



June 27, 2008

Director's Message

As the officers from BOTC 112 enter the fleet, I would like to provide a little more background on the new BOTC program.

As most of you know, we started a new program with BOTC 112 that will enable the officers to sit for a Mate 1600 ton license with only one year of sea time (365 days) as long as the entire course is completed. The course includes A School (the initial 16-week BOTC), B School (advanced navigation, stability, more BRM, and GMDSS) and C School (license preparation and a couple of other courses required for a license - cargo handling and such). Also included are four sea projects, which the officers will complete during their first sea assignment.

It is important to understand that getting a license now is not as easy as it once was. No matter what your experience, training, or amount of sea time, there is no opportunity to "test out" to the desired license. The USCG requires that all the approved courses and ratings are completed. This new BOTC program provides the officers with the STCW approved courses and certificates, and Officer in Charge of a Navigational Watch (OICNW) and Rating forming Part of a Navigational Watch (RFPNW) assessments. In addition, because it is an approved program, the sea time requirement is only one year, as opposed to the three years required for individuals obtaining the certificates on their own. It is OMAO leadership's stand that if we are paying to train the junior officers, we should also give them the opportunity to obtain a license.

The training now provided in the first section (BOTC-A School) is not much different than prior BOTCs received. It is mainly just structured differently, and leadership training was added in the last couple of years. This last class received more navigation training than prior BOTCs, as well as the ship and small boat time and NOAA-specific training they've received in the past.

As with many new ideas, there are some growing pains. Because this course is approved by the USCG, we are limited to course hours and days per week based on the IMO standard. We are also limited in the scheduling. The sea projects were also approved in advance (originally created for a similar course for AB- to-Mate in the tug industry, tweaked for NOAA use). We can, and will, make small changes and requests for re-approvals for the big changes as needed, but please understand that this is not a quick process. We can only continue to improve the program with your constructive feedback, to make sure we produce the best

NOAA Corps officers possible.

Thank you for your support of the new program and the development of the junior officers. This is a new and exciting step in the officer training program. For questions or concerns please contact CDR Anne Lynch at anne.lynch@noaa.gov.



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

Announcements

Recently Awarded Officers: Please offer congratulations to these officers on their recent awards.

NOAA Corps Commendation Medal:

Captain Kenneth W. Barton - Exceptional Leadership and Managerial Ability in the Performance of Your Duties, which included Four Sea Assignments, Two as Commanding Officer, and a Two-Year Assignment as Acting Director, Office of Response and Restoration.

Lieutenant Commander Scott M. Sirois - Exemplary Performance and Dedication to duty while serving as the First Executive Officer, NOAA Ship HENRY B. BIGELOW.

Lieutenant Nicole M. Manning - Outstanding Achievement in the Performance of duty as the Chief, Officer Recruiting Branch, NOAA Commissioned Personnel Center.

NOAA Corps Achievement Medal:

Lieutenant Commander Timothy J. Gallagher - Outstanding Customer Service, Mission Planning and Execution, and Communication Approach during the 2008 Winter Storm Research Program while Acting as P-3 Navigator and Chief, Aircraft Maintenance Branch.

Lieutenant John A. Crofts - Sustained Operational Excellence during your Tenure at the Fisheries Ecology Division of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

Lieutenant Nicholas J. Chrobak - Sustained Superior Performance during the Initial Field Season of the NOAA Ship HENRY B. BIGELOW.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Lecia M. Salerno - Outstanding and Excellent Performance while serving as Junior Officer, NOAA Ship NANCY FOSTER.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Jason R. Saxe - Sustained Superior Performance while serving as Executive, Operations and Navigation Officer, NOAA Ship OSCAR ELTON SETTE.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Joshua J. Slater - Sustained Superior Performance while serving as Navigation Officer and Damage Control Officer, NOAA Ship McARTHUR II.

