



April 25, 2008

Director's Message

On Monday of this week, CPC received notification that the 2008 Officer Personnel Board (OPB) recommendations for promotions were approved by the Secretary. Liaison Officers and supervisors were immediately informed of this action and notification of affected officers has been completed.

An OPB consists of five active-duty NOAA Corps officers, not below the permanent grade of commander, appointed by the Director, NOAA Corps. All OPB members are senior to those being considered for selection. For OPB deliberations, each member of the board takes a sworn oath that he/she will perform the duties imposed upon him/her without prejudice or partiality, and having in view both the records of the officers and the efficiency of the NOAA Commissioned Corps. The Director provides written guidance, called a precept letter, to the board on the selection criteria. OPB members are directed to review records of all officers eligible for consideration and recommend for promotion those officers whom the OPB considers best-qualified to serve in the next higher grade. This is the same as all other Services.

Additionally, proceedings of the OPB convened under the NOAA Corps Directives (NCD) may not be disclosed to any person not a member of the OPB, unless disclosure is specially authorized by the Director, NC, or by other provisions of law.

Fundamental to selecting for promotion on a best-qualified basis is the fact that the number of officers to be selected is fewer than the number being considered. Best-qualified boards consider officers' records, comparing past performance, their capacity to successfully undertake tasks of progressively greater difficulty involving broader responsibilities, their capability and their potential to creditably perform those duties to which these officers might be assigned in the future at the next higher grade. The Corps has many qualified officers, but by direction, OPB members select those that are best-qualified to serve at the next higher grade.

Selection on a best-qualified basis embodies three elements:

- a. Considers all officers impartially and equally.
- b. Applies the same criteria to all officers.
- c. Evaluates by comparison, with the best qualified officers advancing to positions of higher responsibility.

The Director has decided that officers twice non-selected for promotion will go to another board for separation, retirement, or continuance, based on the needs of the service. Anyone continued will be considered by future promotion boards for as long as they remain on active duty. Guidance to those officers affected will be forthcoming in the next few days. An Officer Assignment Board will take place May 1, 2008, to evaluate the needs of the service.

Please join me on behalf of the Director in congratulating the following officers selected for promotion:

TO BE CAPTAIN:

Mark H. Pickett
James S. Verlaque
Christopher A. Beaverson
David O. Neander
Michael S. Devany
Donald W. Haines
Michele A. Finn
Harris B. Halverson II
Barry K. Choy
Douglas D. Baird Jr.

TO BE COMMANDER:

Michael L. Hopkins
Gregory G. Glover
Philip G. Hall
William R. Odell
John T. Caskey
Cecile R. Daniels
Lawrence T. Krepp
James M. Crocker
Carl E. Newman
Shepard M. Smith
Albert M. Girimonte
Todd A. Bridgeman
Edward J. Van Den Ameele
Alexandra R. Von Saunder

TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER:

William P. Mowitt
Jonathan B. Neuhaus
Nicholas J. Toth

Andrew A. Hall
Catherine A. Martin
Matthew J. Wingate
Stephanie A. Koes
Daniel M. Simon

TO BE LIEUTENANT:

Brent J. Pounds
Amanda L. Goeller
Benjamin S. Sniffen
Mark A. Blankenship
Fionna J. Matheson
Jonathan E. Taylor
Andrew P. Halbach

TO BE LIEUTENANT (junior grade):

Justin T. Keesee
Matthew T. Burton
Carl G. Rhodes
Timothy M. Smith
James T. Falkner
Christopher S. Skapin
Jennifer L. King
Chad M. Meckley
Caryn M. Arnold
Megan A. Nadeau
Marc E. Weekley
Patrick M. Sweeney III

Reminder: If you have been selected for promotion, you must remain medically and dentally qualified, or your name will not be submitted.



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

Announcements

Assignment Process

CPC has rescheduled this year's Officer Assignment Boards for O-6s (May vs. July), O-5s (June vs. August), and O-4s (July vs. September) to provide officers

with as much lead time as possible to properly plan for their upcoming PCS move. If you happen to be one detaching from your present assignment in the next 18 months, I encourage you to review the latest Billet List, talk to your Line Office Liaison and the Chief of the Officer Career Management Division (OCMD), and update your OPF on-line preference list. If you should have any questions regarding the assignment process or need career guidance, please feel free to contact LCDR John Caskey at 301-713-7748 or john.caskey@noaa.gov.

