

Commissioned Personnel Center CYBERFLASH



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Director's Message

I received this message from a guest writer last week and wanted to bring the points brought up in the discussion to a larger audience. Food for thought and thought to inform our actions.....

What is the NOAA Corps?

Have you ever answered the question "What's the NOAA Corps?" What did you say? Have you ever really thought about the answer? Have you thought about the impact of your reply? A while ago I heard an answer to that question that was so embarrassing, as much as for the content as for the audience and their reaction, that I felt compelled to vent my frustrations on paper.

I know we've all made jokes about our organization – NOAA Corps and NOAA. Using our favorite sayings among peers is a common way to relieve frustration from the various annoyances we can't control, yet are forced to deal with on a regular basis. We've all heard them, from the clever; what does NOAA stand for? No Organization At All, National Organization for the Advancement of Acronyms. To the pernicious, such as the quote from a NOAA Corps officer printed in "Stars and Stripes" not-so-long ago where the NOAA Corps was described as "military light" and the "military for geeks."

I have an answer. The answer is tweaked depending on the audience, but generally uses the words "elite," "first Federal scientific agency," "environmental intelligence," "operational," "natural security," and "commissioned officers." "The Seventh Service" is not in my answer. First of all, chronologically it's incorrect. Secondly, it implies a value ranking. Who wants to be seventh? I'd much rather be first. My answer sounds something like this: "the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps is an elite group of commissioned officers with unique capabilities in aviation, maritime, and scientific operational specialties, highly qualified to provide environmental intelligence to the Nation's premier ocean and atmospheric science agency to advance our Nation's natural security. Feel free to use it as your own, if you're so inclined. Please use the following link to view message in its entirety.

[\(Click here for Director Message\)](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence T. Krepp".

CAPT Lawrence T. Krepp, NOAA
Director, CPC

Updates to NOAA Corps Directives

CPC is happy to announce several approved updates to the NOAA Corps Directives which many officers have been patiently waiting for. Below is a summary of the updates; the latest version of each updated chapter of the NCD has been posted on the website. In addition, CPC has scheduled a Webinar for March 18, 2014 to address these updates.

Summary of amendments to NOAA Corps Directive, Chapter 6: Approved 1/28/14

Adoption and Paternity Leave: Chapter 6 has been amended to reflect new adoption and paternity leave entitlements which officers are permitted in accordance with 10 U.S.C.701. These include adoption leave in the amount of up to 21 days, and paternity leave up to 10 days per child. The entitlements are retroactive to October 14, 2008.

Current active duty officers that have been charged leave due to the above exceptions are asked to email Katherine Raymond, Chief, OPMD (katherine.raymond@noaa.gov). Please include the dates the leave was taken and the reason (adoption or paternity). The Payroll Unit will be making manual adjustments to leave balances with leave restoration reflected on March LES's for officers whose requests are received by February 28, 2014.

Liberty: Limitations to regular liberty have been stated in terms of time required to return to a duty station and/or the distance traveled from a duty station. The overall limitations to regular liberty are 250 miles from the duty station or the ability to return to the duty station within four hours. Commanding Officers may prescribe further limitations to regular liberty based on the unit mission or operational circumstances.

Telework: The addition of Part 6, Telework, as it pertains to NOAA Corps officers. In accordance with the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations Telework Policy Implementation Procedures Addendum, updated April 2008, NOAA Corps officers are permitted to telework.

Summary of amendments to NOAA Corps Directive Chapter 12, Part 7: Approved 12/23/13

New Awards: Chapter 12, Part 7 has been amended to reflect a new personal decoration, the NOAA Corps Meritorious Service Medal (NCMS). In addition, four service awards have been developed including the NOAA Corps National Response Deployment Medal (NRDM), the NOAA Corps Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (NCOV), the NOAA Corps Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (NSSR) and the NOAA Corps National Response Service Ribbon (NRSR). Requirements for each specific award are outlined in the NCD. A special thank you goes out to Greg Raymond for the design and development of the NCMS, NCOV and NSSR and to LCDR Sarah Dunsford for the design and development of the NRDM and the NRSR.



