

NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES 12-14 JUN 2002

MEETING PLACE: Sewell's Point Conference Center, NOB, Norfolk, VA

MEMBERS PRESENT:

CAPT D. NOVAK, MSC, USN, Chairman	LT G. GARLAND, MSC, USN
CDR M. HENDERSON, MSC, USN, Spec. Leader	LT V. RICHMOND, MSC, USN
CDR J. BEAUJON, MSC, USN	LT M. CASSADY, MSC, USN
CDR (sel) D. HARDY, MSC, USN	LT L. SPROUL, MSC, USN
LCDR D. CADY, MSC, USN	LTJG D. VEENHUIS, MSC, USNR
LCDR S. WRIGHT, MSC, USN, Secretary	BOB O'DETTE, CIV

Attachments:

(1) Membership Taskers



"TASKERS FROM
JUNE 2002 NEHB.doc

(2) Membership Matrix



"NEHB membership
matrix AUG 02.doc"

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FD-PMU Issues. One day was dedicated to community education of the doctrine/concepts/roles of the EHO with the FD-PMU. In addition to traditional deployment preventive medicine responsibilities, the EHO will be cross-trained in other disciplines (industrial hygiene, radiation health, microbiology). Doctrinal issues were presented (i.e. CONOPS, JOPES, team membership, equipment and training programs.) It was determined that one of the EHO's main focus on the FD-PMU will be water quality/vulnerability. To achieve that end, use of the Direct Read Environmental Laboratory (DREL) for testing capabilities must be standard PM-MMART/FD-PMU AMAL equipment.

DREL Training. The Board recommends that DREL training be required for all EHOs attached to the NEPMU/USMC units. It further recommends that NEPMU 2/5 develop a DREL "Train the Trainer" course, including sampling techniques, evaluation and risk communication.

NAVMED P- 5010 Chapter 8 Update. The NEHB recommends that the Entomology Advisory Board review and update the 1987 edition of Chapter 8 to reflect changes in pesticide dispersal technology and pesticide inventories. The outdated instruction could be a barrier in conducting an effective vector control mission for operational forces.

Preventive Medicine Program Effectiveness. The NEHB recommends that the NEHB, together with the Navy Epi Board, develop a comprehensive self-assessment tool to determine PM program effectiveness. Due to recent Navy-wide reduction in inspections, the NEHB is

concerned that shore-based preventive medicine (PM) programs may be overlooked and not evaluated for effectiveness until programs reach crisis level. In the past, BUMED IG inspection teams requested augmentees from NEHC to evaluate PM programs.

Recoding of NEHC EHO Billet. The Board endorsed recoding the senior EHO billet at NEHC to a "D Code" (PhD) to maintain a high degree of professional expertise in Food Safety. This technical expertise would benefit Navy Medicine, NAVSEA, and NAVSUP, and maintain a professional liaison with national and international Food Safety organizations.

II. STRATEGIC PLANNING for COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

A) NEHB Board Issues

- 1) **Billet Realignment.** The Board conducted a comprehensive review of the current EHO billet structure for Claimancy 18, as tasked by OOMSC. See attached.



"1860 Proposed
Grade Changes Jun0:

- 2) **Billet Spotlight and Billet Description Database.** The Board decided to highlight certain EHO billets on the Homepage to provide specific information for career choices. The following billets were selected: COMMARFORLANT, NEHC Plans and Operations Department, NEPMU 2 & 5, COMNAVAIRLANT, NHRC, SUPSHIP, 3FSSG, NAVHOSP Portsmouth, NAVHOSP Rota and NAVHOSP Jacksonville (including Mayport BMC).

Action: a) CDRs Murphy and Rendin, LCDRs Johnson, Cady, and Wright, LTs McKenzie, Martinelli, Richmond, Cassady and Henderson, and LTJg Veenhuis are tasked with developing a current billet description for inclusion into the Billet Spot Light section of the EHO Homepage. Forward to LT Suraj by 31 Oct 02.

b) LT Sproul to update the existing database.

- 3) **NEHC EHO Billet (Code D) in Food Safety.** The Board endorsed recoding the senior EHO billet at NEHC to a "D" code (PhD), to maintain a high degree of professional expertise in Food Safety. This technical expertise would benefit Navy Medicine, NAVSEA, and NAVSUP, and maintain a professional liaison with national and international Food Safety organizations. The billet recoding would drive PhD training requirements and enhance retention/recruiting initiatives.

Action: a) CDR (sel) Hardy provide written statement from NAVSEA validating the need for Food Safety expertise in ship construction.

b) LCDR (sel) Suraj and Mr. Odette coordinate internal NEHC justification for billet.

- 4) **EHO Orientation Course.** LTJG Veenhuis developed a survey to capture and document the value of the 4-week EHO Orientation Course offered at NEPMU 5. The Board made suggestions for improvement. This survey tool will be implemented as part of EHO Orientation. In addition, a subcommittee from the San Diego region; NEPMU 5 as lead agent, with input from NAVHOSP Balboa, Camp Pendleton and PMT school, was chartered to review relevant sections of the EHO Orientation course curriculum and be prepared to discuss changes at the JAN 03 NEHB meeting. It was recommended that all new EHOs be familiar with the EHO Homepage.

Action: CDR Rockford/LTJG Veenhuis coordinate review of the EHO Orientation Course curriculum.

5) Post Sept 11 01 EHO Responsibilities Survey. The Board decided to poll the community to determine if the role of the EHO has changed since 9/11/01.

Action: CDR Beaujon to develop and disseminate a survey to determine if the role of the EHO has changed since 9/11/01. The survey's objective is to identify shifts in responsibilities, gather data on tools currently used by EHOs, and identify gaps in training/equipment.

