President’s Column
Keith Cespon, O.D., F.A.A.O.

I always wonder: What would the profession of optometry look like without the organizations within AFOS? The profession of optometry has advanced because of AFOS optometrists.

How would organized optometry look without our military members being the leaders in military eyecare, without VA Optometry and PHS/ IHS Optometry being the leaders in eyecare for their respective organizations? Within the profession of optometry, AFOS optometrists are the LEADERS in optometric clinical education, the LEADERS in therapeutic utilization, the LEADERS in working day in/out credentialing in hospitals/clinics utilizing electronic health records/electronic prescriptions, the LEADERS in developing clinical relationships with other health care providers at these facilities, and being key medical staff members/leaders at our facilities.

Where would the profession be without us? In my AFOS presidential address earlier this year, I mentioned that AFOS members, no matter which service, are providing "National Service" and "Fulfilling the Promise" of our great nation.

While it seems the norm nowadays to criticize the Federal government, I find it personally very offensive whenever I hear anyone provide a blanket criticism of the Federal government. Criticize the Federal government if you wish, but don’t ever criticize AFOS optometrists for what AFOS is doing for our country and for our profession. I’m sure it’s easy to ask someone to leave his/her family behind for extended deployments, to serve in combat zones, to deploy on a carrier for 6 months, and to work in the middle of nowhere. Just provide the huge salaries for an 08 with less than 2 yrs, or the huge IHS starting GS salary of $47,448.00 and simply require someone to complete 4 yrs or more of post-graduate education and everyone will jump at our " cushy" jobs.

Fortunately, AFOS has some great industry supporters who do recognize our members’ sacrifices and commitment. They are the 1st to thank us for what we do within the industry, and we should all be sure to thank them for their support of our organization. Trust me when I say, AFOS could not be the organization we are without the gratitude and financial support of our valued sponsors.

Politics, politics, politics....... I really hate politics.

Right now, if you’re wearing a uniform, you’re the current topic of the politicians. Seems the politicians are looking at ways to get out of the promise they made to those in serving in uniform. One recent headline I read referenced that the DOD wants to ‘ reform the Military Retirement System.’ Apparently, the report on this mentions that modifying the retirement system would ‘ create an effective force-shaping tool.’ They are considering moving from a defined benefit plan to defined contribution plan (i.e. TSP) with government contributions. October 9, 2001 was when active duty could start contributing to a TSP without matching contributions. How’s that working for everyone? Last I checked, the 10 yr return on the S&P 500 index, or basically the ‘C’ fund was 2.68%. I’m sure they’ll want to raise the retirement age, lower the amount of your pension, etc. Don’t be surprised if it’s even more difficult to even stay in a uniform. Seems that they desire to have the active duty retirement more closely mirror the current Civil Service retirement system. This is ironic, in that a recent FHS newsletter noted that, per 2002 data, civil servants cost about 20% more than the equivalent FHS Corps officers!

(Continued on Page 2)
This isn’t an editorial against Civil Service optometrists, far from it. It’s more of a concern that those wearing uniforms are being having promises made to them threatened due to the current political atmosphere. If the promises are broken for Active Duty, I’m sure it snowballs and trickles down to broken promises for our civil servants within APOS.

So, I’m going to end my APOS Presidency with the thought that now is the time for organized optometry to support APOS optometrists at the national level. Organized optometry needs to act “on the Hill” and politically support those in APOS wearing a uniform and support the retirement system and health benefits that were decisive in our willingness to make careers within our respective services, with the varying types of personal sacrifices that come with these careers.

An Active Duty/Reservist career is extremely difficult. It goes without saying, the sacrifices the Active/Reserves of the Armed Service have to endure, even in times without active wars. You raise your hand and take the oath, no matter what is requested by the country and by politicians. Those committing to a full career are willing to serve wherever asked, in whatever circumstances asked. Sacrifices are made by the individual, one’s family/ friends in the name of country. Very few new optometry graduates would have been medically unfit to serve, yet very very few new graduates are willing to volunteer and serve our country.

Some politicians may have trouble conceptualizing a PHS officer’s Active Duty role. I’d tell organized optometry, any officer takes an oath of office, including PHS officers who can be militarized by executive order. A quick recent survey of the PHS officer media exemplifies PHS officers’ sacrifices that go beyond civil service; “PHS Officers Honored at Ft Bragg for Work with Army,” “PHS Officers deployed to Tornado that Damaged Joplin, MS,” “Hurricane Irene 38 deployed,” and “Navajo Nation PHS Officers Deployment Readiness Program Part II.” The topic of the courses at this program exemplify what these PHS officers will do to serve this country. Cultural issues with the Middle East and Asia, Emergencies of the Eye, Dengue and Yellow Fever, Infectious Diseases, Outbreak and Investigation Training, Anthrax Terrorism, Pediatric Medical Emergencies, Essentials of National Disaster Medical System, National Hospital Preparedness, Emergency Care Coordination Center, USNS Mercy Pacific Partnership 2006 Interesting Cases, Deployment Challenges, Tropical Medical Schistosomiasis, Scrub Typhus, Malaria, TB and Related Medications, and Japanese Encephalitis.

Also, when I recently read our PHS newsletter, I know the Commissioned Officers’ Association of the US Public Health Service is going to use its Capitol Hill representation to fight for/support PHS officers concerning protecting our Active Duty retirement benefits.

It seems only right that organized optometry should be, in similar sense, using their political influence, to fight for all APOS active duty optometrists for the same cause for us in Washington.

As this will be my last APOS Presidential column, I would like to reiterate a personal thanks to all our members, whether one wears a uniform or not, for their commitment, service, and sacrifice to the country.

