

**PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OPTOMETRY OFFICER PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY GROUP ¹
(OPAG)**

Teleconference Report – 11:05am to 12:10pm, Wednesday March 01, 2006

1. Attendees:

1.1. OPAG Members

- 1.1.1. CAPT Greg Ketcher (Chair)
- 1.1.2. CDR Carmen Palma (Vice-Chair)
- 1.1.3. CDR Mike Candreva
- 1.1.4. CDR Nancy Nichols (HSO PAC member and ex officio OPAG member)
- 1.1.5. CDR Kim Lewandowski-Walker (OPAG secretary/treasurer)
- 1.1.6. CDR Barbara Massey (Absent)
- 1.1.7. Dr. Michael Duenas (CDC Representative)

1.2. Guests

- 1.2.1. CAPT Richard Hatch (I.H.S. Eye Care Coordination Committee Chair)

2. Meeting called to order at 11:05am

- 2.1.1. Approval of minutes from January 04, 2006 OPAG meeting performed via e-mail to OPAG members

3. Old Business/ Standing Agenda Items

3.1. Retention pay (ORSP)/Loan Repayment

- 3.1.1. Nothing new to report. Optometrists still cannot receive loan repayment and ORSP concurrently.
- 3.1.2. For FY 2006, there were 19 LRP extensions and 2 new awards

3.2. Medical Benefits - nothing new to report. Tricare information is available on-line at www.tricare.osd.mil. TRICARE has many different e-newsletters you can subscribe to by visiting the website. The Fact Sheets subscription is useful to keep up with benefits changes.

3.3. Transformation

- 3.3.1. Transformation appears to be moving forward. CDR Nichols reported that the transformation workgroups are small and closed; therefore, it is unlikely that additional officers will be invited to participate in this process.

3.4. Pay – Nothing new to report.

3.5. Uniform Policies – Nothing new to report.

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3.6. Retirement – tentative retirements

3.5.2 CAPT Siu Wong, March 2006

3.5.2.1 CAPT Wong has confirmed her retirement for March 2006. Best wishes to CAPT Wong.

3.5.3 CAPT Hatch, mid-2006

3.5.4 CAPT John Garber, August 2006

3.5.5 CAPT James Hughes, August 2006

3.5.6 There have been instances of officers submitting PHS Forms 1373 (Separation of CO) through their supervisory channels to OCCO for processing. This can work well if the 30 day rule is not an issue. However, it causes delays in the effective date of separation if the 1373 arrives at OCCO without giving 30 days notice to OCCO (from last day at duty station).

Officers should fax a copy directly to OCCO, Assignments Division, Fax number 240 453 6030 and simultaneously forward a copy through their supervisory channels/Fiscal/Administrative Officer.

Prior to the electronic forms, we used to use the carbon copy 1373 where one of the 2 carbon copies went thru supervisory channels and the original copy went directly to OCCO (DCP).

Officers have always been encouraged to fax a copy directly to OCCO immediately after filling out Part A in order to meet the 30 day rule. This has not changed.

3.6 OPAG Position Papers – Nothing new to report

3.7 Title 38 – Civil Service Reclassification – Pay Issues

3.7.1 Nothing new to report.

4 New Business and Liaison Reports

4.1 AOA Section Chiefs Report – CAPT Greg Ketcher

4.1.1 Present for the meeting were Chair, Dr. David Hilber; federal service representatives Drs. Andy Engle, Mike Kaminski, Greg Ketcher, Ray Santullo and John Townsend. Also present, Dr. Steve Sem, AFOS Executive Director. Staff present was David Danielson and Charlene Datig. Dr. Hilber opened the meeting on January 29, 2006, at 8:30 a.m.

