



CPC CyberFlash

From the Director's Desk

The nomination and promotion packages continue to move smoothly through the various offices for the necessary clearances and Secretarial approval. The process is working well but requires time to effect. Once the President approves the recommendations of the Secretary and the Senate gives its advice and consent, the "promotion list" is returned to CPC via the White House and Department of Commerce. When a vacancy occurs on the lineal list, through resignations, retirements, separations or promotions, the next qualified officers name is forwarded with a commission to be signed by the Secretary effecting the promotion (distribution in grade is based on current strength). In the past, most promotions occurred on the first day of the month in conjunction with the departure of an officer. This is no longer the case; a vacancy must exist before an officer may be promoted. It usually takes approximately two weeks to process a commission package and receive the signed commission back at CPC. The date of promotion is the date the Secretary signs the commission evidencing the promotion.

The following is an update of the remaining open nomination packages:

O-6/O-5 Nominations (beginning John W. Humphrey Jr., and ending Mark H. Pickett) are currently at the White House.

O-1/O-2 Permanent appointments for BOTC 107 are moving through the clearance process.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey", is shown on a light blue background.

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

Promotions Effective July 1, 2005

To Captain

John E. Lowell

To Lieutenant (jg)

Michael C. Davidson
Silas M. Ayers
David E. Fischman



Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Coverage Increase

How Much Will SGLI Increase By?

The maximum level of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage will be increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000 on 1 September 2005.

Who Will Be Affected?

All NOAA Corps officers will have their coverage increased to \$400,000 on September 1, 2005, **even if the officer previously declined or elected lesser coverage**. If the officer still desires no coverage or less than the maximum, they will have to complete a new [SGLI Election and Certificate \(SGLV Form 8286\)](#) and submit it to the NOAA Corps Payroll Unit. Elections to reduce or decline the new maximum coverage cannot be made before 1 September.

What Coverage Amounts Will Be Available?

Servicemembers can elect coverage in increments of \$50,000. Previously, members could elect coverage in increments of \$10,000.

How Much Will The Additional Coverage Cost?

The premium rates for SGLI coverage will remain the same. Currently, the rate is 6.5 cents per \$1,000 per month, or \$16.25 per month for \$250,000. Therefore, if a member does not elect reduced coverage or decline coverage, they will pay \$26.00 per month for the new maximum coverage of \$400,000. The following premiums apply at each coverage level:

Coverage Level	Monthly Premium
\$50,000	\$3.25
\$100,000	\$6.50
\$150,000	\$9.75
\$200,000	\$13.00
\$250,000	\$16.25
\$300,000	\$19.50

\$400,000	\$26.00
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Assignment Information

The Assignment Branch has a new email address. Please use the following address when corresponding about assignment opportunities and requests. Also, official forthcoming emails will now come from this address: AssignmentBranch.CPC@noaa.gov

Current Line Office Liaison Officers/OAB Members:

Captain Sean White (chair) – NWS
Captain Stephen Barnum – NOS
Captain Richard Brown – NMFS
Commander Frederick Rossmann – NESDIS
Commander Ralph Rogers (until 01 Sept) – OAR
Commander Wade Blake (after 01 Sept) – OAR
Commander Michele Bullock – NMAO
Captain Jon Rix and Captain John Clary – MOC
Captain Steve Kozak – AOC
Captain George White – NOAA HQ

In addition, some line offices have “technical liaisons” to assist the senior liaison. These officers may be contacted instead of those listed above.

Commander Carl Groeneveld – NOS
Commander Tom Strong – AOC
Commander Mark Ablondi – MOC
Lieutenant Commander Mark Moran – NWS
Lieutenant Commander Karl Mangels – NMFS

TSA Suspends 30-Minute Rule for Reagan National Airport

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has suspended the section of a Security Directive that required all passengers flying into and out of Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport to be seated for 30 minutes after departure or before arrival.

The rule was suspended as of 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 15.

Department of Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announced the 30-minute rule would be suspended when he unveiled a broad reorganization of the department Wednesday.

Kenneth Kasprisin, Acting Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for TSA, said, "Our efforts along with the cooperation of commercial airlines have brought us to the point where this rule is no longer needed. We are confident in our systematic layered approach to airline security."

While the rule was valuable when applied following the 9/11 attacks, TSA's security web

passengers. Significantly enhanced layers of security range from hardened cockpit doors to advanced screening procedures and air marshals on flights.

For more information regarding TSA, please visit their Web site at www.tsa.gov.

Geographic Rate Protection Scheduled to End 1 Jan 2006

- o 2000: DOD implemented the Basic Allowance for Housing Program, at that time the typical Service member absorbed (paid) almost 20 percent of their own housing costs if they lived off of a military installation.
- o 2001: DOD initiated a gradual reduction in the absorption rate, with a goal to eliminate this expense for the member in five years, from 18.8 percent to 15 percent by increasing the dollars paid to members through the housing allowance.
- o This change was followed by successive annual reductions (2002 – reduced to 11.3%; 2003 – reduced to 7.5 %, 2004 – reduced to 3.5%) until 0% absorption was reached on 1 January 2005.
- o The fact that 0% absorption was reached does not mean that Service members pay no out of pocket costs for off base housing. Rather, it means that the average member, if they choose to rent housing that is comparable to a civilian living in the same area, with approximately the same income, will incur no out of pocket costs.
- o In view of the January 2000 announcement to eliminate out-of-pocket costs by 2005, the policy of geographic rate protection was implemented to ensure that no area was paid a housing allowance that was less than the 1999 rate.
- o During the period 2000-2005, BAH rates have not been reduced.
- o 2006: January 1, the policy of geographic rate protection will expire.
- o Because the BAH rates are reflection of local housing markets across the U.S., they will move up or down as the local rental markets move.
- o Although the vast majority of BAH rates will remain stable or increase, there may be some areas that decrease along with a decreasing local market.
- o In these areas, service members who have committed to a lease will continue to receive the same BAH rate.
- o “Individual Rate Protection” is a protection provided through the law governing the BAH program and states that as long as members remain eligible for BAH within an area, the allowance may not be reduced.
- o Expiration of the policy heralds the successful accomplishment of reaching a “zero” absorption rate for members and an increase of approximately 8 Billion dollars over the past 5 years paid to members for housing allowances.

This message was generated for the Director of Commissioned Personnel