



HS PAC Chair Chat



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CAPT John Cardarelli

What a year for the Health Services PAC! I have a lot to share but only a single page to summarize our accomplishments during the past year. When elected as your PAC Chair in 2006, I set forth four objectives in 2007 to measure our success in serving the category. Despite our slow start by not having a full PAC committee until April, your PAC was very busy and had an extremely productive year. Below is a brief summary of the objectives and our collective accomplishments related to each one:

Objective 1: Continue the good work of our sub-committees and professional advisory groups (PAG) in providing **tangible** services to the HSO category.

1) Developed and revised PAG-specific website content ; 2) Drafted standard billet descriptions; 3) Revised and updated career matrices, promotion benchmarks, and guidelines; 4) Established a PSYPAG specific mentorship program; 5) Provided deployment ethics training to psychologists and social workers; 6) Secured CE credits for the 2007 COA/COF conference; 7) Revised appointment standards, and continue to address remaining appointment issues; 8) Working with DOD to recruit 200 PHS mental health providers for future DOD internships; 9) Created dental hygiene (DH) listserv within IHS and BOP to inform all DH professionals regardless of agency; 10) Organized the first DH breakout session at the COA conference, 11) Represented PHS and PAG professions at other conferences to bring the message of public health to clinical-based providers; 12) Creation of the Dental Hygiene coin; 13) Updated BASPAG bylaws to allow for more voting membership; 14) Actively engaged to improve PAC readiness statistics; 15) Published a "BASPAG Awareness" article in the Fall edition of the JOAG Newsletter; 16) Developed PAG specific welcome / introduction letters; 17) Served on numerous WIPT, WPDGs, FACs, and other special workgroups; and 18) Worked closely with our new CPO, RADM Milner, by staffing an ad-hoc CPO Support Committee to facilitate his responsibilities as CPO and developed a strong PAC-CPO working relationship for future years.

Objective 2: Emphasize commitment to the transformation process by:

- a. improving our readiness percentages.
 - i. December (2006) - 55%;
 - ii. June (2007) - 80%
 - iii. September (2007) - 84%
- b. developing tools for members to make their career progression goals a reality
 - i. Completed 2008 Benchmarks
 - ii. Career Development Matrices

Objective 3: Actively work with our Chief Professional Officer, RADM Michael Milner, to promote the HSO Category to prospective recruits, our fellow officers, and the public.

- a. Completed and updated the HSO Website.
- b. Completed and updated the HSO Resource Manual (to be posted this month)
- c. Passed motions to allow Inactive Reserve Officers to openly compete for voting member status or serve as liaisons on the PAC (see October mtg minutes to be posted to our website this month).

Objective 4: Increase awareness of the rapidly evolving transformation process.

- a. Initiated the PAC Chair Chat – a one-page newsletter to highlight the critical activities of the PAC.
- b. Revised website – updated and developed more than 300 web pages.
- c. Active participation and reporting from HS officers (some were PAC members) serving on numerous transformation workgroups 1) Billet WPDG; 2) Sizing WPDG; 3) Recruitment WIPDG; 4) Training & Career Development WIPDG; 5) 3H WPDG; 6) Discipline and Retention WIPT; 7) Uniforms WIPT; 8) Readiness WIPT; 9) Applied Public Health FAC; 10) Research FAC; 11) Mental Health FAC; 12) Clinical FAC; 13) Healthy Environment Initiative; 14) PY09 Promotion Benchmarks; and 15) COER WIPT.



These tangible contributions and accomplishments are evidence that our PAC is thriving and fully engaged in the transformation of the corps. These could only have been achieved through an active PAC and a large number

of volunteers to the PAC. In an effort to acknowledge the tremendous progress and accomplishments of the PAC in 2007, I am working with RADM Milner to submit a Unit Commendation Award for officers who have served on the PAC in 2007, PAC volunteers that have significantly contributed to their subcommittee via multi-year participation, multi-subcommittee participation, and demonstrating outstanding leadership on PAC subcommittees or PAGs. It was an honor to represent the most diverse category in the PHS.

We have more work to do on behalf of the category in 2008 to prepare ourselves for a successful future. I'm confident CDR Austin will lead us through an even more productive year in 2008.

Interesting factoid: During the past year I read, responded to, and addressed more than 1,600 emails related to PAC activities and more than 300 emails associated with our Listserv. That's about 5 emails every day!

NEW PAC members for 2008-2010!

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| CDR Nancy Bill, | IHS |
| CDR Sheila Merriweather, | OS |
| CDR Cheryl Wiseman, | FDA |
| LCDR Laurie Hall-Brown, | FDA |
| LCDR Delia Jones, | OS |
| LCDR Donald Schmidt, | BOP |