cancer reveals that “more than 400,000 cases of skin cancer are diagnosed annually” and in 2010 “61,061 people in the United States were diagnosed with melanomas of the skin, including 35,248 men and 25,813 women”. Approximately 6,000 of these were due to use of an indoor tanning device. Unfortunately, the incidence rate continues on an upward trend. Most alarmingly, the CDC reports that “only 45% of young adults aged 18–24 used one or more sun protective methods” and “more than 13% of high school students said they had used an indoor tanning device one or more times in the past year”.

As Commissioned Officers of the United States Public Health Service, we have a responsibility to lead the nation in the prevention of skin cancer by following a few simple rules for “Fun in the Sun”. This year, my family and I travelled to the US Virgin Island of St. John (where our two, now teenaged, daughters were born) for a sun-filled family vacation. While this time was clearly spent out of uniform, we made it a family mission to display Sun Safe behaviors while relaxing in tropical paradise. Firstly, we sought out shady spots among shore foliage of the beaches (Salt Pond, Francis and Maho Bay being some of our favorite white sand delights) where we could escape the sun’s harmful rays after our fun-filled snorkeling adventures. We spied brown rays, green eels, octopi and large schools of tarpon just to name a few of the wonderful underwater sites. Whenever possible, we wore protective swim shirts while snorkeling as the reflection of the sun’s rays on the crystal blue waters of the Caribbean can lead to quick burns despite the use of sunscreen. When hiking the majestic Ram Head Trail, we all donned ball caps to further shade our delicate noses and cheeks from the harsh rays. And sunglasses were an absolute must for all! But what we utilized the most for our fun adventures was SUNSCREEN.

We chose 3 different sun care products for our family vacation needs. Firstly I bought brand new bottles because sunblock does have an expiration date. I selected Coppertone Sport with SPF 50 Ultra Sweat Proof for my guys who perspire more prolifically than my girls. For the ladies I selected Neutrogena Beach Defense with SPF 50. We topped this off with Banana Boat SPF 50 Lip Block. Remember, when shopping for your sunscreen products you should select a product with SPF 15 or higher. We would sunblock up either before leaving the condo or upon arriving at the beach. It is a good practice to allow the sunblock an opportunity to soak into your skin before hitting the waves. We took the bottles to the beaches and out on the kayaks so we could reapply often. Most sun blocks have a recommendation for reapplication on the side of the bottle which should be followed at the minimum. A good rule of thumb is to reapply every hour. Be sure you start by towel drying off the moisture before your re-lather it on and give it a few minutes to be absorbed.

And here is one final tip from the Damon family on Sun Safety... while you are working hard to protect your skin against harmful rays, don’t forget to protect your insides by drinking lots of water!
Staying Safe in the Sun!
National Honor Flight
By LCDR June Germain

Rain was forecasted for May 17, 2014, but it was a beautiful clear and crisp spring morning at the World War II memorial in Washington DC. Eleven USPHS officers and I, as the project lead representing JOAG Public Health and Community Service Committee, responded to the call to volunteer with the Honor Flight Network Savannah tour. There were approximately 20 veterans and their guardians on the Honor Flight. The Honor Flight Network’s mission is to transport America’s veterans to DC to visit those memorials dedicated in their honor.

This event allowed USPHS officers an opportunity to spend our Saturday morning welcoming and greeting World War II (WWII), Vietnam, and Korean veterans from the different branches of service to the WWII memorial. In addition to PHS officers, there were many senior officers from other uniformed services in attendance, including: retired Brig. Gen. Steven Westgate (Air Force), LT. Gen. William Mayville (US Army) and Rear Admiral Sinclair M. Harris (US Navy). The morning began with the 3rd US Infantry Regiment Color Guard who performed a 2-minute “Flags of Our Heroes” ceremony which added richness to the experience. PHS Officers, the veterans, other local volunteers and everyone on the Honor Flight then proceeded to the fountain of the WWII memorial where a commemorative group picture was taken. The PHS officers then helped take pictures of the veterans and their guardians, listened to war stories, gave hugs and kisses, and expressed appreciation to the veterans for their service.

