

Commissioned Personnel Center CYBERFLASH



12 April 2012

Announcements:

[Changes to the TRICARE Dental Plan Provider](#)

[Section 10 of the OER](#)

[National ACO Scholarship call for Applications](#)

[From the Assignments Desk](#)

[Assignment Opportunity](#)

[Augmentation Need](#)

NOAA HISTORY

Useful Links:

[Assignments](#)

[Evaluations](#)

[Training](#)

[Uniforms & Awards](#)

[Fleet Wiki](#)

[Augmentation](#)

[On the Horizon](#)

[Approved Resignations, Separations, and Retirements](#)

Director's Message

Please excuse the odd-timing of this Cyberflash - schedules were in flux between training and leave. This Cyberflash contains many important notices, please review carefully.

As reminder, the first Monday in April marked the change in the alternate [Uniform of the Day](#) to Summer Whites for all locations. Please refer to the link for specific guidance.

There have been some questions concerning the submission of Special OERs that have been approved for the promotion boards this summer. As stated in the Cyberflash of 15 March 2012; "Due to the timing of the selection boards this year, the Director has approved special OERs for those officers being considered for promotion. In accordance with the OER Directive, 10.A.3.c.1.c, special OERs may be submitted for officers being considered by selection boards for promotion if the period of report is **at least six months** and the OER will arrive at CPC not later than 45 days before the board convening date. These special OERs must be received in CPC by May 31, 2012." Note that May 31, 2012 is 45 days before the board convening date.

For clarification, Special OER's are **not** necessary if you received a Regular OER at the last regular rating period and/or you have not been in a new job where that performance is not captured on any OER. Additionally, officers are reminded that Letters of Recognition or Appreciation are a great way to document specific accomplishments or performance that is not otherwise captured by an OER.

In addition, and in accordance with 10.A.3.c., section 1, the authorizing article triggering the Special OER should be cited in Section 2 of the OER along with a brief description of the circumstances which prompted the OER submission. The following bubbles should be marked: In Section "i", mark "promotion"; in section "j", mark "special".

If you have any questions regarding Regular or Special OERs, contact [CDR Bridgeman](#), Chief OCMD.

Handwritten signature of Anne K. Lynch in black ink.

**CAPT Anne K. Lynch, NOAA
Director, Commissioned Personnel Center**

Changes to the TRICARE Dental Program Provider

Effective May 1, 2012, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, Inc. (MetLife) will become the dental carrier for the TRICARE Dental Program (TDP), the dental care program for NOAA Corps dependents. This change affects eligible active duty family members only. Dental care under the new contract will begin on May 1, 2012. Current TDP enrollees should have received an information packet from MetLife (TRICARE Dental Program Benefit Booklet).

Beneficiaries will receive a paper bill for the premium due April, 2012. Automatic payroll deductions and credit card deductions will resume May 2012. Beneficiaries who currently pay premiums through automatic payroll deductions or via credit card do not need to take any action. NOAA Corps officers shall continue to receive dental services at a Dental Treatment Facility (DTF) or from an authorized private sector dentist via the Active Duty Dental Program- Remote (ADDP). More information regarding the MetLife transition can be found at www.tricare.mil/TDPcontract or contact MetLife customer service at: CONUS Service Area: [1-855-638-8371](tel:1-855-638-8371), or OCONUS Service Area: [1-855-638-8372](tel:1-855-638-8372).

Section 10 of the OER

A definitive statement on promotion potential is essential in every OER. This is regardless of an officer's overall performance, relationship to a zone, or recency of promotion. In other words, to show trend and development and to eliminate ambiguity, a clear statement on promotion potential, or what an officer must do in order to become promotable, is necessary in all OERs. This statement is especially helpful during promotion boards.

National ACO Scholarships Call For Applications

The Executive Committee of National ACO Scholarships, Inc. has issued its annual call to high school seniors and college undergrads for applications for scholarship awards for the 2012/2013 academic year. The two-page application form is available on the "Resources" page of the NOAA Officer Family Association website (www.nofaweb.org), under the heading "National ACO Scholarships, Inc." Application forms may also be obtained by contacting Secretary/Treasurer Captain Dave Peterson, NOAA (Ret), by phone ([301-921-6357](tel:301-921-6357)) or email (kmpdhp@comcast.net). Complete application packages should be sent to the corporation's post office address (on the application form) and should be postmarked this year no later than Friday, April 13, 2012.

From the Assignments Desk:

Both the bar graph and excel billet list have been updated on April 11, 2012 and thanks to help from LCDR David Zezula the bar graph now also shows vacancies. I apologize for the time period in which it did not show vacant billets.

I received word from The NASA Human Resources Department that they received over 6000 applications for the Astronaut Candidate Vacancy. Their updated timeline for reviewing all packages is as follows:

ASTRONAUT CANDIDATE SELECTION PROCESS TIMELINE

November 15, 2011	Vacancy Announcement opens in USAJOBS
January 27, 2012	Vacancy Announcement closes

May-September 2012	Qualified Applications reviewed to determine Highly Qualified applicants. Qualifications Inquiry form sent to Supervisors/References and civilian applicants contacted by mail to obtain an FAA medical exam.
August-November 2012	Highly Qualified applications reviewed to determine Interviewees
October-December 2012	Interviewees brought to JSC for preliminary interview, medical evaluation, and orientation. Interviewees will be selected from the Highly Qualified group and contacted on a week-by-week basis.
December 2012	Finalists determined
January 2013- March 2013	Finalists brought to JSC for additional interview and complete medical evaluation
May 2013	Astronaut Candidate Class of 2013 announced
August 2013	Astronaut Candidate Class of 2013 reports to the Johnson Space Center

Note: *This schedule is subject to change.*

Assignment Opportunity

- *Have you ever wondered how OMAO and NOAA headquarters really work?*
- *Are you interested in daily interaction with OMAO and NOAA senior leaders?*
- *Are you ready for a fast-paced, challenging assignment that will provide you with valuable skills and experience for future leadership positions?*

If you answered yes to these questions, then a great opportunity awaits!