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- 4.1.2** Dr. Engle reported on Navy optometry. Navy optometry has 123 clinical billets and three training billets for a total of 126 billets. The Navy optometry community is 100 percent manned. In 2005 the Navy completed over 290,000 outpatient visits for ophthalmic services. The productivity model (at 18 patients seen per day) is an issue. For 2006 there is discussion of renegotiating the RVU to 3,900 per year.
- 4.1.3** Dr. Santullo reported that Air Force optometry manpower is at 162. Of this total, 126 are clinicians. Air Force optometry is 100 percent filled. The top issues for Air Force are career paths and promotion opportunities for clinical, science and technology (research) versus command. Also recruitment and retention will become an issue. The loan repayment program was suspended in 2005. The retention bonus was cut by \$1,000.
- 4.1.4** The Military Medical Review for Army, Navy and Air Force will have significant negative effects as manpower is to be cut for all three services.
- 4.1.5** Dr. Ketcher reported on PHS-IHS. IHS optometry is now at 138 with 76 as IHS Commissioned Corps officers. The IHS officer corps is trending down and civil service is trending up. Promotion rates have generally been good. There are 20 vacancies for optometrists.
- 4.1.6** Dr. Townsend reported on VA activity. There are 307 full-time and 136 part-time VA optometrists for a total of 375 FTEE. VA optometrists have registered over one million patient visits and have seen over 800,000 unique veterans. Waiting times have improved from an average over 30 days in 2004 to an average of seven days for established patients. VA optometry is beginning to experience pay caps and would like those caps raised.
- 4.1.7** Dr. Kaminski reported that Army has 126 optometrists in its inventory. Promotions for Army optometry have been outstanding. There are no retention problems. In vision readiness, about 21 percent of the Army has been screened. The Army SG is fully supportive of the Army refractive surgery program. Optometry is viewed as partners in making it a successful program. Military to civilian conversion is seen as a growing concern. About 17 military authorizations are to be converted in FY06-08. The RVU workload standards are a concern. Army is up to 26 per day.
- 4.1.8** Dr. Sem reported on AFOS status and activity. AFOS membership is up from last year; AFOS now sends out over 1,000 newsletters. The AFOS budget is healthy. The Navy is to host the fall '06 federal meeting (the military "federal service optometry" meeting). It was suggested that the section chiefs invite their respective SGs to make a presentation at this meeting. Comment on the AOA economic survey: AFOS thinks the income as reported is high for the military. AFOS asks AOA to check on how AOA determined income figures.

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- 4.1.9** DEA. The National Provider Identifier is to replace the DEA number. DEA numbers have been misused. AOA is urged to work with the pharmacy industry to use NPI.
- 4.1.10** Separate Services. The VA has pockets of dissatisfaction with reporting relationships at some VAMCs. Some optometry services are dominated by ophthalmology.
- 4.1.11** Externship Placement System. There is a need for a national federal service optometry – student extern placement system.
- 4.1.12** FSO Priority Items.
 - 4.1.12.1** Drug Enforcement Administration and proper use of DEA numbers.
 - 4.1.12.2** Administratively separate services for VA.
 - 4.1.12.3** FSO student extern placement system.
 - 4.1.12.4** Unified membership.
 - 4.1.12.5** Civil service pay.
 - 4.1.12.6** Military to civilian conversions.
 - 4.1.12.7** Retention pay/special pay in all federal services. Loan repayment plans, IHS.
 - 4.1.12.8** Create program to involve optometry in national disaster preparedness
 - 4.1.12.9** RVU standards, productivity/business plans.

4.2 OFRD Report – CDR Larry Zubel

- 4.2.1** A letter was sent to ORFD regarding the clinical services that can be provided by optometrists in disaster situations, such as the 2004-2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. No response has been received from ORFD.
- 4.2.2** CAPT Ketcher and CDR Nichols reported that they were both interviewed regarding their deployment experiences for the Gulf Coast hurricanes. CAPT Ketcher was interviewed at SECO. CDR Nichols was interviewed for a military magazine.

4.3 Eye Care Coordination Committee Report – CAPT Richard Hatch

- 4.3.1** The latest Fullerton meeting agenda is available. All PHS optometrists with IHS or other agencies, commissioned or civil service are welcome and encouraged to attend.
- 4.3.2** The ECCC will be represented at the NEI National Eye Health Education Program meeting in Santa Fe March 22-25 with Drs. Mark Horton and Brian Culligan attending.
- 4.3.3** STAFFING Optometrist positions now number 160 of which 15 are vacant and recruiting.

