



# NOAA CORPS BULLETIN

Official Information for NOAA Commissioned Officers

Volume 33, Number 1

First Quarter, 2003

**FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK**

This past year provided our organization many challenges and opportunities; and the hard work of the NOAA Corps and NMAO employees is very evident in our accomplishments. I appreciate the dedicated and highly competent officers of the NOAA Corps and would like to remind you of the things we've accomplished working as a team:

We graduated two BOTC's of outstanding new NOAA Corps officers, and we worked to get HR 4883 signed into law (the Act consolidates previously scattered authorities for the NOAA Corps.) We began construction and celebrated the first major milestone of the Fisheries Survey Vessel (FSV) OSCAR DYSON, with a keel-laying ceremony in September. We acquired two former Navy T-AGOS ships, VINDICATOR and INDOMITABLE, and have begun the conversion process on both. We decommissioned two old NOAA Ships: TOWNSEND CROMWELL and FERREL, and we completed the conversion of two former Navy ships and renamed them the NOAA Ships OSCAR ELTON SETTE and NANCY FOSTER. We initiated the SWATH (Small Water plane Area Twin Hull) vessel design studies to replace RUDE, and we prepared the contract to refurbish FAIRWEATHER for reactivation in 2003. We provided outstanding aircraft support during a busy (land falling) hurricane season, and we completed a SDLM (extensive maintenance) of one of our WP-3D Hurricane Hunters and have begun SDLM on the other. We acquired minimum separation certifications for NOAA aircraft. and we achieved FY 2002 STCW and ISM goals. We developed NMAO COOP (Continuity of Operations) plans for homeland security, as well as initiated an internal security review of NMAO platforms and facilities. We developed an NMAO health wellness program and initiated a NOAA small boat safety program to be used in all NOAA Line Offices. We concluded a busy year by developing draft 10-year ship and aircraft fleet plans. And last but certainly not least, we continued our strong public outreach through the dedicated efforts of NOAA Corps and NMAO employees aboard our ships and aircraft, and in the operations centers. We've accomplished a great deal in 2002, and I look forward to the challenges of the New Year.

I am always gratified to receive the supportive letters and messages of the NOAA Corps retired community. I look forward to their continued support in the year to come.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Unusually Arduous Sea Duty . . . . .	2	Monthly Basic Pay & Allowance . . . . .	4,A1
Promotion Zone Results . . . . .	2	NOAA ACO Insignia Order Form . . . . .	4,A2
National Defense Authorization Act for FY-2003 . . . . .	2-3	CPC Directory . . . . .	4, A3
NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002 . . . . .	3-4	Billet List . . . . .	4, A4

## **UNUSUALLY ARDUOUS SEA DUTY**

The following NOAA vessels meet the criteria as stated in NOAA Corps Regulations Chapter 2, Section 02103 for being designated as “unusually arduous sea duty” for calendar year 2003.

RONALD H. BROWN	JOHN N. COBB	RAINIER
RUDE	KA'IMIMOANA	
WHITING	MCARTHUR	
NANCY FOSTER	MILLER FREEMAN	

The following criteria are used by the NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations for determining which ships of the NOAA Fleet are designated as “unusually arduous sea duty:”

- (1) the projected absence of the ship from its designated home port will exceed 183 days in the calendar year;
- (2) it is anticipated that the deployments from home port will be for periods greater than 90 days at a time;  
and
- (3) members will not be allowed to return to home port frequently.

## **PROMOTION ZONE RESULTS**

The Officer Personnel Board met on October 22-23, 2002, to recommend officers for placement on the promotion list to Captain. The number selected for promotion was based on a project of attrition and in accordance with NOAA Corps Regulations, Chapter 1, Part 1, and Chapter 4, Part 2. The following were selected:

George E. White  
Jonathan W. Bailey  
Timothy B. Wright  
Garner R. Yates, Jr.  
Steven R. Barnum

## **NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003**

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2003, (Public Law 107-314) was signed into law by President Bush on December 2, 2002. Items of interest to NOAA Corps officers are listed below. Unless otherwise noted, the items are effective on December 2, 2002. Direct any questions regarding this article to Steve Eisenberg at (301)-713-3453 or (800) 224-6622, Extension 102.

