



January 17, 2008

Director's Message

Over the past few months, CPC has been visiting with officers attending REFTRA, the XO Seminar, and Command Conference and with officers assigned in the Tampa, Norfolk, and Seattle areas. During these visits, we talked and discussed the state of the NOAA Corps, presented basic leadership principles, and discussed how personal and organizational values greatly influence one's leadership foundation. I received much constructive feedback. I would like to share with you a portion of an e-mail and an attached essay I received from a junior officer. The officer has asked to remain anonymous but has given me permission to share the following:

*Last April I wrote a small essay regarding my thoughts on the NOAA Corps purpose, both for myself and for a college professor who was asking my thoughts regarding my new job... after attending the leadership training in Sand Point with all the discussion of values and purpose, it occurred to me to pass it along.

NOAA Corps

There exists an unmistakable power in purpose. It is a silent power-- driving our everyday lives, guiding many of our decisions, determining our courses of action. And while we are all guided by this powerful means of purpose, many of us struggle with the ability to identify this driving force. There is a common bond within us, as we search for purpose, for our purpose. The tricky part, the part that many of us struggle with, is accepting the challenge, accepting the commitment that is needed to fully give ourselves to an idea of purpose, to the idea of doing all we can to become the best that we can and to help create a world where harmony prevails.

The United States Armed Forces has a power beyond any signing bonuses, beyond any slogans or catchy phrases. They have the ability to define purpose in our lives. They have the ability to clearly and concisely offer meaning, provide direction to those individuals strong enough to accept the challenge. The Armed Forces of the United States protects, shelters, and maintains our very being. The men and women within the five branches of the armed military fight everyday for the protection of the life we know. They march in, sail in, as the dawn breaks, to take the front line in a fight against indifference, injustice,

against human devastation. They bring with them blankets and food, comfort and security. They offer the American people a light where there exists only dark. They offer the American people strength when they are weak. They become our sanctuary. And in turn, they are offered an unmistakably clear definition of their purpose, at the moment, at the hour.

The NOAA Corps, a uniformed service, has remained somehow in a dimmer light, slightly in the shadows of our military companions. Our purpose is not as clearly defined, and is not as emotionally obvious. For it does not send us in on the front lines of war or give us artillery and authority to protect our neighbors; to shield our nation. However, that is merely because our war is not as obvious, and our weapons are not as loud. Nevertheless we too carry weapons, yet they are not to harm nor protect, rather they are tools for which we may learn. Our weapons are in the form of science, and what we protect is our Earth. OUR Earth-- not just the United States, not just North America, but our scope of knowledge, our purpose, encompasses this vast, unique planet we call home.

While our purpose may be hard to defend, our goal-- our mission is easy. We are an entity of the United States Government, and with that authority we can slowly and surely convince the American people that our planet, our home, is in need of the Peoples' attention, focus, funds, and support. The data we gather, whether it be shifts in seafloor sediment, multi-beam hydrography, seafloor characteristics, meteorological phenomenons, species population assessments, all of it, is vital to begin to comprehend this ever fluctuating planet. The findings we gather today, good or bad, are essential to guiding us through tomorrow. Our research may be small steps, but all forward movement is just that, forward movement. The small stones of knowledge we gather today, will one day become a mountain. While our nation keeps their sights on the protection of the people, we must maintain watch in order to safeguard our Earth. For without it and without a balance among its inhabitants, we will all fail in our purpose.

NOAA Corps: Our Earth. Our Future. My Purpose



CAPT William B. Kearse, NOAA
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

Announcements

Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Reminder

After you complete a PCS move the following items need to be completed.
Fax a copy of endorsed orders to the CPC and to the NOAA Corps Payroll Unit.
File a Travel Voucher within 5 days.

Update your address at the following locations:

OPF Online - <https://cpc.nmao.noaa.gov/opfonline/login.jsp>

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

Direct Access Payroll

Submit an updated Record of Emergency data (NOAA form 56-14)

OPMD temporary loses Neavaly Touray

Ms. Neavaly Touray has been temporarily detailed to NOAA's Office of the Chief Administrative Office for six months. Please direct all inquires about PCS orders to Tracey Raymond at 301-713-7724.

