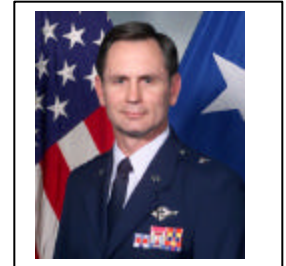


# American Society of Aerospace Medicine Specialists

Newsletter Vol 3 No 1  
Fall 2001

## Presidents Minute

George Peach Taylor, Jr., Brig Gen, USAF, MC, CFS



Fellow ASAMS Members,

The 11 September events in our nation are a watershed for our lifetimes. America is again at war, this time with an elusive enemy who threatens us in the most asymmetric of ways. Our nation's public health system and first responders are now at the "pointy end of the spear." New technologies and new processes will spring up. We need to watch for those, and we need to assess their impact on Aerospace Medicine

In addition, our flight surgeons are engaged throughout the world in the battle. We owe them our best leadership. Take a moment to reflect back on your life as a flight surgeon. Are we doing all we can to give them the tools and scientific knowledge they need to accomplish the mission?

Think about it.

## News Clips

### Elections

The last page of this newsletter is a ballot. Candidates on this ballot are for the 2001-2003 term of office. As this is a small organization, your response is important. Please print this ballot. Complete it and MAIL it (yes that's right – snail mail) to the address on the back.

### Society Develops Clinical Protocols

The Society's *ad hoc committee on practice guidelines* has been busy! Our website now proudly displays dozens of draft and completed practice guidelines. Members of this society should certainly review these guidelines and apply them in the professional practice of aerospace medicine. Completed guidelines have been reviewed by the executive council of AsMA. Completed guidelines now available include: Acoustic neuroma, Adjustment disorder, Anxiety, Aortic insufficiency, Asthma, Back Pain, Cataract, Coronary Artery Disease, Head Injury, Herniated Nucleus Pulposus, Hypertension, Mood Disorders, Pregnancy and Sleep Disorders. Draft guidelines for 31 other conditions are displayed on the site. The committee would appreciate suggestions and comments on the guidelines.

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## Website and Mailgroup Operative

The Society's website is up and running at "[www.asams.org](http://www.asams.org)". Please feel free to comment on the content and correct or update any materials on the website. We are particularly interested in copies of old newsletters to have a complete archive on-line. If you have any organizational information that you feel might be of interest to members please make it available for publication. Also, we are also trying to obtain as complete a membership list as possible with current e-mail. If you do not see your name on the member page or if you have any information you wish to provide, please contact Dr. G. J. Salazar at [gjsalazar@hotmail.com](mailto:gjsalazar@hotmail.com).

Also, a Yahoo mail list for members of ASAMS has been established. This list is intended to facilitate convenient e-mail communication and group discussion among ASAMS members. The list is private and can only be accessed by e-mail or online (Archives) by ASAMS members who have requested list group membership. This service is the same as currently being used by some AsMA committees, such as the Air Transport Medicine committee. If you wish to be included on the mail list please visit the sign-in page on the ASAMS website and request membership or contact Dr. Salazar at the email above.

## New Society Logo

This is the draft of the new ASAMS logo, which was designed and created by Joe Ortega and Bill Sneider. You may see what it looks like on line at [www.asams.org](http://www.asams.org).

The logo represents our far reaching medical specialty with five elements: the Wright flyer that represents our aviation roots and where we have been; a futuristic air/space vehicle with a prominent contrail representing the advancement of flight; a background of stars and the Earth that represents commitment to aviation and space activities; and lastly a stylized wooden propeller to substitute for the traditional wand of Hermes in the caduceus that reflects our medical profession. Not included on the logo at this time is the proposed motto for the Society, "Infrenatus terrarum" or "unbound to Earth", which represents the unique aspects and non-traditional nature of our practice.



Please let us know what you think of the logo. Send comments to Bill Salazar ([gjsalazar@hotmail.com](mailto:gjsalazar@hotmail.com)) or Joe Ortega ([hjortega@hotmail.com](mailto:hjortega@hotmail.com)).