It was a very humbling experience to hear many of the veterans speak of their war related stories. As I made the rounds talking and taking pictures with the veterans, I was very excited when one veteran introduced me to a Tuskegee Airmen (the African-American pilots of the 332nd Fighter Group and the 99th Pursuit Squadron) Sgt. Buford Johnson who served in the Air Force. For me, this was a great highlight to the day as I have read a great deal of the good things these soldiers did during the war. It was also great to see the overwhelming reactions of many of the veterans who were able to travel to the Nation’s capital for the first time to see their memorials. The veterans were very appreciative to see so many uniformed officers and volunteers honoring their contributions. They in turn thanked us for our service to the nation.

This was the first Honor flight event for a majority of the PHS officers that were present. Many expressed a deep gratitude for the experience of interacting with and getting to know our nations’ war veterans. JOAG Public Health and Community Service Committee usually announces a call for volunteers every few months throughout the year for this event. It is a great opportunity for junior and senior officers to be able to share in this great experience with our fellow uniformed officers.
National Honor Flight
Washington DC
May 17, 2014

LCDR June Germain greeting War Veterans
I attended the 49th USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium 2014 in Raleigh, NC and was involved in multiple projects and events. I served as a round table presenter during the HSO Category Day on June 12th. My presentation was “Where Does the Lab Fit in During Public Health Events”. The focus of this presentation was to showcase medical laboratory scientists’ knowledge, skills and talents and how these skills can be used in public health missions and events. The objectives were as follows: (1) describe the laboratory’s role in public health events on an Indian Reservation, (2) recognize potential opportunities to apply lab-related skills during disaster events and/or other missions, (3) summarize the importance of laboratory professionals’ training/skills in public health issues locally, nationally, and globally. One of the highlights of being a presenter is that I had the opportunity to share with other medical technologists what it is like to work at an Indian Health clinic. One of the attendees never worked on a reservation, so I had a chance to share my experiences with her. I hope through my presentation I was able to influence at least one person. The main take home point I wanted the attendees to gain from the presentation was that as medical technologists we are not and should not be limited to just the clinical laboratory. Our skills are applicable beyond the walls of the lab.

I also served as co-coordinator for the Junior Officers Association Group (JOAG) uniform inspection booth by working with the JOAG professional development committee with the operation of a uniform inspection booth. Working in the uniform inspection booth was an honor and a privilege to serve my fellow officers. The uniform inspection booth functioned as an informational station where officers could ask questions about uniform wear and receive an actual inspection upon request. The uniform inspection booth operated from the day of the Anchor and Caduceus dinner until the last day of the symposium. Many officers visited the booth and asked questions about the new insignias and placement of various badges and ribbons. What I found most interesting about the uniform inspection booth was our ability to provide answers to questions regarding the Dinner Dress uniform for the Anchor and Caduceus dinner. Many of us (the volunteers) had never seen this uniform in person before. This was definitely a learning experience for all of us involved.

CONTINUED ON PG 16
Across
1. Cardigan allowed for indoor wear.
4. An officer is entitled to $110 a month incentive pay for the performance of hazardous duty involving dangerous ____ and bacteria. (CC22.3 HAZARDOUS DUTY INCENTIVE PAY PHS PERSONNEL INSTRUCTION 4 Page 3)
6. This government agency regulates laboratory testing on humans.
7. ____ medals worn with all Formal Dress uniforms and Dinner Dress uniforms.
8. The number of subcommittees within the MLS PAG.
10. Must be completed each year to maintain basic readiness.
13. The ____ is used to document the yearly performance of an officer.
14. The number of days an officer must be assigned to receive hazardous duty incentive pay for duty involving toxic pesticides. (Page 2, PHS PERSONNEL INSTRUCTION 5 CC22.3 HAZARDOUS DUTY INCENTIVE PAY)
15. The MLS PAG is governed by the__________________.

Down
2. All officers were made part of the _____________Corps on March 23, 2010.
3. The_______ maintenance program is offered by ASCP to maintain the competence of medical laboratory personnel.
5. Clinical Laboratory_______Amendments.
11. The initial number of years of a voting member.
12. American Society of Clinical _____________.