NCMS



NRDM



NCOV



NSSR



NRSR

NOAA Sea Service Deployment Ribbon: This is the only ribbon approved to be awarded retroactively. Please see below for instructions to receive the NSSR.

The NSSR is retroactive to January 1, 2002. An officer is eligible to receive the NSSR once both criteria for the award have been met:

1. Twelve months accumulated sea duty, including temporary duty at sea, aboard commissioned ships, and
2. At least one 90 consecutive-day deployment. Deployment is defined as working/underway time away from the vessels' homeport (not to include shipyard).

To receive this award officers are required to submit documentation outlining how the above criteria have been met, for both initial and subsequent awards. A memo should be addressed to the Director, CPC. Please submit memos to LT Wendy Lewis (wendy.lewis@noaa.gov) for verification and routing. An example memo has been attached to this message. ([Click Here](#))

Department of Commerce Gold Medal: This section has been updated to authorize (retroactively) a 5/16-inch silver-colored "O" attachment to be worn on the large medal suspension ribbon and ribbon bar to denote a group or organizational award. If you were part of a group or organization that received the award but have not received authorization to wear the medal and ribbon, please email Katherine Raymond (katherine.raymond@noaa.gov).

USCG Arctic Service Medal: Lastly, thanks to the efforts of CDR Jeremy Adams, CDR David Zezula, and LCDR Tony Perry, the Director, NC, is authorized to award the USCG Arctic Service Medal in accordance with the new USCG criteria. The USCG changed their minimum time requirement from 21 consecutive days to 21 non-consecutive days. Moving forward, officers are eligible to receive the USCG Arctic Service Medal if they meet the criteria as defined by the USCG and outlined in the NCD.

NOAA Association of Commissioned Officers 2013 Awards

Junior Officer of the Year

LT Ronald L. Moyers, Jr. - for his outstanding achievements as aircraft commander on NOAA's Gulfstream (G-IV) and Twin Otter (DHC-6) aircraft as well as his contributions as maintenance staff officer at NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center (AOC).

Science Award

LTJG Anthony R. Klemm - for his significant contributions to NOAA's Marine Chart Division (MCD).

LT Faith O. Knighton - for her research in historical and current management of Hawaii's coral reefs and the drivers behind managerial decisions, practices, and policies, as well as the social and economic benefits of conservation.

Engineering Award

LTJG David O. Vejar - for his significant contributions in energy generation and management at Cape Shirreff, Livingston Island, Antarctica.

Call for National ACO Scholarship 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 2014/2015 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) 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 15, 2014.

Awards Presented in the Month of December

NOAA Corps Meritorious Service Medal:

RADM Michael S. Devany For exemplary and meritorious service to OMAO and the NOAA Corps.

NOAA Corps Commendation Medal:

CAPT Mark H. Pickett For outstanding leadership, customer service, and execution of Mission during his tour as Commanding Officer aboard the NOAA Ship *Ronald H. Brown*.

LT Matthew J. Jaskoski For meritorious achievement and performance while serving as Executive Officer, NOAA Ship *Fairweather*.

NOAA Corps Achievement Medal:

LCDR Jason R. Mansour For exceptional leadership of a multi-agency and multi-platform team resulting in historic first flights of a Puma Small Unmanned Aviation System from the Coast Guard Cutter HEALY.

LTJG Scott E. Broo For sustained superior performance as a Junior Officer aboard NOAA Ship *Fairweather*.

LTJG Eric G. Younkin For sustained superior performance as a Junior Officer aboard the NOAA Ship *Fairweather* during the 2011 and 2012 field seasons.

LTJG Joshua D. Witmer For sustained superior performance as a Junior Officer aboard NOAA Ship *Fairweather* during the 2011 and 2012 field seasons.

LTJG Kelsey E. Jeffers For sustained superior performance and dedication to duty as Navigation Officer, Medical Officer, and Environmental Compliance Officer and for professional development during her tour on NOAA Ship *Nancy Foster*.

NOAA Corps Director's Ribbon:

LTJG Theresa A. Madsen For exemplary performance as Environmental Compliance Officer and Primary Medical Person-in-Charge aboard the NOAA Ship *Fairweather*.

