

# The Signal Newsletter

Atlanta Branch, Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service

(representing members assigned to Atlanta area federal agencies)

Vol 15 Issue 6

Nov/Dec, 2004

## Calendar of Events

### November 30 (Tuesday)

#### **Self Nomination for ACOA Executive Committee**

Contact: See ACOA Website at [www.atlantacoa.com](http://www.atlantacoa.com)



### December 10 (Friday)

#### **ACOA Elections**

Contact: See ACOA Website at [www.atlantacoa.com](http://www.atlantacoa.com)

### December 18 (Saturday)

#### **USO Day**

USO at Jackson/Hartsfield Airport 0900 to 2100

Contact: LCDR Ross Spears (404) 498-2269

[rspears@cdc.gov](mailto:rspears@cdc.gov) for donations and information.

### December 18 (Saturday)

#### **ACOA "Crunch and Run" (CCRF Annual Physical Fitness Test)**

St. Pius High School Track. 9:00 a.m.

Contact: CAPT Arnold Manangan (770) 488-1869 or

[AManangan@cdc.gov](mailto:AManangan@cdc.gov)

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### **The Atlanta Commissioned Officers Association (ACOA) is now seeking Self-Nominations for the 2005 Executive Committee!**

Being a part of the ACOA is a great way to work with fellow PHS officers and have fun! Not to mention that it's one means of meeting one criterion in the promotion precept for officership. Now is a great time to become an active part of the Atlanta Branch COA (ACOA) Executive Committee.

Atlanta Branch, nearly 400 members strong and the second largest Branch nationally, was awarded the 2004 COA Branch of the Year. We are asking for you to make a leadership contribution to your COA organization, so it can be translated into effective plans for enhancing our Corps, our careers, and protecting our nation's health.

Serving on the 2005 ACOA Executive Committee will provide leadership activities whereby an officer can make professional and personal impacts in the Commissioned Corps. At a minimum, there are opportunities for initiatives including communications (e.g., website and The Signal newsletter), fitness and health, special projects (e.g., USO, Rocking Chair Readers) and career development.

To accomplish these activities, your Atlanta Branch needs individuals who are motivated, energetic, and committed to supporting the Commissioned Corps and the COA.

Officers are invited to submit a self-nomination for:

Vice President/President-Elect (1 position)

Treasurer (1 position)

Secretary (1 position)

Member-at-Large (6 positions) (e.g.,

Communications, Special Projects, Professional Development, Community Service)

Retired Member-at-Large (1 position)

This is a one-year commitment including required attendance at monthly meetings, etc.; interested Officers are encouraged to obtain supervisory

support prior to self nomination. Representation from all Atlanta-area PHS agencies is encouraged.

To proceed for self-nomination go to [www.atlantacoa.com](http://www.atlantacoa.com) where you will find the form and instructions.  
Deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>

Thanks in advance for your interest!!

*If you have any questions, please contact one of the following Elections Committee members:*  
*CDR Amy Collins: 770-488-5808*  
*LCDR Tina Lankford: 770-488-5171*  
*LT Jennifer Di Pietra: 770-488-1885*



## **IT'S USO TIME!!**

**The Atlanta Branch of COA is looking for volunteers to staff the USO at Hartsfield International Airport**

[http://www.uso.com/pubs/8\\_13\\_18.cfm?CFID=1533556&CFTOKEN=16054049](http://www.uso.com/pubs/8_13_18.cfm?CFID=1533556&CFTOKEN=16054049)

**Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>  
 9am-9pm (2 hour shifts)**

As a show of support to our fellow uniform services and their families, the Atlanta COA is providing and serving hot meals and treats to military travelers and soldiers returning home at the Atlanta airport United Services Organization (USO).

Last year we served several hundred uniformed members and families and their gratitude was overwhelming. This year, the USO is scheduled to receive a flight from Iraq with soldiers coming home for R & R before returning to Iraq. Many of these soldiers are young, enlisted, have limited funds, and will be grateful to receive a hot meal.

You are required to wear **an approved winter uniform** properly for this activity as we receive many questions about the USPHS and wish to represent it well. If you have questions about uniform wear, grooming standards, or obtaining uniform components, please contact LCDR Ross Spears at 404-498-2255.

We are looking for volunteers to sign up for 2-hour periods. Please review and complete the attached sign-up sheet. Return this document by e-mail to LCDR Ross Spears at [rspears@cdc.gov](mailto:rspears@cdc.gov) by December 10, 2004. Note: If for any reason you cannot attend the time for which you volunteered, please notify LCDR Ross Spears ([rspears@cdc.gov](mailto:rspears@cdc.gov) ; 404-498-2269).