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- 4.3.4 DEPLOYMENTS** The Public Health Service deployed 6 optometrists to hurricane assignments.
- 4.3.5 PAY** Commissioned optometrist retention special pay continues to be denied to those receiving Indian Health Service loan repayment. Indian Health Service headquarters has not yet implemented the recommended Civil Service optometrist special salary rate schedule. There has been no progress in updating the Civil Service 600 series.
- 4.3.6 LOAN REPAYMENT** In 2005 there were 20 extensions and 4 new contracts funded.
- 4.3.7 NEWSLETTER** Dr. Sellers will continue as editor from his new position at Lawton. The next edition will be published April 1, 2006.
- 4.3.8 REFRACTIVE SURGERY** The Committee will continue to study the practicality of endorsing the addition of refractive surgical procedures to Indian Health Service core eye care services.
- 4.3.9 CORNEAL PACHYMETRY** The Committee endorsed the routine use of corneal pachymetry in all clinics as a standard of care in the diagnosis and management of ocular hypertension. CLOSED
- 4.3.10 RETINAL SCANNING** Some clinics are studying the addition of the OPTOS system. The Committee was reluctant to endorse any scanning technology as a 'standard of care' at this time due primarily to insufficient normative population data particularly for Native American groups and will continue to monitor this.
- 4.3.11 PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT** Monitoring and ensuring the quality of contracted surgical services discussion continued. Dr. Cox and Dr. Schleisman will continue to review this topic.
- 4.3.12 STAFF** Dr. Andrew Hogue has transitioned to contracting at Talihina, Oklahoma.
- 4.3.13 CONTRACT HEALTH PRIORITIES** The Committee endorsed the inclusion of cataract surgery in Category I as a non-elective procedure when the best seeing eye is 20/60 or worse. This is based on literature reports of higher incidences of falls and auto accidents in this group.

4.4 I.H.S. Optometry Clinical Consultant Report – CAPT Terry Schleisman

- 4.4.1 CAPT Schleisman** would like all O.D.s to consider attending the COA meeting in Denver this year, which is scheduled for May 1-4, 2006.
Thanks to Dawn Clary, we have optometry CE this year. Dawn put a lot of effort into getting an optometry program on the agenda, and the ability to continue a program like this in future years is largely dependent upon

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attendance. The more people who attend this breakout session, the better the chances we can continue to have optometry CE at the future COA meetings. The breakout session is scheduled for May 2nd from 2:00 to 4:45 PM.

4.4.2 There are several open positions in the Office of the Secretary if anyone is interested in a new challenge or change from the typical optometry billet.

4.4.2.1 Please note - these positions are in OS and highly visible. Please consider these positions if your skills, training, and demeanor are appropriate. These will be demanding positions, and are not good for folks who need a straight "9 to 5" job.

4.4.2.2 4 positions for writers for our Legislative Liaison office are open as well as many other positions that have not yet been advertised. OS would welcome the opportunity to commission new officers - IF – they have the "right stuff"

4.4.2.3 Positions open for Project BioShield:

4.4.2.3.1 Project and contract officers

4.4.2.3.2 Regulatory officers

4.4.2.3.3 Budget analysts

4.4.2.3.4 Policy analysts

4.4.2.3.5 Quality Assurance Experts

4.4.2.3.6 Mathematical modelers

4.4.2.3.7 Various Program Analysts

4.4.2.4 There are also positions open in the Pandemic Flue section – same types of positions.

4.4.2.5 Contact CAPT Geralyn Johnson, DDS, MPHOS/OPHEP/ORDC at her Office: 202-205-4361 if interested.

4.5 COA Liaison Report – CDR Dawn Clary – nothing new to report

4.6 HSO-PAC Liaison Report – CDR Nancy Nichols – meeting February 03, 2006

4.6.1 OCCO

4.6.1.1 December 2005 had 55 HSO applicants (278 overall), December had 4 HSO officers called to duty (20 officers overall)

4.6.1.2 Currently the NACI does not expire, but most likely this will change to a renewal process every 10 years.

4.6.2 CPO Report

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- 4.6.2.1** Reviewed the 10 principles of transformation as per Secretary Leavitt
- 4.6.2.2** There are about 100 people solicited for the transformation workgroups. The workgroup reports are due the end of February and OCCFM will distribute for comments through the CPO
- 4.6.2.3** Trying to learn lessons from hurricane deployments—SG is meeting with all agencies
- 4.6.2.4** “3 and freeze policy” CPOs recommended suspension of this policy for 2006. They are going to meet with SG next week to discuss alternatives
- 4.6.2.5** Big push to have officers make sure that they have their updated information on the DCP website
- 4.6.2.6** There are still 350 outstanding COERs – OCCO has flagged them. And OCCO can track it if it was the officer vs. the reviewer
- 4.6.2.7** There is talk about working on developing/establishing an electronic promotion board so that more officers out in the field could participate on the promotion boards
- 4.6.2.8** “Special leave policy” (dated 1/25/06) approved and signed off by the ASH and OCCFM is putting together information detailing the policy and will distribute.
- 4.6.2.9** There is an electronic customer survey that will be sent out to some officers
- 4.6.2.10** The search is on for a new CPO – the deadline is the end of February. CAPT Brown said anyone could call her if they wish to discuss this further. The applicants must be regular corp., a CAPT, and they need their agency support and funding (!)
- 4.6.3** Miscellaneous
 - 4.6.3.1** JOAG is looking for input for slogans for their t-shirts they will be selling at COA
 - 4.6.3.2** OFRD recommend officers check the OFRD website frequently, not only to check that you are BASIC qualified, but also see what new courses are posted
 - 4.6.3.3** Can now get FRMB on the BDU (freedomgearusa.com and navy soon)