PGIC22.PPL.R6P
Medical Laboratory Scientist Leads Commissioned Officers Foundation Symposium Health Fair project with Healing with CAARE Inc.

by LCDR Babatunde Oloyede

The 49th USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium held in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, featured more than 1100 PHS officers and guests. One of the symposium’s service projects was held at Healing with CAARE (Case Management of AIDS and Addiction through Resources and Education) in Durham, NC. The Health Fair project and officer participation was organized and led by LCDR Babatunde Oloyede, a medical laboratory scientist and Chair, NCCOA Community Outreach Committee. Officers helped to educate members of the community about tobacco smoking cessation and screened participants for chronic diseases such as diabetes and high blood pressure. After Screening, persons identified as having potential risk factors received one-on-one advice with a USPHS provider to discuss reduction of risk factors through simple lifestyle changes such as diet and exercise. In support of the Surgeon General’s call for good physical health, PHS officers also participated in activities such as Zumba dancing with the community. During the health fair Assistant US Surgeon General and Region Health Administrator Admiral Epifanio Elizondo met with CAARE leaders and Durham County officials alike. Twenty-five USPHS Commissioned Corps officers volunteered and successfully supported this project and more than 200 local community citizens were served during this important mission. Furthermore, NCCOA Immediate past President CDR Josef Rivero brought the Acting Surgeon General RADM Boris Lushniak and his chief of staff Captain Robert De Martino to the venue on the following day in order to tour the facility and to meet with Durham County Officials. Admiral Lushniak remarked to the local health leaders that “You hold the key to the door of prosperous nation, since physically, emotionally and mentally fit citizens will be more than likely to be productive members of the community, state and nation.” Programs such as Healing with CAARE that provide the total health needs of the underserved community are the pathway to a healthy nation. Overall, the community service project at Healing with CAARE demonstrated the dedication and commitment of United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers and reinforced our mission of protecting, advancing the health and safety of this great nation one community service at a time.
Medical Laboratory Scientist Leads Commissioned Officers Foundation Symposium Health Fair project with Healing with CAARE Inc.
Federal Medical Station Strike Team Familiarization

By CDR Renee Galloway

I attended a session on familiarization with Federal Medical Stations (FMS) in Atlanta given by CDC Division of Strategic National Stockpile. The training was held at a large facility which provided separate areas for the program’s lecture component followed by a hands-on learning experience in FMS staging.

The purpose of this session was to find out what goes into setting up a 250-bed FMS, because the set-up work has usually been done by the time our deployment teams arrive. It’s a fascinating process and I realized how much preparation, organization, and experience is needed to get an FMS ready.

Immediately following a disaster, permission is obtained to set up an FMS. Teams have only 48 hours to get everything ready to receive patients; 12 hours if volunteers help. Strike teams consisting of one lead and 3 technical specialists begin the process of choosing a staging area and coordinating shipment of supplies. The Base Treatment and Support supplies are already loaded onto 3 tractor trailers. Another truck is refrigerated and contains a pharmacy module. These four trucks carry supplies in boxes called Tri-walls (heavy-duty triple wall boxes with a 400-lb capacity). FedEx provides the truck drivers and they also help find appropriate staging areas. Everything else is coordinated locally as much as possible.

The beds are packed in the Tri-wall boxes. There are 25 Tri-wall boxes of general use beds (cots) and 10 boxes of enhanced care beds (a nicer cot that’s more appropriate for hospital care). We were able to see a packed Tri-wall and set up the cots, as well as a bariatric bed and lifter. The Tri-wall lids are used to measure the distance between the cots (and have other uses as well-nothing goes to waste!). Other supplies are also set in place to create a patient intake area, waiting area, privacy screens, administration, and a logistics area. It’s quite an amazing process that’s completed in a very short time. It was a great experience to see all that needs to happen and all the work that gets done even before we get there to staff the deployment.

Tri-wall containing a bariatric bed. We unloaded the box and assembled the bed and lifter. It comes with all the required tools and does not need electricity, even to lift a patient.
Sample FMS set-up

Setting up cots using a tri-wall lid to measure distance between the beds.
CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

Temporary

O-6
Donna Brown
Daniel Hesselgesser
Daisy Mitchell
Lesley “Jane” Preston

O-5
Fahad Alsayyid
Jessica Damon
Christopher Le
Summer Pearson
Angel Daniels-Rodriguez
Jennifer Tate
Jason Truax

