

NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES

MEETING PLACE: Navy Environmental Health Center, Walmer Ave.

MEETING DATE: 16-18 JAN 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT:

CAPT J. BEDDARD, MSC, USN, Chairman

CAPT D. NOVAK, MSC, USN

LCDR D. BAKER, MSC, USN

LCDR D. HARDY, MSC, USN

LCDR D. CADY, MSC, USN

LCDR S. WRIGHT, MSC, USN, Secretary

LT G. GARLAND, MSC, USN

LT R. SURAJ, MSC, USN

LT V. RICHMOND, MSC, USN

LTJG D. VEENHUIS, MSC, USNR

- Enclosure:**
- (1) NEHB Minutes**
 - (2) Open Log**
 - (3) Closed Log**
 - (4) FD-PMU Working Group Summary**
 - (5) FD-PMU Equipment Spreadsheet**

1. OPENING REMARKS and GUEST SPEAKERS:

NEPMU5/6: LTJG Veenhuis requested information for CDR Sherman regarding the role of the EHO with the FD-PMU and development of a FD-PMU technical manual. A subcommittee including representatives from NEHC, the Units and MARFORLANT was tasked to determine EHO competencies, equipment requirements and training for inclusion into the proposed technical manual. The microbiology spreadsheet depicting identified threats and laboratory capabilities would be used as a go-by for environmental health threat assessments. The meeting was held on 12-13 MAR 02 at the Holiday Inn, Chesapeake.

NEPMU2/7: LT Garland provided an update on the Preventive Medicine Partnership Program, its successes to date and the plan to develop a series of metrics to measure the overall effectiveness of the program. LT Garland also provided the members of the board a copy of the NEPUM#2 toolbox CD-ROM. It was suggested that copies of the toolbox be available for distribution at the NEHC conference and to advertise their availability through, "Thursday Thoughts." LT Garland/LT Suraj for action. LT Garland also shared an interesting preventive medicine incident regarding brominated water sensitivity for a midshipman. LT Garland also requested community support for the Food Safety Course for Managers revision. Lastly, he discussed shipboard potable water security surveys in light of homeland defense initiatives. The Board endorsed the PM Partnership Program for any potable water system survey.

MARFORLANT: LCDR Wright briefed current deployments JTF 160, Gitmo and the reactivation of 4th MEB, including mission statements, staffing requirements and force health protection initiatives. She discussed the AVIP proposed ramp-up program, Spring 02, pending approval of the FDA's biological license application for the subcontractor, Hollister-Stier. She

discussed the extensive revision of USMC Warfighting Publication 4-11.1E ensuring FHP and PM responsibilities of Navy PMOs, EHOs and PMTs are clearly defined. She also shared the painful realization that incomplete data entry for immunizations (hep A recall) had a significant impact on operational readiness. She informed the Board that OPNAVINST 6120.3, signed, 5 DEC 01 is being implemented at CL, NC with three beta test sites. Health educators are currently providing screening/counseling during birth month recall and on new check-ins for Combat Engineering BN, Landing Amphibious Recon BN and 8th Communications BN. A pool of health educators, nurses, MCCS prevention and education division, and health promotion professionals have been identified to provide these services, in addition to training the front line HMs. LCDR Wright discussed a training familiarization course sponsored by MFL and CHPPM North for deployment occupational and environmental surveillance conducted last summer at CL, NC. The revised CJCS memo re: deployment medical and environmental surveillance directive will be used as a justification for training and funding for equipment to enhance FHP health threat assessment capabilities organic to Navy Medicine assets assigned to USMC.

NEHC update: Mr. Robert Odette provided the status of NAVMED P-5010.

Chpt 1: 1998; current

Chpt 2: 1995; under review (NEHC/PM directorate)

Chpt 3: 1988; under review (NEHC/OCC MED directorate)

Chpt 4: 1990; sent to BUMED for approval in 1998

Chpt 5: 1992; sent to BUMED for approval in 1998, pulled back for review (NEHC/PM directorate)

Chpt 6: 1990; under review (NEHC/PM directorate and field review)

Chpt 7: 1995; under review (NEHC/PM directorate)

Chpt 8: 1987; Not current- Follow up by NEHC/PM/Entomologist (as discussed by CAPT Beddard.

