



February 15, 2008

## Association of Commissioned Officers Annual Awards

The Seattle area and Washington DC area Association of Commissioned Officers convened a virtual board to review award nominations for the Junior Officer of the year and for Science and Engineering Officer Awards. The ACO would like to thank the supervisors who documented the achievements and contributions of outstanding officers. We were very fortunate to receive a large number of very strong nominations this year, and regrettably could not recognize every officer. Congratulations on a job well done!

### Junior Officer of the Year

LT Daniel Simon was selected as the ACO Junior Officer of the Year for his work at MOC-P as Operations Manager. The WM vacancy rate on the Pacific ships has dramatically decreased due in large part to the efforts of LT Simon. His superior effectiveness in the performance of these duties with regard to staffing has resulted in the decrease in Wage Mariner vacancies from 30% to 14% on ships of the Pacific Fleet. It has been through LT Simon's efforts that there are 29 fewer vacancies in the fleet this year, which has enabled MOC to limit the use of contract mariners, and better staff the vessels. LT Simon has been tasked with several short-term, high profile projects. Most notable was the successful completion of an A-76 feasibility study for MOC Facilities, which required a thorough understanding of the process, the facility, and the personnel requirements.

### Engineering Award

LT (jg) Brent Pounds was selected for an ACO Engineering award for his outstanding engineering achievements at PMEL in support of the Deep Ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) project. Since the Sumatran tsunami in 2004, PMEL has been tasked to develop a novel mooring system, that radically reduces costs without a loss in performance. The DART-ETD (Easy to Deploy) system is a moored buoy that is self contained where the buoy, mooring line, and anchor are palletized together and deployed as a unit and is functionally similar to a standard DART II system, but has some desirable operational features and is significantly lower in cost. The anchor falls away from

the surface buoy and unspools the mooring line, like an XBT, as it falls to the sea floor. During the development cycle problems were encountered with the anchor spooling mechanism, that necessitated a testing program and Lt(jg) Pounds was a key member of the team towards developing an engineering solution. By using a complex COSMOS motion package he quickly created animations that showed the motion of the anchor spooling mechanism represented with the actual 3-D CAD model. Lt(jg) Pounds analyzed and displayed over 20 different tests in a three month period.

### Engineering Award

LCDR Rick Brennan was selected for an ACO Engineering award for his activities associated with the "Chart of the Future." Years of contemplation, discussions, and planning by LCDR Brennan resulted in a successful and thought-provoking demonstration this past May of a prototype "tide-aware" Electronic Chart System at the U.S. Hydrographic Conference held in Norfolk in 2007. LCDR Brennan built a "tide-aware" Electronic Navigational Chart (ENC) of the Elizabeth River with high-resolution gridded bathymetric data. The ENC system used NOAA water level data broadcast over AIS. The real-time water level data was used as input for the Tidal Constituent and Residual Interpolation (TCARI) method to create a water level surface. The integrated system rendered tide-corrected safe contours in real-time.

### Science Award

LT(jg) Patrick Murphy was selected for an ACO Science award for his work on planning and executing a project to generate high-resolution measurements of spatial and temporal variability of St. Andrew Bay circulation. The measurements validated many physical features such as a gyre, salt wedge intrusion, and convergence fronts previously only conjectured by other scientists. Furthermore, the research discovered water exchange between the sub-bays of the system and density induced secondary flows due to spatial differences in the tidal currents. LT (jg) Murphy's research accounts for much of the variance between different nursery areas and filled a crucial gap in understanding the physical processes regulating juvenile reef fish recruitment.

---

## Fallen Comrade

### Captain James S. Midgley, NOAA (Ret.)

CAPT James S. Midgley died on February 9, 2008. He graduated in 1959 from the University of Massachusetts with a civil engineering degree. That same year, he was appointed into the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Corps. In a career

spanning 30 years, CAPT Midgley served on numerous ships including the U.S. Coast and Geodetic survey ships, EXPLORER and PATHFINDER and Commanding Officer of NOAA Ship MT. MITCHELL. He was also assigned to several C&GS field teams and NOS Headquarter billets. When he retired from the Corps in July 1989, he was Deputy Director, NOS, Office Marine Operations.