Award Nominations

The deadline for nominations for NOAA ACO Junior Officer of the Year Award, NOAA ACO Science Award, and the NOAA ACO Engineering Award has been extended until COB January 18th.

Submission Procedure

A nomination for a NOAA ACO award shall consist of at least two pages, the first a cover memo addressed to the National ACO and containing the name, grade, duty title, and job description of the nominated officer. The following page(s) shall be the personal comments of the supervisor, which reflect the basis for the nomination.

All commands and field offices are encouraged to submit officer nominations for these awards. Please submit nominations to LCDR Mark Wetzler, President of the DC Area Association of Commissioned Officers via e-mail, mark.wetzler@noaa.gov, by COB January 18, 2008. In the nomination email please have the supporting files attached as .PDF or readable by Microsoft Word. The subject line of the nomination email should be Junior Officer of the Year, Science Award, or Engineering Award. Junior officers with civilian supervisors are encouraged to forward them this information. For more information on the awards please refer to the NOAA Corps Directives on Awards (pages 20 through 22).

http://www.noaa Corps.noaa.gov/cpc/procedures/corps_directives/chapter_12/ncd_ch12part7.pdf

Watchstanders Needed for National Operations Center

The NOAA Homeland Security Program Office in Silver Spring, MD is seeking 0-2 and higher ranking officers on assignments within the National Capital Region to serve as part time watch standers at the DOC NOAA Desk at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) National Operations Center (NOC) in Washington, DC.

The mission of the NOC is to integrate DHS and interagency planning and operations coordination in order to prevent, deter, protect, and respond to terrorists threats/attacks or threats from other man-made or natural disasters. The NOC is a 24x7, multi-agency operations center that collects all-threats and all-hazards information across the spectrum of federal, state, local, tribal, private-sector, and other key sources. Its mission is to be the primary national-level hub for domestic situational awareness, common operating picture, information fusion, information sharing, communications, and operations coordination pertaining to the prevention of terrorist attacks and domestic incident management. The NOAA Desk is considered one of the critical department/agency desks within the NOC, providing a wide range of environmental information and forecasts from NOAA sources. The Desk is staffed by part-time watch standers from across line offices in the DC area, performed as a collateral duty, under the supervision of a senior desk officer on staff of the NOAA Homeland Security Program Office.

This opportunity provides an officer the chance to work in the Nation's premier interagency operational center where all federal departments and agencies are represented, to constantly maintain situational awareness of homeland security and all-hazards response across the nation. Exposure and visibility to senior officials in the Department of Homeland Security as well as other departments is provided. Volunteers are expected to be available for 1-2 eight hour day shifts per month, approved by their supervisor. Expansion beyond that availability is sought during times of crisis response at the NOC. Secret clearance is required. Training will be provided by the Senior Desk Officer.

Anyone interested in this opportunity should contact Captain Wade Blake at 301-713-3310 x214 or wade.blake@noaa.gov

Record of Emergency Data

CPC is unable to accept faxed or emailed copies of the Record of Emergency Data. Please submit only the original form and ensure that you sign in the upper right hand corner in addition to the bottom of the form. Thank you.

OER Reminders

EEO comments should not be listed in the OER unless they can be quantified (i.e., EEO/Diversity training during the period, participates on EEO/Diversity council, etc.).

- No handwritten comments will be accepted.
- Please use the latest versions of NOAA Forms 56-6A (Officer Evaluation Report), 56-6B (Reviewer Comments), and 56-6C (Officer Support Form). These forms can be found on the following website:

<http://www.noaaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/evaluation.html>

- If you're in a FUT or flight training billet, be sure to follow the guidance in Section 10.A.5. "Preparation and Use of the Duty Under Instruction (DUINS) OER" of the Officer Evaluation System. This manual can be found on the following website:

<http://www.noaaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/evaluation.html>

- Nominations for awards should not be listed under the Awards section under Block 2. Only list awards that were received during the rating period.

- Be sure that all signature blocks are signed. Only original signatures will be accepted.

- Only an SES or NC Officer (usually LO Liaison) can sign as a Reviewer.

- Attachments will not be accepted with the OER.

- If you're a Reviewer and identify discrepancies in an OER, don't hesitate to send it directly back to the officer/supervisor/reporting officer for corrections. Forwarding the "incomplete" OER along to CPC only delays the process.