O-4
Daisy Mitchell
Daniel Cajigas
Renee Smith

Permanent

O-6
Cecelia Watson

O-5
Clyde Darrah
Daniel Hesselgesser
Dana Nemeth

O-4
Jeffery Basilio
Jeffrey Christopher
Michael Clay
Janet Cliatt
Jeri Coats
Laura Garcia
Traci Mullins
Chauha Pham
Vladimir Tirado
Margaret Kemp
Nathan Town
Renee Smith
Diyo Rai
LCDR Jennifer Tate, MPH, MT(ASCP)

Education:
University of North Carolina - Greensboro, MPH, 2008
East Carolina University, BS Clinical Laboratory Science, 2005

Hometown: Fayetteville, NC
Agency: Indian Health Service

Current Assignment and what you like most about it:
I am currently stationed at Yakama Indian Health Center.
What I like most about Yakama Indian Health Center are the patients, especially the children. I like to see patients that I have come to know over my time here at the clinic and see them grow from babies to toddlers. It is a nice feeling when they recognize you, almost as if you and the patients are one big family.

What I like most about my job:
What I like most about my position is the diversity of it. I work in three different departments as well as serve on the infection control team. No two days are ever the same.

Duties:
As a staff technologist I work as a generalist in the Clinic’s laboratory. I work in the chemistry, hematology, and microbiology departments as well as perform phlebotomy.

LCDR Angel Daniels Rodriguez, MLS(ASCP), MPH

Education
Walden University, MPH, 2012
Weber State University, Clinical Laboratory Science Degree, 2003
George Washington University, AS, Medical Laboratory Technology, 2000

Background/Family:
Born in Brooklyn, New York, grew up in Oklahoma City, OK
Parents are from Liberia, West Africa
Married to the most wonderful man for 5 years
Have 5 children (ages 2-19)

Hobbies:
I love thrift shopping, reading, volunteer work such as teaching pre-school age children at church (Sunday School), advocate for less fortunate children that have been abused or neglected (Guardian ad leiten, Yakima Valley County Court), enjoy participating in marathons, runs, and walks to benefit cancer research.

Agency: Indian Health Service

Current Assignment and what you like most about it:
Yakima Indian Health Service, Toppenish, WA
I love my job as a Clinical Lab Scientist serving the underserved and seeing the result of preventative care in those patients that are compliant with the services that are offered to them ie: healthy heart, nutrition programs, etc...

What I like most about my job:
What I really enjoy is the flexibility, challenges, and multiplicity within the laboratory science field.

Continued page 14
LCDR Jessica L Damon, MT(AMT), MLS (ASCP), MPHL

Education: Degrees, Universities, Dates:

2004:
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
Associates of Applied Sciences in Medical Laboratory Technology
Southwestern Oklahoma State University - Sayre, OK
2007:
Graduated Summa Cum Laude
Bachelors of Science in Allied Health Sciences with minor in Biology
Southwestern Oklahoma State University - Weatherford, OK
2010:
Master’s Degree in Public Health Leadership
Field Focus Area: Program Planning & Development
Commissioned: August 3rd, 2012

Background: Hometown, Family, Hobbies:

I moved to the city of New Cordell (population 3000) in 2002 from the US Virgin Islands. I have been married for 17 years to Alex Damon, the now former mayor of New Cordell. We have 4 teenaged children – Everett (19), Michael (17), Juliet (15) and Elisabet (13) as well as 6 wonderful rescue critters – the dogs are Flash, Tink, Arrow, and Angel while the cats are Joan Jett and Oreo. WE are richly blessed to have extended family in the community including 3 of the children’s grandparents and a great aunt.

AS a family we love to read books, watch movies, visit the gym for an energetic work out and play with the dogs. Personally, I am an avid reader of dystopian novels and I love to run 5k races when they are nearby in the community.

Current Agency: Indian Health Service

Current Assignment and what you like most about it:

I am assigned to the Clinton Indian Health Center in Clinton, Oklahoma as a Senior Medical Laboratory Scientist – Supervisory

Job Title: Laboratory Supervisor/Allied Health Director

What I like most about my job: My co-workers! I have both civil service and commissioned corps peers who are phenomenally skilled and ever willing to share their expertise.