VIR

Keith Cespon

Keith Cespon, O.D., F.A.A.O
AFOS 2011 President
LATEST AND GREATEST SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL MEETING IN BOSTON
(And as always, still subject to change)

October 9th
0615
0600 (Time Certain)
1000
1030 - 1645
1645
2000
Bus from Boston Marriott Copley to USS Constitution
Tour of USS Constitution
Bus picks up group to spend time Harborside
dropped off at World Trade Center pierside
Free time
Board Time for dinner cruise at World Trade Center
Picked up by bus at World Trade Center and returned to Boston Marriott Copley

October 10th - At John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center — Second Floor
1100 - 1200
1200 - 1600
Registration — outside of Meeting Rooms on Second Floor of Convention Center
Federal Service Optometry Breakout Sessions —
Navy
PHS
VA
Air Force
Army
Room 204
Room 205
Room 207
Room 208
Room 209

1600 - 1930
Dave Simpson Memorial Lecture Series

October 11th - At John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center — Third Floor
0700 - 1000
0700 - 1100
0500 - 1700
0700 - 0745
Registration in Hallway outside Rooms 304 and 306 or in Room 302
Exhibit Hall — Room 306
Hopefully, Room 307 should be available for BLS to use before and after lunch.
Continental Breakfast — hopefully at back of Exhibit Hall.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESENTATIONS — Room 304
0800
0800 - 1000
1000 - 1200
1200 - 1330
1400 - 1545
1500 - 1630
1600 - 1700
1730 - 2000
Meeting Kick-Off
Continuing Education
Annual Meeting and Elections
Lunch — Room 303
Continuing Education
Light snacks in Room 306 (Exhibit Hall)
Continuing Education
President’s Reception — Room 51

Don’t forget our meeting in Atlanta the last week of February, 2012!
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING MEMBERSHIP IN AFOS AND AOS

Since taking over as the Interim Executive Director I have been involved in a lot of discussions regarding membership in AFOS and AOA and wanted to clarify some of the points so that everyone knows the answers to what is all involved. To start, always recognize that AFOS is an affiliate of the AOA and derives a lot of its usefulness for our members from that fact. While we may not always agree with the direction that the AOA is attempting to take us in some areas, overall AOA represents our best avenue to accomplishing the future for Optometry overall and in our particular case, for Federal Service Optometry.

So what does that mean to our members?

If you look at the Bylaws of the AOA, Article I, Section 1 states that (the bold typing is my own to place emphasis on those statements), "No person who is a member of the American Optometric Association as of June 25, 2005, or who joins an affiliate of the American Optometric Association on or after June 25, 2005, shall be allowed to be a member of the affiliate but not the American Optometric Association." In addition, our own Constitution states in Article III, Section 1 that, "Effective July 1, 2005, all new Active members will be members of the AOA through the Society." To further clarify, Section 2 of the same Article defines an Active Member as, "Optometry officers on active duty in one of the uniformed services, and optometrists who are full-time employees of either the Department of Veteran Affairs or Federal Civil Service" and for this discussion, membership means "Active Membership" which you must apply for when your Student Membership ends.

So, what all does that mean to you?

1. Even though we award you membership certificates that include your time as a student. Active Membership begins once you submit your application after you graduate. I know that most of you are not aware or do not remember this but the Executive Director of AFOS has to submit an application to AOA after you graduate so that you become an active member of AOA.

2. So, if you graduated after June 25th, 2005, or apply for active membership after that date, you have to also join AOA. And, if you are just entering active duty after graduation, you must fill out a new application.

The other issue being discussed is that the AOA Bylaws state that "dues are timely received" and in Article I, Section 3, Paragraph M states that, "Any member who is delinquent in paying any portion of dues of this Association for a period of eighteen (18) months or more shall be automatically terminated from membership..." Currently, the APOS Constitution does not address this but there are discussions to add a time limit similar to the AOA's in the APOS Bylaws.

Again, so what does this mean to you?

If you are an AFOS only member who joined prior to 2005 and you fall behind in your dues, you lose the right to be an AFOS only member.

Finally, there is a glitch in the web site that allows you currently to pay AFOS only each year without paying your AOA dues. Be aware that this has been identified and, as of now, all payments received will be credited to delinquent dues first. This means that, if you paid $100 last year so that AFOS was covered and did not pay any of the AOA dues, as of now, if you try to pay just the $100 again this year, that $100 will be applied to your AOA dues and not to your AFOS dues. The only way you will be able to pay your APOS dues for this year will be to pay your entire AOA dues for last year first.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me at executir@afos2012.org
IF YOU ARE SEEING THIS FOR THE FIRST TIME HERE IT MEANS THAT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AS POSTED ON THE AFOS WEBSITE IS EITHER WRONG OR DOES NOT EXIST!!!

As many of you are aware, I am using these emails to figure out who has provided me with accurate email addresses so that we can improve communication between AFOS and you members. So, in order to help me, once again please go onto the site www.afos2020.org and update your profiles. If you are complaining that you are not receiving anything from me it is your fault. Log on or contact me so that I can give you access. People really do email me complaining about this!!!

BOSTON: Planning is still underway as we get down to details. Remember that I have not done this before and am winging it so feel free to send me emails to remind me of things if you think that I may be not thinking of something – it was much easier for me in the old days!!! Remember, think New England. And for those of you who have requested special meals, I am still working with the center but I plan to contact you individually when I have details on how we will accomplish this for you.

If you have not registered and plan to do so please do so very soon. We will stop having the registration form on our website at the end of September. This is important because it allows me to be a lot more efficient in working with the convention center in planning meals and snacks so please get this done. This time, we will be utilizing different color nametags for those of you who sign up at the last minute and we will be seating those who registered ahead of time first in order to make certain that they are taken care of first. Then we will allow some of you last minute folks to be seated as long as we have chairs. Sound reasonable? We have to pay for meals even if we do not use them so please assist us in keeping costs as low as we can. Boston, like any other city, is not cheap!!!

