Minutes of
Sexually Transmitted Diseases Prevention Committee (STDPC)
Meeting of 11 October 01

Permanent Membership Attendance
[X]= Present [P] = Phone In [R] = Representative Sent [A] = Absent

Chairperson

[X] Mr. Bill Calvert, Chairman

OSD Force Management Policy

[A] Brad Loo

Manpower and Reserve

[A] COL Craig Urbauer, USA

[A] LCDR Gillian Jaeger, USN

[A] Ms. Carol Thompson, USAF

Department of Personnel

[A] LTC Jerry Swanner, USA

[A] LT JR Beckham, USN

[A] Maj. James Whitworth, USAF

Medical (SG Representative)

[X] LTC Lois Borsay, USA

[A] LCDR Mark Malakotti, USN

[X] Lt.Col. Vic MacIntosh, USAF

[X] Ms. Cathy Ficadenti, USMC

Health Promotion

[X] LTC Dave Peterson, USA

[X] MAJ Beverly A. Crosby, USA

[X] Mr. Bill Calvert, USN

[A] Maj. Lisa Schmidt, USAF

[X] Ms. Cathy Ficadenti, USMC

Education and Training

[A] VACANT, OSD

[A] COL Elliot Rosner, USA

[X] Mike Fitzpatrick, USN

[A] VACANT, USAF

[A] LCDR Timothy Bleau, USMC

Research (WRAIR, NHRC)

[X] Dr. Joel Gaydos, WRAIR

[A] Dr. Phil Renzullo, WRAIR/HMJF

[A] CDR Rick Shaffer, NHRC

Coast Guard Health and Safety

[X] CDR Sharon Ludwig, USPHS

[X] Ms. Vicki Brannan, Health Promotion

Women's Health Representative

[X] CDR Josephine Brumit, BUMED

J4 Representative

[A] Lt. Col. Christine Bader, J4

AD HOC and Other Member Attendance

LTC Bruno P. Petruccelli, USACHPPM
Stephanie Scovile, USACHPPM

1. Bill Calvert convened the meeting at 1010 at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, in the main hospital, 7th floor, room # 7364. There was no phone in capability during this meeting.

2. The minutes of the July 12, 2001 meeting were reviewed and approved.

3. Mr. Calvert provided General Business/Announcements:

   - The next Prevention, Safety, and Health Promotion Council (PSHPC) meeting is scheduled for next week, October 16,2001. Mr. Calvert is not on the agenda to present. Having not presented at the last 2 PSHPC meetings, Mr. Calvert expects to present at the next PSHPC meeting early in the new year.

   - Mr. Calvert met yesterday with LTC MacIntosh, CDR Brumit, and Dr. Gaydos, who are Chairs of STDPC Surveillance, Education and Research Subcommittees, respectively. Mr. Calvert coordinates the Prevention Products Availability Subcommittee. The purpose was to discuss coordination of subcommittee work and discuss strategic planning to implement recommendations of the STDPC. The Sub-Chairs discussed the Education Subcommittee's draft policy letter to implement some recommendations. The Sub-Chairs thought that getting it approved would be difficult. Avenues to address STDPC recommendations were discussed and it was decided to the Sub-Chairs would recommend that the STDPC issue a comprehensive report to the PSHPC. A Surveillance Subcommittee report currently being developed would be expanded to include all subcommittee efforts. The advantage would be a comprehensive report would document, in detail, the work the STDPC has conducted, their findings, and their recommendations and their rationale to enhance STD prevention efforts. Once published and shared with the PSHPC, prioritization of recommendations could occur and avenues to implement them could be explored. There would be several areas of the report: (1) Executive Summary (1-2 pages) to provide a concise summary of the impact of STDs on the military, an overview of STDPC findings and recommendations, (2) Overview and statement of the problem with supporting data and documentation, (3) Surveillance systems review and recommendations, (4) Education program review and recommendations, (5) Prevention Product Accessibility and Availability review and recommendations, (6) Conclusion, (7) Appendixes (if any).

     Discussion ensured regarding the recommendations of the Sub-Chairs. The STDPC membership agreed with the Sub-Chairs' recommendation to prepare a comprehensive report. Mr. Calvert will convene meetings with the Sub-Chairs on an ongoing basis to coordinate subcommittee efforts and completion of the report. Subcommittees will focus their efforts to complete their appropriate section. Mr. Calvert would like to see the report completed in time for submission to the next quarterly meeting of the PSHPC expected in later January, 2002.

4. US Medicine Institute for Health Studies STD Forum Update

- Dr. Gaydos reported on this special forum. The following Executive Summary was shared with the members.

