

The Rapid Pulse

July 2003

Faces and Places

The Director's Perspective

By Dr. Eugene Migliaccio

First, I want to begin this latest installment of *The Rapid Pulse* by stating how good it is to be back at the Division, from my detail at the Office of the Surgeon General. I enjoyed my time with the staff at the Surgeon General's office, but it is always good to be back "home." This month, I want to focus on one of our organizational values: performance.

In DIHS, performance means that we carry out our duties to the highest standards and promote esprit de corps in all work settings. It is living these values and performing our mission in this way that has created our proud history and will sustain us in the future.

DIHS already has a long history of outstanding performance from its employees. It is a testament to our performance that our Division was recently awarded the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service by Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson. It is also a testament to our performance that we received the Hammer Award from former Vice President Al Gore's National Performance Review. We have been recognized at the highest levels of government for our performance, thus setting the bar high for the work we do

in the future. We have every reason to be proud.

I am also very cognizant of the fact that during my detail to the Surgeon General's Office, the daily work of the Division went on, and we continued to provide high quality health care services to the detained population. This no doubt is attributable to the hard work and performance of all DIHS staff members. Thank you for supporting our Acting Director, Dr. GERALYN Johnson, and thus the Division as a whole, during my absence. Your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

I am proud of the atmosphere that has been cultivated within DIHS: a set standard of high performance, which has allowed us to consistently provide quality care to the population we serve, and meet our obligation to our client, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Thank you all for your continued performance in this Division!

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WELCOME

Aguadilla, PR :
LCDR Peggy Mathis

Miami, FL:
CDR Abelardo Montalvo

San Diego, CA:
LTJG Christl Bonaparte

Washington, DC:
Bertha Miller

FAREWELL

Elizabeth, NJ :
Dr. Farridah Shafiee

El Paso, TX:
Dr. Alan Sokolowski

Florence, AZ:
Courtney Ramirez

San Diego, CA:
Sylvia Besares
Lori Kurz

Washington, DC:
Sheila Holland

Congratulations to CDR Mary Bowling, who has had a feature article on Root Cause Analysis published on the front page of the Spring 2003 issue of *Correct Care*, a publication of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care.

CDR Bowling wishes to thank Dr. Diana Schneider for her assistance in editing the article.

Aboard the Coast Guard Cutter

By Dr. Neal Collins

June 17, 2003- Aboard the USCG Cutter Northland

Believe it or not we have the internet at sea. I am on the USCG Cutter Northland and we are about nine miles off the coast of Cuba. We had a report of a small boat leaving Cuba but so far have been unable to locate the migrants. We boarded a 64 foot cabin cruiser out of Caymen Islands, but there were no illegal migrants on board and no drugs so they were allowed to go their own way.

I have my own state room which was designed for two people so I actually am very comfortable. It took me about a day to recall the shipboard customs. I outrank everyone on the cutter including the Captain who is a senior Commander, but whatever the rank you address the Captain as Captain.

In addition to connectivity at sea, we also have satellite television and the Navy supplies a list of about 200 movies every month. We gather in the Officers "ward room" at 2030 hours to watch the selection for the night. The Captain likes action movies and comedies so we seem to alternate every other night. My chances of seeing a good movie from Merchant and Ivory seem limited.

The ward room has its own protocol. You never sit at the table until the Captain asks people to take their seats and you don't leave the table without asking leave of the Captain. We are served our meal by a junior enlisted kid that looks like he should be out of high school for about two weeks. The table is always set out the same and I always sit at the Captain's left and the Executive Officer to his right. The food is fantastic. We had prime rib yesterday and lobster is on the menu for tonight.



Coast Guard 47-foot patrol boat

We are going to head back towards Key West to meet up with a small boat that will bring mail to us and some new people assigned to the Cutter. The plans are to continue to patrol for migrants off the coast of Cuba and make a port call in Nassau on the 26. I will leave the ship there and return to Key West to brief my replacement and then head home to DC.

The vessel's crew is very friendly and I have free range of the ship. They have offered to show me how to drive the ship so I may take them up on that later today. As long as we are this far out to sea I guess I can't hurt anything.

Oh yes the seas are only about three to five feet so the ship isn't rocking too bad. No one has been sea sick... especially me.

Our Mission:

We promote global health through the delivery of primary care to undocumented migrants.

In Focus

Meet Ensign Andrew Hickey



Ensign Hickey (r) with RADM Kenneth Moritsugu

Meet Ensign Andrew Hickey, a Public Health Service Junior CO-STEP currently assigned to DIHS. Born and raised in Denver, Colorado, Ensign Hickey attended Jefferson County, Colorado's public schools.

In 1996, he enrolled at Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado. In 2001, he graduated, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health (minor in microbiology).

After completing his undergraduate education, Ensign Hickey enrolled at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia to pursue his graduate studies. There, he earned a Masters of Public Health degree with a concentration on epidemiology. His graduate thesis research included working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Division of TB Elimination's "Gene Team" on

evaluating cluster investigations using DNA fingerprint technology.

This fall, he will pursue his doctoral studies at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and hopes to obtain a Ph.D. in Emerging Infectious Diseases, concentrating on microbiology and immunology.

A professor who recognized Ensign Hickey's talents introduced him to the Public Health Service, and he became commissioned in 2002. As a Jr. CO-STEP, Ensign Hickey has worked with our Division twice: in the summer of 2002 and again this summer.

During this most recent assignment with DIHS, he has focused on the following: assisting the Epidemiology Unit at Headquarters with TB surveillance, including developing a database for data entry, entering TB surveillance information into a database, and working with the Managed Care Branch to obtain TB surveillance information on detainees housed in jails.

He has also worked with CDR Mary Bowling to develop performance improvement monitoring reports and tools. In addition, Ensign Hickey has worked with CAPT Carol Lindsey on organizing information regarding availability of health care into a database. He will complete his current assignment with DIHS in August.

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