

Commissioned Personnel Center CYBERFLASH



May 19, 2009

Director's Message

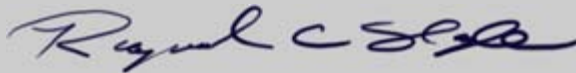
Welcome aboard and congratulations to the following 23 new members of the NOAA Corps -- the officers in A School 114. They are starting the third week of officer training, which is the first week A School's technical training.

Carmen Alex	University of California-Santa Cruz, MS, Earth Science
Bryan Begun	University of California-Davis, BS, Wildlife Science
Jasmine Cousins	Old Dominion University, MS, Oceanography
Albert Davison	University of Maryland-College Park, BS, Astronomy
Alice Drury	University of Washington-Seattle Campus, BA, Environmental Science
Matthew Forrest	Old Dominion University, BA, History
Johannes Gebauer	Ohio University, BS, Aviation
Leigh Hedgepeth	University North Carolina-Wilmington, BA, Environmental Science
Van Helker	University of Washington, BS, Biology
Kyle Jellison	Boston University, BA, Math
Michael Marino	Clemson University, BS, Mechanical Engineering
Zachary Cress	Texas A&M at College Station, MS, Zoology Science
David Cowan	Embry Riddle Aeronautical University-Daytona Beach, BS, Meteorology
Laura Gibson	Coastal Carolina University, BS, Marine Science
Steven Loy	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, BS, Environmental Science
Matthew O'Leary	Webb Institute, BS, Naval Architecture
Sara Slaughter	University of Missouri-Columbia, BS, Geological Science
Reni Rydlewicz	University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, BS, Biology
Kent Stein	U.S. Coast Guard Academy, BS, Marine Science
Lyndsey Keen	University of West Florida, BS, Marine Biology
Alexander Johnston	Oberlin College, BA, Physics
Joseph Carrier	University North Carolina-Wilmington, MS, Marine Science
Denise Gruccio	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, BS, Biology

This is an exciting time in the NOAA Corps because with these new members, our onboard strength is 306 officers -- the highest the strength has been in 10 years.

1. I am also pleased to welcome a few members to CPC's team. Sherrita Irby has been permanently reassigned to the Officer Personnel Management Division. Sherrita

previously worked in CPC and was a great asset and we are very pleased that she has returned. Please join CPC in welcoming her home; she can be reached at 301-713-7729 . Also, CPC welcomes LCDR Nathan Hancock who will replace LCDR Jeremy Adams as Assignment Coordinator this month. All official business should be directed to AssignmentBranch.CPC@noaa.gov. LCDR Hancock's office phone is 301-713-7694. LCDR Adams will remain at CPC working on billet restructuring and aligning billets to NOAA Corps Leadership competencies.



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

Announcements

Ship Augmentation Needs -- HA and KA

Critical augmenting OOD need aboard NOAA Ship Hi'ialakai. The Hi'ialakai requires a watch standing augmenting OOD for a cruise from 6/9/2009 to 7/3/2009. The port of departure and arrival is Honolulu, HI. This is your opportunity to complete your augmentation requirement in the warm sunny waters of the tropical Pacific while visiting one of the largest marine conservation areas in the world.

In need of a SWO to sail aboard the NOAA Ship Ka'imimoana departing from Kwajalein Atoll on 6/14 and sailing until arrival in Honolulu on 7/10. Due to travel logistics, the SWO must have a passport and will need to arrive in Kwajalein before 6/14. If you have any questions contact LCDR Bridgeman or CO KA. This is your chance to fulfill your augmentation requirement while visiting some unique tropical destinations.

Other Ship Augmentation Opportunities: Please check the augmentation needs posted to the CPC website frequently as the information is updated often. Your colleagues on ships need time off for leave and training, and they need your help! You'll need their help as well when you're at sea, and you'll be fulfilling your augmentation requirement for the year. Please go to the Ship Augmentation Needs link shown on the bottom of this message to plan your augmentation periods.

Post 9/11 Montgomery GI Bill Information

Post-9/11 GI Bill Sign-Ups Begin

Department of Veterans Affairs is now accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits that are effective August 1, 2009. To qualify for the benefit, NOAA Corps officers must have completed at least 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001 unless separated for medical reasons. Full benefits are awarded upon completion of an aggregate of 36 months of active duty service. **NOAA Corps and U.S. Public Health Service officers are not eligible for the transfer of their benefits to spouses and/or children. Officers that initially declined the Montgomery GI Bill are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.**

The Post-9/11 GI Bill will become effective for training on or after August 1, 2009. This program will pay eligible individuals:

1. tuition & fees directly to the school not to exceed the maximum in-state tuition & fees at a public Institution of Higher Learning;
2. a monthly housing allowance based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents at the location of the school;
3. an annual books & supplies stipend of \$1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment; and
4. a one-time rural benefit payment for eligible individuals.

Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit is payable only for training at an Institution of Higher Learning (no vocational training). If you are enrolled exclusively in online training you will not receive the housing allowance. If you are on active duty you will not receive the housing allowance or books & supplies stipend. This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits; generally benefits are payable for **15 years** following your release from active duty.

A "yellow ribbon" feature of the new program allows enrollment in private colleges which have agreed with the VA to waive up to half the difference between the cost of tuition and fees at the private school and the highest amount the VA pays in that state. The Post-9/11 GI Bill will pick up the other half of the tuition-and-fees for participating private colleges.

The Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) program provides up to 36 months of education benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Generally, benefits are payable for **10 years** following your release from active duty. **Servicemembers or veterans with Montgomery GI Bill entitlement may make an irrevocable election for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program. But the VA cautions MGIB participants to weigh all aspects of this option.** It is highly recommended that currently serving members consult an education counselor before making the decision. Veterans and military retirees with the MGIB should contact the VA before giving up those benefits for the new program.

The VA's GI Bill website provides additional information and a link to the application form. <http://www.va.gov/>

OER Reminders

The ultimate responsibility for the contents of a personnel file belongs to the individual officer. The rating chain responsibilities and timeline for OER submission are outlined in the OER Manual (<http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/careermgmt/evaluation.html>). Ensure you are fulfilling your responsibilities in the rating chain, starting with providing input 21 days in advance of the end of your reporting period. If your OER stalls in the chain, it is your responsibility to contact the rating chain to ask the status of the OER and inquire if

they need additional input. If your OER is significantly delayed, CPC can assist by contacting the rating chain to check the status of an OER, however, this does not relieve the officer of their responsibilities to remain proactive and track the OER through the rating chain and into their OPF. If the OER continues to stall in the rating chain, a letter to the Director, CPC outlining the delays and your efforts to get the OER through may be appropriate.

Block "1g. Date Submitted" refers to the date the Reported on Officer provided input on accomplishments to the Supervisor. This date documents the start of the OER passing through the rating chain.

NOAA Staff Directory updated with proper routing codes

The NOAA staff directory is now set up to update routing code information monthly. Please pull up your detailed information in the staff directory and verify the routing code. Contact LCDR Hancock with any discrepancies. Officers are still responsible for updating phone, address, supervisor info, etc., on-line when you move to a new location. LCDR Hancock will maintain the master list of routing codes for each billet and submit an update each month.

Assignment Boards

Assignment Board season begins in May. All officers are reminded to update their assignment preferences in the database through OPF Online:

<http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/>

Preferences listed on your Service Report are no longer loaded into the database.

Assignment Board members will be provided a listing of the latest preferences listed in the database.

New Medical Information

Medical Requirements

A Tuberculin Skin Test or Quantiferon test is required annually (unless contraindicated) for all shipboard/aviation personnel. It is also required annually for those officers embarking on a NOAA vessel for more than 24 hours. All other officers are required to have either of these tests performed once every 5 years.

Medical Records

NOAA Corps officers are responsible for ensuring that all medical records and dental examinations regardless of where the services were rendered are submitted to the Medical Administration Branch promptly for inclusion in your official medical file. All supporting documentation should be submitted within 30 days of receiving treatment. Supporting medical documentation includes the following but not limited to: lab reports, diagnostic procedures, treatment notes, etc.

5 Year Periodic/Annual Exam Requirements

Effective October 2008, the medical requirements were updated for the Periodic/Annual medical exams. Specifically, the following changes were added: RPR (serologic test for

syphilis), annual screening mammogram (for females beginning at age 40), depth perception and spirometry. Please visit

http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/medical/medical_req.html to view these updates.

Officers that have submitted physical exams prior to October 2008 must ensure that the new requirements are met in order to have a current physical examination on file.

Receiving 5 Year Periodic/ Annual Exams at Military Treatment Facilities

As a result of the new trend toward Preventative Health Assessment screenings which are now being conducted at most Military Treatment Facilities, a number of NOAA Corps officers have expressed their inability to receive the necessary medical tests required for the NOAA Corps. In order to prevent this from happening, you should download and carry a copy of the MTF letter with you to your physical examination. This letter is included in the Medical Package that can be located at

http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/medical/medical_req.html

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!

CDR James D. Rathbun	June 1, 2009
CAPT Emily B. Christman	July 1 2009
CAPT Sean R. White	July 1, 2009
LT Leah A. Harman	August 26, 2009
LCDR Alan C. Hilton	September 1, 2009
LCDR James A. Bunn II	September 1, 2009
LT Andrew P. Halbach	October 7, 2009
LCDR Geoffrey S. Sandorf	December 1, 2009
CAPT Steven R. Barnum	January 1, 2010

On the Horizon

May 4, 2009	Start of A School 114
August 31, 2009	Start of A School 115

Please see CPC website for additional information:

Ship Augmentation Needs: <http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/cpchome/augmentation.html>

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>