Second, we still have room for the Sunday’s event. This is not only going to be a great time but, if you cost it out, it is a great deal. Again, sign up soon. The cost is $75 for members and their guests and $150 for non-members. Thanks.

Finally, realize that you have to be a paid member of AFOS to stay in the hotel rooms at our rate and to attend AFOS so please verify that you are paid up. Every year we have some people insist that they are a member when they have not paid in years. This time, we will be on line and able to verify everything so, if you are not certain when you last paid, please go to the web site and make certain you are paid up in order to avoid an embarrassing situation at our registration desk. In short, if you are not paid up, you must pay the non-member rate of $200 instead of the member rate of $50 and the hotel may end up charging you a higher rate. Even though this is the government rate, this was negotiated for by the Academy for AFOS and not just for federal service optometrists and this will probably be the same at future meetings. Having said that, hopefully, we still have sleeping rooms at the Midtown and the Hampton Inn Crosstown Center. These are the two that were designated for government rate and students, both are $179/nights. Nothing fancy, but rooms are still available. Call 800-944-9928 and identify themselves with the AAO conference, and ask for one of those two hotels. Midtown Hotel is closest to the Marriott and Convention Center, but VERY plain...more like a motel. Hampton Inn is farther, but will shuttle people to the Convention Center. Good luck!!!
Congratulations to Lt Col David Peterson on his selection to compete for SQ/CC!

The Air Force Academy is now our official “currency platform” for our deployment operations (formerly Langley APB). USAFA will now cover the rotations to Al Udied unless there is a volunteer in the correct band and USAFA defers to that individual. Currently, Capt Andrew Helman (Nellis) is serving in theater and the next individual to rotate in will be a volunteer, Maj Richard Yoo (Spangdahlem). We have plussed-up the manning at USAFA with 4 active duty docs so if it is deployment opportunities you desire—be thinking about an assignment to Colorado Springs!

Maj Stephen “Chad” Simpson was selected as the CRS Co-Manager of the year for 2010. He was awarded with a centrally funded trip to the CRS Summit meeting where he was presented with an award by Dr. Charles Reilly the USAF's G Consultant for Refractive Surgery. Maj Simpson performed an AFSO 21 analysis to improve the CRS application process at Tyndall and the payoff was that he was the Optometrist who sent the greatest number of patients for surgery across all the centers. Maj Nathan Anderson (Beale) was a close second and should be congratulated as well. When you run into these two gentlemen at meetings, pick their brains on CRS as they are producing at the tip of the spear! See the photo below.

Lt Col Jason Noltz and his wife, April, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Addison Grace, born at 0721, 2 July 2011, and weighing 7 lbs and 12 oz. Congratulations to this newest member of our AF family!
Greetings from the Continuing Education Committee

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<tr>
<th>Branch</th>
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<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>MAJ Anthony Jarecke, OD, MBA, FAAO [Co-Chair]</td>
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<td>CAPT Justin Sandholm, OD</td>
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<td>Army</td>
<td>MAJ Jason Hales, OD, FAAO</td>
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<td>CAPT Ina Lee, OD</td>
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<td>Navy</td>
<td>LCDR Tyson Brunstetter, OD, MS, PhD, FAAO</td>
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<td>CDR Kevin Jackson, OD, MPH, FAAO</td>
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<td>Public Health</td>
<td>LCDR Michael Davis, OD, FAAO</td>
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<td>LT Christopher Cordes, OD, FAAO</td>
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<td>VA</td>
<td>Wm. Scott Slagle, OD, FAAO [Co-Chair]</td>
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<td>Joni Scott-Weideman, OD, FAAO</td>
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<td>**Angela Musick, OD, FAAO [Past Chair]</td>
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<td>Retired/Civilian</td>
<td>LtCOL (Ret) Brian Meier, OD [Past Chair]</td>
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The AFOS Officers and Executive Council have instituted an expansion and enhancement to the education program for the Annual Meeting, announcing the development of the Dave Simpson Memorial Lecture Series. This lecture series incorporates additional continuing education hours on the first day of the annual meeting to serve as a benefit to our membership and a tribute to Col. Dave Simpson. The new schedule will include 8 hours of education and will be presented as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1600-1700</td>
<td>29986-PS ARMD: That was then, this is now</td>
<td>Michael Feeser, OD</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700-1800</td>
<td>31960-GL Progression of Glaucoma</td>
<td>Murray Fingeret, OD</td>
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<td>1800-1900</td>
<td>31523-NO Optometry's Role in C5 Program</td>
<td>Ken Uyesugi, OD and Manuel Zambrano, OD</td>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>0800-0945</td>
<td>28466-PS Peripheral Retinal Disorders: When to Hold 'em and When to Fold 'em</td>
<td>Tony Cavallerano, OD, FAAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400-1545</td>
<td>28958-SD Diagnosing and Managing Ocular Urgencies and Emergencies</td>
<td>Blair B. Lonsberry, OD, FAAO</td>
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<tr>
<td>1600-1700</td>
<td>25349-SD Clinical Ocular Grand Rounds</td>
<td>Blair B. Lonsberry, OD, FAAO</td>
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(Continued on Page 8)
Greetings from the Continuing Education Committee

Dr. Feeser serves as head of optometry at the Naval Health Clinic, Patuxent River, MD. He also serves as Chair, Medical staff at NHC Patuxent River and Chair of the Licensure Committee for AFOS. He has previously lectured on macular degeneration and retina at Ski Vision2011. Dr. Feeser's first lecture for the inaugural Dave Simpson Memorial Lecture Series will cover a short history of treatments of ARMD, and then go into detail on the retinal precursors leading to geographic atrophy and neovascularization. A pathways-based treatment paradigm will be presented based on the latest research spanning from multivitamins, fish oil, and lutein, to the latest anti-angiogenesis treatments for neovascular ARMD, and surgical approaches to geographic atrophy. His second presentation will consist of five interesting, and off the beaten track retina cases. The presentation will focus on appropriate diagnostic and treatment considerations.

