

# Commissioned Personnel Center CYBERFLASH



**May 6, 2010**

## Director's Message

### **ON BEING A COMMISSIONED OFFICER - Oath of Office**

This is the first of several articles to provide NOAA Corps officers information about being a commissioned officer of the United States. A main purpose of this series is to stimulate thought that will encourage officers to seek the truth about themselves.

Admiral Bailey and I traveled to the United States Merchant Marine Academy on Tuesday to present the officers of BOTC-116 with their ship assignments. Being with the new officers reminded me of their first day at Kings Point and the Oath of Office they took.

The first law of the United States of America, enacted in the first session of the first Congress on 1 June 1789, was Statute 1, Chapter 1: an act to regulate the time and manner of administering certain oaths, which established the oath required by civil and military officials to support the Constitution. This first oath was short and to the point: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution of the United States." The current oath is a product of the 1860s, drafted by Civil War-era members of Congress. The war-inspired Test Oath, signed into law on July 2, 1862, required "every person elected or appointed to any office ... under the Government of the United States ... excepting the President of the United States" to swear or affirm that they had never previously engaged in criminal or disloyal conduct. In 1884, Congress repealed the first section of the Test Oath, leaving intact today's affirmation of constitutional allegiance. Future legislative changes addressed the application of the oath but not the wording.

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God."

All NOAA Corps officers swear the same oath. This is an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. Note that there is no duration defined in the Oath. This is an oath for life. An officer who swears or affirms this simple oath joins a 200-year tradition by making a commitment to our nation and our Constitution. I encourage all officers to study the key documents and events in America's history to gain better insight into their oath of office and the moral implications of their actions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raymond C. Slagle".

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

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## Announcements

### **Assignment Preferences**

All officers are reminded to update your assignment preferences using your OPF online. There will be an OAB on June 21, so assignment preferences need to be updated before then.

### **Need PCS Endorsed Orders**

A significant number of PCS moves will occur over the next few months. Officers are reminded to submit endorsed orders and travel vouchers for PCS moves as soon as possible. This allows prompt update of pay status, the billet list, your assignment history in the database, and helps CPC better execute the current year budget and plan for the out years.

### **LCDR Zone**

The zone for Lieutenant Commander is listed as below; it has changed slightly. Officers that have failed to be selected for promotion two or more times are reviewed but are above zone, as well as those with approved resignations. Of this list, 13 officers will be selection for promotion.

GRUCCIO, DENISE J.  
MADDOCK, SHAWN  
CRAPO, ELIZABETH  
BEAUCAGE, DONALD E.  
KEMP, PAUL W.  
LEVINE, MICHAEL G.  
SHOUP, JEFFREY D.  
CASANOVA, HECTOR L.  
MANNING, NICOLE M.  
JOHNSON, ERIC T.  
SCHAER, JASPER D.  
DAVIS, NATASHA R.  
LOMNICKY, JOHN J.  
RINGEL, MATTHEW R.  
BOHABOY, ERICH J.  
KURELJA, LINDSAY R.

### **Notice of the 2010 Annual National ACO Scholarships Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of National ACO Scholarships, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 7:30 p.m., at 7612 Anamosa Way, Derwood, MD 20855.

All members of the corporation are invited and urged to attend. Members of the corporation are specified in the By-Laws as follows:

- Executive Committee of the National ACO;
- such other individuals and organizations approved by the Board of Directors. (The NOAA Officer Family Association and the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey Historical Society have been so recognized.)

The agenda for the meeting is as follows: Reports of the President and Treasurer, Old Business/New Business Report of the Nominating Committee, and Election of Board Members.

The Annual Meeting is expected to be brief. A meeting of the Board of Directors, National ACO Scholarships, Inc., will follow the Annual Meeting. All members are invited to attend the board meeting.

### **OCMP Posted on CPC Website**

The Officer Corps Management Plan (OCMP) describes the current state of the commissioned officer workforce and provides FY10 recommendations regarding the number of promotion selections to be made in each grade for the end strength of 321 officers. It explains why the selection zones are the decided sizes. Please review it if you are interested. [http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/pdf/announcements/fy2010\\_corps\\_mgmt\\_plan.pdf](http://www.corpscpc.noaa.gov/pdf/announcements/fy2010_corps_mgmt_plan.pdf)

### **Untucked ODU Update**

The Untucked ODU will be rolled out and available for ordering on May 15th. There will be a one-year transition period during which the tucked ODU will still be authorized for wear. Officers will be able to purchase the Untucked ODU via the UDC website. Embroidered NOAA Corps-specific insignia items for the uniform, such as SWO, CAS, and wings will be available through this website on a separate NOAA Corps page.

### **Association of Commissioned Officers Washington D.C. Section - 2010 Dues Drive is Open**

To help raise funds for future Association of Commissioned Officers activities, we are conducting the annual dues drive. Dues may be paid electronically via the Cutter Agent web site (<http://www.cutteragent.com/>) by clicking on the NOAA Corps tab and then selecting "Annual Dues/ACO DC Chapter Dues". We asks that dues be paid at your earliest convenience, as the money received is used to support the Anniversary Dinner and other activities.

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### **Uniform Guidance -- Service Dress Blue Coat**

Recently some discussion has arisen about what is appropriate when wearing the Service Dress Blue Coat. While there is no guidance in the NOAA Corps Directives with regard to what buttons are to be buttoned, the US Navy Uniform Regulations Article 3501.16 states that the coat is to be worn with all buttons buttoned.

After discussion with the US Navy's Uniform Matters Office, it is acceptable that when physically sitting down, the bottom-most button may be unbuttoned. However, it is to be re-buttoned immediately upon rising from the chair. At no time, sitting or standing, may all the buttons be unbuttoned.

The Service Dress Blue Coat may also be removed when working within your immediate office space, but should you depart from your desk area, the coat should be worn. If you are attending a conference, and the senior member of the conference completely removes his coat, signaling a relaxed atmosphere, you may do the same. Just remember to put it on again before departing the immediate conference area.

Maintaining the standard is part of being an Officer. Adhering to and enforcing the rules and regulations set forth by our Leaders is part of being a leader. In order to be a good leader we must be good followers because ultimately, we all answer to someone. Please set the example and wear your uniform with pride!

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## Upcoming Uniform and Awards Board Meetings

June 1

July 6

August 3

September 7

October 5

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## 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!

LTJG Rebecca J.-R. Almeida	June 1, 2010
LCDR Andrew A. Hall	June 30, 2010
LT David A. Strausz	July 31, 2010
LCDR James A. Bunn, II	August 1, 2010
CDR Andrea M. Hrusovsky	August 1, 2010
LT Amelia A. Ebhardt	August 1, 2010
LTJG Allison R. Mahaney	August 15, 2010
CDR Michael S. Weaver	September 1, 2010
LT Amanda M. Hancock	September 15, 2010
LT Jason R. Saxe	September 15, 2010
CDR Paul L. Schattgen	October 1, 2010
LT Katherine R. Peet	April 15, 2011
CDR Carl R. Groeneveld	June 1, 2011
LT Jason M. Seifert	June 1, 2011
CAPT Michael D. Francisco	August 1, 2011

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## On the Horizon

Feb 15 - Jun 22, 2010	A-School for BOTC 116, Kings Point, NY
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**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>

Wiki Fleet: <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/confluence/display/FleetWiki/Home>