Duties:

When commissioned, in the summer of 2012, I was working as a civil servant Laboratory Supervisor for the service unit. While I continue to serve this program, I have been able to accept a co-assignment as the service unit’s Allied Health Director. In this capacity I have the opportunity to guide and direct the services of the Laboratory, Pharmacy, Health Information Management, Physical Therapy and Radiology programs. This has allowed me to occupy a voting position on the Executive Leadership Team and to engage actively in the planning and development of the service unit’s programs. The ability to work alongside peers from other disciplines to achieve exceptional patient results has been a rewarding experience. Currently I have been overseeing the Business Office operations while they are seeking a permanent hire. This has been an exciting new adventure in which I have learned so much about the revenue cycle for the agency. In my experience to date, the Indian Health Service provides unique challenges and a wonderful opportunity to think outside the box to accomplish the exceptional with the minimal. I am very proud to serve this agency.

Previous Assignments: Not Applicable
MLS Junior Officer of the Year 2013

LCDR Richard Bashay

LT. Bashay currently works as a Biological Laboratory Officer at the Nevada State Public Health Laboratory, University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) branch; in support of the Department of Homeland Security’s mission on terrorism. LT Bashay successfully completed the Applied Bio-systems training on Real-time polymerase chain reaction (real time PCR) which allowed him to conduct sophisticated laboratory analysis using molecular biological techniques such as real time Polymerase Chain Reaction on environmental air samples. LT Bashay performs initial data interpretation, advises Laboratory Director of analytical results and performs ongoing Quality Assurance activities to ensure confidence in data that will enable response decisions. Also, LT Bashay acts as a liaison between local Las Vegas Bio Watch laboratory and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Bio Watch Program Office and serves on the BioWatch Advisory Committee. The work that LT Bashay does as a Corps Officer benefits the two million residents of Las Vegas metropolitan area and the numerous visitors to the city each day. Prior to his work with DHS, LT Bashay worked for the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) at the Federal Correctional Complex, in Butner, NC as Night Lead Technician. While there he oversaw operations of the laboratory during night hours and trained laboratory staff on the night operations of all analyzers and procedures. He performed routine and stat laboratory analysis in Chemistry, Hematology, Microbiology, Blood Bank, Urinalysis, and Coagulation departments. Also, he was responsible for laboratory compliance with appropriate regulatory agencies and accrediting bodies by following established guidelines and procedures in the areas of maintenance, troubleshooting equipment, quality control and proficiency testing. LT Bashay contributed to over 100,000 tests performed per month for over forty federal prison institutions while working at the BOP in North Carolina. His exemplary career has stemmed from his tremendous personal drive and deep dedication to the principles of the USPHS.

LT Bashay is a highly motivated officer which is evident in how he maintains outstanding work performance and participation in numerous Corps activities. His efforts and accomplishments have brought him distinction, recognition, and professional respect from his peers and colleagues. LT Bashay currently serves as the President for the LVCOA. As President, he sets up and conducts branch meetings, also provides information on national COA updates. Prior to becoming President, he served as the Community Events/Outreach Coordinator Chair for the LVCOA. As Chair, he represented the USPHS Commissioned Corps and support public health related community activities. LT Bashay is an active member of the Recruitment and Retention Committee of the Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) where he serves on the Retention subcommittee which he helped develop a retention survey. In the year prior, LT Bashay served on the Career Fair subcommittee, where he identified career events for all colleges and universities in the Midwestern 1 region which consists of WI, IA, IL, MI, and OH. Prior to the Clinical Laboratory Science program closing at UNLV, LT Bashay gave a presentation to twenty students about opportunities with USPHS as Medical Laboratory Scientists. LT Bashay has spent 5 hours recruiting students at a Career Fair on the campus of the UNLV presenting information about the Commission Corps and how to join. At the 2013 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium, LT Bashay worked a booth for the MOLC committee and created the awards power point for HSO category day. LT Bashay has represented the USPHS in many activities that has impact and can improve public health while in uniform in the Las Vegas community.

Continued on Page 18
Continued from page 6

Finally, I had the opportunity to volunteer with the Shepherd’s Table Soup Kitchen. The Shepherd’s Project is a meal service provided through the Church of the Good Shepherd and serves anyone desiring a meal. As volunteers, we prepared lunch and served it to more than 250 people during the lunch hour. It was a great experience to connect with the community and fellow PHS officers.