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4.6.3.4 Social Event at the COA in Denver: On Tuesday (Category Day) at the Colorado History Museum. It will be a dinner and dance. They will accommodate vegans and vegetarians. The

ticket fee will include the bar this year. There will be a deadline to register. Information will be posted on the COA website.

4.6.4 Next meeting: April 07, 2006

4.7 JOAG Liaison Report – LCDR Greg Flaitz – nothing new to report

4.8 AFOS Liaison Report – CAPT Greg Ketcher

- 4.8.1** AFOS CE Committee would like a PHS representative to organize the CE meetings at the fall meeting and at SECO.
- 4.8.2** AFOS and SECO meetings have poster displays. PHS optometry should try to have a resident display at this meeting.
- 4.8.3** See www.dodvision.com for billing and coding guidance.
- 4.8.4** AFOS would like a PHS representative to attend the open panel for billing and coding issues at the next FSO meeting. Dr. Duenas volunteered to attend. CAPT Zeldes and CDR Whiteplume will also be asked if they are interested in participating.
- 4.8.5** Zeiss now has a Section 8A contract for their equipment which facilitates purchase by federal buyers.
- 4.8.6** Civil Service 600 series ranges from GS 9-14. We should try to find some of the GS-13 and GS-14 position descriptions and see whether we can use them for optometry.
- 4.8.7** AFOS is submitting an AOA By-laws change proposal so AFOS will be on level ground with state affiliates.
- 4.8.8** AFOS has plans to move the fall FSO meeting two to three days before the Academy meeting which is also moving to the fall.
- 4.8.9** AFOS would like to plan an O6 reunion at a future FSO or AFOS meeting.
- 4.8.10** AFOS is developing O6 coins. CAPT Brown has volunteered to help with this project.
- 4.8.11** AFOS is pursuing liability insurance for the Executive Director and Board Members.

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- 4.8.12** AFOS is requesting articles from those who have deployed to the hurricanes.
- 4.8.13** AFOS is considering a name change to better represent VA and PHS members. They are looking for ideas which would maintain AFOS. (American Federal Optometrist Society, etc) Submit ideas to Dan Rieser and Steve Sem. Daniel.reiser@usafa.af.mil and execdir@afos2020.org
- 4.8.14** NOSTRA Commander CAPT William Roberts
WHRoberts@nostra.med.navy.mil
- 4.8.15** Council on Endorsed Licensure Mobility (CELMO) has been approved/accepted by the following states: AZ, TN, WV, VA, KS, LA
- 4.8.16** FSO meeting will be held October 30 to November 3, 2006 at the Hilton Springfield in Virginia (703-971-8900).

4.9 AMSUS Liaison Report – CAPT Clifford Brown

- 4.9.1** A quick update on AMSUS for this year:
 - 4.9.1.1** The veteran's Admin. has the CON for 2006. From the contact CAPT Brown had with their representative, the focus will be on disaster preparedness and response. After Katrina and Rita, there is an expectation of real interest in the topic. The PHS Eye Care section centered on this topic in 2003, but the field of study here is wide open for learning. The presence of the PHS officers is very important, as visibility at this multiservice and multidisciplinary meeting not only benefits our profession, but prepares us for working side-by-side with our constituent professional counterparts. The workplace barriers are not as formidable for us if we have shared some contact with these people previously.
 - 4.9.1.2** CAPT Brown certainly encourages our IHS officers to avail themselves of this opportunity if it is at all possible to do so...and hopefully Katrina does not have a twin....
 - 4.9.1.3** For many in our midst, San Antonio is within driving range of your service units, albeit, the drive would be significant. Barring inclimate weather conditions, this should be a well-attended conference and one attended by many who have not previously seen a reason to attend. It might be a good place to organize, to plot strategies for future deployments with the other services, to learn some of the tidbits that make life a little easier for you when you hit the deck running with your duffel bag across your back.