Dr. Murray Fingeret is a graduate of the New England College of Optometry and has completed a residency at the Joseph C. Wilson Health Center in Rochester, New York. He is the Chief of Optometric Services at the Brooklyn/St Albans Campus of the Department of Veteran Affairs New York Harbor Health Systems. Dr. Fingeret also serves as a Clinical Professor at the State University of New York Optometry School. He currently is on the Board of Directors of the Glaucoma Foundation and is a member of the American Glaucoma Society, the American Optometric Association, and the National Academies of Practice. Dr. Fingeret has published numerous articles, co-authored several textbooks and lectured internationally on the topic of Glaucoma. His lecture will discuss the progression of glaucoma.

Dr. Uyesugi is a 1993 graduate of U.C. Berkeley School of Optometry and completed his Masters in Public Administration/Health Care in 1996. He currently serves as Chair of Naval Medical Center San Diego’s Optometry Department and Head of Optometry’s Specialty Clinic, which includes C5 Optometry, Contact Lens and Low Vision. He has served as adjunct faculty to 8 schools of Optometry, has lectured worldwide at multiple forums, and also serves as the Physician Advisor for Risk Management to the Executive Committee of the Medical Staff at his current duty station.

Dr. Zambrano graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 2003. He completed a Veteran Affairs clinical residency sponsored by NOVA Southeastern University in Ocular Disease with an emphasis in Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Previous optometry assignments include the Naval Hospitals’ Camp Pendleton and Guantanamo Bay Cuba where he served as the Joint Armed Services Medical Group Optometrist for the Detention Hospital Unit. He recently reported to the Naval Medical Center San Diego in 2010 as the TBI / Vision Center of Excellence Optometry Clinical Coordinator for the Hospital’s Wounded Warrior Program and the Comprehensive Combat and Complex Casualty Care (C5) Center of Excellence. Drs. Uyesugi and Zambrano will present an overview of how Optometry services have been incorporated into a multidisciplinary team of providers already established as the C5 clinic at Naval Medical Center and how Optometry’s role is one small part of the total care provided by the C5 team.

Dr. Cavallerano is the Director of the VHA Office of Telehealth Services Store and Forward Boston Training Center, serves as a Professor of Optometry at New England College of Optometry and is an attending optometrist at VA Boston Health Care System. He has authored several book chapters and over 65 professional journal articles and has served as the editor-in-chief of two professional optometric journals. Dr. Cavallerano has lectured and presented at numerous local, national and international meetings and is a fellow of American Academy of Optometry, a member of the American Optometric Association, and a founding member of the Optometric Retina Society.

Dr. Lonsberry is a Professor of Optometry and the Clinic Director of the Portland Vision Center associated with Pacific University in Portland, Oregon. He has received numerous teaching awards, authored multiple peer-reviewed articles, authored a chapter in Clinical Ocular Pharmacology, and is a respected national lecturer. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, the Optometric Retinal Society and the Optometric Glaucoma Society, and is on the executive board of the Ocular Surface Society of Optometry.

Outlines and handouts will be posted on the AFOS website as they are finalized by each speaker. Printed handouts will not be available at the meeting, so please feel free to print a personal copy from the website and bring it to the lectures if desired.

Again this year we will continue to use paper sign-in sheets which will be sent around the room to verify attendance. A record of attendance will be submitted to ARBO based on these sign-in sheets, so please don’t forget to sign in. Hard copy CE attendance certificates will be traded for evaluation certificates near the door at the end of each lecture.

Please keep checking the AFOS website (www.afos2020.org) for updates.
PHS Promotions
Please join me in congratulating the following PHS Officers on their recent promotions. Job well done! Temporary O-6, Captain: Shannon B. Farr, Kerry A. Hile and Barbara A. Massey. Temporary O-5, Commander: Maricela Bonilla, Sara A. Stienbarger-Preiss. Temporary O-4, Lieutenant Commander: Christopher C. Cordes, Ha Thi Kim Huynh, Gregory M. Smith. A special congrats to Dr. Shannon Farr for her Exceptional Proficiency Promotion.

Optometrists fared well with the following promotion rates: O-6, Captain: 60%; O-5, Commander 50%; and O-4, Lieutenant Commander 100%.

The PY’12 cycle is around the corner. Please take the time and go to the following website in preparation: U.S. PHS Promotion Web site and HSO Benchmarks - PY 2012

PHS Billets
As of the writing of this all PHS Optometrists should have completed their individual Standardized Billet Transformation for the Health Service Officer category. If you have yet to complete this task please e-mail CCBILLETS@PSC.hhs.gov asap. Thanks to LCDR Cordes, LCDR Manning and LCDR Smith for assisting in the process.

PHS Awards
Call for nominations for the 2011 Health Services PAC Responder of the Year Award. The deadline for submission is close of business, November 4, 2011.

RAM
Late August 2011, RDF-4 went to Pine Ridge, SD for a medical, dental, and optometric training deployment with RAM. CAPT Zubel will be going, with a plan to take about five ODs total. Equipment and eyeglass fabrication lab on the RAM truck will be utilized for the Pine Ridge mission. That deployment followed a RAM mission in Chicago.

Special Salary Rate for Civil Service Optometrists
As of the writing of this, I am pleased to report the IHS Optometry Programs Civil Service Special Salary Rate, Title-38 has met a significant milestone; approval by the Director of IHS. The proposal is currently in review within HHS. Updates will be provided as this request continues through the process.

