



# The USEHA Newsletter

Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association

An Affiliate of the National Environmental Health Association

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## USEHA Executive Council:

- President: MAJ Joseph Hout, USA
- Vice President: CPT Sean Beeman, USA
- President-Elect: LCDR Katherine Hubbard, USPHS
- Secretary/Treasurer: MAJ Davin Bridges, USA
- Past President: MAJ (Ret) A.J. Kluchinsky, USA

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## Introducing our First Newsletter!

The Uniformed Services Environmental Health Association's mission is to serve our members by enhancing their professional capabilities and leadership and to serve the environmental health needs of the uniformed services and the nation. With the implementation of our organization's strategic plan for improvement, we aim to provide valuable services and share resources with our members. This newsletter is a way for all of us to share the exciting things going on in the field of environmental health within the uniformed services and to deliver information that is of particular interest to environmental health professionals. The newsletter will be compiled on a bi-annual basis and sent out via email.

If you would like to make a submission for the newsletter, please email LCDR Katie Hubbard at [Katherine.Hubbard@ihs.gov](mailto:Katherine.Hubbard@ihs.gov). Please consider topics such as special projects, research, deployments, and even a-day-in-the-life of an environmental health professional. Pictures are welcome (and encouraged) too!

## President's Corner by MAJ Joseph Hout



**MAJ Joseph Hout**  
**USEHA President**

Welcome to our first publication of the USEHA newsletter. The president's corner is intended to provide you with an overview of things discussed across the NEHA and the USEHA executive council.

Low and declining membership numbers were the overarching theme presented at the NEHA affiliate president's meeting during the last AEC. Unfortunately, we are a victim of this as well with only 90 members across the services. The executive council has begun to take the initial steps to support NEHA's goal of expanding membership. First of all, we are reaching out using social media such as Facebook in hopes of capturing a younger demographic. We also partnered with instructors at initial military environmental training facilities in hopes of capturing this demographic before they arrive at their first duty location. Secondly, we have relocated our website to facilitate online membership management/renewals, blogs, and a library. This service will take the hassle out of membership renewals and

provide a forum for information exchange, storage, and networking between environmental health professionals. The new site can be found at <http://useha.wildapricot.org/>. Finally, we have resurrected the USEHA newsletter. Our hopes are to provide you with information on NEHA and USEHA sponsored events, increase awareness of environmental health issues across the services, and provide a forum for you to showcase all the great work you and your organization are doing in the field of environmental health. Submissions and suggestions for improving the newsletter are greatly appreciated and can be forwarded directly to the editor at [Katherine.Hubbard@ihs.gov](mailto:Katherine.Hubbard@ihs.gov).

One item that we hope to address in the future is return on investment to the membership. What can the USEHA do to increase your participation in the organization and to draw new members? We are currently considering things ranging from online CEU-producing training opportunities to hosting our own mini conference. Please send suggestions directly to me at [joseph.hout@usuhs.edu](mailto:joseph.hout@usuhs.edu) for consideration at the next executive council meeting.

Finally, the next AEC is rapidly approaching on July 7-10 in Las Vegas, NV (<http://www.neha2014aec.org/>). I realize in this world of budget cuts that many of you will be unable to attend; however you can still experience the conference online through the virtual AEC provided by NEHA. Sure, you will miss the excitement of Las Vegas, but you will still be able to enjoy all of the wonderful presentations that will surely occur during this event.



Are you doing interesting work or research in the field of environmental health? Consider submitting an officer profile to the USEHA newsletter! Please send submissions to the editor at [Katherine.Hubbard@ihs.gov](mailto:Katherine.Hubbard@ihs.gov).

## Profiles in Environmental Health

### Current Research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS)



CPT Salaam aboard the USS Regan

**CPT(P) Raushan A. Salaam** is a second-year MSPH student at USUHS. He is an Army environmental science and engineering officer (ESEO) who has 16 years of active duty service: 10 years as an officer and six years enlisted as a preventive medicine specialist. During his 16 years of time in service (TIS), he served as an environmental health and safety officer (EHSO) in a joint service assignment, Chief of Environmental Health (EH)/Industrial Hygiene (IH) for an US Army Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC), Occupational Health Science project officer, and deployed to Iraq as a member of a Military Transition Team.

CPT(P) Salaam has worked in joint service assignments in the past: with Air Force and Navy personnel at Fort Meade and the Marines while deployed in Iraq. He chose to attend USUHS to be amongst his sister services. CPT(P) mentioned that he learned a lot from working in joint service environments and continues to do so while at USUHS. What he likes most about the school is the fact every student wants to see each other do well and graduate, whether you are military or civilian, Army, Navy, Air Force, or Public Health Service. He says, "We have to learn how to work together; that is the way of now and that is the way of the future."

Currently, CPT(P) Salaam is conducting research for his thesis project: Characterizing 24 Hour Noise Exposures Aboard Naval Aircraft Carriers. Most occupational noise exposure standards are based on an 8 hour time weighted average (TWA), with 12-16 hours of hearing recovery time in a 24 hour period, and a criteria limit that no worker should exceed in order to reduce the risk of noise induced hearing loss (NIHL). While underway at sea, there are continuous operations throughout the ship that may occupationally expose sailors to hazardous noise levels whether on or off duty. CPT(P) Salaam wants to determine if sailors' off-duty noise exposures aboard the ship significantly contribute to their risk of NIHL over a 24 hour sampling period.