ACO Insignia

On April 26, the ACO insignia inventory, currently stored at CPC headquarters and disseminated by the NOAA Corps recruiter, will be permanently transferred to a private on-line vender.

A web store will be the new method for obtaining NOAA Corps insignia through on-line purchase capability. The NOAA Corps Web Store is currently under development with an expected launch date for May 5th, 2008. Once the site is functional, additional information will be posted. LT Nicole Manning will continue to be the point of contact for insignia during this transition period.

To Contact CPC's Lisa Sudmann

What is Video Relay Service (VRS)?

Video Relay Service (VRS) is a free service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community that enables anyone to conduct video relay calls with family, friends, or business associates through a certified ASL interpreter via a high-speed Internet connection and a video relay solution (or VRS call option).

What is Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)?

VRI, or video remote interpreting, is a professional remote interpreting service that allows companies to comply with the current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. VRI uses video conferencing technology to enable Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing individuals who are in the same room to communicate via a live, remote interpreter. The service can be used on demand virtually anywhere with high-speed internet and video conferencing equipment.

What is the difference between VRS and VRI?

VRS is used to place a phone call between parties who typically are in separate locations. VRI replaces the physical presence of a live interpreter in situations in which everyone is in the same room.

How do I place a video relay (VRS) call to Lisa Sudmann?

Using a standard telephone, simply call the toll free number 1-866-FAST-VRS or 1-866-327-8877 then give an interpreter Lisa's work phone number, 301-713-7733.

If your call cannot be answered, you could always leave a signmail for Lisa Sudmann, she will return your call as soon as she gets the signmail. Signmail is like a voicemail message.

Send Your BAH Form to Payroll Now!

Verification of BAH/Dependency CG-4170 Forms were sent to each NOAA Officer 9 January 2008 and were to be returned to the Payroll Unit in Topeka, KS by 29 February 2008. To date we have received approx 60% of these verification forms. If you have gotten married, divorced, additional dependents, etc., we need to know this information so that you'll not be in an over paid/under paid status. If you have not returned this form please do so ASAP. If you did not receive this form please contact me (ronald.a.cunningham@uscg.mil). If you have any corrections to be made please make the corrections on the form and mail or fax the form back to the Payroll Unit. If adding a dependent please provide a copy of any supporting documentation, ie. Marriage certificate, birth certificate, divorce decree, just to name a few. Please sign at the bottom of the form even if there are no changes and mail to the below address:

Ron Cunningham
NOAA Corps Payroll Unit
P. O. Box 397
Topeka, KS 66601-0397

Save the Date, Seattle Officers -- Anniversary Ball

The Seattle ACO will be holding the NOAA Corps Anniversary Ball on 10 May, 2008 at Naval Station Everett. The Seattle ACO will send out details soon.

Save the Date, Washington D.C. Area Officers -- Anniversary Ball

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. 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>

Dental Care

All NOAA Corps officers residing in a catchment area are required to schedule dental appointments through the Military Treatment Facilities. If the MTF is

authorized to receive dental care from a civilian provider. Please instruct the provider to contact LCDR Hobson-Powell at 301-713-7718 for payment of the dental services. For those officers that were previously assigned to the National Naval Medical Center Dental Clinic, there are a number of MTF's in the Washington, DC Metropolitan area that can provide full dental services for active duty NOAA Corps officers. In order to receive care at these facilities you must bring a copy of your dental records, orders, and your government issued military identification card to your scheduled appointment. The following facilities may be used:

Fort Meyer: 703--696-3460

Walter Reed Army Medical Center: 202-782-6815

Bolling AFB: 202-404-5519

Navy Annex Dental Clinic: 703-614-1229

Fort Detrick: 301-619-7675

Fort Meade EPPS: 301-677-6078

Fort Belvoir: 703-696-3450 (*Walk-in appointments only)

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
May 1, 2008	OAB
mid-May	O-6 OAB
June 6, 2008	Aviation Selection and O-5 OAB
June 9, 2008	BOTC 112 Graduation
July 10, 2008	O-4 OAB

July 31, 2008	End of OER Reporting Period for O-1s and O-2s
August 4, 2008	Start of BOTC 113
October 6-31, 2008	REFTRA 65

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>