

Subject: CPC CyberFlash  
From: "Director CPC" <Director.CPC@noaa.gov>  
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### **From the Director's Desk**

I had a chance to visit the RONALD H. BROWN this week while attending a leadership class at Harvard. Believe it or not, that was my first visit to the ship. Commanders Wright and Blake were gracious enough to give myself and several classmates a tour of the ship.

The reaction of my classmates was one of extreme interest and amazement, particularly as we experienced the crews' preparation for a mission to revisit and photograph the TITANIC. Sometimes we forget how lucky we are and important our work is. That was a moment of reflection for me and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your dedication and hard work as you perform your important roles in NOAA.

Commander Jonathan W. Bailey, NOAA  
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

### **Augmentation Opportunities**

NOAA Ship DAVID STARR JORDAN - all cruises filled. Thanks to LTJG Krause, ENS Kondel, ENS Cary.

NOAA Ship HI'IALAKAI has a list of volunteers. Thanks!

Any officers interested in augmentation opportunities as they arise, should review the qualification requirements in the new NOAA Corps directives found at:  
[http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/ncregs\\_ncdir.html#ncdc4](http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/ncregs_ncdir.html#ncdc4)  
- see CH 4 "Refresher Training"

If interested and qualified (or requesting waiver of quals) in any future augmentation opportunities, contact Chief, MOC-Pacific Operations Division 206-553-8705.

### **ON BEING A COMMISSIONED OFFICER - PART 4 - Orders.**

The information for this series is obtained from a DoD publication "The Armed Forces Officer" and modified to apply to a NOAA Corps officer.

When an order is given, what does it mean to the person who receives it? The sequence given by Brigadier General Marshall is this:

1. To be certain that you understand what is required.
2. To examine and organize the required resources as promptly as possible.
3. To execute the order without waste of time or means.
4. To call for support if events prove that the means are inadequate.
5. To fill up the spaces in the orders if there are developments that had not been anticipated.
6. When the job is done, to prepare to go on to something else.

It is just as important to explain the order as it is to give it. It makes no sense to be impatient or resentful that you had to explain the order. Orders are not always clear, and people do not always listen well. It is important for officers to think and to be able to present ideas or orders in a clear, understandable manner. The idea of disobeying orders is difficult to handle. When does an officer say no? It makes no difference that the order may seem to be dumb or stupid or even incomprehensible. If it is legal, it must be obeyed. Only when the order is unlawful and obviously a crime must it be disobeyed. What happens when the subordinates tell a superior that the order is not illegal, but is wrong? Does that mean that the superior must change the order? Far from it! It means only that the superior should re-evaluate the order and come to a decision about its validity. If it is wrong, the superior must change it! If, however, it is right, the pressure from below must not influence the decision. Given time, only the most arrogant, self-centered superior will not provide an opportunity for the views and opinions of subordinates to be heard, evaluated and acted upon. However, it is each officer who has been given "special trust and confidence." A staff is useful, but the officer gets paid to take the heat and make the decision.

**This message was generated for the Director of Commissioned Personnel**