

2016 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee (EPAC)

EPAC
Calendar,
Initiatives
and Member
Directory

May 2016

2016 Engineer Professional Advisory Committee

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2016 EPAC Calendar

DATE	EVENT
January January 20 January 27	EPAC Voting Member Kick-Off Meeting (1400 – 1500 ET) EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET)
February February 21-27 February 25 February 26	No EPAC General Meeting Engineers Week Engineer Awards Ceremony; IHS Headquarters - Rockville, MD NSPE Luncheon; Washington, D.C.
March 23	EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET)
April 27	EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET)
May May 16 – 19 May 18 May 24 – 26	No EPAC General Meeting USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium; Oklahoma City, OK Engineer Category Day SAME JETC Conference; Phoenix, AZ
June June 15 June 22	EPAC Voting Member Mid-Year Meeting (1400 – 1500 ET) EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET)
July	No EPAC General Meeting
August 24	EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET)
September 28	EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET)
October 26	EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET)
November November 16* November 29 – December 2	EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET) AMSUS Conference; National Harbor, MD
December December 7 December 14*	EPAC Voting Member End of the Year Meeting (1400 – 1500 ET) EPAC General Meeting (1400 – 1530 ET)

*Meeting moved due to a holiday.

2016 EPAC Initiatives

EPAC Chair and Chair-Elect

Chair: CDR Kimberly Piermatteo

Kimberly.Piermatteo@fda.hhs.gov

EPAC@usphsengineers.org

Chair-Elect: CDR Kurt Kesteloot

kurt_kesteloot@nps.gov

- Develop and implement a coordinated communication plan to provide consistent, timely and relevant information
- Develop and implement a documentation plan
- Increase and encourage active participation in the EPAC
- Assist subcommittees as necessary to maintain productivity

Awards Subcommittee

Chair: LCDR Jitendra Virani

Jitendra.Virani@fda.hhs.gov

- Increase awareness of EPAC awards nomination and review process with stakeholders within DHHS
- Increase quality of nomination write-ups
- Develop a minimum threshold for awards that may have only one nomination
- Review and update award nomination form and selection criteria as needed

Career Development Subcommittee

Chair: CDR Jonathan Rash

Jonathan.Rash@ihs.gov

- Represent category at Officer Basic Course (OBC)
- Update Career Development Handbook
- Agency Transfer Factsheet
- CV Review and Counseling
- Webinar Series

Events Subcommittee

Chair: CDR Frank Chua

Francis.Chua@ihs.gov

- February 25: Engineer Awards Ceremony
- February 26: NSPE Luncheon
- May 16-19: USPHS Scientific & Training Symposium
- May 24-26: SAME JETC Conference
- Nov 29-Dec 2: AMSUS Conference
- Provide USPHS engineers coins and work on SOP for the EPAC COF account

Information Subcommittee

Chair: LCDR James Kohler

Kohler.James@epa.gov

- Develop, publish, and distribute the EPAC Newsletter Ensure the newsletter is meeting the needs of the EPAC
- Facilitate the exchange of articles and information across categories and in coordination with the PAC Chairs Group
- Maintain the EPAC Website (www.usphsengineers.org) to ensure content is accurate, current, and relevant

- Assist COF in the centennial website project, as needed
- Advise and update the category on the use of social media, especially as a public health tool
- Develop EPAC web presence on HHS website

Mentoring Subcommittee

Chair: CDR Jennifer Stevenson

Jennifer.Stevenson@fda.hhs.gov

- EPAC program evaluation of EPAC mentoring programs available to PHS officers (PAC chair and CPO to review)
- EPAC mentoring event at COF training symposium
- Website Migration (transfer from Google site to dcp.psc.gov)
- Improve guidance for IAP/IDP template – specific for engineers (place guidance directly on the mentoring form and provide a sample form)
- Topics for burst messages (newsletter, announcements from the chief engineer)
- Body of knowledge (slides and study book, update mentoring section in the engineers handbook)
- Mentoring subcommittee will individually contact all new call-to-active-duty engineers in 2016 and offer to pair with an engineering mentor
- Recognition of participants for 2016 IAP/IDP

Public Health Engineering Practice Subcommittee

Chair: CDR Tanya Davis

Tanya.Davis@ihs.gov

- Sustainable Pipe Selection Workgroup to present findings at Engineer Category Day 2016
- Engineering Standards Workgroup publishing survey results in Spring 2016 EPAC Newsletter and developing strategies to increase engineers' access to design and construction standards at work
- Publishing Workgroup writing article on how to get published for Fall 2016 EPAC Newsletter
- Developing workgroup and goals to address Surgeon General's Initiative to Promote Healthy and Safe Communities

Readiness Subcommittee

Chair: LCDR Shane Deckert

Shane.Deckert@nih.gov

- Engineer Assessment Guide– Maintain, review, update if needed
- Engineer Category Survey– Maintain, review, prepare for data collection
- Identify and develop strategies/programs to address Engineer and Corps-wide Readiness issues
- Update EPAC DPS Website
- Identify and develop a list of Engineering Core Competencies and Training

Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee

Chair: CAPT David Harvey

David.Harvey@ihs.gov

- EPAC Connectors
- Recruitment materials – review and update
- Develop recruitment training tool & tracking
- Support DCCPR in appointment activities
- Continue to maintain and update Engineer Vacancy List

2016 EPAC Members (Quick Reference Guide)

Chief Engineer					
Term	Name	Rank	Agency	EPAC Role	Location
2013-17	Gardner, Randall	RADM	IHS	Ex-Officio	Rockville, MD
EPAC Voting Members					
Term	Name	Rank	Agency	EPAC Role	Location
2013-16	Piermatteo, Kimberly	CDR	FDA	EPAC Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2014-16	Bingley, Kevin	CDR	IHS	Readiness Vice-Chair	Anchorage, AK
2014-16	Davis, Tanya	CDR	IHS	Public Health Engineering Practices Chair	Tucson, AZ
2014-16	Hammond, Jill	CDR	FDA	Past Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2014-16	Kohler, James	LCDR	EPA	Information Chair	Washington, D.C.
2014-16	Hunt, Matthew	LCDR	NIH	Rules Vice-Chair	Research Triangle Park, NC
2014-16	Deckert, Shane	LCDR	IHS	Readiness Chair	Sacramento, CA
2015-17	Harvey, David	CAPT	IHS	Recruitment & Retention Chair	Rockville, MD
2015-17	Jackson, Mark	CDR	CDC	Career Development Vice-Chair	Morgantown, WV
2015-17	Kesteloot, Kurt	CDR	NPS	Chair-Elect, Rules Chair	Omaha, NE
2015-17	Rash, Jonathan	CDR	IHS	Career Development Chair	Manlius, NY
2015-17	Simms, Joshua	CDR	FDA	Information Vice-Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2015-17	Stevenson, Jennifer	CDR	FDA	Mentoring Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2015-17	Harris, Jim	Dr.	CDC	Member, Career Development and Mentoring	Morgantown, WV
2016-18	Chua, Francis	CDR	IHS	Events Chair	Tucson, AZ
2016-18	Cunningham, Bradley	CDR	FDA	Mentoring Vice-Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2016-18	Hirst, Deborah	LCDR	CDC	Member, Public Engineering Practices and Recruitment & Retention	Cincinnati, OH
2016-18	Littlehat, Peter	LCDR	IHS	Member, Career Development and Public Health Engineering Practices	Many Farms, AZ
2016-18	Russell, Samuel	CDR	EPA	Recruitment & Retention Vice-Chair	Washington, D.C.
2016-18	K.C., Praveen	LCDR	IHS	Member, Recruitment & Retention	Anchorage, AK
Non-Voting Members in Leadership Roles					
2016	Bandukwala, Abbas	LCDR	FDA	Awards Vice-Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2016	Kane, Julia	LCDR	NPS	Public Health Engineering Practices Vice-Chair	Lakewood, CO
2016	Virani, Jitendra	LCDR	FDA	Awards Chair	Silver Spring, MD
2016	Wong, Diana	LCDR	DHS	Events Vice-Chair	Washington, DC
Ex-Officio Members					
2016	Beck, Dan	CAPT	OS	RedDOG Liaison	Rockville, MD
2016	Simpson, James	CAPT	FDA	COA Liaison	Silver Spring, MD
2016	Bizjak, Tara	CDR	FDA	CCWIAB Liaison	Silver Spring, MD
2016	Fehrman, Chris	LCDR	NPS	EPAC Executive Secretary	Yosemite National Park
2016	Gumapas, Leo	LCDR	NIH	SAME Liaison	Bethesda, MD
2016	Nguyen, QuynhNhu	LCDR	FDA	JOAG Liaison	Silver Spring, MD
	(Vacant)			DCCPR Liaison	
	(Vacant)			DSI Liaison	