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4.10 PHS HSO PAC Recruitment and Placement Sub-Committee Liaison– CDR David Bellware – nothing new to report

4.11 FDA Optometry Report – CDR Kimberly Lewandowski-Walker

4.11.1 CAPT Debra Lewis reported via e-mail that the Orphan Products Grants application deadline (for clinical studies to develop products for rare diseases - including ophthalmic products) is March 14. The next date after that will be Feb. 7, 2007.

4.12 CDC Optometry Report – Dr. Michael Duenas

4.12.1 National Vision Program – Centers for Disease Control

4.12.1.1 CDC is involved in vision and ocular health, historically diabetic retinopathy

4.12.1.2 The National Vision Program is expanding to a wider range of diseases and a larger range of life stages

4.12.1.3 The National Vision Program is developing a national action plan for eye health and disease prevention

4.12.1.4 The strategic planning meeting is April 3-4, 2006 and approximately 17 organizations was been invited to serve on the panel. The Co-chairs of this panel are Dr. Mel Shipp and Dr. Al Sommers.

4.12.1.5 A White Paper and action plan will be developed for eye health and disease prevention

4.12.2 Surveillance Activities

4.12.2.1 The CDC sponsors a Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, which is a survey conducted by the state health departments. Every state conducts the core survey.

4.12.2.2 In 1994, a diabetes module was created for the survey. There is a question in the diabetes module regarding dilated fundus examinations.

4.12.2.3 In 2005, a new vision module was developed. Five states used the module in 2005 and 11 states are slated to use the module in 2006.

4.12.2.3.1 Some preliminary data from Texas and Ohio suggests that the prevalence of glaucoma may be higher than previously thought.

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4.12.2.3.2 About 54-59% of those who cited a reason for not receiving eye care stated that they were not aware that they should be receiving eye care.

4.12.2.3.3 The vision module costs approximately \$10,000/state. The American Optometric Association and the American Academy of Optometry worked in concert to provide funding for the modules.

5. Career Development/Promotions/Awards

5.1 Billets – nothing to report

5.2 Promotions

5.2.1 Although much progress has been made during the past year to develop a new 6th Promotion Precept, a final consensus was not reached for its implementation. The implementation of the 6th Precept is postponed until PY 2007.

5.2.2 **Officers eligible for competitive permanent promotion in PY2006 will not be promoted unless the Medical Affairs Branch has on file a current "Report of Medical History" (including a signed "Disclosure Statement"), within 1 year prior to the expected permanent promotion effective date AND a current physical examination (within the last 5 years).** Officers, who are NOT within medical compliance at the time these files are checked, will be DENIED permanent promotion for the 2006 Promotion year cycle. See the following website if you need forms:
<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd2807-1.pdf>

5.2.3 Officers eligible for competitive temporary grade promotions in PY2006 will not be promoted unless basic readiness is achieved and maintained. Log into the OFRD website to check your basic readiness status and the expiration date of your immunizations and fitness test.

5.2.4 It is recommended that you frequently log into your eOPF and your ORFD account to ensure that all the documents have been filed and that you have achieved and maintain basic readiness. The eOPF and ORFD sites can be accessed via the CCMIS website. The eOPF and ORFD sites do not communicate, so information submitted to one won't be automatically transferred to the other. **ORFD deployments should be included in your CV** since the promotion board does not see the ORFD information.

5.3 Awards

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5.3.1 OPAG received several nominations for the Commissioned Officer Optometrists of the Year and Civil Service/Direct Hire Optometrist of the Year.

5.3.1.1 The Lester Caplan Award is to recognize a PHS tribal direct hire or PHS civil service optometrist who has demonstrated exemplary work as evidenced by a specific accomplishment(s) toward the mission of the PHS. This award may be presented annually by the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG).

5.3.1.2 The Edward Hamilton Award is presented to a career USPHS Optometry Commissioned Officer who is recognized by his/her peers for outstanding work as evidenced by a specific accomplishment(s) toward the mission of the PHS. This award may be presented annually by the Optometry Professional Advisory Group (OPAG).

5.3.1.3 A special OPAG meeting was held on January 18, 2006 to vote on the Lester Caplan and Edward Hamilton awards. The winners of each award will be announced at the COA and I.H.S. Biennial Meetings.

