



HSO PAC Chair Chat



Volume 1, Issue 1, January 2007

Welcome to the first issue of the Health Service Officers Professional Advisory Committee (HSO PAC) Chair Chat, a **one-page** monthly e-newsletter (*complete with hyperlinks*) directly from your PAC Chair, CDR John Cardarelli II, to you. Its purpose is to increase awareness about various issues affecting our category. When elected as the PAC Chair, I emphasized four objectives (see side bar) which will serve to measure the success of our committee efforts for the Corps and HS Officers in 2007 – “The Year of Transformation!”



Ready or Not – Here We Go! As many of you are aware, recent upgrades to the readiness tracking system caused a number of officers to fall from the BASIC readiness status for a variety of reasons. Due to the timing and unexpected consequences of the system upgrade, a concerted effort to contact and notify every HSO officer of their non-ready status was completed in the most timely manner possible. Thanks to those who volunteered to help but were not needed. Your willingness is duly noted. Special thanks to LCDR Jason Jurkowski and his staff (LT Mark McKinnon, LT Tommy Janisko, LT Angela Williams, LT Andy Chen, LTJG Damon Smith, LTJG Kristin Harris, LTJG Christopher Chestnut (EHO)) for sending the emails, making phone calls, and keeping a tally of our success in this communication effort. They successfully contacted 83% of the officers potentially impacted by the upgrade, which means that 17% were unable to be reached via phone or email! There is room for improvement. **How can you make a difference?** Share this e-newsletter with your HSO officers and encourage them to join the [HSO Listserv](#) so we can reach ALL HSOs in an efficient manner with critical information. *Hint: Join it twice to receive news at home and work.*

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2007 PAC Chair Objectives

1. Continue the good work of our sub-committees and [professional advisory groups](#) (PAG) in providing **tangible** services to the HSO category.
2. Emphasize commitment to the [transformation process](#) by:
 - a. improving our readiness percentages,
 - b. developing tools for members to make their career progression goals a reality
3. Actively work with our Chief Professional Officer, [RADM Michael Milner](#), to promote the HSO Category to prospective recruits, our fellow officers, and the public.
4. Increase awareness of the rapidly evolving transformation process.

A partial list of voting members of the 2007 PAC Committee is provided to the right. Several incoming members will be identified this month. I encourage you to contact any of us with your suggestions for improving our service to you. Our [Charter](#) states: “*The HS-PAC advises the CPO, who in turn advises the Surgeon General. While HS-PAC members are chosen from the respective PHS OPDIVS, they neither represent OPDIV management nor speak for the OPDIV. They are knowledgeable professionals who represent a cross-section of the interests, concerns, and responsibilities of the professionals in Agencies and organizations staffed by PHS.*”

2007 PAC Voting Members

1. [CDR John Cardarelli](#), PAC Chair, ex-officio
2. [CDR Brad Austin](#), PAC Chair Elect
3. [CAPT Jose Belardo](#)
4. [CAPT Daniel Kavanaugh](#)
5. [CDR Beth Finsson](#)
6. [CDR Richard Kennedy](#)
7. [CDR Nancy Nichols](#)
8. [LCDR Nicholette Hemingway](#)
9. [LCDR Jason Jurkowski](#)
10. [LCDR Karen Sicard](#)
11. [LCDR Michael Weahkee](#)
12. [LT Rebecca Bunnell](#)
13. **More to be announced!**

HS PAC meetings

- **First Friday every other month starting in February; 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. EST**
- **Details will be uploaded on our [Website](#) soon!**
- **You can attend, listen in, or video conference!**

Did you know? Each year about 150 students enroll in the [JRCOSTEP](#) and all are commissioned as HSO's!

A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to public health security and all-hazards preparedness and response, and for other purposes became LAW on December 19, 2006.

HSO Website: <http://usphs-hso.org/>