Chief Professional Officer (CPO)

RADM Randall Gardner

Chief Engineer



Rear Admiral (RADM) Randall J.F. Gardner became the 13th Chief Engineer of the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) on 14 November 2013. As Chief Engineer Officer, RADM Gardner leads the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (Corps) Engineer Professional Affairs, and advises the Office of the Surgeon General and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on the recruitment, assignment, deployment, retention, and career development of Corps engineer professionals.

RADM Gardner received a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Howard University, Washington D.C. in 1987. His first assignment as an engineer in the PHS was at the National Institutes of Health in 1987 where he served one year before being recruited to the PHS Region VI, Office of Engineering Services (OES). He spent four years in that office working on projects with the Indian Health Service (IHS), Health Care Financing Agency, and the Department of Education. RADM Gardner then transferred to the Indian Health Service headquarters Office of Environmental Health and Engineering (OEHE) to work in the Program Development Branch, Division of Facilities Planning and Construction while becoming a Professional Engineer in 1994, and pursuing and completing an advanced degree in Engineering Management at the George Washington University in 1996. He is also a 2003 graduate of the Interagency Institute for Federal Healthcare Executives Program, "Health Care Executive Leadership"; and a 2010 graduate of the Federal Executive Institute's Program, "Leadership for a Democratic Society." RADM Gardner also currently serves as Senior Engineer Consultant and Acting Deputy Director, OEHE under RADM (ret) Gary Hartz, Director OEHE, IHS.

RADM Gardner was recruited by the 7th Chief Engineer RADM John Villforth, Director, Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Food and Drug Administration while in the Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program, and later in his career served as the Special Assistant to the 8th Chief Engineer RADM Bill Pearson then also the Director OEHE, IHS. RADM Gardner has spent most of his career involved with Commissioned Corps and engineering career development issues including serving on a Surgeon General's Restructuring Workgroup; the Engineer Professional Advisory Committee as Chair, Chair-elect, Career Development and Rules Subcommittee chairs; as well as on many other workgroups and committees in his profession.

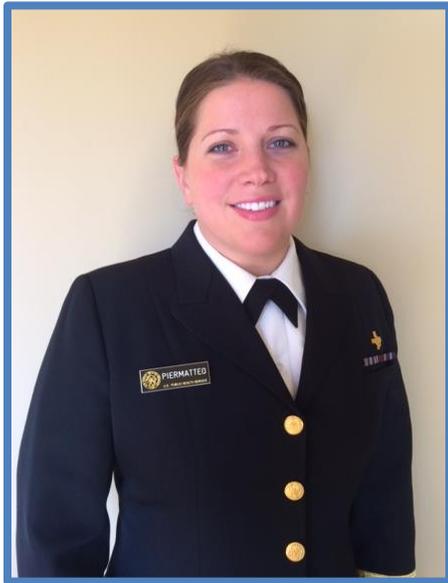
RADM Gardner has also assisted with emergency response and deployment activities. RADM Gardner's emergency response activities started before the current deployment system was in place for the PHS. While in PHS VI OES, he volunteered and was sent to the Carolinas and Georgia to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Hugo where he surveyed, at the request of the Department of Education, schools to determine damage and whether and when students could return to them. Also, he was sent on several occasions to the State of Oklahoma to assess tornado damage to structures which in many ways was similar to work he performed during Deep Look Surveys of Indian health facilities. These opportunities helped prepare RADM Gardner for deployments as a liaison officer and to assist with planning functions for Hurricanes Isabel, Katrina-Rita, Gustav, Hanna, and Ike.

Directory of Voting Members and Alternates

CDR Kimberly Piermatteo

Member, 2013-2016

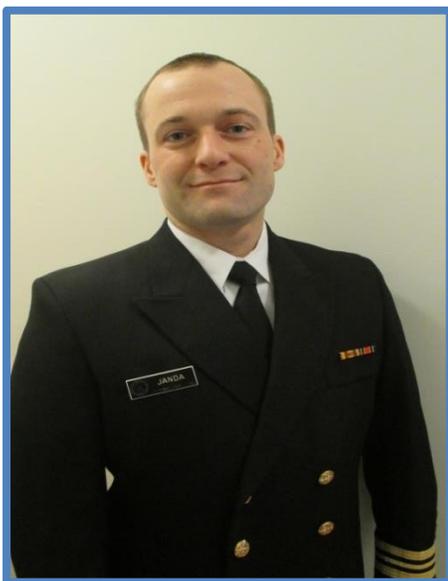
2016 EPAC Chair



CDR Kimberly Love Piermatteo currently serves as the 2016 EPAC Chair. She has been with the Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) since 2006 serving in various roles within the Office of Device Evaluation; Office of Surveillance and Biometrics; and Office of Compliance. Currently she is stationed in CDRH's Office of Communication and Education, Division of Industry and Consumer Education, Premarket Programs Branch. She is responsible for educating medical device and radiation-emitting product manufacturers, consumers and other stakeholders including academia and other government organizations, on scientific, regulatory, and policy issues related to medical devices. CDR Piermatteo received her B.S. degree in Engineering Science and minors in Bioengineering and Mathematics from the Pennsylvania State University, University Park in 2005. She also received her Master of Health Administration (MHA) at the University of Maryland, College Park in 2013. CDR Piermatteo has been a voting member of the EPAC since 2010 and has previously chaired the Recruitment and Retention, Readiness (formerly called Deployment Preparedness) and Rules Subcommittees. She has also been a member of the PHS-1 Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) team since 2007 and has deployed in support of numerous public health missions most recently to Liberia, Africa as part of the Monrovia Medical Unit Team 3. Her personal interests include farming and volunteering in her community.

LCDR Michel Janda

Alternate for LCDR Piermatteo



LCDR Michel Janda has been a Commissioned Corps Officer since 2010 and is currently stationed at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He currently serves as a Senior Medical Device Reviewer in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health, Office of Device Evaluation, Division of Orthopedic Devices, Joint and Fracture Fixation Devices Branch One (JFDB1). He joined FDA as a civil servant in 2004 and specializes in the review of orthopedic computer assisted devices as well as patient matched surgical guides. LCDR Janda received a B.S. degree in Biomedical Engineering and a B.A. degree in Economics from Washington University in St. Louis. He also received a Master's of Science degree in Applied Biomedical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. His interests include residential construction / landscaping.

