



CPC CYBERFLASH

March 30, 2007

HONOR

RESPECT

COMMITMENT

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From the Director's Desk

Promotion.....

NOAA Corps promotions are vacancy-driven. Each year CPC develops an annual plan to determine the projected need for officers in each grade. The development of this plan starts the promotion system cycle and contains three elements: selection opportunity, selection for promotion, and promotion. CPC extends CONGRATULATIONS to the following officers who have now reached that latter stage.

The following officers will pin on their new rank April 1, 2007.

To Be Captain:

Raymond C. Slagle,
Christopher S. Moore.

To Be Commander:

John K. Longenecker.

To Be Lieutenant Commander:

Michael F. Ellis,
Nancy L. Ash,
Elizabeth I. Jones.

To Be Lieutenant:

Luke J. Spence,
John J. Lomnický.

To Be Lieutenant (junior grade):

Laurel K. Jennings,
Allison R. Martin,
Madeleine M. Adler,
James L. Brinkley,
Sean M. Finney.

.....a time of reflection

Reaching the next higher grade of the uniformed service ladder is often a time of reflection. Taking time to look back over one's career, no matter how long or short, allows personal examination of uniformed service to date. This reflection, which should include both high and low points, forms or continues to build the basis for future objective

and goal. Ideally, the reflection results in reinvigorated and renewed commitment to the NOAA Corps.

....and celebration (from a historical perspective)

In the old Navy, an officer's commission was hand-written on heavy parchment. According to some sources, the newly commissioned or promoted officer held a dinner for his shipmates and friends. During the course of the evening, the new commission was rolled into a cone, the small end folded up to form a cup. This paper cup was passed around the table for all the guests to toast the new officer. Thus, the new commission was "wetted down." Considering the importance of the document, however, this interpretation may be doubtful.

Commissions in the early U.S. Navy were signed and issued by the President and were of great legal and personal value.

According to other sources, the wetting down party was once quite a rough and tumble affair. It was the custom for the officer to wear his new uniform or stripes for the first time at the "wetting down". The guests would then proceed to christen the uniform, with liquid refreshment (paid for by the victim).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Todd Stiles". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and a stylized "S".

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

Billet of the Week

Everyone is instructed to review and update their billet information (i.e., address, phone/fax numbers, e-mail, etc.) found in the NOAA Locator. Since this information is now being used for workplace accountability during emergency events, it is critical that officers update their information soon after reporting to a new assignment. In order to review and update your current information, please visit the following website:

(<http://www.ofa.noaa.gov/%7Enoaa/natlocnoaa.html>). Updates should be completed on a Locator Request Form and sent to NOAA.Locator@noaa.gov. If you should have any questions, please send them to assignmentbranch.cpc@noaa.gov. Thank you.

Officer Evaluation

The Officer Evaluation Report (OER) is the most important document in your Officer Personnel File. OERs are key determinants for:

- Promotions
- Assignments
- Selection for Educational and Special Programs

As the Reported-on-Officer you are responsible for:

- Learning the procedures of the Officer Evaluation System
- Preparing OER Section 1, Administrative Data, and forwarding the OER to your Supervisor no later than 21 days before the end of the reporting period
- Submitting to your Supervisor a listing of significant achievements or aspects of performance which occurred during the reporting period
- Ensuring that all days of service are covered by your OERs

Informing the Director, Commissioned Personnel Center directly by written communication (e.g., letter, E-mail) if an official copy of your OER has not been received 90 days after the end of the reporting period

- Ensuring that you provide a copy of the OER instructions, appropriate forms, and other literature provided by the Commissioned Personnel Center to a rating official who is not in the NOAA Corps
- Ensuring that your OER is not delayed when eligible for promotion
- Managing your own performance

-Ensuring that your performance feedback is thorough, timely and accurate

Welcome BOTC 111

Seventeen officers of NOAA's 111th Basic Officer Training Class were temporarily appointed on March 9th. Please welcome the newest recruits into the NOAA Corps, who have started Basic Officer Training Class 111 on March 11 at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY. Graduation is scheduled for June 28.

ENS Mark Andrews
ENS Matthew Griffin
ENS Megan Guberski
ENS Jonathan Heesch
ENS Bennie Johnson
ENS Diaha Lewis
ENS Ronald Moyers
ENS Megan O'Brien
ENS Faith Opatrny
ENS Nathan Parker
ENS Brian Player
ENS Russell Quintero
ENS Patrick Redmond
ENS Glenn Rice
ENS Christine Schultz
ENS Claire Surrey
ENS Nathan Witherly

Uniform Update

The Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA authorizing the use of the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) for the NOAA Corps is still in the approval process. We expect the MOA to be approved by both parties within the month. After the MOA is approved, the policy will be forward to the Department for final approval. At the present time it is difficult to state when the later will occur. Once approved, the ODU will be phased in on all ships and will include the Marine Centers. This phase in period is tentatively scheduled for one year.

We are currently revising Chapter 12, Uniforms and Awards, of the NOAA Corps Directives to include the ODU policies. If you have any suggestions regarding uniform items please send them to the Chair of the Uniform and Awards Board, CDR Mike Weaver.

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.

NOAA Corps Legislation: CPC staff has drafted and submitted new legislation for the NOAA Corps. The legislation is currently routing though NMAO. This legislation addresses NOAA Corps authorized strength, recruitment, retention, retirement, and separation procedures by updating, strengthening, and clarifying the language of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officers Act of 2002.