Biennial Eye Care Meeting 5/14-18, 2012
The IHS Biennial Meeting at SCCO (Southern California College of Optometry) will tentatively be held May 14-18, 2012. On Sunday, May 13th we are planning a ‘Welcome Picnic’ late in the afternoon on the SCCO campus. This casual meet and greet will provide an opportunity for introducing ourselves to those new to our system and catching-up with friends.

IHS Loan Repayment
To date the IHSLRP has provided 15 extensions and 4 new awards. Funds are still available for FY’11; if you are interested please apply asap at IHS Loan Repayment Program (LRP) - Home
It’s been a busy transition to the job of specialty advisor, coupled with an exciting, electricity-free PCS hurricane pack out and torrential rain accompanied pack in. Many thanks to CAPT Pattison, CAPT Wickes and CDR Zeber for their support throughout the transition.

Midweek Messages are on hold as I transition to the new Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). They will return at the end of September.

CONGRATULATIONS:
Admiral Mittelman on his selection as the Deputy Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Welcome back to DC!

2012 CDR selects: LCDR Barnes, NHCL Annapolis, MD; LCDR Feese, NH Fuxian Lake, GA; LCDR Garbutt, NH Camp Pendleton, CA; LCDR Gunther, NH Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; LCDR Sunman, NH Beaufort/Parris Island MCRD, SC.

2013 LCDR selects: LT DeAngelis, NH Lemoore, CA; LT Dohm, BHC Atsugi, Japan; LT Horner, NH Guam; LT Jarvis, BMC Yuma, AZ; LT Rieman, NH Jacksonville, FL.

HAILS and FAREWELL:
Welcome Aboard to our 14 new “Health Professions Scholarship Program” graduate Lieutenants.

NEW LT

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<tr>
<th>OPTOMETRY SCHOOL</th>
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<td>LT James Ardis</td>
<td>Southern California College of Optometry</td>
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<td>LT William Becker</td>
<td>Illinois College of Optometry</td>
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<td>LT Michael Byske</td>
<td>Pacific University College of Optometry</td>
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<td>LT Alan Cantrell</td>
<td>University of Alabama in Birmingham</td>
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<td>LT Robert DiGiacomo</td>
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<td>LT Kamilah Johnson</td>
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<td>LT Fei Su</td>
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<td>LT Kiko Vahamaki</td>
<td>Southern California College of Optometry</td>
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Really, this time it is Fair Winds and Following Seas to CAPT Mike Pattison. He retired the end of August and as everyone probably already knows, is serving as Interim Executive Director of AFOS.

DEPLOYMENTS:
CDR Zeber, LCDRs Birt and Hatch completed Pacific Partnership11 with great success. Over one third of all 38,000 patients examined were optometry patients.

LCDR Franks, LTs Poole and LT Salazar worked incredibly hard during the Continuing Promise humanitarian mission and earned a bit of well deserved liberty in El Salvador.

CONFERENCES:
AAO
I look forward to attending the AFOS meeting in Boston this October and hope to see you there.

In closing, thank you for all you do, as everyday you have a hand in saving the eyes, lives and families of our warfighters.
We are coming to the end of another fiscal year and the conclusion of my first year as the Army Optometry Consultant. Time past very quickly and I now know firsthand just how much time and effort the men and women who hold these section leader positions put into managing our profession across the entire spectrum of Federal Service Optometry. I would like to personally thank COL Ray Santullo and CAPT Mike Pattison for their guidance, mentorship, and friendship over the past twelve months. Federal Service Optometrists have accomplished a great many things and we have a number of projects in various stages of completion. I witnessed the outstanding performance of our providers across Federal Service Optometry and their significant accomplishments in caring for our beneficiaries and our chosen profession. Working with exceptional professionals like you has kept me in the Army and Federal Service Optometry for over 23 years. Thank you for all you do every day. See you in Boston. TJL

Currently in Theater

**Iraq:** MAJ Youkham Chanthavilay, CPT Coleman Anderson, SFC Timothy Johnson, SGT Aaron Diaz, SGT Michael Simonsen, and PFC Brittany Lee

**Afghanistan:** LTC Deb McNamara, CPT Warren Gross, SSG Kristina Brown, SSG Tanya Rose, SSG Demeteres Files, and SGT Tiffany Cogburn

**Kosovo:** CPT Wendy Shaw

Long Term Health Education and Training Board Results

(Continued on Page 12)
The Prestigious 9A Proficiency Designator

LTC Charles D. Coe was recently awarded The Army Surgeon General’s 9A Proficiency Designator. The standards for attaining this honor are extremely high and the selection criteria stipulates that the candidate must be considered eminently qualified to chair a department, division, or service, or have attained full professional status, and have obtained prominence in his/her field. LTC Coe most definitely deserved this coveted award. Congratulations LTC Coe!

Promotions

CPT Mark Medley
1LT Mark Medley signed into West Point on 17 June 2011. Shortly after arriving, a promotion and oath of office ceremony was performed in front of the optometry clinic and LT Medley became CPT Medley.

2LT Sylvester Cobbina

SPC Sylvester Cobbina was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 2 June 2011 after receiving a Health Professions Scholarship. 2LT Cobbina emigrated here from Ghana. In June 2009, he enlisted in the Army and attended basic training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Upon graduation from Optometry School in four years, 2LT Sylvester Cobbina will be a valued addition to the Army Optometry Family.

Military Combat Eye Protection (MCEP): It Works!!!