CDR Kevin Bingley

Member, 2014-2016

Readiness Subcommittee Vice-Chair



CDR Bingley MPH, MS, PE, CPH is currently the Deputy Director of the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) in the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering in the Alaska Area Indian Health Service (IHS). CDR Bingley started his career with Peace Corps, Panama, where we served from 2002 through 2005. After Peace Corps, his first PHS tour was with SFC in the Reno District of the Phoenix Area IHS. During his time with the IHS, CDR Bingley has participated in numerous IHS and PHS workgroups including three SFC/IHS Strategic Plan Vision Element workgroups, the PHS Awards, Recognition, and Retention Working Group, the PHS Accountability Workgroup, the EPAC Awards subcommittee, the EPAC Readiness subcommittee, and the PHS Uniform Advisory Committee. CDR Bingley is currently serving as the Deputy Team Commander for the National Incident Support Team E (NIST-E) and has deployed to Timor-Leste with the Pacific Partnership and to New York for Hurricane Sandy. CDR Bingley has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech, a Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Stanford University, a Master of Public Health from Johns Hopkins University, and a Certificate in Global Health from Johns Hopkins University. Additionally, CDR Bingley is a licensed Professional Engineer in Virginia and Certified in Public Health.

CDR Charissa Williar

Alternate for CDR Bingley



CDR Charissa Williar is a project manager with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Division of Environmental Health & Engineering. CDR Williar works with rural Alaska Native villages to improve community health through the provision of sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure. Prior to moving to Alaska, she worked for the Indian Health Service in Fort Duchesne, Utah, and Rockville, Maryland. Before being commissioned as a USPHS Engineer Officer, she served as a Peace Corps water and sanitation volunteer in Honduras. She also worked for a water resource consulting firm and a public works department in California. CDR Williar is a registered Professional Engineer in Utah and Alaska. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Massachusetts and a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health.

CDR Tanya Davis

Member, 2014-2016

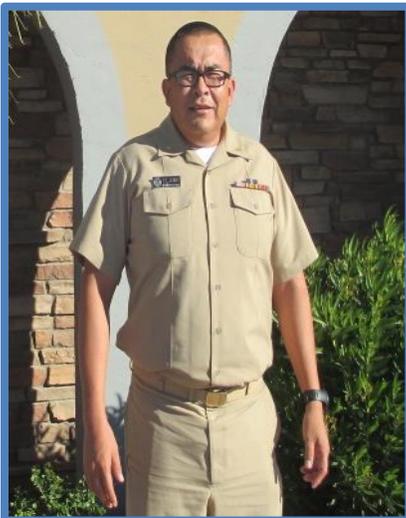
Public Health Engineering Practices Subcommittee Chair



CDR Tanya Davis is a Tribal Utility Consultant with the Indian Health Service in Manlius, New York, where she has worked since March 2014. Before moving to New York, Tanya spent seven years working as an Environmental Engineer with the Indian Health Service in Tucson, Arizona. In 1997, CDR Davis received a Bachelor's of Science in Environmental Engineering from New Mexico Tech. Following her undergraduate work, Tanya joined the U.S. Peace Corps where she worked as a water and sanitation volunteer in El Salvador. In 2000, CDR Davis moved to Austin, Texas, where she pursued a Master's of Science degree in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. In 2002, upon completing her graduate work, CDR Davis joined Malcolm Pirnie in Tucson, Arizona, where she worked as a Consultant for four years. Between jobs, CDR Davis served as a Peace Corps Response Volunteer in Venezuela and Sri Lanka, and most recently as a United Nations Volunteer in South Africa. CDR Davis completed a Graduate Certificate in Public Health from the University of Arizona in 2012, and in 2015 became a Board Certified Environmental Engineer (BCEE) and Certified in Public Health (CPH).

LCDR Darren Clark

Alternate for CDR Davis



Darron Clark is an Environmental Engineer with the Indian Health Service in Casa Grande, Arizona, where he has worked for the last 7 years. His primary role is to design water and wastewater systems. In 2002, Darron received a Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering from Northern Arizona University. Prior to his senior year in college Darron was an engineering COSTEP with the Indian Health Service, Gallup Service Unit. Following his undergraduate work, Darron joined the Indian Health Service, Fort Defiance Service Unit, where he also worked as an Environmental Engineer. Darron is a professional member of the Phoenix American Indian Science and Engineering Society.

CDR Jill Hammond

Member, 2014-2016

2015 Past EPAC Chair



CDR Jill Hammond served as the 2015 EPAC Chair. She works as a Senior Regulatory Operations Officer in the Office of Communication and Education (OCE) with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) located in Silver Spring, Maryland. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NCA&TSU) in Greensboro, NC and Masters of Public Health degree from the University of Maryland, College Park. She also received a Certificate in Global Health as an inaugural RADM Jerrold M. Michael Fellow for Global Health at the University of Maryland, College Park and Certificate in Public Health Leadership from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. Prior to joining the USPHS in 2007, CDR Hammond worked in various fields including pharmaceuticals, specialty materials, telecommunications, health policy and cancer research.

CDR Hammond has chaired both the EPAC Career Development and Rules Subcommittees. She is an active member of the District of Columbia Commissioned Officers Association (DC COA) Branch, currently serving as Chair of the Merchandise Committee. CDR Jill Hammond serves on Planning Committees for both the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure and WALK to End HIV and volunteers with several activities, including the Baltimore Science Fair, USA Science and Engineering Festival, and Capital Area Foodbank. She enjoys jazz music, traveling and working on community outreach activities.

LCDR Samantha Spindel

Alternate for CDR Hammond



LCDR Spindel graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biological & Environmental Engineering and a Masters of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering. She was commissioned as a USPHS Engineer Officer in October 2009 and serves at the Food and Drug Administration in the Office Communication and Education. LCDR also received her Ph.D. in Bioengineering at the University of Maryland in 2014. She is from New York and is multi-racial and ethnically diverse. LCDR Spindel enjoys traveling, playing tennis and running, practicing the piano and flute, and cooking meals for friends and family, especially desserts.

LCDR James Kohler

Member, 2014-2016

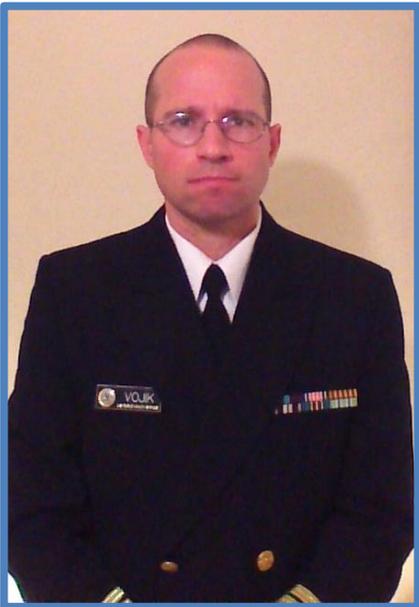
Information Subcommittee Chair



LCDR Kohler has served as an Environmental engineer for the past eight years with the Environmental Protection Agency. Currently, he serves as a subject matter expert in engineering and physical science for EPA's Office of Inspector General. In the past, he was a Regulation Writer who worked on developing air emission standards for hazardous waste combustors and on new federal regulations to address risks from the disposal of coal ash generated by the nation's 500 coal-fired power plants. The work included a nationwide structural integrity assessment of coal ash management units. Prior positions at the EPA have also included providing technical assistance to industry to reduce persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals in their products and operations. At his previous assignment with the Indian Health Service, LCDR Kohler was a Project Manager for the design and construction of sanitation facilities on the Navajo Indian Reservation. Before joining the Commissioned Corps, LCDR Kohler conducted energy efficiency and waste flow audits of mid-sized manufacturing firms in the Pacific Northwest for the U.S. Department of Energy. LCDR Kohler holds Bachelor of Science degrees in Environmental Engineering and Environmental Science from Oregon State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Oklahoma.

