

# NOAA Commissioned Personnel Center

## CYBERFLASH



06 July 2012

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### Director's Message

I hope everyone had a safe and happy 4th of July and took some time to reflect upon the independence and personal freedoms for which our Nation's founding fathers and military brethren fought -- the unalienable rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness".

Effective 01 July, CAPT Joseph A. Pica was permanently promoted to the rank of CAPTAIN. Congratulations to him and the following officers selected for initial flight training:

ENS Junie Cassone

ENS Lindsey Norman

LTJG Aaron Maggied

LTJG Loren Evory

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne K. Lynch".

**CAPT Anne K. Lynch, NOAA  
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center**

### Command Advisory Working Group

In late August a Command Advisory Working Group will commence to discuss fleet wide Operation Officer assignments. This will allow the Assignments Coordinator to look at the fleet collectively and at all officers requesting an operations officer assignment for all fleet positions. This Working Group will consist of Marine Center, Commissioned Personnel Center along with stakeholder Liaison Officers. This Advisory Board will make recommendations to the Director, NOAA Corps, for approval. For any officer anticipating returning to sea from now through August 2014, ensure the following items are completed:

- 1) Preferences are updated in your OPF prior to July 15, 2012
- 2) Any specific/unique requests please submit a memo to the Assignment Coordinator via your current chain of command explaining your request along with how it will benefit the organization.
- 3) Ensure ship commands are aware of your request for their vessel

This is a new process that will allow fleet wide decisions to be made for operations officer billets. This will give all officers the chance to compete for operation officer billets, and will ensure educated recommendations. Officers may also be recommended for other operational or developmental assignments.

### New Liaison and Technical Liaison Officers as of June 6th:

Please find the new list posted at [Liaison and Technical Liaison Officers](#).

<p><b>Line Office Liaisons (Voting Members of the OAB)</b>          Captain Mark Moran, Chair Officer          Assignment Board &amp; NESDIS          Captain Todd Stiles, MAOC          Captain Mark Ablondi, NMFS          Captain Wade Blake, MOC-P          Captain Anita Lopez, MOC-A          Captain Joe Pica, NOAA HQ          Captain Randy TeBeest, AOC          Captain Barry Choy, NWS          Captain Jon Swallow, NOS          Commander Adam Dunbar, OAR</p>	<p><b>Line Office Liaison Technical Assistants</b>          Commander Ricardo Ramos, NMFS          Commander Mike Hopkins, MOC-P          Commander Keith Roberts, MOC-A          Lieutenant Commander Ryan Kidder, AOC          Lieutenant Commander Catherine Martin, AOC          Lieutenant Commander Jeffrey Shoup, NWS          Lieutenant Commander Matthew Wingate, NOS          Commander Timothy Gallagher, NOS</p>
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**REFTRA 73 Update:**

The move of the NOAA Corps Officer Training Center and BOTC to USCG OCS New London, CT, means the format and location of REFTRA is also changing. The revised REFTRA/PSSO program utilizes a combination of professional maritime training vendors and time at NCOTC in New London. It is focused on the operational essentials needed to safely prepare officers to return to sea duty. There will be STCW certified classes, hands on instruction, and peer-to-peer learning opportunities. REFTRA 73 is tentatively scheduled for October 7th through Oct 28th and will occur in a combination of locations on the east coast. Officers selected for REFTRA 73 are being contacted by CPC. If you have not been contacted and want to attend REFTRA 73 contact [cpc.training@noaa.gov](mailto:cpc.training@noaa.gov) or LT Jonathan French at 301-713-7736 ASAP as space is limited.

**IT Security Awareness**

As a reminder, the 2012 NOAA Information Technology Security Awareness Course is now available for all employees at: <http://noaa.learnsecuritywith.us/> . In order to continue to use your NOAA computing resources, you are required to complete the course by July 26, 2012. Questions about the course should be directed to your Line Office IT Security Officer, or email at [itsec@noaa.gov](mailto:itsec@noaa.gov). Maintaining the security of NOAA’s information is an ongoing process. Successful implementation of this process requires you to be adequately informed of the latest threats, and know your responsibilities to combat those threats. For this reason, it is a mandatory requirement for each NOAA IT user (government, contractor, associate or temporary personnel) to complete the course each year.

**'Ask CPC' Webinar - PCS**

On Tuesday, July 31st, CPC will be hosting our fifth ‘Ask CPC’ Webinar on Permanent Change of Station and Permanent Change of Assignments (PCS/PCA). It will be presented by Katherine Raymond and Sherrita Irby of the Officer Personnel Management Division. Immediately following the presentation, there will be a question and answer session with the Director, Deputy Director, Division Chiefs and Program Managers of CPC. As a participant you will be able to hear the presenter, use the Q&A window to ask questions and listen to the responses. Following the webinar, a summary document outlining questions raised and links to resources will be posted on the CPC website.

Future webinars will focus on topics of most interest to you. The link below will take you to an online survey. We are requesting all active duty officers respond. Please pick up to three topics you would like CPC to

discuss in this forum for the following quarter. If a topic is not listed, please fill in the “Other” section with your suggestion. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7YXPKQQ>.

### **Veterans Employment Opportunities Act**

In September 2011, CPC received feedback from OPM stating NOAA Corps officers are not eligible for appointment under the Veterans Employment Opportunities Act (VEOA). 5 USC 3304(f)(1) states that preference eligibles or veterans who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of active service may not be denied the opportunity to compete for vacant positions for which the agency making the announcement will accept applications from individuals outside its own workforce under merit promotion procedures. While NOAA Corps service is considered active service, OPM decided it does not meet the USC definition of armed forces, and therefore, is not qualifying service under VEOA.

This decision has not, however, halted CPC's pursuit of alternatives regarding non-competitive referral of officers for civilian employment. We are working with OGC seeking a legal opinion on the issue of active-duty NOAA Corps officers interested in continuing service with NOAA, being given the opportunity for referral on the agency's civilian merit assignment plan certificates of eligible applicants. There are no guarantees regarding the outcome of the legal review, however, we continue to pursue this flexibility on the behalf of our officers and will continue to keep you posted.

### **On the Horizon**

'Ask CPC' Webinar - PCS/PCA	31 July 2012
BOTC 120 Reports to USCGA	16 August 2012
REFTRA 73	7-28 October 2012

### **Approved Resignations, Separations, and Retirements**

The following officers have approved retirements, resignations, or separations within the **next three months**. Be sure to thank them for their service to NOAA and nation.

CAPT Donald W. Haines	01 August 2012
LTJG Raul Vasquez del Mercado	01 October 2012
CDR Alexandra R. Von Sauder	01 October 2012
CDR Michael J. Hoshlyk	01 October 2012
RADM Jonathan W. Bailey	01 October 2012