Commissioned Personnel Center
CYBERFLASH
January 29, 2010

Director's Message

I am pleased to have lots of congratulations to offer this week.
Firstly, congratulations to the 2009 ACO Awards recipients: Junior Officer of the Year, LT Nicola S. VerPlanck; Engineering Award, LTJG William G. Winner; Engineering Award, ENS Glen A. Rice; Science Award, ENS Glen A. Rice. The citations for the awards which highlight their significant contributions are shown below.

Secondly, the results from the November 2009 Boards have been signed by the Secretary and can finally be announced. Unfortunately, the Secretary has not yet signed the package for selection to Lieutenant, so those results will have to be released later. Congratulations to the following officers who were selected for promotion during the November 2009 Selection Boards.

TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER:
Scott J. Price
Amelia A. Ebhardt
Ryan C. Kidder
Mark Van Waes
Richard E. Hester, Jr.
Jennifer E. Pralgo
Sean D. Cimilluca
Charles J. Yoos, III
Keith A. Golden
Douglas E. MacIntyre
Sarah L. Dunsford
Sarah K. Mrozek

TO BE LIEUTENANT (junior grade):
Heather L. Moe
Russell D. Pate
Kyle A. Sanders
Lindsay H. Clovis
Jon D. Andvick
Christopher J. Briand
Michael D. Robbie
Erik S. Norris
Kurt S. Karpov

Thirdly, congratulations to the following officer who will be promoted effective February 1,

2010.
TO BE CAPTAIN
Mark P. Moran

CAPT Raymond C. Slagle, NOAA
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

Announcements

Promotion Boards

The 2010 promotion boards are currently scheduled for May 2010. The list of officers in these zones will be announced next week. All officers are reminded to constantly be prepared to be reviewed for promotion and the promotion itself. If you have any questions on the promotion process please contact Mr. Raymond, Chief, Officer Personnel Management Division at gregory.raymond@noaa.gov.

Required Training

The training requirements for officers are posted on CPC's website. All officers are reminded to stay current with training required for promotion to the next grade. Check your training record to ensure that completed training is included in your training history.

PPD Every Year for Seagoing Officers

All officers on sea duty and augmenting at sea are required to get a PPD test annually. Officers can obtain a PPD test at the marine centers and the SSMC Health Unit. Send the PPD results to LCDR Hobson-Powell.

Norfolk ACO Dining Out

The Norfolk Association of Commissioned Officers has the honor of requesting your presence at the NOAA Corps Dining Out to be held on 20 February, 2010 at 1800 at the Town Point Club. This is located at the World Trade Center, 101 W. Main Street, Norfolk, VA. If you have any questions or to RSVP, please contact Tod.Schattgen@noaa.gov, 757-375-5012 by February 12.

Important LES Change -- No More Paper Copies

As stated on your December LES, paper copies of the LES will be discontinued. You can view your LES electronically in Direct Access (https://hr.direct-access.us/servlets/iclientservlet/USCGP1HR) via the Home page. From there, select 'Self-Service', then 'Employee', then 'View', then 'View Paycheck'. Then select which paycheck you want to view if other than the most recent. To see the Comments that are shown on the back of the LES such as leave charged, click on 'Comments'. Also, as of January 2010 all address changes, allotments, direct deposits, state tax changes, and percentages to TSP can be completed via Direct Access and are no longer required to be submitted to payroll for

processing.

If you do not have a password to Direct Access, please send an email to PPC-DG-CustomerCare@USCG.Mil with your EMPLID requesting a password for Direct Access. Your employee ID was listed on your paper LES. Contact NC Payroll if you have any questions.

Submit Service Reports

We are currently revising the NOAA Corps Directive that will make submitting Service Reports no longer mandatory. Until this Directive is changed to discontinue them, Service Reports are still mandatory and must be submitted. Please submit them by January 31, 2010.