OMAO is seeking candidates at the senior LT level to be considered for a two year assignment in the OMAO Executive Affairs Division (EAD) and NOAA Program Coordination Office (PCO). If you are selected, in the first year you will serve in EAD in Silver Spring, MD. In the second year, you will serve as the OMAO representative in PCO at NOAA Headquarters in Washington, DC. After the two year assignment is completed, CPC will work with you to place you in an assignment that best suits your desires and new skills while also ensuring the needs of the NOAA Corps are met.

As a member of the EAD, you are responsible for providing staff support to OMAO leadership. This involves responding to congressional inquiries, preparation of talking points for briefings, creating presentations, drafting memos, and supporting the Program Coordination Office (PCO) with requests from NOAA leadership. During this time, you will also gain exposure to executive level leadership, decision-making, and the budgeting process. In addition, you will have the opportunity to work on broader OMAO/MAOC initiatives. In preparation for the rotation to PCO, you will learn the importance of accurate messaging and communicating effectively with NOAA, DOC and Congressional leadership.

As the OMAO representative in PCO, you will work closely with the NOAA Under Secretary and other senior leaders, and you will serve as a liaison between NOAA and OMAO leadership. You will travel with NOAA senior leaders on national and international trips. You will serve as the subject matter expert on ships, aircrafts, service protocols as well as other topics. Your operational skills will come in handy during high-impact

events. During your assignment you will have the opportunity to interact with personnel from DOC, the White House, Congress and numerous other federal agencies. As you coordinate with the other team members in PCO, you will build relationships with colleagues across NOAA.

The Washington, DC, area is a great place to work and live. The personal and professional opportunities with this assignment are unlimited. The Assignment Branch is looking to find qualified candidates for multiple years with the starting rotation dates of October 2013 and October 2014. **If you are ready for a challenging opportunity, please contact LT Amanda Goeller, CPC Assignment Coordinator by April 30, 2012 via email at AssignmentBranch.CPC@noaa.gov or phone 301-713-7694.** If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact LCDR Chad Cary (chad.cary@noaa.gov) in PCO at 202-482-0683 and/or LTJG Adrienne Hopper (adrienne.hopper@noaa.gov) in OMAO EAD at 301-713-7618. You can also check <http://www.pco.noaa.gov/> for further details on PCO.

Augmentation Need

NOAA Ship Oscar Dyson is in need of an OOD for May 11 - June 4. Interested officers should submit their requests via <http://www.moc.noaa.gov/augmentation-2.html>

NOAA HISTORY

Excerpt from the "Return of the [USC&GS] Ship EXPLORER Following the Attack on Pearl Harbor"

December 10, 1941 - "As the ship now entered the danger zone around the Hawaiian Islands, instructions were issued by the Captain to increase speed gradually during the night so as to reach full speed by daybreak. By 0400 of December 10 speed had been increased to 115 RPM. As it was now beginning to be light speed was increased by small increment to avoid smoking until the maximum of 128 RPM (14.8 knots) was reached about 0530. The wind and sea continued from ahead, the seas slightly rougher. The ship rode easily though the heavy spray was carried over the bridge. At 0530 two seaplanes of the PBY type passed some distance off headed southwest.

At about 0600, the ship being about 60 miles southwest of Oahu, T. H., an object was sighted on the water, bearing about 3 points on the starboard bow, about 2 miles distant. It was called to the attention of the Captain who was on the bridge and was identified as a seaplane. As the ship approached bursts of machine gun fire, to attract attention, were heard. Course and speed were maintained until the markings of the plane were identified as those of the U. S. Navy. As the plane came abeam course was changed to approach from windward. As the ship was turning the lookout on the compass deck reported an object on the port beam believed to be a submarine. The submarine alarm was sounded and the ship continued to turn away. The object sighted was soon identified as a floating ammunition box but as it was necessary to heave to in dangerous waters the crew were kept at abandon quarters for the time being. The ship hove to about 400 meters to windward and the starboard whaleboat was lowered and pulled for the plane. Riding to a sea anchor the seaplane drifted to leeward so rapidly that only with considerable exertion could the whaleboat, under oars, be brought alongside. The aviator and his radio operator were taken from the plane and brought aboard.

The aviator, Lt. Thornton, advised that he thought it feasible to attempt taking the plane aboard and himself returned to make the lines fast. A line was passed to him and made fast but came adrift. A second line was made fast and held but while maneuvering the ship the line came taut and the plane capsized. Lt. Thornton managed to scramble to the bottom of the main ponton and was picked up by the whaleboat and returned to the ship. The plane drifted aft carrying the line under the stern. At this time a single seaplane of the cruiser based

type approached the ship and seeing that the rescue had been effected returned towards Oahu.

At about 0830 the attempt to salvage the plane was abandoned and the ship proceeded towards Honolulu. Lt. Thornton related that he had been forced down at about 1300 December 9, having run out of gas, and had lost hope of rescue when the EXPLORER was seen."

On the Horizon

Deadline for National ACO Scholarship Applications	13 April 2012
DC ACO Luncheon Series	06 June 2012

Approved Resignations, Separations, and Retirements

The following officers have approved retirements, resignations, or separations with in the **next three months**. Be sure to thank them for their service to NOAA and nation.

ENS Molly C. Schmelzle	15 April 2012
LT Sean M. Finney	24 May 2012
CAPT Christopher A. Beaverson	01 June 2012
CAPT John E. Lowell Jr.	01 June 2012