  A 1997 Institute of Medicine (IOM) report concluded that sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were hidden epidemics of tremendous health and economic consequence. The report recommended improving and redesigning approaches to STDs. On 2 October 2001, the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections System (DoD-GEIS) co-sponsored with the USMI an all day interactive forum on STDs at the Sumner Museum in Washington, DC. The meeting, funded by industry and foundation sources, was chaired by Dr. Carolyn Black, Director, Scientific Resources Program, CDC. Approximately 85 invited policy and scientific experts attended, including tri-service disease control policy makers, international academic leaders, foundation representatives, industrial leaders, congressional staffers, several retired DoD medical flag officers, infectious disease scientists from the NIH, CDC, and DoD and staffers from other agencies. Speakers were drawn from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the DoD STD Surveillance Subcommittee, the State of California Health Department, the American Social Health Association, the Bureau of Prisons, the Denver Department of Public Health, and the PHS Surgeon General's Office. They noted the US case rate for gonorrhea exceeds that of the rest of the developed world. The US rate for syphilis is 6 times that of other developed countries. In the US military, rates for non-HIV STDs match or exceed those observed in comparable civilian populations. Despite advances in diagnosis and treatment and some limited successful programs, significant improvements have not occurred since 1997. Prevention and control programs generally have not been integrated into managed care practices and cost-effective screening is frequently not being done. Some were concerned that STDs in military people could be distracting and contribute to degradation of performance on a high tech battle field and that evacuation of women with pelvic pain would be costly. The Forum agreed that redesigning and improving approaches to STDs in a national plan, including all at risk populations, was urgently needed. Based on the enthusiastic participation, DoD-GEIS and the USMI will co-sponsor a December 2001 forum on bioterrorism, disease surveillance and homeland defense.

- LTC MacIntosh presented the brief he provided at the forum. A discussion ensured regarding data which details selected STD rates among the military services. One issue was that these data cannot be used to compare rates among the services due to differing methods for each services' passive reporting system. Similarly, comparison to civilian data is impeded. However, one can look at each services' rates over time. Because of differences seen in the

reporting systems among the services, the Surveillance Subcommittee (STDPCSS) recommends standardization among the services' reporting system. More details about this recommendation will be addressed in their report.

5. Armed Forces Epidemiology Board (AFEB) Update. CDR Sharon Ludwig updated the AFEB regarding the activities of the STDPCSS including their objectives and strategies. These are to have accurate, standardized surveillance of military STD incidences by identifying and evaluating existing surveillance tools, and to have an accurate, comprehensive characterization of military STD prevalences by identifying and evaluating recent and ongoing screening strategies and prevalence studies.

6. Mr. Calvert noted that the purpose of STDPC participation on and presentations at the STD forum and the AFEB is to create a dialogue and increase support by partnering with groups and individuals to support our efforts. At this point, we are discussing our process to implement the STDPC Action Plan and our activities to date. We are not, however, discussing information regarding recommendation the STDPC may, or may not make.

7. LTC MacIntosh had no further updates regarding the activities of the STDPCSS as their activities have been articulated in these previous discussions. They continue to complete their activities for the STDPC report.

8. CDR Josephine Brumit provided a progress report on the activities of the Education Subcommitee. CDR Brumit noted that their subcommittee will withdraw the draft policy letter and work on preparing their section for the STDPC report. She will be contacting members to complete this task.

9. Bill Calvert updated the STDPC on his progress coordinating a Subcommittee on Prevention Product Availability. He has identified a representative to serve as STDPC Ad Hoc members representing the military resale community. They are:

   DECA: Marye Carr-Alford
   NEXCOM: Debbie Scher
   AAFFES: Angela Oliphant
   Marine Corps: Pam Schenemann

   These individuals will not likely attend STDPC meetings. Instead, Mr. Calvert will coordinate their efforts through e-mail and telephonic communications.

10. The Research Subcommittee remains inactive.

11. LTC Bruno Petruccelli introduced a proposed collaborative agreement regarding the acceptance and assignment of duties relating to the establishment, function, and management of a Vaccine Oversight Service and a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Control Center by the US Army Center For Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine (USACHPPM), located at Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD, and the

Department of Defense (DOD) Global Emerging Infections System (GEIS), located at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Silver Spring, MD. He will be attempting to coordinate a meeting in November and wanted to alert the STDPC of this since most STDPC members will be invited.

12. The STDPC set the next meeting date for December 13, 2001, to be held in the metropolitan Washington DC area. Several individuals expressed the possibility of hosting. Once confirmed, the information will be sent by e-mail.

13. The meeting adjourned at 1335.

Minutes taken by Bill Calvert