



CPC CyberFlash

March 2, 2007

HONOR

RESPECT

COMMITMENT

From the Director's Desk

Impressions about the NOAA Corps image are influenced by how we conduct ourselves both in and out of uniform. When in uniform and dealing with those outside our agency always remember you very well may be the only Corps officer the individual has or will ever meet.....and we all know the expression about first impressions.

A service etiquette refresher handout is now available on CPC's website. The presentation highlights "must know" information on many of the more common practices. The presentation can be found under the CPC website announcement section located at:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/index.html> - In order to view comments on each of the slides note pages click File-Save As-Power Point.

All officers should also note that due to the continued influx of End of Year documents (primarily OER's) beyond established deadlines and in order to ensure that the officers' Official Personnel Files being reviewed are complete, it has become necessary to delay all promotion boards until on or about the third week of April. All officers in the 2007 promotion zones have already been identified of this change. CPC will continue to enhance communication and educate officers on the system over the next few months. Officers in the entire rating chain have a responsibility to make sure that OERs and associated documentation are timely and accurate. As such, officers should carefully review Officer Evaluation System guidance (Personnel Manual, Chapter 10,) found at:

http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/procedures/persmanual/ncch10_pm.pdf

During the period between March 6 and the April boards CPC will continue to process documents, update officers OPF's, and address OPFfix requests.

The remaining items covered in this Cyberflash include information on: NOAA Corps Anniversary Ball; Name Tags; Servicemember Life Insurance; BOTC-111 Preparation; Uniform Update, and On the Horizon.

Captain Todd C. Stiles, NOAA
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

NOAA Corps Anniversary Ball, May 2007

“In 1807, Thomas Jefferson established the first federal science agency - Survey of the Coast - to support safe maritime. In February NOAA celebrated 200 years of devotion to science, service, and stewardship.” On May 19th, the NOAA Officers Family Association (NOFA) will host the annual NOAA Corps Anniversary Ball, held at the Hotel Washington, Washington, DC, in celebration of our 200th anniversary.

NOAA Corps Name Tags

Reminder. CPC does not provide replacement name tags. CPC will continue to provide name tags to all new recruits. The official NOAA Corps name tags can be purchased from the vendors listed below:

Name Tag - Leather

Village Leather
P.O. Box 21
East Bridgewater, MA 02333
Tel/Fax (508) 378-3437

Leather - The name tag shall conform to the following specifications:

- (a) Size - 2 inches by 4 inches.
- (b) Color - Black.
- (c) Lettering - Gold block-type uppercase, 3/16-inch high for last name and service “NOAA CORPS”.
- (d) Material - Leather with Velcro affixed to the back.
- (e) NOAA Corps Seal - A gold-colored NOAA Corps emblem

Name Tag - Plastic

Quality Engraving and Design Inc
10417 B Metropolitan Ave
Kensington, MD 20895
(301) 949-6230

Plastic - The name tag shall conform to the following specifications:

- (a) Size - 1 inch by 3 inches.
- (b) Color - Lustrous, "air force blue" background.
- (c) Lettering - Engraved, white block-type uppercase, last name only.
- (d) NOAA Seal – Engraved or Etched.

Please refer to the following url for additional uniform information NCD Chapter 12, Uniform and Awards-
<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/procedures/directives.html>

Servicemember Group Life Insurance

General Information

By law, active duty and reserve personnel are automatically insured for \$400,000.00 when entering the Service, with a monthly premium payment for that coverage.

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Election and Certificate (SGLV 8286) designates the recipient of benefits in the event of a service member's death. A copy of the SGLV 8286 is filed in the member's Official Personnel File along with the Record of Emergency Data. A copy of the SGLV 8286 should also be retained by the member.

If a member does not specify an SGLI beneficiary, life insurance benefits are paid according to 38 U.S.C. Sec. 770; sometimes to the dismay of the survivors.

Consider the following scenarios:

An officer legally separated from a spouse, unexpectedly dies. The insurance is paid to the estranged spouse because the divorce was not yet final and the officer failed to update the SGLI form.

An officer divorces a spouse who was designated as the beneficiary on the SGLV 8286. This same officer remarries and updates the record of emergency date form, but does not submit a new SGLV 8286. The service member subsequently dies and the ex-spouse is paid the SGLI proceeds.

***The only way a previous election can be canceled is by completing a new election form.

Family situations are varied in our society. Service members are encouraged to consult with the Legal Services Office if they have questions about SGLI designations and beneficiaries. Indicating "By Law" is no longer an option - anyone who has indicated "By Law" on the SGLI form should immediately change it.

Member Responsibilities

Verify and update your SGLI beneficiary upon marriage, divorce, when a child is born, if a family member dies, or if you are transferring from or reporting to a command.

To increase coverage from a previous elected reduced or declined amount, fill out a new SGLV 8286 and forward it to CPC.

If restoring SGLI or increasing the amount of coverage, complete a Request for Insurance (SGLV 8285) (this is a different SGLV form) and forward it to CPC.

Command Responsibilities

Ensure members are aware of the importance of SGLI beneficiary designations and encourage them to review and update both their SGLI election and record of emergency data form immediately upon marriage or divorce; when a child is born; if a family member dies; or when transferring from or reporting to a command.

Refer members to legal assistance for proper counsel on questions pertaining to law.

Have commanding officer sign SGLV 8285.

Deliver/mail forms to CPC for member.

BOTC-111 Preparation

BOTC 111 is scheduled to begin March 11, 2007 in Kings Point, NY. The training cruises are currently scheduled for April 19 – 21, May 3 – 5, May 15 – 17, and June 3 – 7. Graduation is scheduled for June 28. If you are interested in sailing as a mentor/training officer, or visiting BOTC to present information on your program/goal team/line office, please contact CDR Anne Lynch at anne.lynch@noaa.gov.

Uniform Update

The Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA authorizing the use of the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) for the NOAA Corps is still in the approval process. We expect the MOA to be approved by both parties within the month. After the MOA is approved, the policy will be forward to the Department for final approval. At the present time it is difficult to state when the later will occur. Once approved, the ODU will be phased in on all ships and will include the Marine Centers. This phase in period is tentatively scheduled for one year.

We are currently revising Chapter 12, Uniforms and Awards, of the NOAA Corps Directives to include the ODU policies. If you have any suggestions regarding uniform items please send them to the Chair of the Uniform and Awards Board, CDR Mike Weaver.

On the Horizon

This section is designed to provide the NOAA Corps officers with some of the highlights of items under consideration that may have an impact on them. The items discussed may or may not be approved at a later date.

a. NOAA Corps Legislation: CPC staff has drafted and submitted new legislation for the NOAA Corps. The legislation is currently routing though NMAO. This legislation addresses NOAA Corps authorized strength, recruitment, retention, retirement, and separation procedures by updating, strengthening, and clarifying the language of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officers Act of 2002.

This message was generated for the Director of Commissioned Personnel