APEL

Non-APEL

There is a reason our Army/DoD standards are higher than the general public.
Retirements and Separations

Army Optometry is losing some great officers. Here is the list of our 2011 Army Optometry retirements and separations:

Separations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAJ</td>
<td>Thomas Scholtens</td>
<td>Mannheim, Germany</td>
<td>2011 08 02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>Jeremy Burns</td>
<td>Fort Bragg, NC</td>
<td>2011 06 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>Craig England</td>
<td>Fort Sill, OK</td>
<td>2011 07 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>Christopher Hopkin</td>
<td>Fort Polk, LA</td>
<td>2011 06 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>Jad Osmanski</td>
<td>Fort Lee, VA</td>
<td>2011 07 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>David Paul</td>
<td>Fort Drum, NY</td>
<td>2011 10 01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPT</td>
<td>Lee Robertson</td>
<td>Fort Leonard Wood, MO</td>
<td>2011 08 03</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Retirements:

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LTC</td>
<td>John Eastlake</td>
<td>Fort Belvoir, VA</td>
<td>2011 09 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTC</td>
<td>Linda Glisson</td>
<td>Fort Benning, GA</td>
<td>2011 12 31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

We appreciate their outstanding service and wish them the best in the next phase of life. Please take the time to thank them for their service when you see them at a conference in the future wearing urban camouflage.

WAMC Residency Graduation

CPT Bret M. Lehman holds the distinction of being the first resident to graduate from the Womack Army Medical Center Primary Eye Care Residency on 29 June 2011. The WAMC residency is a phenomenal program and Bret set the bar extremely high as the first resident to complete the course. The WAMC Residency Program is associated with the Northeastern State University College of Optometry (NSUOCO) residency program and includes an exceptional relationship with the ophthalmology residency program at UNC Chapel Hill in Raleigh, NC for specialty contact lens training and grand rounds.
Election year for the National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists

This is an election year for NAVAO officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer). The President and Vice-President have a two term limit. The Secretary and Treasurer may serve an indefinite number of terms. All incumbents are currently serving their first term in their respective offices. The Call for Nominations from members concluded at the end of July. Nominees were announced and elections opened on our website on 8/15. Elections were held in late August and the results will be announced at this year’s NAVAO Business Meeting in Boston.

NAVAO Annual Dinner and Meeting

The National Association of Veterans Affairs Optometrists will be holding its 2011 annual dinner meeting on Thursday, October 13, 2011. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry Conference in Boston, Massachusetts. The keynote speaker will be Norman Haffner, OD, PhD, and he will be commenting on the, “VA’s Contribution to Optometric Exceptionalism.” Please register online at www.navao.org. Registration closes on September 2nd. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Norman Haffner, OD, PhD

Moving?

Please go to our website at www.afos2020.org and log on and go to “Update Profile” and make the appropriate changes — if you are an AOA member, an e-mail will automatically be generated with the changes and sent to the AOA.
Students Stars ‘n Stripes

Over the summer, Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) students across the nation participated in a survey to gather information and address questions regarding AFOS and HPSP. Their comments and concerns will be addressed in my blog, “Students Stars ‘n Stripes,” which you can find on Wordpress.com [http://studentsstarsnstripes.wordpress.com/](http://studentsstarsnstripes.wordpress.com/) or on the AOA Connect website [http://connect.aoa.org/JenalynJotie/blog/](http://connect.aoa.org/JenalynJotie/blog/). Please check out my first blog post, “Tales from Officer Development School,” featuring Matt Weinheimer, a 2nd year Navy HPSP student and the Local AFOS Student Liaison at the Illinois College of Optometry. In my second blog post, “Ask the Army Experts: The ABCs of HPSP, ADT and OBLC,” MAJ Joshua C. Baker and CPT Christopher Alferez tackle questions from Army HPSP students.

Hoya Student Travel Grants

I am happy to announce that Hoya Vision Care has generously offered four $500 Student Travel Scholarships to HPSP/AFOS student members to attend the AFOS Annual Meeting this year. The following four outstanding students are recipients of the Hoya Student Travel Grants and will be recognized at the AFOS luncheon on Oct. 11th: Mandy Simmons (AF, UABSO), Jeremiah Church (USN, NOVA), Samantha Rieger (USA, UIWTX) and Roya Attarhousseini (AF, UIWTX).

“I’m originally from the small town of Odenville, AL and graduated with honors from The University of Alabama. I’m currently a 3rd year optometry student at UABSO and am the Class of 2013 President, AAO Chair, AOA-PAC Representative, Student-faculty liaison, and Gold Key member. I was commissioned into the USAF earlier this year and look forward to serving the United States in any way I can.”

—Mandy Simmons, Hoya Travel Grant Recipient, Air Force, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Optometry

“I am an Ensign in the Navy. I was born and raised in Utah. I grew up spending a lot of time in the mountains. I recently finished an amazing rotation in Juneau, Alaska. The picture is in an area near Juneau.”

—Jeremiah Church, Hoya Travel Grant Recipient, Navy, Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry

(Continued on Page 16)
“I’m originally from Basking Ridge, NJ, graduated from Wake Forest University, and was commissioned into the US Army. I served as an Environmental Science Officer with assignments to the 82nd ABN DIV at Ft Bragg, OIF, and USACHPPM-North at Ft Meade. I am currently a third year student at UIW Rosenberg School of Optometry and hold leadership positions as UIW RSO’s AOSA Trustee and AFOS Local Liaison and participate in BSK and NOSA. I enjoy long distance running and participating in triathlons. I am looking forward to continuing my service in the US Army upon graduation in 2013.”—Samantha Rieger, Hoya Travel Grant Recipient

“I attended undergrad at the Univ. of Memphis, received a BS in Biology & Chemistry and am currently a 3rd year student attending the University of the Incarnate Word Rosenberg School of Optometry. I am also the co-founder / President of the National Optometric Student Association (NOSA), co-founder / Vice President of Contact Lens Society, and the liaison of the American Public Health Association (APHA).”—Roya Attarhousseini, Hoya Travel Grant Recipient

