



December 28, 2007

Director's Message

The promotion boards were delayed two months last year solely due to the delay in the submission of OERs. Officers have 45 days to provide a rebuttal for an OER, so promotion boards can not be held until at least 45 days after the OERs have been received at CPC. The deadline for paperwork to be entered into the OPFs is January 15th, 2008, no waivers will be granted to this deadline. This is the first step in avoiding another long promotion process as experienced in 2007.

Documents include all training certificates, approved awards (nominations do not go in your OPF), service reports, biographical sketches, resumes, and OERs. OERs must contain all the required original signatures (no copies or scans), must not contain any restricted information (See page 6, Form 56-6A), and must be consistent between the comments and marks provided.

(Note: the deadline for medical records to be received by the medical department is 31 January.)

I wish you and your family a very safe and happy New Year.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. B. Kearse".

CAPT William B. Kearse, NOAA
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

Announcements

End of year forms can be located at the following website.
<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/endyearreport.html>

Award Nominations

NOAA ACO Junior Officer of the Year Award

The National Association of Commissioned Officers requests nominations for the NOAA Corps, Junior Officer of the Year. This award is presented annually to the NOAA Corps officer, below the grade of lieutenant commander, for outstanding contributions to NOAA, outstanding performance, and/or the positive reflection cast upon the Corps. NOAA Corps officers who are promoted to lieutenant

commander during the calendar year are eligible for the award.

NOAA ACO Science Award

The National Association of Commissioned Officers requests nominations for the NOAA ACO Science Award. Any NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA, who has distinguished him/herself by making outstanding scientific contributions that distinguish the individual above those performing similar services are eligible.

NOAA ACO Engineering Award

The National Association of Commissioned Officers requests nominations for the NOAA ACO Engineering Award. Any NOAA Corps officer, or member of another uniformed service assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA, who has distinguished him/herself by making outstanding engineering contributions that distinguish the individual above those performing similar services are eligible.

Submission Procedure

A nomination for a NOAA ACO award shall consist of at least two pages, the first a cover memo addressed to the National ACO and containing the name, grade, duty title, and job description of the nominated officer. The following page(s) shall be the personal comments of the supervisor, which reflect the basis for the nomination.

All commands and field offices are encouraged to submit officer nominations for these awards. Selections for awards will be made by the Executive Committee, National ACO on January 12th, 2007. Please submit nominations to LCDR Mark Wetzler, President of the DC Area Association of Commissioned Officers via e-mail, mark.wetzler@noaa.gov, by COB January 11, 2007. In the nomination email please have the supporting files attached as .PDF or readable by Microsoft Word. The subject line of the nomination email should be Junior Officer of the Year, Science Award, or Engineering Award.

Junior officers with civilian supervisors are encouraged to forward them this information.

For more information on the awards please refer to the NOAA Corps Directives on Awards (pages 20 through 22).

http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/procedures/corps_directives/chapter_12/ncd_ch12part7.pdf

Watchstanders Needed for National Operations Center

The NOAA Homeland Security Program Office in Silver Spring, MD is seeking O-2 and higher ranking officers on assignments within the National Capital Region to serve as part time watch standers at the

DOC NOAA Desk at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Operations Center (NOC) in Washington, DC.

The mission of the NOC is to integrate DHS and interagency planning and operations coordination in order to prevent, deter, protect, and respond to terrorists threats/attacks or threats from other man-made or natural disasters. The NOC is a 24x7, multi-agency operations center that collects all-threats and all-hazards information across the spectrum of federal, state, local, tribal, private-sector, and other key sources. Its mission is to be the primary national-level hub for domestic situational awareness, common operating picture, information fusion, information sharing, communications, and operations coordination pertaining to the prevention of terrorist attacks and domestic incident management. The NOAA Desk is considered one of the critical department/agency desks within the NOC, providing a wide range of environmental information and forecasts from NOAA sources. The Desk is staffed by part-time watch standers from across line offices in the DC area, performed as a collateral duty, under the supervision of a senior desk officer on staff of the NOAA Homeland Security Program Office.

This opportunity provides an officer the chance to work in the Nation's premier interagency operational center where all federal departments and agencies are represented, to constantly maintain situational awareness of homeland security and all-hazards response across the nation. Exposure and visibility to senior officials in the Department of Homeland Security as well as other departments is provided. Volunteers are expected to be available for 1-2 eight hour day shifts per month, approved by their supervisor. Expansion beyond that availability is sought during times of crisis response at the NOC. Secret clearance is required. Training will be provided by the Senior Desk Officer.

