

## **Navy Entomology Steering Committee (NESC) Minutes**

**Meeting Place:** Navy Environmental Health Center, Norfolk, VA

**Meeting Time:** 20 OCT 2000

**Members Present:** CDR M. Mann – NEHC (Specialty Leader)  
CDR J. Corneil – DVECC Bangor  
CDR M. Beavers – DVECC JAX  
LCDR M. Zyzak – USUHS (Research)  
LCDR M. Medina – NEPMU FIVE  
LT F. Stell – NEPMU TWO

**Members Absent:** LT D. Bartholomew – 2<sup>nd</sup> FSSG (Operating Forces)

**Visitors:** CAPT Mark Wooster – Command Leadership School  
LCDR S. Presley – NDVECC JAX (FDPMU component manager)

### **Old Business**

CDR Mann – With LCDR Rankin's move to the Army War College, we must appoint a Chair.

CDR Beavers – Term of Chairman was discussed at the last meeting, and a change to two years was recommended. That needs to be formalized if it is the ESC's intent.

Motion: CDR Beavers – Amend charter to appoint chairman for a two year term.  
Second by CDR Corneil.  
All approved.

Call for volunteers to serve as Chairman. CDR Beavers and LCDR Zyzak volunteered. By vote, CDR Beavers was selected 3/2. No contention in this process.

### **Review of ESC Charter**

CDR Beavers – Charter requires all members' presence for a quorum. Suggested dropping that requirement to five of six members.

Motion: LCDR Zyzak recommended dropping quorum to four of six.  
Second by CDR Corneil.  
All approved.

LCDR Zyzak suggested changing "operating forces" to "Marine forces."  
Motion: LCDR Stell recommended changing "operating forces" to "Marine forces."  
Second by CDR Corneil.  
All approved.

CDR Beavers – Term of members was discussed at the last meeting. To improve effectiveness and continuity, members transferred before completing three years would remain on the committee for the balance of their three years, as non-voting members.

Motion: CDR Corneil recommended adding "In the event the member is transferred, they will serve the remainder of the term in a non-voting status."

Second by LCDR Medina.

All approved.

Discussion of the intent to ensure Junior Officer representation. Opinion of function varied some; all agreed that JO participation is necessary.

Motion: LT Stell recommended adding "One member of the committee must be on their first or second tour."

Second by LCDR Zyzak.

All approved.

CDR Beavers, regarding frequency of the ESC meeting, suggested a change from twice yearly to at least twice per year.

Motion: LCDR Zyzak recommended changing "Meetings will be held twice a year....," to "Meetings will be held a minimum of twice a year...."

Second by CDR Corneil.

All approved.

Motion: CDR Corneil recommended a specific wording change to the Charter to "Voting members will select a chair, and the chair will serve a two year term beginning the following meeting. Consecutive terms will not be allowed."

Second by LT Stell.

All approved.

General discussion regarding listing membership in the charter. All agreed that it did not belong.

CDR Mann suggested that the charter indicate the ESC's desire for participation by one or more of the most senior entomologists.

Motion: LCDR Zyzak recommended adding "An O6 entomologist will participate as a mentor to the ESC."

Second by CDR Corneil.

All approved.

CDR Mann will forward revised charter to all ESC members to ensure it reflects discussions accurately, prior to submitting it to CO, NEHC, for approval.

CDR Mann stated that the Entomology Strategic Plan was provided to help refresh memories and provide an orientation to the concerns of the community, and suggested that it be reviewed after the meeting to allow more time for new issues.

## **New Business**

CAPT Wooster addressed the issue of "brain drain," that has been a concern among many within the community. He reminded the group that the decision is not one of convenience, but of necessity. Entomologists must be prepared to be administrators or generalists to succeed as senior officers.

CDR Mann discussed the issue of senior entos in non ento billets retaining the specialty and making the billets unavailable for new accessions. CDR Mann will work with BUPERS to convert the most senior entomologists to a non-entomology classification.

LCDR Presley briefed the ESC on progress with the FDPMMU, and asked for assistance with developing an SOP for entomological techniques to be used by the FDPMMU. He requested the ESC's support to gain "buy-in" from the community. There was general agreement that we will work with LCDR Presley on the FDPMMU.

LT Stell discussed a general lack of input from the junior officers regarding concerns within the community. Training and marketing and competition/self-preservation were mentioned as common concerns. Suggestions for better marketing, or reaching new groups, included teaching at Navy Supply School, Athens, GA; increased involvement with the CB's; and (for NEPMU TWO) closer involvement with the 2<sup>nd</sup> FSSG.

LCDR Medina mentioned use of the six entomology FMF augmentee billets. CDR Mann indicated that they do not show in BUMED or BUPERS databases. CDR Mann will determine the nature of these billets, if they exist.

CAPT Wooster asked LT Stell what he likes and dislikes within the community. LT Stell listed opportunity and the community's cohesiveness as likes, and the administrative burden and lack of deployment/field work as dislikes.

CAPT Wooster asked why the junior entomologists are not pursuing the DUINS opportunity for PhD work. LT Stell indicated that the junior officers with MS degrees mentioned satisfaction with their level of education, or lack of interest in research.

CDR Beavers asked if the JO's felt there is an adequate level of professional training. LT Stell stated that there were no complaints.

LCDR Zyzak addressed research issues. Number one concern from the field was lack of language training. He stressed that the learning curve of the arriving entomologists is steep, and compounded by the lack of language training. CDR Mann will look for opportunities for language training as part of the transfer process.

CDR Corneil discussed concern raised at the OIC's meeting that some NEPMU's are doing shore pest management program reviews without a clear mission to do so. The ESC recognized the value of continuing to expose the NEPMU entomologists to the broad variety of entomology and pest management issues, and the value of experience dealing with installation personnel, while maintaining the flexibility of having the DVECC take the role if NEPMU entomologists are deployed.

LCDR Medina described the reorganization of NEPMU FIVE's departments. His responsibilities have shifted away from routine entomology issues, and LT Negus gets the first call. He felt that this is harder to coordinate, functional, and very good for expanding opportunity of the junior entomologist into all of Preventive Medicine.

CAPT Wooster addressed our tendency as a community to want to remain scientists through a Navy career, and the necessity to broaden our view and redirect our skills as we progress. He stressed the need to accept the administrative burdens, to learn the business of science, and recommended a management degree for those planning to remain through a career in Navy Medicine.

CAPT Wooster stated that our community has much to offer outside the community, and that we have not sold the abilities of our PhD entomologists well enough. He reminded the ESC that the Navy needs generalists in senior positions, and that there is a continuing need for folks willing to take leadership positions.

CAPT Wooster stated that we must have a solid argument in marketing. Our level of general and specialized scientific training sets us apart. Gaining additional skills in business, management, and leadership gives us the edge in marketing ourselves, our community, and our science.

LCDR Zyzak asked about deployment opportunities for the JO's. The JO's don't consider it adequate, but it has continually increased in the last 15-20 years.

The ESC adjourned at 1615.