CDR Matt Vojik

Alternate for LCDR Kohler



CDR Vojik serves as a Multi-Media Inspector and Federal Facilities Program Manager for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10, Office of Compliance and Enforcement. Based in Seattle, WA, he conducts field investigations at federal, tribal, municipal and industrial facilities throughout Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. In previous assignments, CDR Vojik served as a Program Manager for the American Samoa EPA and a Field Engineer for the Navajo Area Indian Health Service. Prior to joining the U.S. Public Health Service, he volunteered as a Water and Sanitation Engineer with the Peace Corps in Mauritania. CDR Vojik holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He is licensed as a Professional Engineer in the State of New Mexico and Certified in Public Health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners. CDR Vojik recently joined the Preventative Medicine Branch of RDF-1 and coordinates the publication of the EPAC Newsletter.

LCDR Matthew Hunt

Member, 2014-2016

Rules Subcommittee Vice-Chair



LCDR Matthew Hunt earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in Charlotte, NC. He has been at the National Institutes of Health for approximately one year. He is an Environmental Engineer within the Sustainability Branch in the Division of Environmental Protection under the Office of Research Facilities. LCDR Hunt is responsible for providing support to NIH to aid the agency in meeting the requirements listed in Executive Order 13423 and 13514, to implement more sustainable practices at NIH. His previous work experience includes working with the Food and Drug Administration, as an Investigator focusing on medical device and drug manufacturing facilities for 2 years. He was also employed with the Indian Health Service, as an Environmental Engineer for 3 years. LCDR Hunt was responsible for managing water and wastewater construction projects, on the Navajo Reservation, in Chinle, AZ.

LCDR Leo Angelo M. Gumapas

Alternate for LCDR Hunt



LCDR Leo Angelo M. Gumapas received his commission United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps on April 6, 2012. Currently he serves as the Environmental Compliance Officer for the NIH Bethesda Campus Central Utility Plant. He is responsible for maintaining compliance with environmental laws and maintaining water treatment program to protect heat transfer equipment and associated piping. He received his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Clemson University, and he is a licensed South Carolina Professional Environmental Engineer. He worked previously as a Consultant in Kennesaw, GA helping industries comply with the Clean Air Act and as a State Regulator in Columbia, SC enforcing the Clean Air Act.

LCDR Shane Deckert

Member, 2014-2016

Readiness Subcommittee Chair



LCDR Shane Deckert worked at the National Institutes of Health for three years, serving as a Project Officer and the Resident Transportation Engineer for the Clinical Design and Construction Branch in the Division of Design & Construction Management under the Office of Research Facilities. LCDR Deckert is responsible for managing many multi-million dollar laboratory construction projects for future research by the 27 Institutes at the NIH. In October 2014, he deployed on Team 1 of the Monrovia Medical Unit as the Lead Facilities Engineer for the hospital's opening. In November 2011, he also deployed in support of the Hurricane Sandy disaster relief. LCDR Shane Deckert earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Portland, Oregon with a minor in Spanish Language, and his Masters of Business Administration from Strayer University, Alexandria, VA. His previous work experience includes multiple internships for the Portland Department of Transportation throughout his college career and four years as a Civil Engineering Officer in the U.S. Air Force with a one-year deployment to Iraq in an effort to rebuild the country in 2008. LT Deckert is a registered Professional Engineer in Washington, DC as well as a LEED Green Associate.

LT Tyrrell Lang

Alternate for LT Deckert



LT Tyrrell Lang began his career with the United States Public Health Service as a JRCOSTEP and Facility Engineer with the Indian Health Service in Pine Ridge, SD, followed by a SRCOSTEP while completing his Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Upon graduation in May of 2011, LT Lang took his first permanent assignment with the USPHS in Pierre, South Dakota with the Great Plains Area Indian Health Service as a design engineer and project manager with the Facilities Management program. During this time, he was responsible for assisting with project management for the construction of the new Cheyenne River Health Center for the project completion and acceptance phases. Upon completion of the Cheyenne River Health Center construction project, LT Lang transitioned to a design engineer and project manager position for several ARRA funded projects as well as managing multiple renovation projects throughout the Area. Annually, LT Lang tackled approximately \$2 million dollars in projects ranging from large solar array installations to small exam room renovation projects. In April of 2015, LT Lang transferred to the Billings Area Indian Health Service as a Facility Manager at the Northern Cheyenne Community Health Center. LT Lang's responsibilities now include management operations of 63,000sf of clinic space and 29 residence quarters with an annual budget of \$1.8M and 6 maintenance staff. LT Lang also serves as a voting member of the Clinic Executive Committee and is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Montana. He is also a Certified Energy Manager with the Association of Energy Engineers.

CAPT David Harvey

Member, 2015-2017

Recruitment & Retention Subcommittee Chair



CAPT David Harvey is a Commissioned Corps Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service and the Deputy Director of the Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction within the Indian Health Service (IHS) in Rockville, MD. In this role, he is responsible for budget, policy and guidance development to ensure program funding, output measurement, accountability and transparency. CAPT Harvey's first assignment in the Corps was as a Facility Manager at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, DC. Following this assignment in 2000, he transferred to Sparks, NV where he worked as a field engineer in the IHS Sanitation Facilities Construction Program. In 2006, CAPT Harvey transferred to Washington, DC to work with the EPA's Water Security Division. He then transferred in 2008 to EPA's Drinking Water Protection Division where he coordinated the National Tribal Drinking Water Program. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Maine. He holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Maine, a Master of Science from the University of Connecticut both in Civil Engineering and a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health.

LTJG Melissa de Vera

Alternate for CAPT Harvey



LTJG Melissa de Vera is a Commissioned Corps Officer of the U.S. Public Health Service and is serving in her first assignment as a Field Engineer with the Indian Health Service (IHS) Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction (DSFC) in Bemidji, MN. In this role, she is responsible for planning and managing water, wastewater, and solid waste engineering projects. She works directly with tribes to help them identify and meet their sanitation needs. She was an IHS IHCA Section 104 Scholarship recipient and graduated cum laude from the University of Nevada Reno in May 2012 with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering. While at the university, she worked as an undergraduate researcher on two projects and traveled to Africa to help drill wells using the manual well drilling method with the Student Association for International Water Issues in which she was also a Co-President. LTJG de Vera also served as a JRCOSTEP in the IHS DSFC Reno-Sparks Office in the summer of 2011. She began her first assignment in Bemidji in August 2012 and was commissioned in May 2013. LTJG de Vera was recently awarded the 2015 IHS DSFC Engineer of the Year.

