

Commissioned Personnel Center  
**CYBERFLASH**



August 26, 2008

## Director's Message

Last week I had the opportunity to swear in our newest officers (BOTC 113) and present to them the responsibilities and privileges of being a commissioned officer. Over the next four months, they will be trained in maritime and nautical skills, will be exposed to the customs and responsibilities of being a commissioned officer, and will learn what it takes to be a leader and a member of an elite team. Graduation is planned for December 11, 2008.

On behalf of the Director, NOAA Corps, I say, "welcome aboard" to our most junior officers:

ENS Jon D. Andvick  
ENS Christopher J. Briand  
ENS Lindsay H. Clovis  
ENS Kurt S. Karpov  
ENS Marina O. Kosenko  
ENS Aaron D. Maggied  
ENS Heather L. Moe  
ENS Erik S. Norris  
ENS Russell D. Pate  
ENS Michael D. Robbie  
ENS Kyle A. Sanders

Furthermore, last week I was part of a group of Captains assigned to headquarters billets, which gathered to discuss how as senior officers we influence the success of the NOAA Corps and contribute to the advancement of our service goals. The group discussed the consistency of our Officer Evaluation Reports, a newly proposed NOAA Corps mission and vision, the NOAA Corps strategy and recruiting for the future, and the mentoring of our junior officers. The group decided to meet every other month to continue the conversation.

Have a great unofficial last week of summer and safe holiday weekend.

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

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

## **Announcements**

### **Annual Leave**

In accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) 2008. U.S. Code, Title 10, Section 701 and sections 551 and 552 of the NDAA 2008. Annual leave accrual is temporarily increased from 60 to 75 days beginning 1 October 2008 through 31 December 2010. This temporary entitlement authorizes all service members, on 1 October 2008, 1 October 2009, and 1 October 2010, to accrue up to 75 days leave into the new fiscal year. For example, a member who has accrued 80 days leave on 30 September 2008 will be reduced to 75 days leave on 1 October 2008, not 60 days. The governing statute for military leave policy, indicates leave is only lost at the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, although the temporary entitlement expires on 31 December 2010, members with leave in excess of 75 days on 31 December 2010 will not be subject to loss of leave until 1 October 2011. On 1 October 2011, members will only be authorized to accrue 60 days of leave for FY 2012 and beyond. For example, a member with 75 days of leave on 31 December 2010 will maintain 75 days of leave on 1 January 2011, but will be reduced to 60 days of leave on 1 October 2011. 37 U.S.C. 501, payments of unused accrued leave not to exceed 60 days in a career remains in effect.

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### **Fleet Augmentation Needs**

Contact the respective Marine Center for information on travel. For specific information on the cruises and operations involved, please contact the XO or CO of the vessel. All requests to augment will need to be approved/cleared through your current supervisor, CO of the respective vessel, and CO MOA or MOP. If you have any questions, please contact LCDR Stark at 206-553-8705 or LCDR Bridgeman at 206-553-4764 or CDR Francisco at 206-553-8705.

*Gordon Gunter*

9/13-9/30 (Pascagoula, MS-Pascagoula, MS)

*Okeanos Explorer*

9/8-9/26 (Seattle, WA-Seattle, WA)

10/2-10/16 (Seattle, WA-San Francisco, CA)

10/21-11/6 (San Fran-San Fran)

11/11-11/21 (San Fran-TBD, WA)

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### **Have You Registered to Vote and Requested your Absentee Ballot?**

Want to vote in the upcoming General Election? To vote absentee as a Uniformed Service member, family member, or an overseas citizen, NOW is the time to register and request an absentee ballot for the November 4, 2008 election. To register and request an absentee ballot, just fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form (Federal Post Card Application, FPCA, SF 76)

and send it to your local election office.

To fill out the Voter Registration/ Ballot Request Form, go to [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). Its design was based on user feedback and focus group studies and is very easy-to-use. The site has state-specific instructions for all 55 states and territories covered under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). There, you'll find detailed and easy-to-follow instructions for filling out your Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form, along with information on where to send it.

There is also a new automated tool to fill out the Voter Registration/Ballot Request Form. Find it by clicking on the link in the Quick Links section of the homepage. This tool will guide you through completion of the form using only the specific information your state requires. In participating states and jurisdictions, you may also be able to send the Form to your local election office and receive your blank ballot via a secure server.

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## Approved Retirements/Resignations/Separations

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

CDR Gregg LaMontagne	September 1, 2008
LTJG Jamie S. Wasser	September 30, 2008
ENS Llian G.K. Breen	September 30, 2008
LT William W. Pierce, III	November 1, 2008
LT Joshua D. Bauman	December 1, 2008
CDR Philip A. Gruccio	December 1, 2008
LTJG Richard A. Edmundson	December 1, 2008
LTJG Stephen Z. Kroening	December 1, 2008
ENS Patrick B.K. Jorgensen	December 15, 2008
LCDR Jeremy B. Weirich	December 15, 2008
CAPT Stephen A. Kozak	January 1, 2009
CAPT John W. Humphrey, Jr.	January 1, 2009
CAPT Emily B. Christman	June 1, 2009
CAPT Sean R. White	July 1, 2009
CAPT Steven R. Barnum	July 1, 2009

## On the Horizon

August 17, 2008	Start of BOTC 113 (A-School)
October 6-31, 2008	REFTRA 65 (D-School)
December 11, 2008	BOTC 113 (A-School) Graduation
December or January (TBD)	B-School
January 16, 2009	Cutoff for Document Submission (Promotion Boards)
March 2-5, 2009	Promotion Boards
March 2, 2009	D-School

**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>