LTJG Eric G. Younkin For self-direction, initiative, and willingness to take on projects outside of normal expectations while working to stand up the new Marine Operations Center – Pacific Facility in Newport.

Awards Presented in the Month of January

NOAA Corps Commendation Medal

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|---------------------|--|
| LT Ryan C. Wattam | For meritorious service while serving as Executive Officer, NOAA Diving Center. |
| LT Joshua J. Slater | For exceptionally and meritorious service while serving as Operations Officer and Executive Officer aboard the NOAA Ship <i>Nancy Foster</i> . |

NOAA Corps Achievement Medal

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|-----------------------|--|
| LT Jonathan R. Heesch | For providing outstanding leadership as the Officer-in-Charge during the NOAA Training Vessel <i>Mikawe's</i> transit. |
| LTJG Aras J. Zygas | For outstanding contributions to the mission and leadership during his tour as Navigation Officer aboard the NOAA Ship <i>Henry B. Bigelow</i> . |
| LTJG Daniel P. Langis | For sustained superior performance aboard the NOAA Ship <i>Oscar Elton Sette</i> as Navigation Officer. |

NOAA Corps Director's Ribbon

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|--------------------------|---|
| ENS Douglas W. Pawlishen | For demonstrating outstanding operational excellence and expertise during the transit of the NOAA Training Vessel <i>Mikawe</i> . |
| ENS David Wang | For outstanding planning and navigation of the NOAA Training Vessel <i>Mikawe's</i> voyage plan. |
| ENS Laura E. Dwyer | For outstanding support of the NOAA Training Vessel <i>Mikawe's</i> Transit. |

OMAO Learning Training and Development Newsletter OMAO Training Portal Volunteers Needed

The first quarterly "OMAO Learning, Training, and Development Newsletter" went to all OMAO staff on February 5th. The newsletter is a short email reminder of what development opportunities and deadlines are approaching. Please share what is happening with your staff. This quarter's highlights are:

1. The upcoming Leadership Competencies Development Program (LCDP) Application Period begins February 18th.
2. A reminder of the Mid-Grade, Civil Service & Wage Mariner Course coming up April 28-May 9.
3. An update on Communication and Conflict Mitigation Workshops.
4. Notice that the NRAP Program 2014 will be offering another cycle of position requests and applications in February.
5. A request for suggestions for the "OMAO Training Portal."

CPC is looking for 20 volunteers to assist in testing and fine-tuning the site. If you are interested, please obtain approval from your supervisor and then email Scott Tessmer, with your contact information at OMAO.CLO@noaa.gov.

Ask CPC Webinar

'Ask-CPC' Webinar - NOAA Corps Directives Updates

CPC will be hosting an 'Ask-CPC' Webinar March 18, 2014, at 1430 EDT. The topic will be the recently approved updates to the NOAA Corps Directives. More information on this webinar will be forthcoming as the date draws near. In the meantime, CPC is interested in what you want to know more about, so please let us know via the following Google form ['Ask CPC' Topics](#).

2013 Wage and Tax Statements

Wage and Tax Statements, (IRS Form W-2), were mailed by January 31. Lost or missing Wage and Tax statements should be reported after February 15, with requests for duplicates made via this link:

<http://www.uscg.mil/ppc/w2.asp> . Please direct any questions or requests for additional information to the Payroll Unit at noaacorps.payrollunit@noaa.gov .

On The Horizon

02 March- 22 March 2014	REFTRA
28 April - 09 May 2014	Mid-Grade Leadership Training

Approved Resignations, Separations and Retirements

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

CAPT John J. Adler	01 March 2014
LTJG Matthew C. Griffin	01 March 2014
CAPT Mark B. Nelson	01 March 2014
LT Amy B. Cox	01 April 2014
LTJG Alice Drury	15 May 2014

CPC would like to correct the misprint in the last Cyberflash dated 17 January 2013. Captain John J. Adler (incorrectly referred to as LTJG John J. Adler) will be retiring from the Service 01 March 2014. With over 25 years of combined Navy and NOAA service, please remember to thank Captain Adler, and our other retiring officers, for their commitment to NOAA and the nation