



September 18, 2008

Director's Message

In the most recent edition of the OMAO News, RADM Bailey requested your recommendations for improving communications. To increase two-way communication between officers and CPC, I would like to solicit your ideas on topics of interest or areas of clarification. Your suggestions can then be incorporated into upcoming Cyberflash announcements, CPC presentations and/or discussions in the field. Please send your suggestions to me at Director.CPC@noaa.gov. I value your recommendations for improving communications, and I look forward to receiving your useful suggestions.

Congratulations to the following officers who have been selected for promotion. As such they have been nominated by the Secretary for promotion to the grade of lieutenant (junior grade). After Senate confirmation and White House approval, the following officers will be promoted to LT(jg) as vacancies occur:

Andrew R. Colegrove
Anna-Elizabeth B. Villard-Howe
Nicholas C. Morgan
Jeffrey G. Pereira
Colin T. Kliewer
Harold B. Emmons III
Paul M. Chamberlain
Michael W. O'Neal
Julie L. Earp
Kyle A. Byers
Loren M. Evory
Andrew J. Ostapenko
Laura T. Gallant
Gregory R. Schweitzer
Mark S. Andrews
Megan R. Guberski
Nathan E. Witherly
Christine L. Schultz
Claire V. Surrey
Ronald L. Moyers Jr.
Brian D. Prestcott
Glen A. Rice

Patrick M. Redmond
Russell A. Quintero
Nathan B. Parker
Jonathan R. Heesch
Matthew C. Griffin
Faith C. Opatrny



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

Announcements

XO/Administrative Conference

The XO Seminar for this year will be held December 15-19 in Seattle, WA (at WRC).

Small Boat Program Training

Inspection and Troubleshooting, NOAA Honolulu, HI: November, 2009
Inspection & Troubleshooting, NOAA Seattle, WA: January 5-9, 2009
Inspection & Troubleshooting, NOAA Mississippi: February 24-27, 2009
Contact LT Mark Miller (g.mark.miller@noaa.gov) for details.

Important Information for Officers in the 2009 Promotion Zone

Officers selected for the 2009 Promotion Zone must have a current annual or 5 year periodic physical examination and a current dental exam (class I or class II) on file with the Medical Administration Branch at CPC. Selection Boards and promotions may occur at any given time, therefore it is important for you to remain medically qualified at all times. This may require you to plan ahead and schedule your appointments early to avoid your exams from expiring. Those officers that are found not to be medically qualified may not be nominated or promoted to a higher grade. Please go to http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/cpc/perservices/prom_physqual.html for the medical requirements for promotion. A review of the medical files is anticipated to occur the second week of February 2009. In anticipation of this review, it is imperative that officers in the 2009 promotion zone submit medical documents to the Medical Administration Branch **no later than January 30, 2009** to allow sufficient time for these documents to be reviewed and entered into the database. It is your responsibility to ensure that all required medical documents have been received in the Medical Administration Branch. Officers should contact LCDR Hobson-Powell, Chief, Medical Administration Branch via e-mail

(Elizabeth.hobson-powell@noaa.gov) with questions or concerns.

Need to Change Your Travel Card Address

In order to abide by the Patriot Act which requires banks to verify a cardholder's identity, **cardholders who currently have a P.O. Box or work address on file with Citibank will be required to change their address to a physical residential address. Employees who do not change their address from a P.O. Box to a physical residential address with Citibank * will not be issued a new card *** from JPMC and will have to reapply for a new card with JPMC once the transition is complete.

If you currently have a P.O. Box address or work address on file with Citibank, this is a reminder to call Citibank at 800-790-7206 and change your address to your physical residential address as soon as possible. You will have the option of changing your address to a PO Box or work address, if you choose to do so, after you receive your new card.

Background: On August 27, 2008, Jon Alexander, Director, Finance Office/Comptroller issued a travel advisory regarding the replacement of Citibank as the Government charge card vendor for purchase, fleet and travel. Effective November 30, 2008, JP Morgan Chase (JPMC) will serve in this capacity. Current cardholder records will be transferred from Citibank to JPMC. Cardholders who have a Citibank Government travel card will not be required to reapply for a new card under JPMC. Current cardholders will be enrolled automatically into JPMC's system and issued new cards sometime in November 2008.

Social Security - Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your NOAA Corps and/or active military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. If your NOAA Corps and/or active military service occurred:

- **From 1957 through 1967**, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- **From 1968 through 2001**, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.

- **After 2001**, there are no special extra earnings credits for military or NOAA Corps service.

Please see SSA Publication No 05-10017 at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.pdf> or the SSA website, <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm> for additional information. Please note that the definition of "Active Duty Military Service" on the website currently refers to the Coast & Geodetic Survey (CGS). We have requested that SSA update their website. Please direct any questions to Katherine Raymond at katherine.raymond@noaa.gov or (301) 713-7732.

Fleet Augmentation Needs

Contact the respective Marine Center for information on travel. 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 or MOP. If you have any questions, please contact LCDR Stark at 206-553-8705 or LCDR Bridgeman at 206-553-4764 or CDR Francisco at 206-553-8705.

Okeanos Explorer

10/2-10/16 (Seattle, WA-San Francisco, CA)

10/21-11/6 (San Fran-San Fran)

11/11-11/21 (San Fran-TBD, WA)

Billet of the Week

The Commissioned Personnel Center, Officer Personnel Management Division in Silver Spring, MD is seeking a highly motivated mid-grade officer to serve as Staff Assistant, OPMD (Billet # 0508). The Special Assistant, Officer Personnel Management Division (OPMD) will provide broad-based human resources support for the entire NOAA Corps. The officer will: identify and resolve human resources issues that will determine the NOAA Corps' success in retaining, promoting, awarding, disciplining, and relocating a qualified and diverse officer corps; prepare and deliver briefings on plans and resources for human resources initiatives; conduct studies related to human resources management and adapt useful results to OPMD and CPC; maintain and review financial data needed in the formulation and execution of the division budget. This billet is a perfect platform to prepare a mid-grade officer to become a successful Executive Officer.

This billet is currently vacant. Anyone interested in this billet is welcome to contact Greg Raymond at 301-713-7728 or gregory.raymond@noaa.gov or the Assignment Officer, LCDR Jeremy Adams, at 301-713-7694 or assignmentbranch.cpc@noaa.gov

Approved Retirements/Resignations/Separations

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

ENS Jonathan E. Owen	September 17, 2008
LTJG Jamie S. Wasser	September 30, 2008
ENS Llian G.K. Breen	September 30, 2008
LT William W. Pierce, III	November 1, 2008
LT Joshua D. Bauman	December 1, 2008
CDR Philip A. Gruccio	December 1, 2008
LTJG Richard A. Edmundson	December 1, 2008
LTJG Stephen Z. Kroening	December 1, 2008
ENS Patrick B.K. Jorgensen	December 15, 2008
LCDR Jeremy B. Weirich	December 15, 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

October 6-31, 2008	REFTRA 65 (D-School)
December 11, 2008	BOTC 113 (A-School) Graduation
December 15-19, 2008	XO/ Administrative Seminar
December or January (TBD)	B-School
January 5-9, 2009	Small Boat Program Training: Inspection and Troubleshooting, Seattle, WA
January 16, 2009	Cutoff for Document Submission (Promotion Boards)

February 24-27, 2009	Small Boat Program Training: Inspection and Troubleshooting, Mississippi
March 2-5, 2009	Promotion Boards
March 2, 2009	D-School

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>