

Subject: CPC CyberFlash  
From: "Director CPC" <Director.CPC@noaa.gov>  
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### **From the Director's Desk**

Last night the 106th Basic Officer Training Class celebrated the culmination of almost 14 weeks of intensive training at the Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy. They received their temporary appointment certificates along with a completion certificate. Vice Admiral Lautenbacher was the keynote speaker. He and Rear Admiral De Bow provided inspiring words to the officers of BOTC 106, their families, and friends. Congratulations to the two lieutenants and 15 ensigns who graduated last night.

The Commissioned Personnel Center is in the process of working with the NOAA Line Offices (LO) and the NOAA Corps liaison officers to revise the NOAA Corps Billet List based on the needs of NOAA. We have asked the liaison officers to meet with LO Deputy Assistant Administrators (DAA) or their designee to identify those billets which they deem critical and in need of filling by a NOAA Corps officer. The new billet list will have 299 billets. Our current strength is 272 officers; therefore, we will have unencumbered billets. We have removed the priority designator (A, B, and C) understanding that if a billet is filled it must be a priority billet for that LO. Each LO may reassign officers within the LO and designate new billets based on their need. However, we will not be allowed to exceed 299 which may require the LO to remove other less desirable billets. We have undertaken this task for the following reasons:

1. Identify the requirements for NOAA Corps officers assigned to the LOs.
2. Realign LO cost with actual LO NOAA Corps complement.
3. Build LO support to increase size of the NOAA Corps if appropriate.
4. Begin to develop career ladders (O-1 to O-6) in each of the LOs.
5. Stop the creation of new billets without an increase in officer strength (if a LO desires to create a new billet, they may have to give one up).
6. Provide LO office managers with a realistic expectation as to which critical billets will be filled with officers today and in the future.
7. Obtain high level approval: DAA or AA concurrence /sign-off regarding need and officer staffing.
8. Focus individual officer billet search.
9. Enable the OAB to conduct business more efficiently.

CPC always welcomes your comments and recommendations. We anticipate some growing pains but believe the billets list should reflect the needs of NOAA and overall strength and distribution of officers mandated by law.

Captain Jonathan W. Bailey, NOAA  
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

**Approved Directive Change:**

Chapter 8 - Termination of Active Service: Any NOAA Corps officer who resigns before the completion of three years' will be divested of entitlement to all travel and transportation allowances to which otherwise entitled under the provisions of the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, Volume 1.

**Entitlement to Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH):**

When a NOAA Corps officer without dependents is permanently assigned to a NOAA ship and that ship is not in homeport, that officer is not entitled to BAH until the ship returns to homeport and the officer refuses quarters. The only exception to this rule is when a NOAA ship is in another port for an extended period of time and the ship is uninhabitable and the Commanding Officer certifies that the officer must obtain quarters at his or her own expense.

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