We're on the web!  
[www.useha.wildapricot.org](http://www.useha.wildapricot.org)

**LT Merrick S. Pettebone** is a second-year MSPH student at USUHS. He is a Navy industrial hygiene officer (IHO) who has 14 years of active duty service: 7 years as an industrial hygiene officer and 7 years of enlisted time as a hospital corpsman. His diverse career has included: serving as platoon and then senior corpsman for a Marine Corps infantry company (3/6, India Co) during which he deployed twice (including a combat tour in Afghanistan); managing the resuscitative medicine program for Naval Health Care New England; serving as an industrial hygiene officer at Navy Environmental & Preventive Medicine Unit 6 in Hawaii (during which he deployed with the Forward Deployable Preventive Medicine Unit to numerous locations in the middle east); serving as the assistant safety officer onboard the aircraft carrier USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72), during which time he deployed twice and completed his circumnavigation of the world.



**The USEHA would like to wish CPT Salaam, LT Pettebone, and LT Eickmeyer the best of luck finishing their requirements towards earning their Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) degrees from USUHS.**

## Profiles in Environmental Health, continued

### Current Research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS)

*(Pettebone, continued)*

LT Pettebone is enjoying the diversity of USUHS. He likes all the different backgrounds his fellow students bring to the table. "At no other school would I be working with such a broad range of on-the-job experience. The Public Health Service students and Army students have insights from real world scenarios I would never be in." He also appreciates the cooperative attitude amongst the students. Many schools are very competitive, but at USUHS there is more of a camaraderie amongst the students. "It is definitely a team effort, with everyone willing to help each other out. Or as one of my classmates put it, "It takes a village."

At the moment, LT Pettebone is conducting research for his thesis project. He is characterizing the airborne concentration of transfluthrin (a pyrethroid insecticide) from a passive source over time at assorted temperatures. This work will help the Navy and Army entomologists at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research (WRAIR) and the Navy Medical Research Center (NMRC) in their efforts to produce the next generation of insect repellent options for our soldiers, sailors, and marines.



**LT Pettebone setting up sampling equipment in the greenhouse at the USDA Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, MD.**

**LT William "Billy" T. Eickmeyer** has served as an Environment Health Officer in the United States Navy since October 2009 and is currently assigned to the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Bethesda, MD completing the Masters of Science in Public Health degree program. LT Eickmeyer is currently conducting research for his thesis project where he is conducting a series of experiments using solid-phase microextraction (SPME) to characterize the chemical by-products that are released during the combustion of mosquito coils treated with the pyrethroid metofluthrin.

Before attending USUHS, LT Eickmeyer was stationed at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, North Chicago, IL where he served as the Section Leader for the Environmental Health Section. Areas of his responsibility involved the oversight of all environmental health programs, i.e. food and recreational water safety, waste management, rabies and vector control, etc., while also managing and executing the base's Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Administration Program with serves more than 63,000 military, veteran and other beneficiaries.

Prior to his commission in 2009, LT Eickmeyer served as the full-time Public Health Technician in the Arizona Air National Guard, Tucson, AZ, from 2006 to 2009, where he served as the Superintendent of Public Health and was awarded the 2008 Air National Guard Public Health Airman of the Year award, competing against members from 88 other Air National Guard units in the country. LT Eickmeyer also served in the Ohio Air National Guard, Springfield, OH from 1993 to 2006 as a Traditional Guardsman.

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## Profiles in Environmental Health, continued

### Current Research at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS)

Show your pride in USEHA membership by purchasing a coin! Contact MAJ Davin Bridges to make your purchase:



[davin.e.bridges.mil@mail.mil](mailto:davin.e.bridges.mil@mail.mil)



**LT Eickmeyer in the Industrial Hygiene lab at the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute (AFRI) at USUHS**

*(Eickmeyer, continued)*

In addition to his military service, LT Eickmeyer has also worked as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian (REHS/RS) for over eight years for the Hamilton County General Health District, Cincinnati, OH and the Clark County Combined Health District, Springfield, OH. While at Hamilton County, he was promoted to the position of Environmental Health Division Supervisor. LT Eickmeyer received his Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science degree from Wright State University, Dayton, OH in 1997.

## Join us at the USEHA Annual Meeting at the 78th Annual NEHA AEC!

The National Environmental Health Association's (NEHA) Annual Educational Conference (AEC) will be held in Las Vegas, NV from July 7-10, 2014 at The Cosmopolitan Hotel on the legendary Las Vegas strip. The NEHA AEC is the event environmental health professionals attend to acquire practical and real-world information and expertise. It is the event from which environmental health professionals leave trained, motivated, inspired, and empowered to further advance their organizations and themselves.

The USEHA Annual Meeting and Educational Track will be held during the NEHA AEC on Thursday, July 10th. Please join us to meet your fellow USEHA members, learn about what our organization is working on, and listen to presentations about the unique work and research being conducted by environmental health professionals in the uniformed services.

Visit the conference website at <http://neha2014aec.org/> to learn more about the conference and scheduled presentations, register, book your hotel room at the conference rate, and learn about other conference options such as the Virtual AEC.

We hope to see you there!