CDR Mark Jackson

Member, 2015-2017

Career Development Subcommittee Vice-Chair



Mark Jackson is a Commander with the U. S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) and works as a Research Engineer in the Health Effects Laboratory Division (HELD) at the National Institute of Occupation Safety and Health (NIOSH) in Morgantown, WV. He serves as a subject matter expert and division level consultant for inhalation exposures to occupational agents and control system software engineering. He is responsible for developing exposure systems with computerized feedback control to simulate workplace environments for small laboratory animal studies. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in both Electrical and Computer Engineering, and a Master's of Science in Electrical Engineering from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV.

LCDR Matt Hause

Alternate for CDR Jackson



LCDR Mathew Hause is a Research Safety Engineer with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). NIOSH's mission is to provide leadership in research to prevent work-related illness, injury, disability, and death. The Division of Safety Research (DSR) serves as the focal point for the NIOSH traumatic injury research program with the goal to reduce work-related injuries and fatalities across all industry sectors. LCDR Hause's primary role is developing and planning intramural and extramural laboratory and field research studies. He also provides technical assistance to both internal and external customers on a variety of research topics. Results from DSR programs are expected to provide a clear basis for recommendations to relevant partners and stakeholders on effective methods for preventing injuries in the workplace.

LCDR Hause holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from West Virginia University. He has an interdisciplinary background that includes human factors, ergonomics, systems safety, as well as other fields. Outside academia and work, LCDR Hause enjoys volunteering to promote his interests of safety, health, science, and engineering at local schools and health fairs in his community.

CDR Kurt Kesteloot

Member, 2015-2017

2016 EPAC Chair-Elect and Rules Subcommittee Chair



CDR Kesteloot, MSE, MPH, PE, BCEE, CPH received his PHS commission in 2004 and served with the Indian Health Service (IHS) from 2004 to 2010. LCDR Kesteloot started as a Jr. Environmental Engineering with the Navajo Area IHS in Many Farms, AZ. He also worked in Winslow, AZ and Tuba City, AZ for the Navajo Area IHS designing and constructing water and wastewater sanitation facilities. He deployed aboard the USNS Comfort on a humanitarian mission in 2009. CDR Kesteloot has worked for the National Park Service (NPS) since 2010 and currently serves as a supervisory public health consultant. He provides technical assistance to 62 National Park units in 13 states through assessments of water and wastewater facilities along with design and design review. CDR Kesteloot assesses food facilities and provides guidance on many other public health related issues. He also supervises three USPHS officers and is the Lead for NPS Engineering questions in the NPS Office of Public Health Field Services Branch. CDR Kesteloot is a professionally registered Civil Engineer for the state of Arizona, Arkansas, and South Dakota. He also holds a Certificate in Public Health (through NBPHE) and is a Board Certified Environmental Engineer (through AAEEES). Prior to commissioning with the USPHS, he was enlisted in the United States Army National Guard (USANG) in 2000 and commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army in 2004. He served as a Fire Direction Control Specialist in field artillery for the Army.

CDR Kesteloot has received PHS awards for outstanding service including: one Commendation Medal, two Achievement Medals and NAIHS Engineer of the Year. He has also been honored with the Society of American Military Engineers Green Medal and Ian K. Burgess Outstanding Young PHS Commissioned Corps Engineer of the Year award. He has received numerous unit and service awards including: several unit citations, the crisis response service award and the Isolated/Hardship Award.

CDR Jeremy Nickels

Alternate for CDR Kesteloot



CDR Nickels began his career with the Indian Health Service as a JRCOSTEP in the Oklahoma City Area Office in May 2000. He then received his call to active duty in the form of a SRCOSTEP appointment during his last year of undergraduate at ULL from the Billings Area Office. His next assignment was as the Facility Manager of the Fort Belknap Hospital and Hays Clinic on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in North Central Montana. From there, CDR Nickels transferred to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA. While assigned to CDC, Nickels was the co-project officer on the construction of building 106, a 10 floor office building and parking deck on the Chamblee Campus. He then transferred to the National Park Service in Atlanta, GA as a Regional Maintenance Program Manager. CDR Nickels' most recent assignment is as the Southeast Regional Project Management Branch Chief where he manages a staff of professional project managers, including PHS Officers and Civilians, who support parks within the southeast region. The Project Management Branch manages projects from renovations to water and waste water treatment facilities to stabilization of historic structures within the 66 parks of the Southeast Region.

CDR Jonathan Rash

Member, 2015-2017

Career Development Subcommittee Chair



CDR Jonathan Rash is the Chief of the Project Engineering and Management Branch for the Indian Health Service in the Nashville Area Office. CDR Jonathan Rash oversees planning, design and construction of water, wastewater, and solid waste facilities for 25 different Indian communities in 11 states from Northern Maine to South Florida to East Texas. He is stationed in Manlius, NY, and supervises staff in offices in Maine, South Carolina, Alabama, and Louisiana. He is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of California. CDR Rash began his current position in November 2012. Prior to that, he served as District Engineer in Escondido, CA, for seven years, and as a Field Engineer in Yuma, AZ, and Parker, AZ, for four years. Prior to joining the Indian Health Service, he served in the Peace Corps in Nepal from 1998 to 2000.

CDR Rash previously served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for COA and as Vice-Chair of JOAG. He and his wife and son enjoy travelling and getting into all kinds of trouble together. He enjoys reading, film and music.

LCDR Weston Kenney

Alternate for CDR Rash



LCDR Kenney is a Senior Field Engineer assisting his customers throughout the Southeastern U. S. He works with tribes in Florida, South Carolina, and Alabama, as well as assists where needed throughout the Nashville Area of the Indian Health Service. Prior to joining the USPHS, LCDR Kenney worked as a consulting civil engineer on large scale commercial and residential projects throughout the country. Currently, he is registered as a Professional Engineer in the state of Maine. He is a past member of the Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee as well as a past Vice-Chair of the Career Development Subcommittee.

Wes and his wife Kelly, enjoy chasing their German Shorthaired Pointers (Rosie and Brownie) through the forests of Maine. He also enjoys playing hockey and fly fishing.

CDR Joshua Simms

Member, 2015-2017

Information Subcommittee Vice-Chair



CDR Simms is originally from Ohio and graduated from the University of Toledo with a BS in Chemical Engineering and a MS in Engineering. In 2002, he joined the U.S. Public Health Service and worked for the Indian Health Service. He spent three years as a Staff Engineer at the Navajo Area Office (OEHE/SFC). CDR Simms then moved to the Fort Defiance Indian Hospital (Navajo Area), where he was a Supervisory Field Engineer (OEHE/SFC). CDR next transferred to the Fort Yuma Indian Hospital (Phoenix Area). He had the unique opportunity of filling multiple vital roles while there. His main role was as the Facility Manager, but he also held collateral duties as the Safety Officer, acting Administrative Officer, and acting CEO. In February 2009, CDR Simms accepted a position as a Regulatory Operations Officer in the Office of Compliance within CDRH. CDR Simms moved into his current position as the Branch Chief for the Cardiology Devices Branch (CDRH/OC/DMQ) in 2011. He has also been a member of RDF 5 since 2009.