NOAA National ACO Awards for 2009

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers Junior Officer of the Year

As the Field Operations Officer on NOAA Ship *Okeanos Explorer* (EX), LT VerPlanck performed with distinction as she planned and successfully executed complex expeditions on EX in collaboration with NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration and Research (OER). Expeditions on board EX are highly specialized and can include any combination of remotely operated vehicle operations, mapping, and remote science using live ship-to-shore telepresence technology. Through a very strategic integration process that began with her previous shore billet with OER at the University of Rhode Island (URI), LT VerPlanck became familiar with these highly technical operations applied specifically for the purpose of systematic ocean exploration. LT VerPlanck is the liaison between OER and the ship, and often participates in high level media/PR and outreach programs highlighting the unique capabilities of the EX and the exciting mission of OER. LT VerPlanck was the first NOAA Corps Officer to fill this position, and through her unique combination of experience, skills, and abilities, she very quickly became an integral member of the OER team. Through LT VerPlanck's efficient organizational skills and her desire to learn about every aspect of our operation, she helped OER move some very complex efforts forward. LT VerPlanck continues to work with OER and OMAO personnel to define the EX FOO position as it evolves, and went well beyond the call of duty this field season to ensure the success of the EX during extraordinarily challenging times when operations shifted from a focus on ROV shakedown and field trials to back-to-back mapping operations due to a mechanical failure in the ROV. She also played a crucial role this field season as ship liaison for several technical contracts associated with the integration of ROV's, integration and shakedown of VSAT (telepresence) systems, and the new EM302 multibeam mapping system on board the EX.

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers Engineering Award

As a Geographic Information Systems Coordinator with the Habitat Conservation Division, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Region, LTjg Winner has made significant and outstanding contributions to the NMFS Southwest Region. LTjg Winner's contributions include: (1) advancing the capabilities of the Geographic Information System (GIS) facility; (2) providing CPR and safety training to staff; (3) maintaining and

supervising the small boat program; and (4) providing exceptional technological support to recovery planning work by NMFS Protected Resources Division. Under section 4 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), NMFS is responsible for developing and implementing recovery plans for species listed under the ESA. Recovery plans are technical documents that provide information on a species status, habitat factors limiting survival, and necessary actions to achieve recovery. LTjg Winner assisted in the development of a database that would house recovery actions and associated information for each action required under the ESA (e.g., cost, duration, responsible party, etc.). LTjg Winner first developed a simple Access database for the actions but quickly realized its capabilities were limited. He went on to single-handedly develop a second and innovative new database application that has provided significantly greater staff efficiencies in the recovery planning efforts and development of recovery actions. This new database required highly technical programming skills requiring over 18,000 lines of computer coding and several months of dedicated efforts. LTjg Winner worked closely with recovery planning staff to ensure the new database would provide the greatest service and utility to its end users, and provide the necessary outputs of tables and text required for recovery plans. The database has proved so invaluable that it will be used by other recovery staff in other offices in California. The functionality of the database includes several key features, including: (1) storage of actions hierarchically relevant to a site or range wide; (2) assignments of actions to required information such as costs, responsible parties, duration of action, etc.; (3) drag-and-drop capability from other documents into the database and across sections of the database; (4) highly functional interface between database and user; (5) security allowing a read only feature for other staff; (6) greater ability to refine actions overtime; (7) ability to query actions in database by any combination of available information; (8) a "generate report" feature that automatically outputs the implementation schedules in an Excel spreadsheet required for recovery plans as well as a recovery action outline in text; and, (9) future ability to track implementation and success of each action over time. Because recovery actions are primarily voluntary, education and outreach are critical to developing effective partnerships with Federal, State, and local agencies, as well as landowners, watershed groups, students, and individuals interested in contributing toward the recovery of these species. The database of recovery actions will be posted on the web and will facilitate outreach to a variety of stakeholders. LTjg Winner's work, has advanced the recovery efforts for endangered salmon in an unprecedented manner and has established an invaluable tool that will be utilized long into the future. This database has become a living library to be utilized by NMFS staff for projects beyond recovery planning.