A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

Name: First, Last
William McLean
Company
USAARL
Title:
Research Optometrist

Message:
So sad to hear the passing of Colonel Floyd Morris - a super leader and champion of Optometry. Just wanted to share a personal note from one of our first military optometry meetings I believe at AOA conference at Miami, FL in 1969. At the military reception, Colonel Morris noticed my name tag, and said "Aren’t you the one that put down Florida for all three PCS assignment requests?", and I replied yes. He proudly stated that he personally saw to it that I got a Florida air base. I knew he was expecting me to be graciously thankful, but I responded, "Well, I wonder who the SOB was that assigned me to Goose Bay Labrador and Thule Greenland when I requested Vietnam?" You can imagine the look on his face, but then he smiled like the gentleman he was, and we both had a good laugh.
J....................PAGE
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AWARDS
Dr. Carol Rymer
Dr. Margaret Read

“Award those who deserve!”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFOS AWARDS COMMITTEE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Air Force</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erich Wanagat, OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Carra, OD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Army</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evelyn Reyes-Cabrera, OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Sloan, OD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Navy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Behil, OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Sprague</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Public Health</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cliff Brown, OD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ryan Manning, OD</td>
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<td><strong>VA</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carla Engelke, OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Molinari, OD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chairs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Rymer, OD (Chair)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marrie Read, OD (Co-Chair)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who took the time to nominate your colleagues for an AFOS award! Although the deadline was moved to July, there was an excellent response this year. Eight nominations for Junior OD of the Year were split evenly between the Army and Air Force. The OD of the Year award garnered five nominations representing the Army, Navy, Veteran’s Affairs, and Public Health Service. Two of our colleagues were nominated for the Reserve Force Award. And there was a strong showing of five nominations for the Student Travel Award. This year’s award winners will be announced in Boston, MA at the annual AFOS meeting now being held in conjunction with the American Academy of Optometry Conference. Don’t miss it!

These awards are highly recognized within the Optometric Community and it is an excellent way to let our folks know that we are aware of their dedication, talent, and devotion to Federal Service and the optometric profession. Visit the AFOS website and review the simple procedure to submit some of our talented doctors: [http://www.afos2020.org/AFOS_Awards.asp](http://www.afos2020.org/AFOS_Awards.asp), an easier format has been incorporated which is aligned with the AOA Awards. Award nominations for next year will be due 01 July 2012. Get started
Licensure Committee
LCDR MICHAEL FEESER, CHAIR

LICENSURE BY ENDORSEMENT

The work has only been half done in this ongoing effort for optometric licensure parity among the states. The AOA has fully endorsed the concept. The efforts now turn to the individual target states, and developing a strategy to bring all states expectations for minimum optometric licensure into alignment. The following states are ones that do not currently fit the current AOA definition for Licensure by Endorsement. Ideally, the committee would like to have one AFOS member per targeted state. If you are from one of these states, consider being a part of this committee.

Florida- Dr. Angel Rivera (Veteran’s Administration)
Iowa-LCDR Brian Engesser (Navy)
Maryland-LCDR Michael Feeser (Navy)

The following states are not considered licensure by endorsement states and may require representation by a member of AFOS.

- Idaho
- Kansas
- Nebraska
- North Carolina
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- Virginia
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- Vermont
- Massachusetts
- Rhode Island
- Connecticut
- Pennsylvania
- New York
- Delaware

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States Requiring A State Board-Administered Examination (other than jurisprudence) in Addition to Requiring All Parts of the National Board For Licensure

1. Arkansas (pharmacology exam)
2. Kansas (may not apply to endorsement candidates)
3. Maine
4. Mississippi (pharmacology exam)
5. New Mexico
6. North Carolina
7. Oklahoma
8. West Virginia (may not apply to endorsement candidates)
9. Wyoming (in general for new graduates only, not routinely required for licensure by endorsement candidates)

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States Requiring A State Board-Administered Examination (other than jurisprudence) For Licensure and Do Not Require or Accept Part III of the National Board²

1. Florida
2. Louisiana

(Continued on Page 19)
(Continued from Page 18)

States Requiring any or all Parts of the National Board Exam Series to Be Passed Within the Five Years Preceding Application

1. Arizona (*10 years preceding application*)
2. Alaska (*TMOD*)
3. Florida
4. Kansas
5. Virginia ¹

¹ “An applicant who did not complete all parts of the board-approved examination within five years prior to the date of receipt of their application for licensure by this board may be required to retake all or any part of the board-approved examination or take board-approved continuing education unless they demonstrate that they have maintained clinical, ethical, and legal practice for 36 of the past 60 months immediately prior to submission of an application for licensure.” [18 VAC 105-20-10 (E)].

² Beginning July 2011, the Oklahoma optometry board no longer requires Part III of the National Board exam series and began administering its own clinical exam. However, if a candidate for licensure passed NBEO Part III, that exam will be accepted in lieu of the optometry board-administered clinical exam.

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MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Megan Hunter

Hi AFOS members. I hope many of you are looking forward to our Annual meeting coming up October 10th and 11th in Boston. If you are attending the American Academy of Optometry meeting please come to Boston early and check out the Annual AFOS meeting. It is an incredible value! Registration is available on our website.

The membership committee has not had any major projects in over a year. But that changed this summer! I want to thank the members of the committee for all their hard work in contacting or attempting to contact each and every AFOS member. It is very important that we have correct contact information and up-to-date information for every member on our website. We are gradually becoming a more paperless organization and we need your help. If you have already updated your information on the AFOS website, thank you!! If you have not, please do so. Dr. Pattison will be happy to provide your log on information.

Our committee plans to meet in Boston in order to continue to work on updating member information and also to brainstorm ways to reach our ultimate goal of becoming one of the AGAs largest affiliates. Joining the AOA helps... Hint, hint.