6) Preventive Medicine Program Review. Shore based preventive medicine programs are not being evaluated for effectiveness until the program reaches crisis levels, and the EHO requests special assistance from the cognizant NEPMU. It was felt that a comprehensive self-assessment tool should be developed to assist the EHO in determining program effectiveness. This was a BUMED IG inspection area in the past.

Action: LCDR Wright to bring this issue to the NEB for discussion.

III. TRAINING INITIATIVES

1) **Recommended Reading:** LCDR Cady was tasked to poll the community for recommendations for the EHO homepage on reference materials required for successful mission accomplishment and personal development.

2) **Potential NEHC Conference Topics:** The following topics/speakers were suggested as worthwhile subject matter for the next NEHC conference:

- ?? Site Assessment/Risk communication (ASTM & Steve Sorgen)
- ?? Port Assessments (LT Corson)
- ?? Cross Connections
- ?? Direct Reading Environmental Laboratory (DREL)
- ?? RAPID training
- ?? Water Quality (with expertise from NEHC's Environmental Programs Directorate)
- ?? Food Safety Manager's Course
- ?? Cook/Chill processes
- ?? Future Ship Building Process and the Role of the EHO (CDR (sel) Hardy)
- ?? Changes in USMC doctrine and the role of the EHO (LCDR Wright).

3) **MSC Director's "Just in Time" Fellowship Training:** The following potential fellowship opportunities and follow-on (f/o) duty stations are being developed to further advance specific areas of expertise within the EHO community:

- ?? National Sanitation Foundation with f/o to NAVSEA: CDR Beaujon
- ?? American Waterworks Association with f/o to NEHC or EPMU 2/5: CDR (sel) Hardy
- ?? Federal Emergency Management Association with f/o to NEHC, USMC or EPMU: LCDR (sel) Herbst
- ?? Office of Emergency Preparedness with f/o to NEHC, USMC or EPMU: LCDR Wright
- ?? Pan America Health Organization (International disaster response emphasis) with F/O to NEHC, NEPMU, or USMC.

IV. BEST BUSINESS PRACTICES

Communicable Disease Control Tracking: LT Richmond (NAVHOSP Jacksonville) has developed a method to capture communicable disease information for tracking trends and reporting purposes through queries within the CHCS d-base system. Please see PM Forum/Thursday Thoughts or LT Richmond (via email) for more information.

V. GLOBAL EHO COMMUNITY UPDATES

Briefs were conducted regarding recent EH activities from around the globe:

NEHC: Mr. Bob Odette briefed the status of the P-5010 individual chapters and NEHC's role in literature search/third party validation of research for new products for use in the field. NEHC is not the final approval authority for new technologies/new equipment.

NEPMU 5: LTJG Veenhuis briefed the Board on the subcommittee findings for the role of the EHO in the FD-PMU. Clarity was gleaned from Day two of the meeting, which concentrated solely on FD-PMU doctrine. EHO Orientation survey was discussed and modified for immediate implementation.

NEPMU 2: LT Garland discussed the importance of quarterly PMPP familiarity conferences with LANTFLT TYCOMs. His replacement, LT Boyce, will help coordinate the VTC with NEPMU 5 and 6, to determine metrics to evaluate PMPP effectiveness. The latest PMPP Tool Box will be available soon.

NEPMU 7: CDR Beaujon reported that NEPMU 7 is currently on alert for the next 8 weeks and unfortunately due to their current manning levels, many Unit activities have to be suspended.

MARFORLANT: LCDR Wright briefed PM AMAL review and modularization, SMART clinic/injury prevention and upcoming site assessment/risk communication training (ASTM and NEHC) for II MEF preventive medicine personnel.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

EH-RAP 970503 EHO ORIENTATION COURSE

ACTION: A subcommittee was chartered from the San Diego region; NEPMU 5 as lead agent, with input from Balboa, Camp Pendleton and PMT school, to review relevant sections of the EHO Orientation course curriculum and be prepared to discuss changes at the JAN 03 NEHB meeting. CDR Rockford for action. This has been determined to be an annual NEHB function.

EH-RAP 9903112 DEPLOYMENT MEDICAL SURVEILLANCE- EHO ROLE

ACTION: Evolving FD PMU doctrine will determine role of the EHO. Closed as action item.

EH-RAP 020101 DISINFECTION OF FRESH FOOD ITEMS ONBOARD SUBMARINES

ACTION: Mr. Odette and LT Suraj posted disinfection process on EHO homepage. Closed as action item.

EH-RAP 020102 ENHANCED DISEASE SURVEILLANCE FOR MTFs

ACTION: See Best Business Practice section for further information. Closed as action item.

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

ACTION: PM Directorate at NEHC to coordinate VTC with PMPP managers at NEPMU 2, 5 and 6 to determine metrics and reporting requirements. Closed as action item.

EH-RAP 010301 HANDHELD ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLING EQUIPMENT

ACTION: CDR Beaujon to develop and disseminate a survey to determine if the role of the EHO has changed since 9/11/01. The survey's objective is to identify shifts in responsibilities, to gather data on the tools currently employed by the EHO, and to identify gaps in either training/equipment. Results from the survey to be reported at the JAN 03 meeting.

VII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT NEHB MEETING (28-30 JAN 03)

Review NEHC INST 6240.1: Conduct review for currency, relevancy and intent of the NEHB.

** At a minimum, include the addition of the EHO of the Year as a member.

Review EHO Orientation Course: Conduct annual review/update based on findings from San Diego subcommittee.

Review Progress of EHO Billet Realignment: Specialty Leader for action.