



CPC CyberFlash

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RESPECT

COMMITMENT

From the Director's Desk

Volunteers Urgently Needed for Temporary Duty for Katrina Response

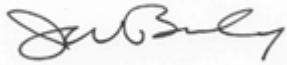
NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration has requested that NMAO provide NOAA Corps officers to help with the oil and HAZMAT spill response to Hurricane Katrina. These officers are expected to work at one or more of the command posts, located in Baton Rouge, LA, Mobile, AL, St. Louis, MO, Alexandria, LA, or at ORR headquarters in Silver Spring, MD.

Volunteers are requested, but if enough volunteers are not found, CPC will select those officers which best meet the below criteria and provide them with TDY orders. Officers with the following skills are needed: Communications, GIS, remote sensing, previous Scientific Support experience, information management, HAZMAT, mapping/graphics, and other skills which may support the Scientific Support Coordinators (SSC) that have been on scene for over two weeks now. All grades are needed. The field command posts are considered as hazardous duty stations. Abbreviated HAZWOPER, flight safety training, and personal protective equipment will be provided if needed.

The officers in the field may be expected to collect samples, survey contaminated sites, provide documentation, provide GIS information, help with logistics, etc. Housing and meals are provided for all responders. The officers in the field can expect to be assigned for a minimum of three thirty day periods of continuous duty followed by a break of approximately fourteen days after the first two thirty day periods of duty before returning to their normal duty station. At least one officer is needed in Silver Spring to help coordinate the response efforts for a three month period. Previous SSC experience is not necessary, but desired for all assignments.

This is an immediate call, so assignments will be starting at the beginning of October. Captain Steve Thompson is coordinating this effort; contact him or CPC if you are interested. However, you must have previously received permission from your supervisor, for the periods requested before you are eligible to participate. Upon requesting to participate, please provide the following necessary information: unique skills; dates of availability; and whether you have had any previous environmental or HAZMAT training or experience. Additionally, please notify us if you have volunteered to assist FEMA in its call to support the hurricane

tragedy. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to the NOAA Corps and the Nation, and to gain some valuable experience. (Steven.A.Thompson@noaa.gov, ph: 301-713-3431x140, cell: 206-499-1118)



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

TDY & LOCAL TRAVEL MILEAGE RATES INCREASE

WASHINGTON – The Internal Revenue Service and Treasury Department announced today an increase to the optional standard mileage rates for the final four months of 2005.

The rate will increase to 48.5 cents a mile for all business miles driven between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2005. This is an increase of 8 cents from the 40.5 cent rate in effect for the first eight months of 2005, as set forth in Rev. Proc. 2004-64.

"This is about fairness for taxpayers," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "People are entitled to deduct the real cost of operating a vehicle. We've responded to the recent gas price increases by making this special adjustment so taxpayers get the tax benefit they deserve."

In recognition of recent gasoline price increases, the IRS made this special adjustment for the final months of 2005. The IRS normally updates the mileage rates once a year in the fall for the next calendar year.

"With many predicting a decline in gas prices over coming months, we will hold off on setting the 2006 rate until closer to January," Everson said. Next year's rate could be lower than 48.5 cents.

While gasoline is a major factor in the mileage figure, other items enter into the calculation of mileage rates, such as the price of new vehicles and insurance.

Revision of Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board (Board) has revised the booklet *Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan*. A copy of this revision, dated August 2005, is available from the TSP Web site at www.tsp.gov (and can be obtained by double clicking its title in the previous sentence). This revision is for both civilian employees and uniformed services members and supersedes all prior versions of the *Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for Federal Employees* and the *Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan for the Uniformed Services*. Services

should discard all prior versions of these booklets.

The Plan Summary describes the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) in detail. It discusses participation and contribution rules, the investment funds, including the new lifecycle (L) funds, contribution allocations and interfund transfers, loans, withdrawals, and other aspects of the TSP.

Distribution to services. The Board will send each service's central distribution point a supply of these booklets. By September 30, 2005, each central distribution point should receive its allotment. Authorized service representatives may order additional copies of the Plan Summary by following the Board's procedures for ordering TSP materials.

Distribution by services. Services should provide a copy of the Plan Summary to new members. Services should also provide a copy of the Plan Summary to members upon request. Upon receipt of its automatic supply, each central distribution point should distribute the booklets to those offices within the service responsible for providing materials to new members.

SGLI Coverage Increased to \$400,000

The maximum level of Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage increased from \$250,000 to \$400,000 on September 1, 2005. Anyone eligible for SGLI coverage, will be covered for \$400,000 under SGLI, even if they previously declined or elected lesser coverage. If a servicemember wants no coverage or less than the maximum, they will have to re-elect no coverage or less than the maximum on the NEW SGLV 8286 Form (September 2005), the form must be SIGNED ON OR AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2005. Submit your updated and witnessed form to the Commissioned Personnel Center and the NOAA Corps Payroll Unit.

Updating Official and DEERS addresses

A new module has been added to CPC online - Virtual CPC. You can now update your address through the "my profile" link. It is extremely important to keep this information correct and updated. The Commissioned Personnel Center **will no longer** process address change requests.

You must also update your DEERS address information at the following link.

<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/address/index.jsp>

It is your responsibility to make sure personal information is correctly maintained and

updated in DEERS in order to continue to be covered by TRICARE benefits.

Award Submission Timelines

The Uniform and Awards Board meets once a month on the second Thursday of the month. All award submissions must reach CPC by the day prior to the Board meeting. If the award submission does not reach CPC before the board meets for that month the award will be held over until the following month. Listed below is the current schedule of the Board meetings:

October 13, 2005
November 10, 2005
December 8, 2005
January 12, 2006
February 9, 2006
March 9, 2006
April 13, 2006
May 11, 2006
June 8, 2006
July 13, 2006
August 10, 2006
September 14, 2006
October 12, 2006

This message was generated for the Director of Commissioned Personnel