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers Engineering Award

ENS Rice has served with distinction for the past year as a Junior Officer on NOAA Ship *Fairweather*, having transferred from NOAA Ship *Rude* upon its decommission in 2008. ENS Rice performed these duties with expertise and professionalism in addition to taking on challenges far above those expected of a junior officer. ENS Rice is on the forefront of Coast Survey's initiative to acquire ellipsoidally referenced hydrographic surveys. He has repeatedly identified processing tools and datum transfer concepts, and taught others, in order to realize ellipsoidally referenced surveys – even given the constraints of currently available technology, equipment, and knowledge. *Fairweather* is submitting the first

ellipsoidally referenced bathymetric surface (seafloor map) of any NOAA hydrographic vessel largely due to ENS Rice's vision and innovative solutions throughout the process. To support ellipsoidally referenced field surveying, ENS Rice researched and purchased off-the-shelf equipment with which he built and integrated stand-alone portable GPS base stations. This resulted in an increase of *Fairweather*'s survey capability. The stations are light, portable, durable, energy-efficient, and energy-independent so they can be quickly and easily set up on rugged terrain in remote areas of Alaska for long periods of time with little to no additional maintenance. He also equipped the stations and the ship with radio modems for wireless data transfer and station monitoring. ENS Rice's efforts have reduced the number of personnel and time required for site visits (to check on the station and download data) by over 30%. This savings has allowed, on average, an additional 3-4 days per season to be dedicated to data collection valued at a minimum of $60K for the season. His stations were used during every project during the 2009 field season without fail, several operating unattended for over 40 continuous days in the remote Shumagin Islands near the southwestern coast of the Alaskan Peninsula and the extreme environment of Glacier Bay, Alaska.

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers Science Award

As a junior officer first aboard NOAA Ship *Rude* and then *Fairweather*, ENS Glen Rice is unmatched in his ability, accomplishments, and contributions to NOAA. ENS Rice's most significant and noteworthy scientific achievements are his sound data density analysis and implementation of a high resolution multibeam sonar onboard *Fairweather*. ENS Rice analyzed two years of *Fairweather*'s multibeam sonar data to empirically determine the minimum sounding requirements to optimize the processing algorithm used to process multibeam sonar soundings onboard all NOAA hydrographic platforms and by many hydrographic contractors. His results were presented at the 2009 Hydrographic Field Procedures Workshop and were the foundation for a fundamental change in NOS's Hydrographic Survey Specifications and Deliverables Manual, the key document which governs hydographic surveys. These changes, incorporated into the 2009 field season for all NOAA Hydro ships, have resulted in acquisition and processing efficiencies that allow an additional 2-3 days of full production in 2009 with a total value to NOAA of over $60K. Additionally, ENS Rice proactively lead the charge to acquire *Rude*'s multibeam and sidescan sonar for *Fairweather*, both of which are superior sonar systems to those previously aboard *Fairweather*. The multibeam sonar was used nearly all field season, increasing field utilization time by 30% for that particular launch.

Upcoming Uniform and Awards Board Meetings

February 09, 2010
March 09, 2010
April 13, 2010

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!

LTJG Julie L. Earp	February 28, 2010
LCDR Geoffrey S. Sandorf	March 1, 2010
LTJG Andrew P. Seaman	March 1, 2010
LCDR Andrew A. Hall	May 1, 2010
LCDR James A. Bunn, II	June 1, 2010
CDR Andrea M. Hrusovsky	August 1, 2010
LT Amanda M. Hancock	September 15, 2010

On the Horizon

Jan 14 - Feb 3, 2010	B-School for BOTC 114, Session 2, Kings Point, NY
Feb 15 - Jun, 2010	A-School for BOTC 116, Kings Point, NY
Apr 6 - Apr 30, 2010	PSSO/REFTRA (D-School), Kings Point, NY

Please see CPC website for additional information:
Ship Augmentation Needs: http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/cpchome/augmentation.html

Assignments: http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/careermgmt/assignments.html

Evaluations: http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/careermgmt/evaluation.html

Training: http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/careermgmt/training.html

Uniforms & Awards: http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/perservices/awards.html