

**Minutes of
DoD Sexually Transmitted Diseases Prevention Committee (STDPC)
Meeting of 11 April 00**

Attending

LT JR Beckham, BUPERS
Bill Calvert, NEHC, Chairman
Joel Gaydos, MD, WRAIR
Steve Heaston, NEHC
Maj. Steve Niehoff, AFMOA/SGOP
MAJ (P) David D. Peterson, USACHPPM
Maj. Steve Vieira, AFMOA/SGOP

Attending by Phone

Capt Mark Gilday, USMC
Bob MacDonald, NEHC
Phil Renzullo, Ph.D., HMJF
Donna Ruscavage, HMJF

1. Bill Calvert convened the meeting at 0940 at the US Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine in Aberdeen, MD.
2. The minutes of the 9 March 00 were reviewed and approved.
3. Bill Calvert reported on the PSHPC Executive Council meeting on March 17, 2000. Notable were
 - COL DeFraitres, chairman of the Injury/Occupation Illness Prevention Committee, was tasked by the Council to report back at the next Council meeting the concept of operations of a proposed DoD Center for Injury Prevention/Control to include costs and metrics.
 - CAPT(sel) McKay, chairman of the PPIP Committee, reported on the CDC Task Force for Community Preventive Services, as a source of prevention recommendations to be utilized by the DoD. (Note, Mr. Calvert is a liaison to the Task Force, and Dr. Linda Wright-De Agüero, PhD, MPH, a member of the CDC Task Force Staff, is responsible for development of the Sexual Behavior Chapter and is involved with STDPC activities.)
 - COL Diniega, the Executive Secretary of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB), presented an overview of the Board's history and role in DoD. COL Diniega felt the AFEB could be of value to the PSHPC through review of the various action plans and the submission of comments on them. (Note, The AFEB recently recommended chlamydia screening for female recruits in all Services, an issue being discussed by the STDPC and AFEB service representatives at an upcoming STDPC meeting.)

- The Council is inviting a representative from the Chairman, Joints Chiefs of Staff (CJCS) J-4 membership onto the Council. (Note, Major Christine Bader, who works in J-4, expressed interest in attending the STDPC and should be at the next STDPC.)
 - The Council Chairman has signed the PSHPC Memorandum, which clarifies the role of the PSHPC in DoD-wide prevention implementation. This memorandum specifies that the Council serves to endorse appointment letters for committee chairs and members via their chain of command. Mr. Calvert will contact CAPT Robert Murphy, Executive Assistant to the PSHPC, to request endorsement of STDPC members. Further, Mr. Calvert will send a copy of the Memorandum to STDPC members and post the Memorandum on the STDPC Home Page at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/STDPC/index.htm>.
4. The STDPC Charter and Action Plan has been approved by the Under Secretary for Defense for Personnel and Readiness. Final copies and additional information will be forthcoming from CAPT Robert Murphy, Executive Assistant to the PSHPC. Endorsement of STDPC members, through the PSHPC and appropriate chain of command, should formalize dedication of time and expenses associated with participation from each member's command.
 5. Bill Calvert presented, "Developing a Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Prevention and Control Program for the US Department of Defense (DoD)" at the Prevention 2000 Conference in Atlanta held on March 25, 2000. The presentation was co-authored by Mr. Calvert, Dr. Gaydos, and Col. McKee. Dr. Gaydos reported the large interest in STDs from the Air Force and Navy. Several audience participants reported on their study to look at military personnel who sought treatment for STDs at local health departments.

Discussion ensued among STDPC members that suggested several hypotheses why personnel may seek treatment for STDs outside the military health care system. They are:

- Personnel might be passively encouraged not to get treatment from military clinics.
- Concern over confidentiality issues.
- Medics may feel uncomfortable being treated for STDs within their own organization.
- There may be a punitive action (fraternization, violation of the HIV preventive medicine order, etc).

While there may be perceived barriers in a military setting, most STDPC members agreed that these barriers should not exist and overall, medical provides outstanding care and compassion to all those seeking care and provides for confidentiality during the epidemiologic interview and contact notification. Further discussion noted that the military does a great job in contact tracing.

6. Donna Ruscavage reported that she and CDR Rick Shaffer were part of a Health Affairs sponsored HIV prevention team sent to Africa whose purpose was to meet with the South African Defense Force (SADF) to discuss how the U.S. might be able to help combat the transmission of HIV within the SADF if Congress appropriates approximately \$10 million for assistance.
7. The Henry M. Jackson Foundation and WRAIR are scheduling a meeting on May 18-19th in San Diego for individuals involved in their clinical trial activities. As part of this meeting, HMJF/WRAIR were considering a prevention component meeting scheduled for May 16-17. The latter plans have been cancelled.

Discussion for the need to hold a Joint Service HIV/STD conference began. Conducting such a conference has been discussed informally among STDPC members and others over the last two years. The STDPC would like to consider sponsoring an enhanced HIV/STD conference as part of the Navy's prevention conference in San Diego in May 2001. This conference may become a Tri-Service conference with the Army and Air Force. Mr. Calvert indicated that he is willing to expand the HIV/STD prevention component of the Navy's conference to include Joint Service participation. The committee will re-address this issue once the Services agree to a Tri-Service conference.

8. Continue action items

- Request to discuss chlamydia screening with Service POCs.
Mr. Calvert reported that an invitation to Service POCs to discuss chlamydia screening was accepted. The STDPC recommended June 15th as a date, which should be available for the Service POCs. Mr. Calvert will coordinate this with the Service POCs.
- Request for update on Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Program (GISP).
Mr. Calvert reported that a military POC has been identified for GISP. The POC will meet with the STDPC. The STDPC decided to extend the invitation during the tentative June 15th meeting. Mr. Calvert will coordinate this.
- Request to meet with American Social Health Association (ASHA) President
Mr. Calvert has invited Dr. Linda Alexander, President and CEO, to learn more about ASHA activities and how we might be able to collaborate. Dr. Alexander has accepted and Mr. Calvert is coordinating the proposed date of May 22nd.
- Mr. Calvert provided the STDPC a discussion paper titled, "Condom Availability in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps". This was a follow-up to the March 9th STDPC meeting in which condom availability was discussed. Mr. Calvert hopes the other Services will find the contents of this discussion paper useful. For those who did not receive a copy, it is available at <http://www-nehc.med.navy.mil/hp/sharp/index.htm>

9. New Item: DoD HIV Directive 6485.1

Mr. Calvert reported that Ms. Lynn Pahland, OSD(HA) requested the STDPC provide suggested changes to the above directive. DoDD 6485.1 is 9 years old and will be updated by Ms. Pahland's office in the next several months. The STDPC should provide input pertaining to education and training. The STDPC discussed many aspects of the Directive. The STDPC referred responsibility to draft proposed changes to the Education/Health Promotion Subcommittee for coordination and development. Updates and approval of final recommendations to OSD(HA) will be through the STDPC. Mr. Calvert encouraged the Subcommittee to integrate components of the STDPC Action Plan into the proposed changes to the Directive. Subcommittee coordination will occur through e-mail exchanges prior to the next meeting.

10. In summary, the STDPC set tentative meeting dates of May 22 and June 15th, pending confirmation of invited guests. Mr. Calvert will notify STDPC members when these dates are confirmed and the location of the meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 1230. There were no subcommittee meetings convening thereafter.

Minutes taken by: Bill Calvert, Chairman, STDPC