Chpt 9: 1991; current; Appendix "A" Ground Forces Medical Waste Management Guide" in draft form (NEHC/PM directorate)

Mr. Odette briefed TB MED 577 and recommendations for consistency between this document and NAVMED P-5010, Chpt. 9 regarding heat stress prevention methods, water consumption, chlorination of field drinking water, bacteriologic testing frequency and modification of reporting format. LT Suraj expressed concern as to products developed by SPAWAR are being reviewed by various DoD entities without NEHC. LT Suraj also informed the Board that the International Health Regulatory Commission is phasing out the deratization inspection for a newer, more comprehensive inspection entitled Environmental Health Certificate. This inspection will encompass food safety, potable water system integrity, habitability and vector control programs for naval vessels. Food safety issues included: (1) An attempt by a senior enlisted HMCM (submarine community) to deviate from the food safety regulations set forth in NAVMED P-5010, Chpt. 1. NEHC/EH worked with CAPT Hiland to work this issue at the Fleet Surgeon level. (2) EHOs have not been requested to accompany the NEY inspection team over a significant amount of inspection cycles. LT Suraj will contact NAVSUP, LCDR Al-Koshnaw, to emphasize the importance of food safety criteria for the NEY award. (3) The NAVMED P-5010 does not contain guidance for cook-chill processes. LT Suraj will work with LT Killenback, currently under a fellowship program with the FDA, to develop appropriate regulatory guidance for this newly approved process. LT Suraj will post guidelines to the community upon receipt, evaluation and approval.

CAPT Brawley spoke on the increasing role the EHO community should play with disease surveillance and population health. He suggested competing for director's fellowship training and DUINS billets to increase knowledge and skill sets in epidemiology and biostatistics.

2. OLD BUSINESS – (OPEN ITEMS)

970503 EHO ORIENTATION

DISCUSSION: The Board discussed methods to measure the effectiveness of the EHO orientation course sponsored by NEPMU# 5 and how the community would justify its continuance should BUPERS cease funding the course. The development of an "EHO" centered survey and "receiving command" centered survey may provide the required justification.

RECOMMENDATION: As a continuous process improvement initiative and measure of effectiveness to validate BUPERS funding, LTJG Veenhuis will work with Cynthia Dezouche of NEHC to develop surveys.

ACTION: LTJG Veenhuis and Cynthia Dezouche will develop a post course survey for the EHOs and a receiving command survey. LTJG Veenhuis to present final surveys to the Board at the next scheduled meeting for review, modification and approval.

EH-RAP 9903112 DEPLOYMENT MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE- EHO ROLE

DISCUSSION: See comments under EPMU 5.

RECOMMENDATION: LTJG Veenhuis to organize a working group to develop EHO competencies, training requirements, and equipment requirements specific to the FD-PMU.

ACTION: LTJG Veenhuis to report results of working group recommendations at the next NEHB meeting.

3. NEW BUSINESS/AGENDA ITEM FOR FUTURE NEHB MEETING

EH-RAP 020101 DISINFECTION OF FRESH FOOD ITEMS ONBOARD SUBMARINES

DISCUSSION: Although not a formal EH-RAP, Mr. Odette provided comment on the proper disinfection of fresh food items onboard naval submarines, given HAZMAT restrictions in that environment. NASA laboratories are conducting testing to determine the concentration of off-gas associated with the use of sodium hypochlorite solution and subsequent impact on the submarine atmosphere. Mr. Odette is also consulting with the Hazardous Materials Review Board for possible inclusion of sodium hypochlorite.

RECOMMENDATION: Upon receipt of results, disseminate NEHC position to the EHO community and to the PM community via "Thursday Thoughts."

ACTION: Mr. Odette and LT Suraj for action. Close item upon NEHC approval.

EH-RAP 020102 ENHANCED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE FOR MTFs

DISCUSSION: LT Richmond discovered that the disease surveillance program at NAVHOSP Jacksonville needed improvement. Working with his MID staff, he was able to access clinic and laboratory data bases to capture a higher percentage of disease incidence.

RECOMMENDATION: LT Richmond develop a point paper defining the issues and potential solutions. He will query other EHOs at the MTFs to compare his disease surveillance processes with those in place at other locations. Upon analysis, he will report his finding to the Board at the next meeting.

ACTION: LT Richmond will contact EHOs at various MTFs and collect existing program elements. A final product will be presented at the next NEHB meeting and receive critical review/approval from the Board. Once approved, the program will establish a benchmark for MTF disease surveillance.

EH-RAP 020103 PREVENTIVE MEDICINE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (PMPP) SOPs:

DISCUSSION: A recent Fleet Public Health Bulletin article described the findings of a survey conducted on 90 LANTFLT ships. Fifty of 90 ships responded to a utilization survey (centered around receipt of a baseline IH survey and a current deratization.). As a prevention driven community, we need to determine what health-related metric should be utilized to determine the effectiveness of the program. Also we need to determine what type of incentive program could be developed to enhance the visibility and value of the program (similar to Green “H” for Health Promotion). The definition of “ship visit” also needs to be defined/standardized.

RECOMMENDATION: Representatives from NEPMUs 2 and 5 will develop a SOP to define/standardize “ship visit” and determine metrics (decrease in number/% of a disease/injury) to evaluate the effectiveness of the PMPP.

ACTION: LT Garland and LTJG Veenhuis to develop SOP/metrics and be ready to brief the Board at the next NEHB meeting.

EH-RAP 010301 HANDHELD ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING EQUIPMENT

DISCUSSION: Based on previous presentations, it was decided that key personnel within the NEHC should collect information on hand held detection devices for FHP.