# Committee Reports

## *Report from the May 2001 ASAMS Annual Meeting American Society of Aerospace Medicine Specialists Meeting Notes 17 May 2001*

The meeting was called to order at precisely 0730, Thursday 17 May 2001, Pool Terrace, Nugget Hotel, Reno, Nevada, by President Chris Heinrichs.

Approximately 42 members were in attendance.

### STANDARD AGENDA:

1. Secretary's Report: As Secretary Glenn Merchant had to leave before this meeting the minutes of the 2000 meeting were read by Dr Heinrichs.
2. Treasurer's Report delivered by Treasurer Stephen Véronneau.

Statement of Account 30 April 2001 \$4254.66 (Interest will be paid 10 May 2001)

Expenses and actions: 1. \$19.75 and \$23.25 for deposit slips and checks 2. IRS address changed fall 2000. 3. To Mike Mork, MD \$264.94 in August 2000 reimbursement for ASAMS expenses up to the meeting last year

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. The status of the Ad Hoc Committee on Practice Guidelines was presented by co-chairs Drs Dan Van Syoc and Warren Silberman.
2. Dr Bill Salazar reported on the status of the Society website. We have ownership of the address *ASAMS.org*. He and his team are working on getting the first site constructed.
3. Dr Chuck Berry came forth to update those present on the status of the proposed Space Medicine Specialty.
4. President Heinrichs remarked on the need for the Society to start moving forward, building a strong institutional foundation. The first organizational meeting was May 1998 in Seattle. ASAMS was approved as a constituent member of AsMA December 1998. We had our first official meeting as ASAMS in Detroit, May 1999. This is only the third meeting of ASAMS. We are not robust enough yet to have members sit back and say, "You should ..." We need members to say, "I will do ..." and preferably remain with that activity for three years.

There being no open old business, that concluded the formal agenda. The meeting was turned over to the new president, Dr. George Peach Taylor. President Taylor again emphasized the need to build the infrastructure to support a successful organization. He hoped the web site would be up and running soon ("Better to have a plain, simple one now than a fancy one later.") He asked for e-mail addresses for all committee members to aid communication. And hoped committees would place progress reports of their activities on our soon-to-be website.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Dr Susan Northrup brought up concerns she had heard re: Recertification. She volunteered to head an ad hoc committee to investigate the processes of recertification. Dr Jeff Davis, AsMA representative to the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) spoke to some of the concerns. The process is still in flux. Drs Jim Vanderploeg and Bill Salazar (AsMA Education Committee Chair) were also present and spoke to the issue. Among the ideas discussed was converting the ongoing Medical Grand Rounds into an approved module. It was agreed that those involved (Drs Northrup, Davis, Vanderploeg, Salazar, etc.) would present the facts on "Maintenance of Certification" at next years meeting.
2. Dr Chuck Berry proposed that a letter be prepared for our AsMA President's signature concerning the Institute of Medicine's Space Medicine initiative. This motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned with the President and immediate past president scurrying off to present at a Kosovo Medical Response panel. The remaining 40 members signed up to man the committees and update their membership personal data.

## **Committee Members**

### ***AEROSPACE MEDICINE PRACTICE STANDARDS & COMPETENCIES COMMITTEE***

(Chair) Warren Silberman [warren\\_silberman@mmacmail.jccbi.gov](mailto:warren_silberman@mmacmail.jccbi.gov)  
(Chair) Dan Van Syoc [dan.vansyoc@brooks.af.mil](mailto:dan.vansyoc@brooks.af.mil)  
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### ***NOMINATING COMMITTEE***

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Diane Ritter [tigerdoc@aol.com](mailto:tigerdoc@aol.com)

### ***MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE***

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Phillip Parker [peparker@hotmail.com](mailto:peparker@hotmail.com)  
Wayne Sumpter [wayne.sumpter@randolph.af.mil](mailto:wayne.sumpter@randolph.af.mil)

### ***CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS***

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Ed Feeks [efeeks@post.harvard.edu](mailto:efeeks@post.harvard.edu)