Anyone interested in this opportunity should contact Captain George White at 301-713-3310 x129 or george.e.white@noaa.gov, or Captain Wade Blake at 301-713-3310 x214 or wade.blake@noaa.gov

Administrative Oversight of Career Status Bonus Eligibility

It has recently been discovered that, due to an administrative oversight by the PSC (Coast Guard Personnel Service Center) not all NOAA members have been notified of their eligibility to the CSB (Career Status Bonus).

PSC is responsible for tracking the entitlements for both Coast Guard and NOAA personnel, however, for a period of time this service has not been provided to NOAA officers. Upon identifying the error, the NOAA Corps Payroll Unit asked PSC to check each NOAA member to determine their eligibility for the CSB.

PSC is now contacting all NOAA members that were eligible to the CSB during this time. If you have previously "declined" the CSB then you may disregard any correspondence regarding it and nothing will change.

In the future, each NOAA member that is eligible for the CSB will be notified at the appropriate time.

Need Help Writing OER's?

There are several books on the market that can help supervisors write effective performance appraisals. One book to check out is "2600 Phrases for Effective Performance Reviews" by Paul Falcone. This book provides ready-to-use words and phrases for most of the core competencies listed in the OER. If you're new to writing OERs or have difficulty putting the right words together, pick up a self-help book today!

TRICARE: Certain Survivors of Deceased Active Duty Members; and Adoption Intermediaries

On January 19, 2007 a final ruling regarding Section 715 and Section 592 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006 (NDAA FY06) was implemented. Under Section 715, the time frame has been extended for certain dependents of active duty service members who die while on active duty for more than 30 days to remain eligible for TRICARE medical benefits at active duty dependent rates. Section 592 modifies the requirement for those intermediaries who provide adoption placements. Moreover, this rule administratively clarifies the eligibility provisions regarding those placed in the home of a member or former member in anticipation of adoption; and those placed in the legal custody of a member or former member.

Still Have Questions About the ODU?

The manual for the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) has been posted on-line and can be found at the following link:

http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/perservices/pdf/Operational_Dress_Uniform_Manual.pdf

This link, along with the ODU presentations located on the Commissioned Personnel Center (CPC) Home website, should help address some of the FAQ's about the ODU. In order to address some of the questions with the new uniform, officers from CPC have worn the ODU on recent trips to Kings Point,

NY, MacDill AFB, FL, and Norfolk, VA. Officers in the Seattle area will see the ODU when CPC travels to Sand Point to give NOAA Corps Core Values and Leadership Training January 3-4, 2007. Reminder: The ODU becomes the prescribed uniform for all locations outside the National Capitol Region starting February 1, 2008.

Pre-Retirement Seminars available for NOAA Corps officers in the Seattle Area

It is recommended that any officer within eighteen months of retirement attend a Pre-Retirement Seminar.

Seminar Dates	Location
March 3 - 6, 2008	Naval Sub Base Bangor FFIC TAP Classroom Silverdale, Washington

For additional information go to <http://uscg.mil/mlcpac/iscseattle/pw/tapsched.htm> and to register, call or email the Work-Life Staff's Transition Manager, **David Sweeney**, at (206) 217-6615 or david.j.sweeney@uscg.mil.

Approved Retirements

The following officers have approved retirements. Be sure to thank them for their service to NOAA and nation and wish them the best the next time you see these officers!

CAPT George E. White	January 1, 2008
CAPT Gary D. Petrae	January 1, 2008
CAPT Jon E. Rix	February 1, 2008
CAPT Stephen A. Kozak	March 1, 2008
CDR Julia N. Neander	May 1, 2008
CAPT Sean R. White	July 1, 2008
LCDR Stephen J. Thumm	July 1, 2008
CDR Thomas E. Strong	July 1, 2008
CAPT John W. Humphrey, Jr.	August 1, 200

On the Horizon

January 3-4 Corps Values/Leadership Training (Seattle, WA)

January 5, 2008 Seattle ACO Dining In

January 7-11, 2008 Command Conference (Easton, MD)

January 15, 2008 OERs due at CPC for LCDR/LT

January 15, 2008 Documents for OPF due at CPC for officers in selection zones

February 1, 2008 The ODU becomes the prescribed uniform for all locations outside the National Capitol Region

February 17, 2008 Start date for BOTC 112

February 25, 2008 Start date for REFTRA 64

January-May, 2008 Billet Review

March 3-7, 2008 Selection Boards for O-6 to O-2

Please see NOAA Corps website for additional information:

Assignments:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/assignments.html>

Evaluations:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/evaluation.html>

Training:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/training.html>

Uniforms & Awards:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/perservices/awards.html>