



26 October 2012

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### **Director's Message**

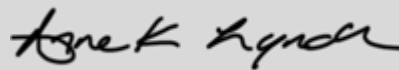
I wanted to take this opportunity to inform all officers on the process for resignations. While the hope is that the majority of officers stay in the NOAA Corps for a 20 year or more career, it is also understood that the NOAA Corps can be a great stepping stone for future employment opportunities. CPC wants to be as supportive as possible during this process, but officers must understand their responsibilities and the impact to the organization as well. Resignations are covered in Chapter 8 of the NOAA Corps Directives. I encourage those of you considering resigning to review this chapter carefully. There are some general misunderstandings regarding the process that have become part of the culture, and I would like to reiterate some of the key points found in the Directives about resignations.

A voluntary resignation (as defined in NCD 08102) is "a voluntarily requested termination of active service, submitted by a NOAA Corps officer not eligible for retirement, effective upon acceptance by the Director, and on the date specified by the Director, as specified in Part 2 of this chapter." Please note that a resignation is not approved until accepted by the Director, and note also that the Director has the authority to approve the date. The Directives continue with more details on resignations in Chapter 8, Part 2, including provisions for requesting a date change (NCD 08201 B): "A resignation has no effect until it is accepted and approved by the Director. The Director may approve a request to withdraw a tendered or approved resignation, or a change in the effective date of separation, provided such a request is approved before the separation is effected. All requests for withdrawal or change of effective date shall be submitted through the chain of command and contain a justification for the requested action." The requirement to tender a resignation at least six months before the requested date is found in NCD 08202: "NOAA Corps officers shall tender their resignation a minimum of six months before the date of their desired separation. The Director, based on the needs of the NOAA Corps, shall determine the actual date of separation. A NOAA Corps officer due for an assignment rotation shall tender a resignation at least six months before the date of rotation. The Director may waive these time limits." Note again, that the Director, NOAA Corps, not the individual, holds the authority to determine the actual date.

In most cases, CPC tries to be accommodating, working with the officer and the program on a mutually acceptable date, and presenting that recommendation to the Director for approval. We'll continue to support individuals as best we can, understanding there may be extenuating circumstances. However, NOAA Corps officers are commissioned, serve at the pleasure of the President and work for the Director of the NOAA Corps. Officers requesting resignations must show understanding of this, and respect for their position, the organization and their fellow officers when making the difficult decision to resign. The attitude that "I can resign on short notice" or "I can change my date if my plans change" causes

hardship on the Corps. Because the size of the Corps is small, one officer's decision, or indecision, affects almost every division at CPC – assignment changes, processing and reprocessing the resignation paperwork, payroll, OERs, PCS changes or delays, workforce planning (the forecast of how many officers to bring into the next BOTC, and the size of the promotion zones). In addition, it diminishes morale in the Corps because invariably one or more officers are moved, extended or otherwise affected due to another officer's multiple resignation requests.

My intent here is not to criticize, question judgment or make light of these life decisions. My hope is to educate officers on the process, so that officers understand the impacts of their decisions, provide the appropriate justification for any requested changes, and realize that the needs of the Service will dictate the outcome.



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

### **Important Request From NOFA - Help Us Help You! :**

The NOAA Officers Family Association (NOFA) would like to request you take a moment to update your contact information listed at - [www.nofaweb.org](http://www.nofaweb.org). This listing helps NOFA - help you - and connects you to the NOAA Community in your area. Manual requests can be made via the web site. Please [login](#) to change your member area, or click on [Contact Form](#) to register with your local NOFA Club. Thank you!

### **Restrictions to Political Activities**

Set forth below is a brief summary of the political activity restrictions for all Executive Branch employees and further restrictions for NOAA Corps Officers. Note that the further restrictions are pursuant to NOAA Corps Directives, [Chapter 9](#) (see link for full details).

All Executive Branch employees are barred from engaging in partisan political activities on Government premises or during duty hours, and they may not use Government resources in connection with such activities. In addition, all employees are subject to restrictions during non-duty hours, including a bar on partisan political fundraising. Employees (cannot accept, receive, or solicit political contributions), and there are restrictions on running for political office. NOAA Corps Officers (as well as career-SES employees) are subject to further restrictions. NOAA Corps Officers may not actively assist in the conduct of a partisan campaign (e.g., campaign management, solicit votes, stuff envelopes, make speeches) or serve as an officer in a political organization, even during non-duty hours. However, during non-duty hours, NOAA Corps Officers (not in uniform and not using Government resources) may actively participate in nonpartisan elections and referenda; regarding partisan candidate campaigns, they may vote, make contributions, sign nominating petitions, and engage in similar activities.

