



CPC CyberFlash

HONOR

RESPECT

COMMITMENT

From the Director's Desk

The Officer Personnel Board will convene next week to begin selections for the 2006 promotion year. Next week the OPB will be selecting the best qualified officers for promotion to the grades of lieutenant and lieutenant (junior grade). Results of the OPB recommendations must be forwarded to the Secretary for his approval before announcing the results. This typically takes at least three weeks. As soon as CPC receives confirmation from the Secretary, we will contact all affected officers.

Fatigue is exhaustion of mind or body resulting from labor or exertion. Research has confirmed that fatigue is also "an exhaustion" which is caused by lack of sleep. In fact the research has confirmed that, of all the factors which contribute to fatigue, lack of sleep is the most significant contributing factor.

An acceptable level of risk in light of consequences needs to be determined for each type of operation together with justification.

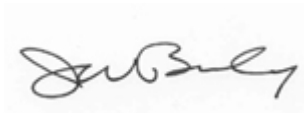
There will always be contingency situations requiring extension of work periods.

Excursions of fatigue beyond that which is "normal" are acceptable provided that the operator has strategies in place to manage the consequent increased level of fatigue risk. Such strategies may involve:

- the establishment of excursion limits;
- limiting the number of times an excursion may be permitted in a period;
- prescribing the maximum level of excursion over which mandatory action would be necessary;
- prescribing duties and responsibilities of staff following occurrence of an excursion;
- limiting the availability of the crewmember for future periods of work following an excursion.

We are all jointly responsible and accountable for the effective and safe operation of the fleet. Those in charge have a duty of care to ensure that we remain within acceptable limits, while staff must undertake to abide by the limits and take the opportunity for rest when it is offered. In addition, staff has an obligation to report circumstances relating to adverse performance such as adverse operational factors or physiological factors such as illness or sleep disorders which will have an adverse effect on fatigue levels.

The 2006 field season has begun. The requirements for this season are not dramatically different than those of past field seasons. Future field seasons will more than likely be similar too; the work will always be there. Be cognizant of the limits of your command and if necessary pull over, through the hook over, or land and take a break. Your commanding officer and NMAO will support your decision 100%.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bailey', is positioned above the printed name.

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

This message was generated for the Director of Commissioned Personnel