



January 9, 2009

Director's Message

I hope everyone had a restful and happy holiday season. The New Year always gives us a chance to start over. 2008 was an extremely successful year for CPC under the leadership of CAPT Kearse, and instead of starting anew, we're going to keep going strong. A few of the highlights from last year include:

- General billet structure defined (Planning, Preparation, and Executive type billets)
- Guiding Principles for officers established
- Officer Training Plan developed
- Implemented professional qualifications for maritime officers (officers now eligible for Mates License after completion of A, B, and C school)
- Funding for 321 officers supported by NOAA
- New NC Recruiting Video and brochures developed
- Entry requirements changed for the NOAA Corps (pending DOC approval)
- Precept and Director's Guidance to the Board posted on the website
- Officer Corps Management Plan posted on website
- Increased Corps Strength Authorization to 379 (pending Fleet Plan, Aircraft Plan, and NC Workforce Plan to Congress)

These accomplishments truly reflect the work of the entire staff at CPC. I'd like to thank Captain Kearse for his leadership, guidance, and dedication to the NOAA Corps.

2009 promises to be a very exciting year with many opportunities. Based on our success in 2008, I look forward to continued progress on current initiatives and pursuing new challenges that will benefit the Corps. I am proud of the CPC staff and their accomplishments and honored by the

opportunity to serve my fellow officers in my new position as Director, CPC.



CAPT Raymond C. Slagle, NOAA
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

Announcements

Call for Nominations: NOAA ACO Annual Awards, Reminder

The NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers administers the annual Junior Officer of the Year, Science, and Engineering awards, as announced in an email from Director, CPC, on December 7. The ACO recognizes the wide range of accomplishments and contributions of NOAA's uniformed personnel, and encourages all commands consider nominating officers for these honors. Due to the low number of nominations for the 2008 awards received to date, the submission period has been extended a week -- **now due on January 16, 2009**. Please review the descriptions of the awards and nominate officers as appropriate. Junior officers with civilian supervisors are encouraged to forward them this information.

Junior Officer of the Year

This award is presented annually to a single NOAA Corps officer, below the grade of lieutenant commander, for outstanding contributions to NOAA, outstanding performance, and/or the positive reflection cast upon the Corps. NOAA Corps officers who are promoted to lieutenant commander during the calendar year are eligible for the award.

Science Award

The ACO Science Award recognizes officers who make outstanding scientific contributions which distinguish them above their peers. All NOAA Corps officers and members of other uniformed services assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA are eligible.

Engineering Award

The ACO Science Award recognizes officers who make outstanding engineering contributions which distinguish them above their peers. All NOAA Corps officers and members of other uniformed services assigned, detailed, or attached to NOAA are eligible.

Nomination Procedure

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

description of the officer's duties and accomplishments, and the positive impact of those achievements on the Agency and the Service.

All commands and field offices are encouraged to submit officer nominations for these awards. Candidates for Junior Officer of the Year must be nominated by a supervisor in their chain of command, while the Science and Engineering awards nominations may be made by the supervisor or any commissioned officer. Please submit nominations via e-mail to mark.wetzler@noaa.gov and todd.a.bridgeman@noaa.gov, by COB January 16, 2009. Selections for awards will be made by the Executive Committee, National ACO shortly thereafter. 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*, as appropriate. This will assist the selection committee with accurate tracking and sorting of the nominations. For more information on the awards please refer to the NOAA Corps Directives on Awards (pages 20 through 22). http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/procedures/corps_directives/chapter_12/ncd_ch12part7.pdf and

Check Your LES Address

Please ensure that you have a current LES mailing address. W2's will be mailed out using the mailing address in the payroll system. If your address has not been updated it will go to your old address and in all likelihood will not be forwarded by the Post Office. Address changes can be made by those using Direct Access. If you have any questions, please contact Payroll via Carol Holley, Lead Military Pay Technician at carol.holley@noaa.gov.

Officers To Be Considered in the 2009 Promotion Boards

Please remember that the deadline to submit documents for inclusion in your Officer Personnel File (OPF) is **January 15, 2009**. There will be no extensions beyond that date. The best way to add documents to your OPF is through the OPF Online, by submitting image files or PDFs. CPC is currently processing all OPF additions and fixes for officers being considered for promotion. Requests submitted after December 22, but before January 15, will be reflected in the officer's OPF Online by February 1, 2009. If you have any questions or concerns about your OPF, please contact CDR Mike Weaver, Acting Chief, OPMD.

Medical Documents Due

Medical documents must be submitted to the Medical Administration Branch at CPC no later than **30 January, 2009** for officers in the 2009 promotion zones. It is your responsibility to ensure that the Medical Administration Branch has received your required medical documents. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact LCDR Hobson-Powell, Chief, Medical Administration Branch via email (elizabeth.hobson-powell@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!

CAPT Stephen A. Kozak	April 1, 2009
CAPT Emily B. Christman	June 1, 2009
CDR James D. Rathbun	June 1, 2009
CAPT Sean R. White	July 1, 2009
CAPT Steven R. Barnum	January 1, 2010

On the Horizon

January 4-21, 2009	B School, Session A (includes travel dates)
January 9, 2009	January 9th - Pacific Section ACO Dining In, NAVSTA Everett, WA
January 14-February 6, 2009	B School, Session B (includes travel dates)
January 16, 2009	Cutoff for Document Submission (Promotion Boards)
February 1-4, 2009	ROA Mid-Winter Conference
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 CPC website for additional information:

Assignments: <http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/careermgmt/assignments.html>

Evaluations: <http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/careermgmt/evaluation.html>

Training: <http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/careermgmt/training.html>

Uniforms & Awards: <http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/perservices/awards.html>