Military Pay Raise (Section 601)- Effective January 1, 2003, the rate of basic pay is increased by a minimum of 4.1 percent for all uniformed service members, with additional increases to mid- grade officers. A copy of the new pay table for commissioned officer grades is attached to this BULLETIN. Under previous legislation, basic allowance for subsistence is increased to \$167.20 per month.

Emergency Leave of Absence (Section 572) -A member may be granted a one-time emergency leave of absence up to 14 days (not chargeable to leave) for a qualifying emergency. This emergency leave of absence may be granted only to prevent the member from entering a negative leave balance. The term “qualifying emergency” means a circumstance that is due to either (a) a medical condition of a member of the immediate family of the member; or (b) any other hardship determined appropriate for use of emergency leave of absence. Requests for emergency leave of absence must be made in writing to the Director, NOAA Corps, and must include documentation from a source in addition to the member, i.e., health care provider, social worker, member of the clergy, etc. The Director, NOAA

## **NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003** (continued)

Corps has final approval authority for such requests. NOAA Corps Regulations will be amended to reflect this new provision.

Vehicle Storage in Lieu of Transportation in Certain Situations (Section 575) -The following entitlement has been in place for permanent change of station (PCS) to foreign countries. Effective for PCS orders issued on or after December 2, 2002, the entitlement applies to assignments to Alaska, Hawaii, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the northern Mariana Islands, and any possession of the United States. A member may elect to have a vehicle stored at government expense in lieu of transportation of the vehicle when laws, regulations, or restrictions preclude entry of a motor vehicle to the country, state, or U.S. possession, or would require extensive modification of the vehicle as condition of entry.

## **NOAA COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS ACT OF 2002**

The Hydrographic Services Improvement Act Amendments of 2002 was signed into law (Public Law 107-372) by President Bush on December 19, 2002. Title II of this Act is the "National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps Act of 2002". Title II makes significant changes to laws affecting the NOAA Corps as described below. NOAA Corps Regulations will be amended to reflect these changes. Direct any questions regarding this article to Steve Eisenberg at (301)-713-3453 or (800) 224-6622, Extension 102.

### Section 211 - Commissioned Officer Corps

Section 211 states, "There shall be in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration a commissioned officer corps". This section is important, in that for the first time, the existence of the NOAA Corps is authorized by law. Previously, it was only mentioned in a Presidential Reorganization Plan.

### Section 215 - Authorized Number for Fiscal Years 2003 Through 2005

Previous law provided for a NOAA Corps authorized strength with only a lower bound (264) and upper bound (299). Section 215 specifies the authorized strength as follows:

Fiscal Year 2003 - 270  
Fiscal Year 2004 - 285  
Fiscal Year 2005 - 299

### Section 221 - Original Appointments

Section 221 fully aligns the basic commissioned corps appointment qualifications with those found in Title 10 of the United States Code, applicable to the military departments in the Department of Defense. A new qualification for appointment is that an individual must be able to complete 20 years of active commissioned service before his/her 55th birthday. This establishes a maximum age of 35 for original appointments in the NOAA Corps.

### Section 228 - Positions of Importance and Responsibility

Previous law authorized the Secretary of Commerce to designate positions in NOAA as being positions of importance and responsibility for which it was appropriate that officers serving in those positions serve in the grade of vice admiral [O-9], rear admiral [O-8] or rear admiral (lower half) [O-7]. The number of officers serving in such positions could not exceed one at O-9, three at O-8, and three at O-7. Section 228 retains the Secretary's authority to designate such positions but makes two important changes to previous law. First, it directs the Secretary to designate one **NOAA**

## **COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS ACT OF 2002** (continued)

position as responsible for oversight of the vessel and aircraft fleets and for the administration of the NOAA Corps. The grade of the position shall be an O-7 or above. Second, the total number of officers serving on active duty at any one time in the grade of O-7 or above, may not exceed four. The grade distribution is revised so that there can be no more than one O-9, two O-8's, and two O-7's. Please note that this is not an arithmetic error. The following combinations are possible for officers serving on active duty at any one time:

One O-9, Two O-8's, and One O-7; or

One O-9, One O-8, and Two O-7's; or

Two O-8's and Two O-7's.

