



DATE: April 21, 2005
TO: All Commissioned Corps Officers
FROM: Surgeon General
SUBJECT: Readiness Status

This is the tenth letter in a series regarding Commissioned Corps readiness.

The most recent report from the Office of Force Readiness and Deployment is that 64.6 % of officers now meet Basic Readiness. That represents a significant increase of 6 percent since my last letter to you three weeks ago. Our immediate goal now is to get at least 324 more officers to meet the requirements for Basic Readiness by October 1, 2005, so we can reach the minimum total-Corps readiness requirement set for us by the Office of Management and Budget two years ago. For the longer term, it is our goal to move beyond the 70% directive, so that soon every officer meets readiness standards.

Two weeks ago, many of you were involved in the TOPOFF III exercise, the Congressionally-mandated national level exercise to test our capability to respond to multiple, concurrent terrorist attacks. Last weekend, some of you were on alert status for the latest meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, D.C. Our officers continue to meet the needs of the Red Lake IHS Hospital and the Red Lake Chippewa Reservation following the tragedy in March. We are deploying dental officers again to support the needs of Camp LeJeune as they send another rotation of Marines and Sailors to Iraq. And finally, our teams of officers on the USNS Mercy, as well as CDC-deployed officers on the ground, are providing medical and public health services to the people of Nias, Indonesia after the latest earthquake in March. Obviously, we continue to need trained and ready officers capable of responding to a broad variety of national and global events.

This paragraph is a repeat from my last letter, but for those of you who are up for promotion in 2005, it represents critical information. You have one more deadline facing you on May 1, 2005. Per Manual Circular 377, there are two dates you must consider related to promotion. December 31, 2004 was the deadline to complete all Basic Readiness requirements to earn points in the readiness precept. However, no matter where you are on the Promotion Board's rank order list, you must continue to meet all Basic Readiness requirements on May 1, 2005 to be eligible for promotion in PY 05. If you are up for promotion in PY 05 and do not meet Basic Readiness on May 1, 2005, your name will be removed from consideration.

I would again like to acknowledge those agencies who continue to lead in our efforts to move the Corps toward a readiness status. The ATSDR has attained 85%, USCG at 80%, FDA at 73%, BOP at 70%, HRSA at 68%, and CDC at 66% have all made significant, agency-wide efforts to support our goal. Among the categories, the Therapists at 74.17% have moved to 1/100th of a percentage point ahead of Veterinarians and the Dieticians, while the Scientists are over 72% and the Environmental Health Officers are at 69%. Thank you again for accepting this challenge.



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