



March 28, 2008

Director's Message

Today is Roger Mason's last day as Deputy Director, CPC. On Monday, he will take over as Director for Client Services at Workforce Management Office. In his new role, he will lead the day-to-day delivery of human resource operational products and services throughout NOAA.

Mr. Mason has served as Deputy Director since August 2004. He is a consummate professional, extremely dedicated, highly organized, and always providing mentorship to CPC and the OMAO staff. He is personally responsible for generating numerous NOAA Corps policy changes, creating major advancements in CPC's HR technology, and inspiring OMAO and CPC staff members. Roger is always seeking new challenges, career opportunities, and better ways to accomplish assigned work with the available resources. Therefore, when presented with this opportunity, he was ready to serve. He is a professional in every sense of the word and has been a significant asset to CPC and OMAO. He will be truly missed. I extend my best wishes for his continued successes.

To fill this sudden void, Monica Matthews, Deputy Director for Workforce Management, will be serving on detail as Acting Deputy Director until the Deputy Director position can be competitively back-filled over the next few months.

Ms. Matthews has served the Workforce Management Office and former Human Resources Management Office for 18 years. She has served as a Human Resources Specialist, Executive Resources Program Manager, and Director for Policy and Program Management and as Deputy Director for the past 6 years. CPC is very excited about the diverse human resource and managerial resources she will bring to CPC and the NOAA Corps community. She will report to her new position on Monday, April 7. Welcome aboard!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. B. Kearse".

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

Announcements

DEERS Machine to be Relocated

On Monday March 17th, the DEERS/Rapids ID card machine currently located in CPC will be relocated to the NOAA Silver Spring building complex. CPC will no longer have the ability to directly enter DEERS information or issue ID cards. Any NOAA Corps officer requiring a CAC card or DEERS input will need to go to the closest Rapids site to their location. The Rapids site locator link is located on the CPC's website under DEERS. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Promotion Package

The package containing the recommendations for promotion to the grades of Lieutenant (junior grade) through Captain has been vetted by the NOAA Workforce Management Office and the Office of General Counsel. The package is currently at NOAA for clearance.

Government Travel -- Baggage Charge

Several airlines have instituted a new policy of charging \$25 for the second checked bag. The effective dates are: Delta Airlines on May 1, 2008 with United Airlines and US Airways on May 5, 2008. United is the only airline that has indicated that they will waive this fee for the second bag if it is a contract flight (city pair fair). This fee must be paid by the traveler using the government travel card and reimbursement claimed on the travel settlement voucher if the bag is mission essential, medically necessary, or for an extended length of stay. This charge cannot be placed on a centrally billed account along with the airline ticket. Travel Agents with the Department's Travel Management Contractor, ADTRAV, will inform all government employees of this rule when a non-contract domestic ticket is booked.

Supervisor's Guide for NOAA Corps Officers

The new Supervisor's Guide to NOAA Corps Officers was distributed to all NOAA Corps officers earlier this week via e-mail. Also attached was a letter from RADM Bailey addressed to civilian supervisors of NOAA Corps officers outlining his supervisory expectations. The documents are available on the CPC website at <http://www.noacorps.noaa.gov/cpc>. Please ensure that your civilian supervisor receives a copy of both documents.

As CPC is not always familiar with the currency of civilian supervisors, we ask that as your supervisor changes you provide this information. Please direct any questions to Katherine Raymond at (301) 713-7732.

Save the Date, Washington D.C. Area Officers

On May 17th, the NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers (ACO) and the

NOAA Officers Family Association (NOFA) will host the 91st annual NOAA Corps Anniversary Ball. Refreshments will be available starting at 1700 and dinner served at 1800. The ball will be held at the newly remodeled Minuteman Memorial Building, owned by the Reserve Officers Association (ROA). The link below describes the Banquet and Conference Center in the ROA building.

<http://www.roa.org/site/PageServer?pagename=topofthehill>

The prescribed uniform for lieutenant commanders and above is Dinner Dress White Jacket--optional for lieutenants and below. Lieutenants and below may wear Dinner Dress White in lieu of Dinner Dress White Jacket.

Fallen Comrade

Mason, Charles Douglas (Obituary condensed from the Santa Fe New Mexican newspaper)

"Charles Douglas Mason Age 63, of Santa Fe, succumbed to illness on March 15, 2008 at Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque. He was born January 16, 1945 in Winchester, Virginia, to Lt. Colonel Charles Hare Mason and Evelyn Lovett Mason. Doug was a direct descendent of George Mason, a founding father. His childhood was spent in Virginia, and he lived with his maternal grandmother, Annie Haseman Lovett in Stephens City. The family relocated to Charleston, SC in his youth, where he attended Gaud School for Boys. He regarded his education at Gaud as the finest any young man could receive. Doug attended West Point and completed his undergraduate Computer Science education at the University of South Carolina. His training from Gaud and West Point was evident in his bearing and conduct as a gentleman. His first marriage was to Sarah Borup. Doug and Karen Mary Wouters were married in 1977. The couple had three children: Alexander Baron Mason, Elizabeth Lovett Mason, and Caroline

Ann Hare Mason. He married Claudia Elia Pickei Hardin in August, 2003 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The couple lived in Stillwater, Oklahoma, and relocated to Santa Fe in 2005.

Doug's career was as a Commissioned Officer with NOAA, where he served as a Lieutenant Commander. He served at the Pacific and Atlantic Marine Centers, where his work unifying their information systems was awarded. He also served at the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina and the Department of Marine Fisheries in Gloucester, Massachusetts. He spent nine years at sea conducting hydrographic surveys. His love was the sea, and especially driving ships. He retired from NOAA and spent his career in a variety of IT management positions. For a several years, he taught high school advanced mathematics. His latest position was with the Quality Institute at Presbyterian

Healthcare Services in Albuquerque. Doug was an avid golfer, and played golf the day he fell ill.

Doug's divine purpose was to be supportive. He was of constant support to his wife and children. He is survived by his wife, Claudia Mason; previous wife, Karen Mason of Richmond, Virginia; his sister, Mary Page Drake of Annapolis, Maryland; his son, Alexander Mason of Seattle, Washington; daughter, Elizabeth Mason of Stuttgart, Germany; daughter, Caroline Mason of Tulsa, Oklahoma. He is also survived by his step sons: Adam Hardin of New York, New York, and Timothy Hardin of Steilacoom, Washington. A Memorial Service was held on March 18, 2008 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 704 Bond Street, Espanola, NM. A memorial fund to benefit his children will be established through Wells Fargo. The family wishes to thank the many friends, medical personnel, co-workers, and acquaintances whose skill, prayers, acts of service, and good wishes provided comfort. He used to say that going to sea was both the happiest and saddest day, as you leave your family, but set out on the sea anew. He is leaving us, but starting on a new adventure. We wish you happy sailing, Doug."

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	May 1, 2008
CDR Julia N. Neander	May 1, 2008
LCDR Stephen J. Thumm	July 1, 2008
CDR Thomas E. Strong	July 1, 2008
CAPT Stephen A. Kozak	January 1, 2009
CAPT John W. Humphrey, Jr.	January 1, 2009
CAPT Sean R. White	July 1, 2009

On the Horizon

January-May, 2008

Billet Review

Please see NOAA Corps website for additional information:

Assignments:

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

Evaluations:

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

Training:

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

Uniforms & Awards:

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