



# *CPC CyberFlash*

HONOR

RESPECT

COMMITMENT

## *From the Director's Desk*

The 2006 promotion process has been completed. The Officer Personnel Board (OPB) recommendations for promotions in the grades of lieutenant (junior grade) through commander have been forwarded to the Secretary. The OPB recommendations for promotions in the grade of captain will be forwarded early next week. As soon as the Secretary approves the Board's recommendations, CPC will notify all commands and the individual officers.

The annual review of all officer records, to include all grades except captain, is scheduled for May 18, 2006. The OPB shall review those records which were not reviewed by one of the 2006 Promotion Boards. The review of all captains in the NOAA Corps is tentatively scheduled for the second week in July 2006.

The NOAA Corps is approaching the statutory limit of 299 officers. Even though we are at our authorized strength limit, the NOAA Corps has difficulty filling certain billets when an unexpected medical issue arises precluding an officer from performing the duties of a particular assignment, or we receive an unanticipated resignation or retirement. As a uniform service, our purpose is to serve the Nation, the Department of Commerce, and NOAA and as such we must make every effort to provide the best service possible. In an effort to meet the needs of the Service, I ask all officers to have a plan. Your plan should not only identify your vision while in the NOAA Corps, but equally important is your exit strategy. Timely notice of your desire to depart the NOAA Corps allows the Officer Assignment Board to fill the gap left upon departure. All other Services require a contract, whereby, officers commit for a set period of time. At the conclusion of the commitment, they may exercise an option to depart or sign for another period of time. This is done to provide necessary continuity and readiness, the absence of which creates hardship for the organization and other officers who now must fill those assignment gaps. As the size of fleet grows it is imperative to have the best qualified officers, but also enough of the best qualified officers to meet the needs of the Service.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Bailey".

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

### **JUST A QUICK UPDATE REGARDING FEDROOMS:**

- FedRooms now has over 2,000 accepted properties in the program (and we continue

to add 20-50 more hotels every day). Rates are available through fedrooms.com, your TMC, and your ETS tool.

- Hotels extending rates to government travelers for small meetings and leisure are now accessible on the FedRooms.com landing page (these special rates are only available through FedRooms.com).
- FedRooms.com is enhanced and will undergo another major technology upgrade in early May. Please check back often.

***FedRooms streamlines government travel:***

FedRooms simplifies federal travel and saves money for the government and taxpayers. When travelers demand the FedRooms rate, they get rooms that meet government criteria - plus benefits that make federal travel less of a hassle. As the only government-sponsored lodging program, it's the easy choice for federal travelers.

The FedRooms rate is always:

- The best price/value, with no hidden fees
- Compliant with Federal Travel Regulation policy
- Flexible, offering cancellation deadline of 4 p.m. or later on the day of arrival
- Accessible through all booking channels

FedRooms provides low rates, saves money, and leverages the Federal government's overall buying power now and for the future. Travelers receive the best value, with rates that are always at or below per diem without add-on fees.

***FedRooms rate vs. "Government Rate":***

With FedRooms, compliance protection is built in. The standard "government rate" doesn't have any guarantees; it's often higher than the FedRooms rate and per diem. However, even if the offered "government rate" appears lower; buyer beware, there is no rate or policy protection. Moreover, booking outside of FedRooms diminishes the federal government buying power in a soaring hotel market.

- Unmanaged rates intended for federal travelers, which may be identified as "government" or "federal government" rates are set by individual hotels and are not guaranteed policy-compliant
- Unmanaged government rates have been listed higher than per diem in 15% of hotels tested
- Unmanaged rates often contain hidden fees

**NOAA OFFICERS' FAMILY ASSOCIATION NOW HAS A WEBSITE!**

[www.nofaweb.org](http://www.nofaweb.org) is now online. Please register and update your information today!

- Only NOFA members will be able to access the password protected Member Area where they can search the address database of NOFA members - active & retired.
- Simply login and request your username and password to access the Member Area of the site.
- After registering, you will have the ability to update your NOAA Corps information - change in rank, spouse, address, email address, phone number and active/retired status.
- The local NOFA clubs will be utilizing the email addresses on the website to contact people about upcoming local events. It is very important that we have updated information for all NOFA Members for future contact!

**ASSIGNMENT CORRESPONDENCE :**

Please send all assignment related emails to the [<AssignmentBranch.CPC@noaa.gov>](mailto:AssignmentBranch.CPC@noaa.gov)

email account, not individual officer accounts, as the  
[<AssignmentBranch.CPC@noaa.gov>](mailto:AssignmentBranch.CPC@noaa.gov) is the "official assignment correspondence" box.

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**This message was generated for the Director of Commissioned Personnel**