



CPC CyberFlash

October 30, 2006

HONOR

RESPECT

COMMITMENT

From the Director's Desk

I recently had the opportunity to meet and speak to the officers of BOTC-110, as well as those officers attending REFTRA-61. Many things are as I remember about Kings Point yet there are many things which have changed since my previous assignment to CPC several years ago. The academy infrastructure and many of the faces are still quite familiar but the training itself has and continues to be refined for both BOTC and REFTRA curriculum. The four main theme areas of both programs continue to be deck safety, seamanship, nautical science, and ship handling. Teamwork building exercises, advanced situational awareness, and enhanced etiquette training are a couple of the new additions to the BOTC program while REFTRA now includes case study analysis, CO/XO expectation, and legal discussion. Both programs also now include leadership training and time in the academy's new state of the art ECDIS Lab. I, and other members of CPC, look forward to new opportunities and enhancements and as always, welcome comment from the field.

In 2007 NOAA celebrates 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA. In honor of the upcoming 200th anniversary, I offer the following excerpt from a piece authored by Captain Albert E. (Skip) Theberge, Jr., NOAA (Ret):

During the years before the First World War, all Coast and Geodetic Survey work was conducted by civilians even though shipboard personnel wore uniforms that were virtually indistinguishable from naval uniforms. With the entry of the United States into the war in 1917, the commissioned service of the C&GS was formed in order to eliminate the anomalous condition that arose during the Civil War which placed civilian assistants accompanying armed forces in jeopardy of being considered spies if captured by the enemy. Also, by formation of a uniformed commissioned service that could be rapidly transferred into the armed forces, the rapid assimilation of C&GS technical skills for defense purposes was assured. Still today, if a National emergency occurs, NOAA Corps can be assimilated into the Services by order of the President. Over half the commissioned officers of the C&GS served with the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps during WWI. They served as artillery orienteering officers,

mine-laying officers in the North Sea, troop transport navigators, as intelligence officers, and even on staff of General "Black Jack" Pershing. Colonel E. Lester Jones, then Superintendent of the Coast and Geodetic Survey and "father of the C&GS Commissioned Corps," returned to the United States and was a founder and first President of the Pioneer Post of the American Legion.



Captain Todd C. Stiles, NOAA
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

Billet of the Week

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Regional Office (SWR) in Long Beach, California is seeking an interested junior officer for the Science and Outreach Coordinator billet (#2340). Primary duties include acting as liaison between the Southwest Fisheries Science Center's research activities and the Regional Office's scientific needs for management activities; acting as the primary coordination point for dissemination of data and information internally and with external partners; chairing the Region's Public Outreach Committee, which has developed a Strategic Plan for Public Outreach with an overall mission of building and maintaining effective public and private partnerships in support of NOAA Fisheries' strategic goals; managing the Public Outreach budget; and, preparing data reports, summaries, and presentations for use by senior management and others.

The incumbent will continue developing and coordinating outreach efforts of NMFS offices throughout California. The officer will be working with NOAA and non-NOAA partners, including the Aquarium of the Pacific, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the Ocean Protection Council, along with other educational partners, to developing outreach programs and to seek funding through partnerships and grants. The position requires a high degree of both oral and written expression on a daily basis and will allow the incumbent to interact with upper management at the SWR, as well as with representatives from a large number of Federal, State, stakeholder groups, and the general public. This position provides a high degree of exposure to constituents and the general public, requiring the exercise of tact, diplomacy, patience, communication, planning and organization. There can be substantial travel involved, and some weekend work for high profile outreach events. The officer will represent the SWR on several Outreach and Education councils and committees both within and outside NOAA, and act as the Chairperson of the SWR's Public Outreach Committee. This assignment needs someone that is motivated to get NOAA's messages out to the public, is a team player, creative thinker, and multi-tasker.

If anyone should have any questions regarding this billet, please feel free to contact CDR Scott Hill at 562-980-4029 or scott.hill@noaa.gov or the Assignment Officer, LCDR John Caskey, at 301-713-7748 or assignmentbranch.cpc@noaa.gov

Uniform Tip of the Day - Belt Buckles

In accordance with NCD, Chapter 12, the prescribed buckle is plain and gold colored. A large silver-colored buckle decorated with the appropriate design of an officer's present command (i.e., ship) may be authorized for wear at the unit level only, not for official business outside of the unit.

On the Horizon

This section is designed to provide the NOAA Corps officers with some of the highlights of items under consideration that may have an impact on them. The items discussed may or may not be approved at a later date.

a. NOAA Corps Legislation: CPC staff has drafted and submitted new legislation for the NOAA Corps. The legislation is currently routing through the internal NOAA/DOC processes. This legislation addresses NOAA Corps recruitment, retention, promotion and disciplinary procedures by updating, strengthening, and clarifying the language of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officers Act of 2002.

b. Operational Dress Uniform. The NOAA Corps currently purchases the majority of its uniforms from the U. S. Navy. The U. S. Navy is replacing its working uniform with a camouflage battle dress uniform (BDU), which is not suitable to meet the missions of the NOAA Corps. The U. S. Coast Guard uses an operational dress uniform (ODU) that is a suitable replacement for the U. S. Navy working uniform. CPC staff is currently working with the Uniform Staff of the U. S. Coast Guard to pave the way for using their Operational Dress Uniform. We have developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), which we hope to have through the routing process and approved by the end of the year.

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