RECOMMENDATION: Assign NEHC/PM to monitor information regarding hand held risk assessment technologies. Other avenues for information collection include: internship programs sponsored by NEHC, MPH thesis projects, international physician exchange programs and assistance from HM2 Bowman, PMT assigned to PM Directorate.

ACTION: Defer to next meeting.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES/COMMUNITY UPDATES

a. Welcome the following new members: CDR Jan Beaujon, LT James Herbst and LT Lawrence Sproul. Congratulations to CAPT Novak who was selected as the new Chairman. The Board redefined the eligibility requirements for consideration to include all EHOs, regardless of their duty station location. The potential candidate should include a current CV, major accomplishments and job scope in their nomination package.

b. As a result of heavy recruiting efforts, our community is no longer at a critical manning level. The Board endorsed recoding the senior EHO billet at NEHC to a "D" code to maintain a high degree of professional expertise in Food Safety. This technical expertise would benefit Navy Medicine, NAVSEA, and NAVSUP and also maintaining a professional liaison with national and international Food Safety organizations. LCDR Hardy will provide written statement from NAVSEA validating the need for Food Safety expertise in ship construction. The billet recoding would drive PhD training requirements and enhance retention/recruiting initiatives. The Board expressed the desired end state of filling USMC billets and OCONUS billets with EHOs who have at least one tour of duty/expertise. The Board also supports having the Director, PM work with NEHC's CMC and Enlisted Placement Management Center (EPMAC) to ensure NEHC, EPMUs and DVECCs are staffed by 2nd tour PMTs.

c. A complete billet scrub and reevaluation of the EHO career progression was conducted. The following billets are slated for realignment:

- * Naval Shipyard, Washington D.C. move billet to NAVEUR clinic;

- * Brunswick, ME move billet to NEHC det at Bethesda
(to champion PM/EH initiatives at BUMED)

- * Roosevelt Roads, PR to NEPMU #7 (potential for ADDU to W.H.O.)

CAPT Novak to forward recommendations to OOMSC for approval and implementation.

d. The Board discussed educational opportunities/commissioning routes for 8432s and 8425s through the Inservice Procurement Program (IPP). In FY 04, the Health Services Collegiate Program will no longer be funded. MED 00MSC and MED 00HC can develop a mutually beneficial program where HMs can apply for IPP under two circumstances: (1) complete final year of bachelor's degree and a one year Master's in Public Health program (accredited university), or (2) 00HC funds the completion of the bachelors degree program and then immediately begins one of the MSC (EHO community) training billets to complete their MPH degree. The desired end state is a recruiting incentive program for 00HC (promote from within the ranks/stay Navy) while maintaining the MPH program authorization requirements for the EHO community.

e. Distance learning programs have gained popularity as a route for obtaining graduate degrees. The Board endorses the MPH distance learning programs at the University of Michigan and Johns Hopkins for consideration* for a commission as an EHO, as these programs meet our program authorization requirements. For the EHOs within the community who have not received their graduate degrees, programs from other Universities can be pursued.

* Consideration does not guarantee automatic commission. Factors such as GPA, work experience, interviews and background legal checks are relevant to the decision making process.

f. The last posting of the NEHC PM forum was AUG 01. The Board encourages continued support of this method to discuss relevant issues within PM communities. Despite the technical obstacles periodically experienced at NEHC, we need to continue to provide an avenue for timely information exchanges. The new PM forum combines EH, EPI and ENTO disciplines.

g. CAPT McGinnis briefed the Board on the process of receiving BUMED approval of P-5010 chapters and other NEHC publications. As a method to study this process and develop a systematic approach to expedite the process, Chpt. 4, Swimming Pools and Bathing Places, will be sent FEDEX via a By Direction letter from Director, Preventive Medicine, NEHC. Upon receipt at BUMED, the administrative support staff will assign a routing slip with deadlines beginning with CAPT Yund (Action Officer) and the rest of the BUMED codes. Additionally, CAPT Novak, Specialty Leader, and LT Suraj will be engaged in the process and be available to the other codes for clarification of subject matter outside of the individual code's area of expertise. A summary sheet of the major differences between the revisions would also be a part of the package. The Board also discussed the importance of maintaining current information within NAVMED P-5010. For example, Chpt 8 received its last revision in 1987. Much has changed in technology, application of pesticides, PPE, and types of pesticides approved for use within DoD. This chapter impacts training, PMT school curriculum, NAVSEA design/HAZMAT storage, advancement exams, and our level of expertise/credibility in joint environments. The Board strongly encourages CDR Mann to request the DVECCs to evaluate and revise Chpt. 8 to make this a valuable tool for the Entomology, Environmental Health, and PMT communities.

h. The Board also endorses that CO, NEHC advocate risk assessment and risk communication training for inclusion into PMT school curriculum.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for 12-14 JUN 02 at a location to be determined by the Chairman, CAPT Novak.