



## Message from the Director, Commissioned Personnel Center

**March 24, 2020**

Fellow NOAA Corps officers ,

I hope this message finds everyone and their families' safe and adapting to this health crisis. This is a dynamic time and DOC/NOAA guidance is constantly evolving. Other services are taking readiness stances, some in sync together and some divergent. CPC is receiving many questions and we are working to find answers to all of them. For now, I would like to discuss three items.

- 1. PCS/PCA holds.** All PCS and PCA orders are on hold until May 1, 2020. There is a process that goes all the way to the Department of Commerce to wavier this hold for truly mission critical PCS orders but that should be a rare event. While PCA orders generally do not require travel, they are on hold also to limit creating gaps in billets. Waivers for PCA orders can be done at the OMAO level but would need to be in the best interest of the Service or NOAA and require CPC coordination. Contact CDR Stephen Kuzirian at [stephen.kuzirian@noaa.gov](mailto:stephen.kuzirian@noaa.gov) if you think you may be requesting a waiver.
- 2. Grooming Standards.** RADM Silah has approved a temporary relaxation of male and female hair length grooming standards to minimize officer's exposure to COVID-19 and adhere to social distancing requirements. Due to COVID-19 health protection measures maximizing social distancing, Commanding Officers, Directors, and Line Office Liaison Officers are authorized to relax the NOAA Corps hair length grooming standards outlined in NOAA Corps Directives (NCD) Chapter 12 for officers assigned to their command/program/line office. Relaxed hair length grooming standards will only apply to the area of the scalp. NCD policy guidance regarding sideburns, hairstyles, and shaving requirements remain in effect. This temporary relaxation may allow for additional hair length and bulk on the sides, top and back of the head, but at no time will relaxed grooming interfere with proper use of protective personal equipment (helmets, masks, hoods, etc.). Good judgement of leaders at all levels of the chain of command is required to ensure all possible COVID-19 health protection precautions are being taken.
- 3. Selection Boards.** Selection boards will still be held the week of April 20, 2020. Due to the recent events, and extra workload for many, the deadline for OERs to be received at CPC has been extended until 1700 EDT next Monday, March 30, 2020. The deadline for other OPF documents has been extended until 1700 EDT on Monday, April 13, 2020. If you are having an issue completing your physical or dental in order to be fully medically qualified by April 20, please contact CAPT Jeffrey Taylor at [Jeffrey.taylor@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.taylor@noaa.gov) as soon as possible so CPC can determine a path forward.

Very Respectfully,

CAPT Devin Brakob, NOAA

Director, Commissioned Personnel Center