**Donations:** If you would like to donate food or other items for the USO, they request the following:

- individually, commercially packaged food items (e.g., tuna/chicken packets, fruit/pudding cups, juice, snack cakes, cheese sticks);
- paper goods, plastic table ware (this is a much needed item from the USO staff);
- coffee and condiments, and
- fresh fruit or sweets.

Donations can be left with the following officers at each of the CDC locations **by COB on December 16:**

**Note:** Refrigerated items should not be dropped off with these officers, as they will have no way to store them. Perishable items should be brought directly to the USO office at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport.

Rhodes Building (Koger )	CAPT Bo Kimsey	<a href="mailto:dfk2@cdc.gov">dfk2@cdc.gov</a>	770-488-5513
Stanford Building (Koger)	LTJG Jennifer di Pietra	<a href="mailto:jvd6@cdc.gov">jvd6@cdc.gov</a>	(770-488-1885)
Corporate Square, Building 6	LCDR Ross Spears	<a href="mailto:rspears@cdc.gov">rspears@cdc.gov</a>	404 498 2269
Century Center	LT Alaric Denton	<a href="mailto:awd2@cdc.gov">awd2@cdc.gov</a>	404 498 0497
Chamblee (BLDG 101)	LCDR Daphne Moffet	<a href="mailto:DMoffett@cdc.gov">DMoffett@cdc.gov</a>	770-488-3350
Clifton Road, Building 1	LCDR Dana Jones	<a href="mailto:dcj1@cdc.gov">dcj1@cdc.gov</a>	404-639-4295

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To submit information, articles, and op/ed pieces to the ACOA newsletter, please contact the Editor, CDR Amy Collins, at [ACollins@cdc.gov](mailto:ACollins@cdc.gov) or 770-488-5808 or CDR Larry Cseh at [loc3@cdc.gov](mailto:loc3@cdc.gov) or 770-488-3335.

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Health Care News;  
By CDR Dan Cline



The man in the middle “gets it” and you can get it to. Invest some time in learning about your healthcare entitlements. I assure you that it will be time well spent. The Office of Commissioned Corps Personnel has a web page, ([www.cdc.gov/od/occp](http://www.cdc.gov/od/occp)) part of which will provide helpful information regarding your health care entitlements as active duty officers in one of the seven uniformed services. TRICARE and their contractors offer comprehensive medical and dental coverage for you and your family. However, they are not without their limitations and idiosyncrasies that plague any large healthcare system. Fortunately, there is help.....CDR Dan Cline is your CDC Health Benefits Advisor and advocate. He is dedicated to assure that you receive your healthcare entitlements in a timely and professional manner. Please contact CDR Cline at (770) 488-1883 with any questions and/or concerns you may have regarding your or your family’s health and dental care. Be the man or woman that “gets it”; use the links below to learn all you can about your health care entitlements. Like the guy on TV says “an educated consumer is our best customer”.

#### LINKS OF INTEREST

Health Net Federal Services (North Region):

[www.healthnetfederalservices.com](http://www.healthnetfederalservices.com)

Humana Military (South Region):

[www.humana-military.com](http://www.humana-military.com)

TriWest (West Region): [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com)

TRICARE: [www.tricare.osd.mil](http://www.tricare.osd.mil)

- TRICARE Handbook:  
[www.tricare.osd.mil/tricarehandbook](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/tricarehandbook)

-What’s Covered?

-What’s Not Covered?

- North Region Handbook: [www.tricare.osd.mil/north](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/north)
- South Region Handbook: [www.tricare.osd.mil/south](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/south)
- West Region Handbook: [www.tricare.osd.mil/west](http://www.tricare.osd.mil/west)

United Concordia: [www.ucci.com](http://www.ucci.com)

Express Scripts: [www.express-scripts.com](http://www.express-scripts.com)

- Retail (TRRx)

- Mail Order (TMOP)

ValueOptions -Formerly Choice Behavioral (Mental Health): [www.choicebehavioral.com](http://www.choicebehavioral.com)

Palmetto GBA (Billing/Claims): [www.mytricare.com](http://www.mytricare.com)

Delta Dental: [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)

The OCCP web page will include a “Hot Topics” section, which will include hot topics, news and announcements regarding your health and dental entitlements. Please visit the hot site on a monthly basis to learn of any changes/modifications/revisions/additions/deletions/improvements/etc. that significantly impact your health care entitlements. For example, Humana Military recently established an “800” number specifically for TRICARE Prime Remote (TPR) beneficiaries in the South Region: 1-877-249-9179. It offers 4 menu items:

1. All Claims Questions
2. Mental Health Issues
3. Enrollment
4. Health Care Assistance

Selecting number 4 will put you in contact with a TRICARE Prime Remote representative.