A memorial visitation will be held this evening at the Pumphrey Funeral Home in Rockville, MD from 7 to 9 PM.

## **Announcements**

### **Line Office Liaison Officers**

Billet and Line Office Liaison Officer Lists have been updated and posted on the Career Management - Assignments website:

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

If you should have any questions regarding the information, please contact LCDR John T. Caskey at 301-713-7748 or [john.caskey@noaa.gov](mailto:john.caskey@noaa.gov).

### **NOAA Staff Directory**

Officers need to update their contact information in the NOAA Staff Directory (<https://nsd.rdc.noaa.gov/nsd/intsearch>) soon after PCS'ing to a new assignment. Expeditionary updates will help ensure that payroll and accountability (in case of emergency) issues are avoided or at least minimized. This would also be a good time for all officers to check their names so that the most recent information is posted. NOTE: CPC is aware that there are still problems with updating some of the information (i.e., Organization Title, Position Title, and Routing Code) in the electronic form. We are currently working with NOAA's Information Systems Management and Workforce Management Offices to resolve the issues. Thank you for your patience.

### **OER Reminders**

- EEO comments should not be listed in the OER unless they can be quantified (i.e., EEO/Diversity training during the period, participates on

EEO/Diversity council, etc.).

- No handwritten comments will be accepted.
- Please use the latest versions (Rev07-07) of NOAA Forms 56-6A (Officer Evaluation Report), 56-6B (Reviewer Comments), and 56-6C (Officer Support Form). These forms can be found on the following website: <http://www.noaaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/evaluation.html>. Old versions will not be accepted.
- If you're in a FUT or flight training billet, be sure to follow the guidance in Section 10.A.5. "Preparation and Use of the Duty Under Instruction (DUINS) OER" of the Officer Evaluation System.
- Nominations for awards should not be listed under the Awards section under Block 2. Only list awards that were received during the rating period.
- Be sure that all signature blocks are signed. Only original signatures will be accepted.
- Attachments will not be accepted with the OER.
- If you're a Reviewer and identify discrepancies in an OER, don't hesitate to send it directly back to the officer/supervisor/reporting officer for corrections. Forwarding the "incomplete" OER along to CPC only delays the process.
- OER manual can be found at the following website: <http://www.noaaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/evaluation.html>

If you should have any questions with the Officer Evaluation System and were unable to obtain the answer(s) you were looking for after reading the manual, please don't hesitate to contact LCDR John T. Caskey at 301-713-7748 or [john.caskey@noaa.gov](mailto:john.caskey@noaa.gov).

## Aviation Applications

Officers interested in applying for the NOAA Corps aviation program are

reminded to have their completed application packets to CPC by March 1, 2008. Once the packets have been received, AOC will conduct interviews between March-May 2008 for all applicants that meet the application requirements. An Officer Assignment Board will convene on Thursday, June 5, 2008 to select officers for initial flight training. If anyone should have any questions regarding the aviation selection process, please contact LCDR John T. Caskey at 301-713-7748 or [john.caskey@noaa.gov](mailto:john.caskey@noaa.gov).

---

## 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 Jon E. Rix	May 1, 2008
CAPT Stephen A. Kozak	May 1, 2008
CDR Julia N. Neander	May 1, 2008
LCDR Stephen J. Thumm	July 1, 2008
CDR Thomas E. Strong	July 1, 2008
CAPT John W. Humphrey, Jr.	August 1, 2008
CAPT Sean R. White	July 1, 2009

---

## On the Horizon

February 17, 2008	Start date for BOTC 112
February 25, 2008	Start date for REFTRA 64
January-May, 2008	Billet Review
March 3, 2008	Selection Board for O-6
March 4, 2008	Selection Board for O-5
March 5, 2008	Selection Board for O-4
March 6, 2008	Selection Board for O-3
March 7, 2008	Selection Board for O-2

**Please see NOAA Corps website for additional information:**

Assignments:

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

Evaluations:

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

Training:

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

Uniforms & Awards:

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