If you should have any questions with the Officer Evaluation System and were unable to obtain the answer(s) you were looking for after reading the manual, please don't hesitate to contact LCDR John T. Caskey at 301-713-7748 or john.caskey@noaa.gov.

Assignment Preferences

All officers are encouraged to update their assignment preferences in their on-line OPF. CPC no longer manually enters "Next Assignment Preferences" from the End of Year Service Reports. If you should have any questions with assignments, please don't hesitate to contact LCDR John T. Caskey at 301-713-7748 or john.caskey@noaa.gov.

Looking for a Temporary Assignment?

Officer-In-Charge, National Marine Sanctuary Program

Small Research Vessel, Seattle, Washington

The NMSP is looking for an independent and confident officer that would like to spend 6-12 months developing a new research vessel. An Officer Assignment Board will be reviewing the draft billet description to see if it warrants a full-time billet in the future.

The NMSP Small Research Vessel, OMAO number R8501 named SRVx, will enter service next spring after an extensive refit. The NMSP acquired the SRVx, a virtually new \$4.5M 85' Guardian Marine built mono-hull, from the Navy in August 2007. NMSP is modifying this hull for oceanographic research and will operate it along the West Coast over an 18-24-month period.

We are looking for an officer to take command of this unique NOAA platform and operate it as a test and evaluation platform to define program-wide requirements. The SRVx has the potential to complete missions more demanding than those possible on a Type III boat, but not requiring the full capabilities of a Class 3 research vessel. The test and evaluation program will help define whether an SRV-class vessel can demonstrate significant advantages in speed, adaptability, and cost effectiveness for NMSP missions. The ability to work nearly autonomous is a must for this position; only personnel that can think and act independently should express interest.

Contact the NMSP Small Boat Coordinator, Dana Wilkes, at 206-390-8073, or dana.wilkes@noaa.gov <<mailto:dana.wilkes@noaa.gov>> to find out more about this detail.

Still Have Questions About the ODU?

The manual for the Operational Dress Uniform (ODU) has been posted on-line and can be found at the following link:

http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/perservices/pdf/Operational_Dress_Uniform_Manual.pdf

This link, along with the ODU presentations located on the Commissioned Personnel Center (CPC) Home website, should help address some of the FAQ's

about the ODU. In order to address some of the questions with the new uniform, officers from CPC have worn the ODU on recent trips to Kings Point, NY, MacDill AFB, FL, and Norfolk, VA. Reminder: The ODU becomes the prescribed uniform for all locations outside the National Capitol Region starting February 1, 2008.

Pre-Retirement Seminars available for NOAA Corps officers in the Seattle Area

It is recommended that any officer within eighteen months of retirement attend a Pre-Retirement Seminar.

Seminar Dates	Location
March 3 - 6, 2008	Naval Sub Base Bangor FFIC TAP Classroom Silverdale, Washington

For additional information go to <http://uscg.mil/mlcpac/iscseattle/pw/tapsched.htm> and to register, call or email the Work-Life Staff's Transition Manager, **David Sweeney**, at (206) 217-6615 or david.j.sweeney@uscg.mil.

Approved Retirements

The following officers have approved retirements. Be sure to thank them for their service to NOAA and nation and wish them the best the next time you see these officers!

CAPT Jon E. Rix	February 1, 2008
CAPT Stephen A. Kozak	March 1, 2008
CDR Julia N. Neander	May 1, 2008
CAPT Sean R. White	July 1, 2008
LCDR Stephen J. Thumm	July 1, 2008
CDR Thomas E. Strong	July 1, 2008
CAPT John W. Humphrey, Jr.	August 1, 2

On the Horizon

- February 1, 2008 The ODU becomes the prescribed uniform for all locations outside the National Capitol Region
- February 17, 2008 Start date for BOTC 112
- February 25, 2008 Start date for REFTRA 64
- January-May, 2008 Billet Review
- March 3-7, 2008 Selection Boards for O-6 to O-2

Please see NOAA Corps website for additional information:

Assignments:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/assignments.html>

Evaluations:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/evaluation.html>

Training:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/careermgmt/training.html>

Uniforms & Awards:

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/perservices/awards.html>