### **Repealed Provisions**

The Act repeals several sections of law which were obsolete. Among the repealed sections was a section that allowed officers at certain grades, irrespective of any vacancies, to be considered by the Officer Personnel Board for promotion. For example, officers at the grade of lieutenant (junior grade) with seven years of NOAA Corps commissioned service and lieutenants with fourteen years of NOAA Corps commissioned service, could be promoted (if otherwise qualified) even if no vacancies existed at the higher grade. That law from the 1940's was designed to alleviate promotion stagnation, which had resulted in ensigns 36 years of age, lieutenant (junior grade) officers who were 44 years old, and officers with 23 years of service and still at the lieutenant grade. These conditions do not exist today. Furthermore, similar provisions for the military services were repealed in 1980.

### **Technical Amendments**

Technical amendments in the Act consolidate and modernize previous provisions of law which were scattered throughout the United States Code.

## **MONTHLY BASIC PAY AND ALLOWANCES FOR COMMISSIONED OFFICERS**

Attached to this [Bulletin](#) is a current table.

## **NOAA ACO INSIGNIA ORDER FORM**

Attached to this [Bulletin](#) is a current order form.

## **CPC DIRECTORY**

Attached to this [Bulletin](#) is a current list of personnel in the Commissioned Personnel Center.

## **BILLET LIST**

Attached to this [Bulletin](#) is a current NOAA Corps Billet List. The list has been updated from PCS orders received by CPC through December 31, 2002.

## **I. APPROVED ASSIGNMENT CHANGES**

### **Captain**

Dreves, Donald A., from NMAO, NOAA Ship RONALD H. BROWN to NMAO, Silver Spring, Maryland, as Special Assistant to the Director (Billet #0002, February 2003).

Gardner, James C., from NMAO, NOAA Ship RAINIER to NOS, Marine Chart Division, Silver Spring, Maryland, as Chief (Billet #7223, August 2003).

### **Commander**

Kenul, Philip M., from NMAO, Aircraft Operations Center to Office of Chief Information Officer/Director High Performance Computing and Communications, Silver Spring, Maryland, as Director of the Homeland Security Program Office (Billet #9315, January 2003).

### **Lieutenant Commander**

Noll, Guy T., from NOS, Hydrographic Systems & Technology Programs to NOS, Hydrographic Surveys Division, Silver Spring, Maryland, as Deputy Chief (Billet #7241, May 2003).

Francisco, Michael D., from NMAO, NOAA Ship JOHN N. COBB to NMAO, Program Services and Outsourcing Division, Silver Spring, Maryland, as Fisheries Program Coordinator (Billet #0312, August 2003).

Moran, Mark P., from NMAO, AOC to NWS, Aviation Weather Center, Kansas City, Missouri, as Aviation Services Coordinator (Billet #4002, March 2003).

### **Lieutenant**

Weaver, Michael S., from NMAO, AOC to OAR, Space Weather Operations Division, Boulder, Colorado, as Project Manager (Billet #3465, March 2003).

Lynch, Anne K., from NMAO, NOAA Ship MILLER FREEMAN to NMAO, CPC, Silver Spring, Maryland, as Chief of Recruiting Unit (Billet #0522, November 2003).

Daniels, Cecile R., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, CPC, Silver Spring, Maryland, as Special Assistant (Billet #0520, November 2003).

Dowling, Jennifer N., from NMAO, NOAA Ship RAINIER to NOS, National Geodetic Survey, Anchorage, Alaska, as Alaska State Geodetic Advisor (Billet #7103, December 2003).

### **Lieutenant (junior grade)**

Cabana, Nicole M., from NMFS, Southwest Fisheries Science Center to NMFS, Northeast Fisheries Science Center, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, as Wildlife Biologist (Billet #2462, December 2002).

Wingarter, Scott A., from OAR, Climate Monitoring & Diagnostics Laboratory to NMFS, R/V GLORIA MICHELLE, Highland, New Jersey, as JOIC (Billet #2471, November 2002).