Overall, the 2014 USPHS Scientific and Training Symposium was a great experience that I highly recommend all officers attend at least once. I had the opportunity to attend the leadership session, the Anchor and Caduceus dinner, and numerous break-out sessions. At the symposium I was able to connect with other Commissioned Corps officers, including my mentor. Also, attending the symposium puts your mission as a Commissioned Corps into perspective and reminds you why you choose to serve this nation in uniform. The 2014 USPHS Symposium definitely renewed many officers’ esprit de corps.

Continued from page 13

Off-Duty Activities

Completed over 20 volunteered hours of home visitation as well as court appearance for the Yakama Juvenile Court as a Court Appointed Advocate for Abused and Neglected Children.

Participated in Selah Community Leukemia Fun Run to help raise over $1200 for local family

Provide public awareness of mission of the Commissioned Corps and the clinical Laboratory Scientist field by coordinating with local schools, college recruiters, and actively participating at High school College Career Fairs.

Member of local and National Commissioned Officer Association

Member of American Society of Clinical Pathologist

Bakes and Serves the Union Gospel Mision of Yakima at local Church 4 hours a week

Teaches 1 hour per week as Sunday School Teacher at local Church

Volunteered public servant as a Notary Public

Previous Assignments:

13.5 yrs in Navy as Hospital Corpsman, MLT at various duty stations

Sr Co-Step program (Weber State University) Jun 2003-May 2004

Staff Technologist at BOP Carlswell, Fort Worth Tx
MLS FOCUS

CDR Michael Clay MPH, MT(ASCP), IPO-San Antonio

Education:
BS Agriculture, U of Arizona, 1998
BS Medical Technology, U of Arizona, 2000
MPH, Florida International University, 2007

Background:
Hometown: Gering, Nebraska
Family: One younger sister
Hobbies: Basketball, running, weight lifting, scouts/camping

Current Agency: DoD/VA IPO, Department of Defense/Veterans Affairs Interagency Program Office

Current Assignment and what you like most about it: Senior Manager & Program Analyst, spend time getting to know people, the challenges they face and achieving results together.

Job Title: San Antonio Liaison

Duties:
Provide liaison activities between business and technical components to interagency health IT program.
Ensures that the Department’s strategic plan, mission, vision, and values are integrated into the team’s strategies, goals, objectives, work plans, work products and services

Previous Assignments:
San Antonio DoD/VA Liaison (DoD) San Antonio, TX
Director, San Antonio Operations (DoD) San Antonio, TX
HIPAA & Privacy Security Official (USCG) Washington, DC
Blood Bank Supervisor (IHS) Whiteriver, AZ
Bench Technologist (IHS) Sells, AZ

“I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to work at the policy level in an organization where you have the ability to positively affect people’s lives. It is often grueling and tedious work, but the benefits can be significant and sweeping.

I have been blessed to experience many different types of responsibilities and learn many new things that I bring with me into any new position which I may fill. The greatest thing I’ve learned is that success does not come without the people you work with believing in you and willing to go great lengths to accomplish the task or mission at hand. You don’t have to be the expert or know everything, but know how to recruit and surround yourself with the best people. Then I simply empower them to do what they do best. It requires a significant level of trust and loyalty particularly in a highly charged political environment.”
Junior Officer of the Year (con’t)


It’s that time of year!!!!

COERS

Key dates for completing the COER:

• 1 Oct: Online COER available to Officers.

• 17 Oct: Online COER due to Rater.

• 7 Nov: Online COER due to Reviewing Official.

• 28 Nov: Online or paper COER due to DCCPR.

• 9 Dec: Paper COER due to Liaison. Paper COERs may be signed manually or electronically, and emailed to DHAHR_PHS_COER@dha.mil.

• 7 Jan 2015: Online COER disabled.

“By recording your dreams and goals on paper, you set in motion the process of becoming the person you most want to be. Put your future in good hands — your own.”—Mark Victor Hansen
JOIN THE MLSPAG MEETINGS
Join us via teleconference every second Thursday of every other month @ 1400 EST
1-866-882-1054 Passcode: 2066464

To submit an article for the MLSPAG
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Editors: CDR Nathan Town, CDR Toni Bledsoe, LCDR Lisa Flores

Medical Laboratory Scientist Professional Advisory Group Coin Order Form

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