### ***AD HOC SPACE MEDICINE COMMITTEE***

(Chair) Chuck Berry  
Joe Ortega [hjortega@hotmail.com](mailto:hjortega@hotmail.com)

### ***AD HOC WEB PAGE TEAM***

(Chair) Bill Salazar [g.j.salazar@faa.gov](mailto:g.j.salazar@faa.gov)  
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Joe Ortega [hjortega@hotmail.com](mailto:hjortega@hotmail.com)  
Phil Parker [peparker@hotmail.com](mailto:peparker@hotmail.com)  
Pete Bauer [pab1204@aol.com](mailto:pab1204@aol.com)  
Jim Vanderploeg [jmv@imedicon.com](mailto:jmv@imedicon.com)

***AD HOC CERTIFICATION MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE***

(Chair) Susan Northrup [Susan.northrup@usafsg.bolling.af.mil](mailto:Susan.northrup@usafsg.bolling.af.mil)

***AD HOC CORE COMPETENCIES***

(Chair) Otto Boneta [ofboneta@nomi.med.navy.mil](mailto:ofboneta@nomi.med.navy.mil)

## **Editor's Moment**

Horror and heroes. Our televisions and radios are full of these lately. Our medical and non-medical peers, our patients, and our families are terrified--terrified about air travel, terrified about safety of mail, food and water and the very air we breathe. They want and deserve answers and cogent plans. As our nation mobilizes to obtain those answers, I am gratified to see, at the heart of many of the discussions, aerospace medicine specialists. Perhaps never before has aviation safety, environmental safety, epidemiology and preventive medicine been so much in the spotlight. And, many of those who have stepped up to find answers are members of our society.

Our society exists to:

- Establish standards for the specialty of Aerospace Medicine, including but not limited to, the development of core-competencies for residents in Aerospace Medicine and practice guidelines for Aerospace Medicine practitioners.
- Representing and promoting the interests of physicians who specialize in Aerospace Medicine.
- Promoting and preserving the highest professional standards of care among practitioners of Aerospace Medicine.
- Interesting young physicians and medical students in the specialty of Aerospace Medicine.
- Increasing the value of the specialty of Aerospace Medicine to prospective employers

Our society has made its first small steps to setting standards and promoting our specialty. The clinical practice guidelines that our ad hoc committee has developed have been of superb quality and will go far in establishing the international standard. That small group has set our society on the course for success by being involved and producing a tangible product that represents all of us. We need to keep in mind, though, that our specialty encompasses much more than just medical standards. As our members chart new waters in disease prevention, surveillance, applied epidemiology and prevention, we should highlight these skills, unique to our toolkit. The aerospace medicine specialist may not be needed at every clinic in the US, but every clinic in the needs the products of an aerospace medicine specialist. Let's make sure these important aspects of our profession are not overlooked.

Each of us is an important element of a small organization. To be successful, we must be involved and let others benefit from our expertise. Take the time to be involved – and don't forget to cast your ballot.

Finally, I must offer my apology for being so tardy assembling this newsletter. AsMA seems like just a few days ago, yet we are already well on our way to 2002. The editorial staff will try to get the next issue out more quickly.

**BALLOT FOR OFFICERS: AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
AEROPACE MEDICINE SPECIALIST (ASAMS)**

**Vice President/President Elect** (Term of Office 2001-2003)  
(Please vote for one)

€ Warren Silberman

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** (Term of Office 2001-2003):  
(Please vote for one)

€ Dan Van Syoc

€ Jerry Owen

€ Chris Heinrichs

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you wish to forward any recommended candidates to the Nominations  
Committee?**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(You may recommend yourself or any other member in good standing)

**Vice President/President Elect** (Term of Office 2002-2004)  
(I recommend)

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer** (Term of Office 2002-2004)  
(I recommend)

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** (Term of Office 2003-2005):  
(I recommend)

Write-in \_\_\_\_\_

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**FROM:**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ASAMS  
P O Box 35356  
Brooks AFB TX 78235-5356**

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(Please fold in thirds, tape closed, and stamp before mailing back or place ballot in an envelope and send to the above address)