CDR Sadaf Toor

Alternate for CDR Simms



CDR Sadaf Toor is currently a Lead Reviewer in FDA's Office of Device Evaluation in the Center for Devices and Radiological Health in Silver Spring, MD. CDR Toor joined FDA in March 2007 and was commissioned as a PHS officer in October 2009. She has been on 2 deployments to support logistics operations in Frederick, MD, received her FMRB in January 2014, and is an active member of the FDA Commissioned Officer Network Educational Programs Committee and EPAC Career Development Subcommittee. CDR Toor's professional accomplishments include lead-authorship on a publication (September 2013), presenting and participating in panel discussions at multiple internationally attended conferences, and being recognized as the FDA expert in the areas of carotid stenting and embolic protection devices to prevent stroke. She has also taken on leadership roles, serving in details as a Senior Reviewer and Acting Branch Chief. CDR Toor received both her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Biomedical Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis in May 2003. Prior to joining FDA, she worked as a Patent Examiner at the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office in Alexandria, VA. CDR Toor is originally from Pittsburg, PA and enjoys playing tennis.

CDR Jennifer Stevenson

Member, 2015-2017

Mentoring Subcommittee Chair



CDR Jennifer Stevenson was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. While she was growing up, she moved many times, living mostly on the East and West coasts of the U.S., as her father was in the Navy. CDR Stevenson went on to study Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt University, earning a Bachelor of Engineering and later graduating from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC with a Master of Biomedical Engineering. CDR Stevenson started working for the FDA in 2004 as a civil servant, but then joined the USPHS in November 2005. CDR Stevenson currently works in the Office of Device Evaluation as a Deputy Director in the Division of Surgical Devices. She is married to her husband, an Air Force officer, Lieutenant Colonel Kendal Stevenson, who is currently stationed at the Pentagon. She enjoys running marathons with her husband and has two dogs, a Cocker Spaniel and a Shih Tzu.

LCDR Abbas Bandukwala

Alternate for LCDR Stevenson



LCDR Abbas Bandukwala was born in Kansas City, MO and grew up in Rome, GA. He graduated from Vanderbilt University with a degree in Biomedical Engineering and was commissioned as an Officer in the United States Navy in 2003. He served on two different ships and completed two 6 month deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terrorism in 2004 and 2005. After completing his Navy tour, he started working at the FDA as a Biomedical Engineer in January 2009. He joined the U. S. Public Health Service in July 2010. LCDR Bandukwala is married to Dr. Reezwana Chowdhury and enjoys running and traveling to exotic locations around the world.

Jim Harris

Member, 2015-2017



Dr. Harris is Team Lead and Acting Branch Chief (Evaluation and Testing Branch [ETB]) for the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory (NPPTL) at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). ETB has responsibilities for respirator approval testing as well as evaluating other personal protective technologies such as fire fighter turnout gear and healthcare worker isolation gowns.

Dr. Harris has BS and MS degrees in mechanical engineering and a PhD in occupational safety and health. Prior to accepting a position with NPPTL in December 2014, Dr. Harris spent over 20 years on various research projects within the NIOSH Division of Safety Research.

Charles Wolfe

Alternate for Jim Harris



Mr. Wolfe works for the National Personal Protective Technology Laboratory, Morgantown Evaluation and Testing Team at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). His past work was working in the Air Supplied (AS) and Air Purifying (AP) Laboratory conducting certification testing for AS and AP respirators. Currently he is involved in multiple areas within the division as listed below:

- Final Review Process for Air Supplied Respirators
- Certified Product Investigation Program
- Site Audit Program
- Laboratory Testing of AP and AS Respirators
- Deputy Quality Manager

CDR Francis Chua

Member, 2016-2018

Events Subcommittee Chair



CDR Frank Chua, PE, BCEE is a Project Manager with the Division of Facilities Management, Indian Health Service (IHS), Tucson Area. He is responsible for providing professional design, project management, and construction management services for projects in support of federal direct service healthcare facilities in the IHS Tucson Area. Prior to his current duty station, CDR Chua served as a Supervisory Environmental Engineer in Opelousas, Louisiana with the Sanitation Facilities Construction (SFC) Branch, Indian Health Service Nashville Area. There he provided professional engineering, project management, and construction management services for the SFC Program addressing sanitation deficiencies for eight tribes across five states. CDR Chua is a Board Certified Environmental Engineer and is a registered professional engineer in California and Louisiana. Prior to commissioning, CDR Chua spent 11 years in the private sector with an environmental engineering consulting firm focused in the design of advanced wastewater reclamation facilities maximizing in water reuse. On the EPAC, CDR Chua is the Events Subcommittee Chair and is also a member of the Deployment Preparedness, Mentoring, and Career Development subcommittees.

LCDR Rolanda Frank

Alternate for CDR Chua



LCDR Rolanda Frank currently serves as a Project Manager with the Division of Facility Management and Engineering at the Navajo Area Indian Health Service in St. Michaels, AZ. She started her career as a civil servant and commissioned with the US Public Health Service in October 2000. For over 10 years, she worked as an Environmental Engineer with the Sanitation Facilities Construction, designing and constructing water and sewer facilities for the Navajo and White Mountain Apache communities. In 2006, she participated as a Disaster Engineer in post Katrina relief and rescue efforts with the Louisiana Nursing and Hospital Assessment survey team. This sparked her interest in managing health care facilities.

In 2009, LCDR transferred into the Facility Management program as a Facility Engineer at the Zuni Comprehensive Community Health Center. She served as a Logistics Coordinator from May 2009 to May 2013. LCDR Frank received her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Northern Arizona University, in Flagstaff, AZ. She is currently pursuing her graduate studies in Construction Management and Engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology.

CDR Bradley Cunningham

Member, 2016-2018



CDR Brad Cunningham currently serves as an EPAC voting member and the vice chair of the mentoring subcommittee. He has been serving at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH). He has served as an engineering reviewer in the Office of Device Evaluation (ODE) and in the Office of Compliance (OC). During his time at the CDRH, he has served as lead reviewer in the ODE, as an operations officer in the OC and has had collateral duties as a technical expert to a standard development working group (The American National Standards Institute Implantable Glaucoma Devices working group). Currently, CDR Cunningham serves as a supervisory engineer and branch chief of the Diagnostic and Surgical Devices Branch (DSDB) in the Division of Ophthalmic and Ear, Nose, and Throat Devices (DOED). In this role, he directs the premarket regulatory activities for medical devices such as ophthalmic surgical lasers (including LASIK lasers), diagnostic devices (including optical coherence tomography and scanning laser ophthalmoscopy devices), combination products (including UV-based corneal collagen crosslinking systems), and other medical devices including cryotherapy devices for retinal treatment. CDR Cunningham received his B.S. degree in bioengineering from the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP) in 2002. In 2010, he also received a M.S. degree in bioengineering from the UMCP, including a dissertation in implantable biomedical devices. CDR served one term as a voting member of EPAC in 2004 and is now serving a second term as a voting member. He has also been an active member of the PHS-1 Rapid Deployment Force since 2005. His personal interests include running, construction, and auto repair.

(To be Identified)

Alternate for CDR Cunningham

LCDR Deborah Hirst

Member, 2016-2018



LCDR Hirst is a Civil and Environmental Health Engineer with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), Division of Applied Research and Technology (DART), Engineering and Physical Hazards Branch (EPHB). She is also a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service. LCDR Hirst received her B.S. in civil and environmental engineering and her Ph.D. in environmental health engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). She is also a registered Professional Engineer with the state of Ohio. Since joining NIOSH in 2007, she has researched and evaluated engineering control technology to reduce workers' exposures to occupational safety and health hazards. She is a contributing author for the NIOSH criteria documents on diacetyl and 2,3-pentandione, 1-bromopropane, and glutaraldehyde. LCDR Hirst's current projects involve antineoplastic drugs. The first project is evaluating the efficacy of a Type C high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter for the capture and containment of selected hazardous drugs within a controlled laboratory setting and real-world hazardous drug compounding pharmacies. She is also co-project officer for the development of a protocol on closed-system transfer devices (CSTDs) for hazardous drugs.