There’s room on our committee. Please contact me if you are interested in any of the open positions below.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon. If you have questions don’t hesitate to contact me.

2011 AFOS Membership Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Special Assistant(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Air Force</td>
<td>Brian Blanchard</td>
<td>Melissa Simmons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>David Meltzer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navy</td>
<td>Robert Senko</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Michael Davis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran’s Affairs</td>
<td>Megan Hunter (chair)</td>
<td>Janel Chou</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greetings AFOS members! The AFOS/AAO Boston Meeting is soon upon us. As a reminder there is still time to register for this exciting event! You can visit our website to pay your registration. In addition, take the opportunity to pay your dues if you have not already done so. We ask that all members log onto the AFOS website at http://www.afos2020.org and update your member profile to include your current mailing address, phone number, email address (preferably home email address). Instructions on how to update your profile is located here. Did you lose your password or login? Then click here to access your lost password.

I will be making a brief presentation at our Boston on how we can best serve you, the AFOS member better through our website and social media. I encourage you to say hello afterwards and offer your ideas for improvement!

Also, remember to “friend” us on Facebook to get you the latest info on AFOS events and activities!

Lastly, we are still looking for enthusiastic and energetic AFOS members to join our Marketing and Communications Committee. If interested, please contact me or any of our committee members.

Maj John Kim
Chair, Marketing and Communications Committee
john.kim@misawa.af.mil
REGISTRATION FOR THE ACADEMY MADE SIMPLER

This year, the Academy is going to try to make it a little easier for those of you attending our AFOS meeting to get your registration materials for the Academy. The pre-registration date was August 12th so anyone who registered prior to that date will have their materials mailed to them. For those people, they will hand out your badges, tickets and registration bags.

For those that registered after that date, the hope is to have everything for them but that can only happen if you register very quickly. The actual deadline for having this service available to you is still being determined but register early. Once that deadline has passed you will have to go to the registration desk for the Academy and stand in that long line.

Make certain and thank whoever is there doing this and tell them how much you appreciate it so that they want to do this for us every year.

ABSTRACTS

Sohan Singh Hayreh, MD, PhD, Patricia A. Podhajsky, BSN, M. Bridget Zimmerman, PhD. Central and Hemicentral Retinal Vein Occlusion Role of Anti–Platelet Aggregation Agents and Anticoagulants. Ophthalmology 2011;118:1603–1611

Objective: To investigate systematically the role of anti–platelet-aggregating drugs or anticoagulants in central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO) and hemi-CRVO.

Methods: At first visit, all patients had a detailed ophthalmic and medical history (including the use of anti–platelet aggregating drugs or anticoagulants), and comprehensive ophthalmic and retinal evaluation. Visual evaluation was carried out by recording visual acuity, using the Snellen visual acuity chart, and visual fields with a Goldmann perimeter. The same ophthalmic evaluation was performed at each follow-up visit. At the initial visit, CRVO and hemi-CRVO were classified as nonischemic and ischemic.

Results: All 3 types of CRVO, showed a significantly greater severity of retinal hemorrhages among aspirin users than nonusers. Initial visual acuity and visual fields were significantly worse in aspirin users than non-users in nonischemic CRVO and hemi-CRVO, but did not differ for ischemic CRVO. Among patients with nonischemic CRVO who initially had 20/60 or better visual acuity, there was a significant association of aspirin use with visual acuity deterioration. Of those whose macular edema resolved, overall cumulative visual acuity outcome also suggested a higher percentage with deterioration among aspirin users relative to nonusers. For the nonischemic CRVO patients with 20/70 or worse visual acuity at the initial visit, after resolution of macular edema, improvement in visual acuity was less likely in the aspirin users than in nonusers.

Conclusions: Findings of this study indicate that, for patients with CRVO and hemi-CRVO, the use of aspirin, other anti–platelet aggregating agents, or anticoagulants was associated with a worse visual outcome and no apparent benefit.
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($5,000 + Year)
Platinum AFOS Sponsors (Continued)

($5,000 + Year)

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EMRlogic

Walman Instrument Group

Kowa

US SAFEY

PAY YOUR DUES ON-LINE!

Debit Card, Credit PayPal

AFOS members can now pay their AFOS and AOA dues on our website at www.afos2020.org
2011 DUES STRUCTURE

<table>
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<th>AFOS</th>
<th>AOA</th>
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<tr>
<td>&lt;2 yrs Service</td>
<td>1st full yr after grad $80.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>&gt;2 yrs Service</td>
<td>2nd full yr after grad $160.40</td>
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<td>Associate</td>
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<td>Student</td>
<td>4th full yr after grad $601.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life (Ret) (1 time pay)</td>
<td>5th full yr after grad $802.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: AFOS dues are due in full on 1 Jan. AOA dues may be paid in full or quarterly. Quarterly AOA payments of $200.50 are due on 1 Jan, 1 April, 1 July and 1 Oct. You may now make your dues payments online 24/7 with a debit or credit card by logging on and clicking on “Pay Membership Dues”. If you prefer to pay by check instead of online -- Make checks payable to AFOS and send all payments to: AFOS, 4936 Ten Oaks Road, Dayton, MD 21036-1121. **DO NOT SEND DUES PAYMENTS TO THE AOA.**

The dues owed by each member are no longer printed at the top of your mailing label.

Your dues’ history for 2010 and 2011 is now available for viewing by logging on the AFOS website and clicking on “Pay Membership Dues.”

NOTE: We are working on sending your statements by e-mail. Please make sure your profile is current.

“Contributions or gifts to the American Optometric Association are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses subject to restrictions imposed as a result of association lobbying activities. The American Optometric Association estimates that the non-deductible portion of your AOA 2011 dues - the portion that is allocable to lobbying - is 9.5%.”