NOAA Corps Director's Ribbon:

Lieutenant Luke J. Spence - Exemplary Effort in Obtaining a Masters Degree in Applied Mathematics and Graduating with Distinction from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Rebecca J. Almeida - Outstanding Performance of Duty in Support of the Operations' Division, Aircraft Operations Center.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Sarah A.T. Harris - Outstanding Performance while serving as Fleet Inspection and Safety Officer, NOAA Ship OSCAR ELTON SETTE.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Meghan E. McGovern - Sustained Operational Excellence during your Tenure at the Fisheries Ecology Division of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center.

Lieutenant (junior grade) Victoria E. Zalewski - Achievement in ensuring coordination among NMFS Regional and Headquarters Habitat Leadership.

Ensign Megan A. Nadeau - Superior Achievement and Performance while serving as a Junior Officer, NOAA Ship THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Ensign Andrew J. Ostapenko - Superior Achievement and Performance while serving as a Junior Officer, NOAA Ship THOMAS JEFFERSON.

Ensign Justin T. Keese - Sustained Superior Performance while serving as Acting Executive Officer, NOAA Ship OREGON II.

Upcoming Augmentation Needs

Travel will be paid by the respective Marine Center. For specific information on the cruises and operations involved, please contact the XO or CO of the vessel. All requests to augment will need to be approved/cleared through your current supervisor, CO of the respective vessel, and CO MOA/ MOP. Any questions or concerns, please contact LCDR Stark at 757-441-6844.

NANCY FOSTER Male preferred for berthing purposes. Female could work if ample notice given to scientific party. SWO/NF OOD or Small Boat Coxn (well qualified for 8hr of small boat driving)

7/24-8/5 (Key West - Key West)

8/7-8/16 (Key West - Key West)

8/17-8/23 (Key West - Galveston)

8/24-9/1 (Galveston - Galveston)

9/18-10/1 (Gulfport, MS-Pascagoula, MS)

10/1-10/14 (Pascagoula, MS - Pascagoula, MS) Dates approximate

McARTHUR II experienced (preferably TAGOS) officers
8/24-9/14 (Newport, OR-San Francisco, CA)
9/17-10/9 (San Francisco, CA- San Diego, CA)

HI'IALAKAI

7/12-7/24 (Honolulu-Honolulu)
7/31-8/28 (Honolulu-Honolulu)

GORDON GUNTER

8/26--9/11 (Pascagoula, MS-Pascagoula, MS)
9/13-9/30 (Pascagoula, MS-Pascagoula, MS)

DAVID STARR JORDAN

9/8-9/22 (San Francisco, CA-San Diego, CA)

New Information For Contacting Lisa Sudmann, at CPC

Lisa Sudmann is CPC's Human Resource Assistant. To contact her by telephone, just dial her new work phone number 866-727-0408. When connected you will hear the recording that explains that the hearing interpreter will be with you shortly, then it will connect to her videophone.

New ID Card Information

As most of you are aware, DOC and DoD approved NOAA's request to use the DoD Common Access Card (CAC), to meet HPSD-12 PIV-II requirements. The implementation plan has been on going for some time and cards are being issued in various locations across the country. We want to ensure that all NOAA Corps Officers have a current CAC card. If you received your CAC card prior to August 2007, you will need a new card. To determine the Rapid Site location closest to you to receive your new card, please send an email to Angel.Amponsah@noaa.gov. You will be informed of the site location and contact person for scheduling.

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!

LCDR Stephen J. Thumm	July 1, 2008
CDR Thomas E. Strong	July 1, 2008
CDR Richard A. Fletcher	August 1, 2008

CDR Philip A. Gruccio	December 1, 2008
CAPT Stephen A. Kozak	January 1, 2009
CAPT John W. Humphrey, Jr.	January 1, 2009
CAPT Emily B. Christman	June 1, 2009
CAPT Sean R. White	July 1, 2009
CAPT Steven R. Barnum	July 1, 2009

On the Horizon

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.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>