CAPT Chuck Kardous

Alternate for LCDR Hirst



CAPT Kardous serves as a Senior Research Electrical Engineer with the Engineering and Physical Hazards Branch, Division of Applied Research and Technology at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CAPT Kardous has Bachelors and Masters degrees in Electrical Engineering and is a registered Professional Engineer with the state of Ohio. CAPT Kardous is a nationally-recognized expert in the field of noise measurement and instrumentation design and currently holds U.S. Patent 7,401,519 for a noise monitoring system. CAPT Kardous is the lead manager for the CDC/NIOSH firing range research program responsible for developing recommendations and guidance to reduce occupational hazards among law enforcement and military personnel using firing ranges. CAPT Kardous has served as a Chair of the EPAC Recruitment and Retention subcommittee, President of the Cincinnati Chapter of the COA, and currently serves on the COA Legislative Committee. CAPT Kardous has also served on the USPHS accountability restructuring work group, as an Engineer Associate Recruiter, and on the Society of American Military Engineer's Technology Advancement Subcommittee.

LCDR Peter Littlehat

Member, 2016-2018



LCDR Littlehat is an Environmental Engineer with the IHS DSFC in Many Farms, Arizona since January, 2011. He received a BS in Environmental Engineering from Northern Arizona University, then worked for the IBM Corporation in Essex Junction, Vermont for three years as a Facilities System Engineer. He then moved to Tucson, Arizona and received his MS and PhD from the University of Arizona in Environmental Engineering focusing on Endocrine Disruption in wastewater. He then joined Brown & Caldwell an environmental engineering firm in Phoenix, Arizona, then later Golden, Colorado as a Process Mechanical Engineer focusing on domestic wastewater treatment design. LCDR is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Arizona.

LCDR Littlehat's current responsibilities include providing water and sewer facilities to individual homes, designing and managing the construction of waterline extensions, designing community water wells, and managing hydraulic models of water systems in the Navajo Area.

LCDR Helena Attakai

Alternate for LCDR Littlehat



LCDR Attakai P.E. currently serves as the Deputy District Engineer with the Gallup Service Unit, Navajo Area, and the Indian Health Service. Previously, she has served as Sr. Field Engineer for 1.5 years with the Kayenta Field Office, Navajo Area and the Indian Health Service, 5.5 years as a Field Engineer with the San Carlos Field Office, Phoenix Area, and the Indian Health Service, and 5.5 years as Project Engineer with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Division of Environmental Health and Engineering. She has earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from Northern Arizona University and is currently working toward a Master of Science degree in Engineering Management from University of Idaho. LCDR Attakai is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Arizona.

CDR Samuel Russell

Member, 2016-2018



CDR Samuel Russell is detailed to the Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water where he helps coordinate the National Tribal Drinking Water Program and manages the Safe Drinking Water Act's Arsenic Rule. CDR Russell holds a BS in Civil Engineering from Clarkson University. Following undergrad he spent two years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Cote d'Ivoire before moving to Kayenta Arizona in 2003 to work as a Field Engineer with the Navajo Area Indian Health Service and was later commissioned into the USPHS. CDR Russell went from Field Engineer to Assistant District Engineer during his eight years stationed in Kayenta, and completed a Master of Science in Civil Engineering with the University of New Mexico. In 2011, he decommissioned to complete a Master of Public Health degree at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. In 2013 CDR Russell was reinstated into the Corps as a Transportation Safety Program Manager with the National Park Service in Washington, DC. In late 2015, CDR Russell transferred to his current position with the EPA in Washington, DC. CDR Russell is a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Arizona.

CDR David Gwisdalla

Alternate for LCDR Russell



CDR David Gwisdalla is professional engineer detailed to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where he is an inspector for the National Enforcement Investigations Center (NEIC). CDR Gwisdalla conducts investigations of drinking water systems, as well as industrial or domestic wastewater treatment systems. CDR Gwisdalla served the EPA since June 2010 and was commissioned as a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Public Health Service Officer in November 2011. Prior to commissioning, CDR Gwisdalla spent 9 years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force (USAF). His time in the USAF was spent as a civil engineer officer. His assignments took him around the globe leading teams and working on environmental protection, facilities management, and contracting. Upon his departure from the USAF, CDR Gwisdalla worked for Tetra Tech as a project manager/engineer supporting DoD clients. CDR Gwisdalla earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering (1996) and Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering. (1998) He is a graduate of Michigan State University in E. Lansing, Michigan and is a registered professional engineer in both Michigan and Colorado. CDR Gwisdalla has supported the EPAC Recruitment and Retention and Career Development subcommittees.

LCDR Praveen K. C.

Member, 2016-2018



LCDR Praveen K.C. works as a Health Facility Engineer with the Indian Health Service (IHS) serving the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) in Anchorage, Alaska. LCDR K.C. provides engineering services for sanitation and health facilities throughout Alaska. He has played a key role in the development of ANTHC's Rural Energy Program through design of alternative energy and energy efficiency projects. He routinely works in extreme arctic environments. LCDR K.C. completed his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical engineering from Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 2002. In 2005, he came to the United States for graduate study and received his Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Lamar University, Beaumont TX in 2007. LCDR K.C. also graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Alaska Anchorage in 2012.

LCDR K.C. was born and raised in Nepal, where clean water, sewer and power were privileges, not granted. In 2009, he moved to Alaska to work for ANTHC, which gave him an opportunity to travel and work with Alaska's rural communities. LCDR K.C. is motivated to serve underserved Alaskan communities, since he comes from a similar background.

LCDR Benjamin Chadwick

Alternate for LT K.C.



LCDR Chadwick currently serves as an Engineering Project Manager with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), Division of Environmental Health and Engineering. Before transferring to Alaska, LCDR Chadwick spent nine years working as an Environmental Engineer with the Indian Health Service (IHS), Sanitation Facilities Construction Program in Manlius, New York and Elko, Nevada. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Brigham Young University, and a Masters of Engineering degree in Environmental Engineering from Texas A&M University. He is a registered Professional Engineer in Washington State and Alaska. LCDR Chadwick previously served as a JOAG Voting Member and Co-Chair of the Awards, and Recruitment and Retention Committees as well as the JOAG Liaison to EPAC.

Directory of Non-Voting Members in Leadership Roles

LCDR Julia Kane

Public Health and Engineering Practices Vice-Chair



LCDR Kane designs and manages facility rehab projects for National Parks in 8 intermountain states, from Montana to Texas and Oklahoma to Utah. Her office is in the Intermountain Regional Office in Lakewood, Colorado, where she has been for 1 year. Her first 12 years in the PHS she served as field engineer with Indian Health Service at three duty stations in the Phoenix Area and the California Area, designing and managing construction of water, sewer, and solid waste projects on 16 Indian Reservations. She came to the PHS after spending time on rural development projects in Mexico and Nicaragua. LCDR Kane recently deployed for the Unaccompanied Children response in Florida where she provided technical expertise in assessing buildings for conversion to temporary living quarters for refugee minors from Central America. She obtained her B.S. in Environmental Resources Engineering from Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. LCDR Kane currently serves as Vice Chair for the EPAC subcommittee, Public Health Engineering Practice (PHEP), is the Lead on the Engineering Standards Workgroup, is presenting at Category Day at the 2016 COF Symposium as a member of the Pipe Materials Workgroup, and is collaborating with other engineers on a newly formed Engineering Healthy Communities Workgroup, as well as being a member on the Awards subcommittee.