## **I. APPROVED ASSIGNMENT CHANGES (continued)**

### **Lieutenant (junior grade) (continued)**

Kelley, Jeffrey D., from NMAO, NOAA Ship RUDE to OAR, Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory, Miami, Florida, as Physical Oceanographer (Billet #3230, June 2003).

Kroening, Stephen Z., from NMAO, NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA to NMAO, AOC, Vero Beach, Florida, as Initial Pilot Training (Billet #1101, January 2003).

Lambert, Nicole S., from NMAO, NOAA Ship WHITING to NMAO, AOC, Vero Beach, Florida, as Initial Pilot Training (Billet #1102, May 2003).

### **Ensign**

Snow, Michael S., from NMAO, NOAA Ship RAINIER to NOS, Remote Sensing Division, Silver Spring, Maryland, as Remote Sensing Technology Specialist (Billet #7192, June 2003).

Johnson, Jennifer L., from NMAO, NOAA Ship RAINIER to NMAO, NOAA Ship KA'IMIMOANA, Honolulu, Hawaii, as Junior Officer (Billet #0949, November 2002).

Bohaboy, Erich J., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship ALBATROSS IV, Woods Hole, Massachusetts, as Junior Officer (Billet #0754, November 2002).

Daniel, Amy M., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship NANCY FOSTER, Charleston, South Carolina, as Junior Officer (Billet #0784, November 2002).

Davis, Natasha R., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship MILLER FREEMAN, Seattle, Washington, as Junior Officer (Billet #0964, November 2002).

Didier, Patrick D., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship GORDON GUNTER, Pascagoula, Mississippi, as Junior Officer (Billet #0723, November 2002).

Edmundson, Richard A., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship RAINIER, Seattle, Washington, as Junior Officer (Billet #0935, November 2002).

Kurelja, Lindsay R., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship GORDON GUNTER, Pascagoula, Mississippi, as Junior Officer (Billet #0724, November 2002).

Lomnicky, John J., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship RAINIER, Seattle, Washington, as Junior Officer (Billet #0934, November 2002).

Pixton, Lundy E., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship DAVID STARR JORDAN, La Jolla, California, as Junior Officer (Billet #0988, November 2002).

Ringel, Matthew R., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship WHITING, Norfolk, Virginia, as Junior Officer (Billet #0734, November 2002).

Seaman, Andrew P., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship WHITING, Norfolk, Virginia, as Junior Officer (Billet #0737, November 2002).

## **I. APPROVED ASSIGNMENT CHANGES** (continued)

### **Ensign** (continued)

Spence, Luke J., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship OREGON II, Pascagoula, Mississippi, as Junior officer (Billet #0743, November 2002).

Stroud, Kelley E., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship OSCAR ELTON SETTE, Honolulu, Hawaii, as Junior Officer (Billet #0955, November 2002).

Watson, Misty M., from NMAO, CPC to NMAO, NOAA Ship RAINIER, Seattle, Washington, as Junior Officer (Billet #0941, November 2002).

## **II. PROMOTIONS**

Jennifer N. Dowling	LT	10/22/02
Chadwick A. Brown	LTJG	11/13/02
Shannon M. Ristau	LTJG	11/13/02
Nicole S. Lambert	LTJG	11/13/02
Seung H. Suk	LTJG	11/13/02
Nicole D. Colasacco	LTJG	11/13/02
Gary P. Bulmer	CAPT	01/01/03
Michele G. Bullock	CDR	01/01/03

## **III. APPOINTMENTS**

Devin R. Brakob	LT	10/15/02
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## **IV. APPROVED RETIREMENTS**

None.

## **V. APPROVED RESIGNATIONS/SEPARATIONS**

Carolyn A. Sramek	LT	04/15/03
Jessica M. Futch	ENS	05/15/03

## **VI. RETIREMENTS**

Maureen R. Kenny	CAPT	01/01/03
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## **VII. RESIGNATIONS/SEPARATIONS**

Debra L. McKee	ENS	12/02/02
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**OTHER CHANGES**

None.

**ON BOARD STRENGTH AS OF 1 January 2003** - 253