5.3.2 Kissel and Garcia Awards

5.3.2.1 Nominations for the HSO PAC Kissel and Garcia Awards must be received by March 15, 2006. Contact CDR Palma if you wish to nominate someone. More information on these awards is available at <http://usphs-hso.org/>.

5.4 Readiness/ORFD

5.4.1 Any officers not meeting readiness who require assistance should contact CDR Zubel.

5.5 Assimilation

5.5.1 Assimilation year 2004, the list of nominees has been prepared and is awaiting nomination by the President and the confirmation by the Senate.

5.5.2 Board review for Assimilation year 2005 is complete. Success rates are being determined. When success rates are approved, successful officers will undergo an administrative review (current with certification/licensure, COER's, basic readiness, NACI security clearance and adverse actions resolved). Once complete all officers will be notified of their disposition.

5.5.3 The deadline for Assimilation year 2006 was February 15, 2006. Applications for Assimilation year 2007 are available on the CCMIS website under official forms (PHS form 7034). Examples of officer

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statements can be obtained by contacting your agency liaison or by request to the assimilation coordinator, Camille.hawkins@hhs.gov.

5.6 Pay – Nothing to report

5.7 Positions

5.7.1 The most recent Recruitment Announcement can be found on the IHS Optometry Website at www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Optometry/Optjobs.cfm.

6 Communications

6.1 The IHS Web-board is currently down because of apparent HIPAA violations. It does not appear that these HIPAA violations were a result of the Optometry Web-board, but these violations resulted in all of the IHS web-boards to be shut down. If there is a desire for an email-based group discussion listserv for PHS Optometry, please let CAPT Schleisman know. If there is interest in this, then we would need a volunteer to maintain this listserv (PHS-OD listserv through the NIH). CAPT Ketcher offered to help this volunteer in setting this discussion group up. Please let CAPT Schleisman know if there is interest in the discussion group, and/or if you are interested in volunteering to maintain the listserv.

6.2 CAPT Ketcher reported that the OPAG has a web page on the HSO PAC website. Contact CAPT Ketcher if you wish to put information on the OPAG web page, such as awards, meeting minutes, etc.

7 Meetings and Recruitment Activities

7.1 COA –USPHS Conference in Denver, CO. May 1-4, 2006. Theme: Crisis Response

7.2 IHS Eye Care Biennial 2006 Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled May 8-12, 2006 at the Southern California College of Optometry Fullerton campus. CAPT John Garber will again organize and conduct the continuing education program. The meeting is open to all I.H.S and PHS optometrists. Contact Ms. Sue Atkinson at SCCO for registration information or CAPT Hatch if you need the registration form.

7.3 AOA Convention - Next AOA – June 21-25, 2006 – Las Vegas, Nevada. Information is available at www.aoa.org

7.4 AMSUS – November 05-10, 2006 – San Antonio, TX.

7.5 AAO Annual Meeting –. December 7-10, 2006 at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. Information can be found at www.aaopt.org

7.6 BOTC – Upcoming events

March 6th – 10th ** Farmington, NM Contact: CAPT John Fugate

April 28th – 30th COA Contact: COA

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May 5th – May 7th COA Contact: COA

July 29th – August 2nd ** Minneapolis, MN Contact: LCDR Ron Keats

7.7 AFOS – next meeting is October 30-November 03, 2006 at the Hilton in Springfield, Virginia.

8 Action Items

8.1 CAPT Ketcher will ask CAPT Zeldes and CDR Whiteplume if they are interested in participating in the open panel for billing and coding issues at the next FSO meeting.

8.2 OPAG will continue to look into the civil service special salary rate issue.

9 OPAG Meetings

9.1 Next meeting scheduled for May 9, 2006 from 4:00-5:00pm Pacific Time at the Biennial I.H.S. Meeting.

9.1.1 CAPT Richard Hatch and CAPT Terry Schleisman will be invited as guests at the next meeting.

9.1.2 OPAG liaisons should submit their activity reports to CAPT Ketcher by close of business May 01, 2006 so they can be shared with the OPAG members.

9.1.3 OPAG members not attending the Biennial I.H.S. meeting should use the same conference call number and password

9.1.4 Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm

Minutes prepared by CDR Kimberly Lewandowski-Walker, FDA Representative to the OPAG

Distribution: HSO CPO, HSO PAC, PHS Optometrists