

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

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all officers, I hope everyone has a safe holiday and gets some well deserved time off.

In accordance with Title 33 of the U.S. Code and Chapter 4 of the NOAA Corps Directives, the Officer Personnel Board (OPB) will convene in March 2005 to select those officers best qualified to be promoted to the grades of lieutenant and lieutenant commander. The OPB will convene in April 2005 to perform the same function for commanders and captains. The OPB's recommendations will be forwarded to the Secretary for his approval. No information will be released until the Secretary has approved the OPB recommendations.

As of today, the OPB shall consider and may recommend for promotion those best qualified for the following grades:

Captains: Zone Size- 10, Board may recommend up to 5

Commanders: Zone- 12, Board may recommend up to 7

Lieutenant Commanders: Zone – 14, Board may recommend up to 9

Lieutenants: Zone – 21, Board may recommend up to 21

Lieutenant (jg): Recommendations will be made at the NOAA Corps Annual Review

The actual zones will be published after January 1, 2005 and posted at the CPC web site. CPC constantly updates promotion estimates and these zones may be adjusted up to thirty days prior to the OPB meeting. All officers who are above the established zone remain eligible for promotion. Officers with approved retirements or who are under investigation are not eligible for consideration; all other officers are eligible. The Director, NOAA Corps may authorize the OPB to consider officers below the established zone. The number of officers below the established zone who may be considered for promotion may not exceed 20% of the established zone size.

Officers are encouraged to review their Official Personnel Files (OPF) prior to the OPB convening to make selections and recommendations.

The following officers have been selected for 2005 Officer Personnel Board:

Captain Roger L Parsons, Chair

Captain Gary P. Bulmer

Captain Steven R. Barnum

Captain Sean R. White

Commander Kenneth W. Barton

Commander Philip R. Kennedy

Commander Frederick W. Rossmann

Commander William B. Kears

Commander Stacy L. Birk-Risheim

* By law the OPB shall consist of at least 5 officers in the permanent grade of commander or above.

The NOAA Corps Billet list is in its final stages. We are waiting for one more Line Office (LO) to report back to CPC. In the near future your assignment requests should be consistent with the openings at your grade on or about the time of your reassignment date. All requests for new billets shall be forwarded to the LO liaison officer, who will discuss the billet with the appropriate Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA); if the DAA concurs with the establishment of the new billet, the billet will be presented to the Director, NOAA Corps for his approval. As new billets are created each LO must withdraw another billet at the same grade. Additionally, the results of each Officer Assignment Board will be posted at the CPC web site. Commanding Officers of the ships afloat will receive an electronic copy for distribution at their command.

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

Cessation of Beneficiary Medical Program (BMP)

Effective January 1, 2005, the Beneficiary Medical Program (BMP) Branch of the U.S. Public Health Service will cease functioning as a claims processing agent for NOAA Corps officers. All officers must be enrolled in either TRICARE Prime or TRICARE Prime Remote, in accordance with instructions previously distributed.

TRICARE does not cover dental care. All officers enrolled in TRICARE Prime must receive their dental care through the Military Treatment Facility within their given catchment area.

Any NOAA Corps officer who is in a TRICARE Prime Remote location must call the following contact at NMAO Headquarters for preauthorization and coordination of all dental care and subsequent billing:

CDR Tom Doss, USPHS
1315 East-West Highway, Room 12734
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282
Phone: 800-NOAA-BMP (800-662-2267)
FAX: 301-713-2887
Tom.Doss@noaa.gov
Medical.NMAO@noaa.gov

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