### **Billets in the Spotlight**

Did you know that **Billet 6010, Science Transition Officer, in NESDIS** is located at the National Ice Center in Suitland, Maryland, which is a multi-agency operational center operated by the United States Navy, NOAA, and the United States Coast Guard? In the position of Science Transition Officer, you work alongside the Navy providing daily, weekly and special support ice analysis for the Nation's customers, North American Ice Services, Canadian Ice Service, International Ice Charting Working Group, and the general public. The billet focuses on transitioning new techniques and observing systems (both surface and space-based) into forecast and analysis operations. The National

Ice Center is located at the NOAA Satellite Operations Facility and shares space with NOAA Satellite Operations Control Center, Environmental Satellite Processing Center and SARSAT US Mission Control Center. CPC is looking to fill this billet as soon as possible, but it should be considered by all junior officers rotating summer or winter 2013. For anyone interested, please contact the Assignment Coordinator, LT Amanda Goeller, at 301-713-7694 or [Assignmentbranch.CPC@noaa.gov](mailto:Assignmentbranch.CPC@noaa.gov).

**Billet 3300 Associate Director for Operations**, Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, WA has a start date on or about Nov 1, 2013. This O-4/O-5 billet is a management position coordinating platforms for PMEL projects using ships, aircraft, autonomous vehicles, and submersibles in all oceans of the world. This assignment allows the officer to manage the workings of NOAA and non-NOAA platform coordination, and requires regular contact with NOAA Line Offices, UNOLS representatives, USCG, the Department of State, and commercial vessels in matters related to funding, vessel capabilities, scientific research clearances in foreign waters, and other aspects of cruise planning. The officer works in close coordination with the Lab Director, Deputy Director, Division Leaders, Principal Investigators, and serves as a primary focal point for all platform issues in the Laboratory with involvement in the project planning process from inception to final distribution of data and cruise reports. The officer also works with OAR HQ for long range planning related to Laboratory projects serving NOAA's program goals. The incumbent traditionally serves as PMEL's Unit Dive Supervisor (UDS), if qualified to do so. Additional opportunities exist to pilot AUVs, work with programs to publish scientific papers and apply for OAR's Leadership Effectiveness and Advancement Program. For anyone interested in this assignment please contact the Assignment Coordinator, LT Amanda Goeller, at 301-713-7694 or [Assignmentbranch.CPC@noaa.gov](mailto:Assignmentbranch.CPC@noaa.gov)

#### **Aviation Advisory Board - Attention Aviators**

An Aviation Advisory Board will be convened in December 2012 at AOC to make recommendations for the next P-3, G-IV and King Air pilots. The selections will be forwarded to the Director, NOAA Corps for approval. The Board will consider all aviators in the rank O-4 and below with a minimum of 1,500 hours of total flight time (King Air excluded) and 100 hours of NOAA Aircraft Commander time. Applicants must reasonably expect to meet the minimum qualifications listed above by the estimated start dates. The estimated start dates for training are:

- P-3: June 2013
- G-IV: November 2013
- King Air: December 2013

All interested officers should submit an email (one-page maximum) to LT Lewis at [Wendy.Lewis@noaa.gov](mailto:Wendy.Lewis@noaa.gov) by COB, Wednesday, November 28, 2012, with the following information:

- Explanation on how your skill-set will benefit the Programs which the aircraft serve(s)
- Desired platform (if any)
- Aircraft ratings held
- Positions held by aircraft (both AOC and other) and current flight times in those capacities
- Anything else you believe will set you apart from your peers

NOTE: As an official Board convened by the Director, NOAA Corps the members will have access to your Official Personnel File - ensure your file and assignment preferences are up to date.

Aviators with specific questions regarding these positions may contact either CAPT Halverson or CDR Hagan.

## On the Horizon

REFTRA 73	7-28 October 2012
BOTC 120 Billet Night	30 October 2012
Officer Assignment Board	15 November 2012
BOTC 121 Start Date	10 January 2013

### 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.

LT Nathan E. Witherly	01 November 2012
ENS Lucas D. Johnson	01 November 2012
LTJG Johannes A. Gebauer	19 November 2012
LTJG Glen Rice	01 January 2013