LCDR Jitendra Virani

Awards Subcommittee Chair



LCDR Jitendra Virani is an Engineer Officer currently stationed at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He joined FDA as a civilian in December 2006 and became a USPHS officer in July 2010. He works for the Office of Device Evaluation (ODE) of the Center of Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH). He has conducted biomedical and general engineering reviews on various types of medical devices that include Laser/Light based, electrosurgical, computer assisted robotic, manual surgical, and respiratory and pulmonary devices. He also reviews bench testing, animal testing and/or clinical studies used in obtaining results to determine validity and scientific significance of the data to ensure a given device is safe and effective for public use. His regulatory experience includes serving as a lead reviewer of a variety of premarket submission types: 510(k)s, PMAs, IDEs, pre-IDEs and has also reviewed medical devices indicated for use as Over-The-Counter sales. During June 2008 to January 2011, he also worked for the Office of Surveillance and Biometric (OSB) of CDRH as an Analyst of Medical Device Report (MDR) for adverse events identifying and conducting analyses of patient and device problems, related to clinical use, for both individual devices and classes of devices to detect short term problems, trends and recurring problems. LCDR Virani received his Bachelor in Biomedical Engineering from the George Washington University in 2006, and Masters in Applied Biomedical Engineering from the Johns Hopkins University in 2009. He also received an Associate of Science in Electrical Engineering from Montgomery College in 2007. He currently serves the EPAC as the Awards Subcommittee Chair (2015) and with the Mentoring Program (2010 – Present).

LCDR Diana Wong

Events Subcommittee Vice-Chair



LCDR Diana Wong is a Social Science Research Officer in the Data Analytics and Systems Group (DASG), at the Center for Program Integrity (CPI), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at Baltimore, MD. She analyzes health insurance policy data from the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace to better understand trends in agent/broker and applicant behavior. Her other duties include developing methodologies to measure performance of fraud, waste, and abuse prevention programs at CMS as well as managing data system and data agreement/use issues and projects.. LCDR Wong received her commission to U.S. Public Health Service in 2012 and has also served as an Analytics Engineer at the National Biosurveillance Integration Center (NBIC) in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), developing data analysis and acting as center liaison to DHS Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Prior to the Corps, she has worked at a biotechnology startup in San Francisco as a bioinformatics engineer and software developer. She earned her Biomedical Engineering Ph.D. and M.S. in the field of biophysics and computational biology at Washington University in St. Louis. She completed her B.S. in Bioengineering at University of California, Berkeley.

Directory of Liaisons and Other Ex-Officio Members

CAPT Dan Beck

RedDOG Liaison

CAPT James Simpson

Commissioned Officers Association (COA) Liaison

CDR Tara Bizjak

Commissioned Corps Women's Issues Advisory Board (CCWIAB) Liaison



CDR Tara Goen Bizjak is a Commander with the U. S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps (USPHS) and works as a Senior Science Policy Advisor in the Office of Policy for Pharmaceutical Quality, Office of Pharmaceutical Quality, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Silver Spring, Maryland. She is responsible for the management of long-range scientific planning and policy implementation issues that impact the availability of medications to the global community, specific to the regulation of current good manufacturing practices for pharmaceutical products. While in the FDA, she also held roles as a Senior Policy Advisor in FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs, a Branch Chief and Team Leader in CDER's Pre-Approval Inspection Assessment group, and a field investigator for domestic and international pharmaceutical manufacturers. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York with a bioengineering option. While working at FDA, she earned a Masters in Biomedical Science degree from Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey with concentrations in biodefense and stem cell science. CDR Bizjak is a Certified Quality Engineer with the American Society of Quality and received a Certificate in Public Health from a joint FDA-Georgetown University program.

CDR Bizjak is active with the EPAC as the engineering category representative to the CCWIAB and as a member of the Recruitment and Retention Subcommittee. Tara is also a Deputy Team Commander for the Tier 1 Regional Incident Support Team in the National Capital Region (RIST-NCR), has participated in eight deployments, and has been a member of the team since 2010. She has been a clarinetist in the U.S. PHS Wind Ensemble since 2009. She volunteers to support K-8 STEM programs, such as supporting local MATHcounts chapters (a national middle-school math competition). She has run in the Army Ten Miler (2012 and 2014) with PHS Athletics. Tara enjoys spending time with her family (husband and one-year old daughter) and traveling.

LCDR Chris Fehrman

EPAC Executive Secretary



LCDR Fehrman is assigned to the Project Management Division at Yosemite National Park, where he manages the Park's CERCLA program. NPS is the lead CERCLA agency for at least eleven contaminated sites (mostly historic waste disposal areas). The cleanup process involves comprehensive field investigations to identify the nature and extent of contamination and collecting a sufficient quality and quantity of data to conduct risk assessments to determine impacts to human health and ecological receptors. Prior to his arrival at Yosemite, LCDR Fehrman spent five years at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) first as a design engineer and later as a project manager to oversee the design and construction of water and wastewater systems for Alaska Native communities throughout the state. LCDR Fehrman also served in the United States Peace Corps in Ghana, West Africa as a Health, Water and Sanitation Volunteer from 2005-2007. LCDR Fehrman is a registered Professional Engineer in the Great State of Alaska.

LCDR Leo Angelo M. Gumapas

Society of American Military Engineers (SAME) Liaison



LCDR Leo Angelo M. Gumapas received his commission United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps on April 6, 2012. Currently he serves as the Environmental Compliance Officer for the NIH Bethesda Campus Central Utility Plant. He is responsible for maintaining compliance with environmental laws and maintaining water treatment program to protect heat transfer equipment and associated piping. He received his Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and Master of Science in Environmental Engineering from Clemson University, and he is a licensed South Carolina Professional Environmental Engineer. He worked previously as a Consultant in Kennesaw, GA helping industries comply with the Clean Air Act and as a State Regulator in Columbia, SC enforcing the Clean Air Act.

LCDR QuynhNhu Nguyen

Junior Officer Advisory Group (JOAG) Liaison



LCDR QuynhNhu Nguyen is an Engineer Officer currently stationed at the Food and Drug Administration. She has been with FDA since March 2005. She has been working with evaluating human factors/usability of medical devices originally with the MedSun project in Office of Surveillance and Biometrics, and now with the Human Factors Premarket Evaluation Team in the Office of Device Evaluation, Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Her regulatory experience also includes reviews of a variety of premarket submission types: 510(k)s, PMAs, IDEs, pre-IDEs. She has also conducted both specialized biomedical engineering reviews and human factors reviews on a variety of combination products (drug/device, biologic/device) such as inhalation and auto-injection systems. Her current focus is in evaluating human factors/usability of combination products. She received her Bachelor in Biomedical Engineering from George Washington University in 2005, and Masters in Systems Engineering from Johns Hopkins University in 2013. She also received the RADM Jerrold Michael Global Health Graduate Certificate from University of Maryland in 2010. She is currently a logistic member of RDF-1 deployment team.