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#### **T-Shirts for Sale!**

**100% cotton short-sleeved t-shirts have the COA seal on the front and Atlanta skyline on the back. Cost is \$8.00 each. To purchase, contact Tina Lankford at: [tlankford@cdc.gov](mailto:tlankford@cdc.gov) or 770-488-5171.**

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# FEMA



**Are you planning to be a federal emergency responder? Is your program part of national preparedness? How are we going to respond in the future? Here is information you may want to know.**

In Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)-5, *Management of Domestic Incidents*, the President directed the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and administer the National Incident Management System (NIMS). The NIMS provides a consistent nationwide approach for Federal, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size, or complexity. On March 1, 2004, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued the NIMS to provide a comprehensive national approach to incident management, applicable at all jurisdictional levels and across functional disciplines.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive HSPD-5 also required DHS to establish a mechanism for ongoing coordination to provide strategic direction for, and oversight of, the NIMS. To this end, the NIMS Integration Center (NIC) was established to support both routine maintenance and the continuous refinement of the NIMS.

<http://www.fema.gov/nims/nims.shtm>

**All Federal departments and agencies are required to adopt the NIMS and use it in their individual domestic incident management and emergency prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and**

**mitigation activities, as well as in support of all actions taken to assist State or local entities.**

The NIMS will enable responders at all levels to work together more effectively and efficiently to manage domestic incidents no matter what the cause, size or complexity, including catastrophic acts of terrorism and disasters.

Federal agencies also are required to use the NIMS framework in domestic incident management and in support of state and local incident response and recovery activities.

The benefits of the NIMS system will be significant:

- Standardized organizational structures, processes and procedures;
- Standards for planning, training and exercising;
- Personnel qualification standards;
- Equipment acquisition and certification standards;
- Interoperable communications processes, procedures and systems;
- Information management systems with a commonly accepted architecture;
- Supporting technologies – voice and data communications systems, information systems, data display systems, specialized technologies; and
- Publication management processes and activities.

#### **Is the Incident Command System necessary too?**

If State, territorial, tribal, and local entities are not already using ICS, they must institutionalize the use of ICS. The 9/11 Commission Report recommended national adoption of the Incident Command System (ICS) to enhance command, control, and communications capabilities. All Federal, State, territory, tribal, and local jurisdictions will be required to adopt ICS in order to be compliant with the NIMS.

#### **Is the Federal Government Serious about NIMS?**

The NIC is working with Federal departments and agencies to ensure that they develop a plan to adopt NIMS and that all fiscal year (FY) 2005 Federal preparedness assistance program documents begin the process of addressing State, territorial, tribal, and local NIMS implementation.

By FY 2007, Federal preparedness assistance to states will be conditioned by full compliance with the NIMS.

#### **Where can I learn more about NIMS?**

Complete the NIMS Awareness Course: "National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction" IS 700. This independent study course developed by the Emergency Management Institute (EMI) explains the purpose, principles, key components and benefits of NIMS. The course is

available on-line and will take between forty-five minutes to three hours to complete. The course is available on the EMI web page at:

<http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/is700.asp>

### How can I learn more about the Incident Command System?

Use the web site below to access other on line training at EMI. <http://www.training.fema.gov/emiweb/IS/crslist.asp>

- IS-100 Introduction to the Incident Command System, I-100, for Federal Disaster Workers
- [IS-195 Basic Incident Command System](#)
- [IS-200 Basic Incident Command System \(I-200\) for Federal Disaster Workers](#)

CDR Tom Bowman, DHS

## ACOA End of Summary

We had a great year so far and since this is the last Newsletter for the year, the Executive Committee felt that the members would like to know where their dues went. Utilizing LCDR David Shoffner's last Treasurers Report we would like to present the following:

In 2004 the Atlanta COA spent resources collected from dues, donations, and fund raisers by:

- Providing supplies to the USO in the amount of \$526.00
- Providing support to the Atlanta based Choral Ensemble in the amount of \$ 708.00
- Road Side Clean Up (purchasing custom safety vests and refreshments) \$ 226.00
- Providing BLS Classes for Atlanta based officer \$163.00, for instructors and supplies.
- The ACOA Picnic \$140.00
- The PHS Anniversary and Promotion Ceremony \$279.00
- ACOA Educational Scholarship \$300.00
- ACOA Web Site development and Maintenance \$50.00

The ACOA continues to provide a valuable service to PHS Officers in the Atlanta Area and the community.



New ACOA Safety Vests



Sept. 11, 2004 ACOA Picnic



Road Side Clean Up



Crunch and Runs



RADM Kenneth Moritsugu 206<sup>th</sup> PHS Anniversary.



GOV Perdue Proclaims PHS Day in Georgia



March 2004 Road Clean Up Crew



Atlanta USPHS Choir Ensemble



ACOA Time Keeping at CDC Fitness Day