NOAA

COMMISSIONED

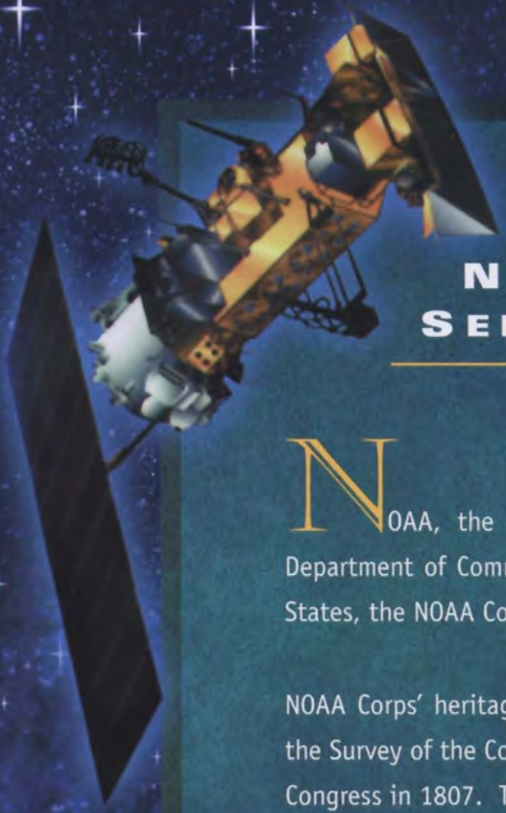
OFFICER CORPS

NOAA COMMISSIONED CORPS 1917

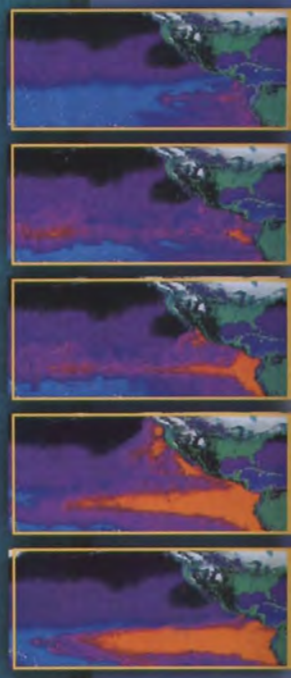
SERVICE

SCIENCE

ADVENTURE



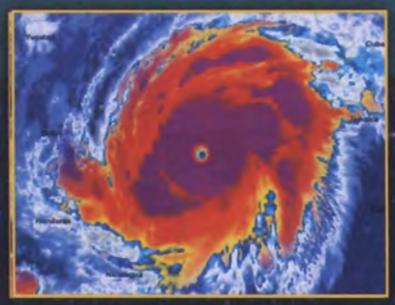
NOAA Corps: Where Service Meets Science

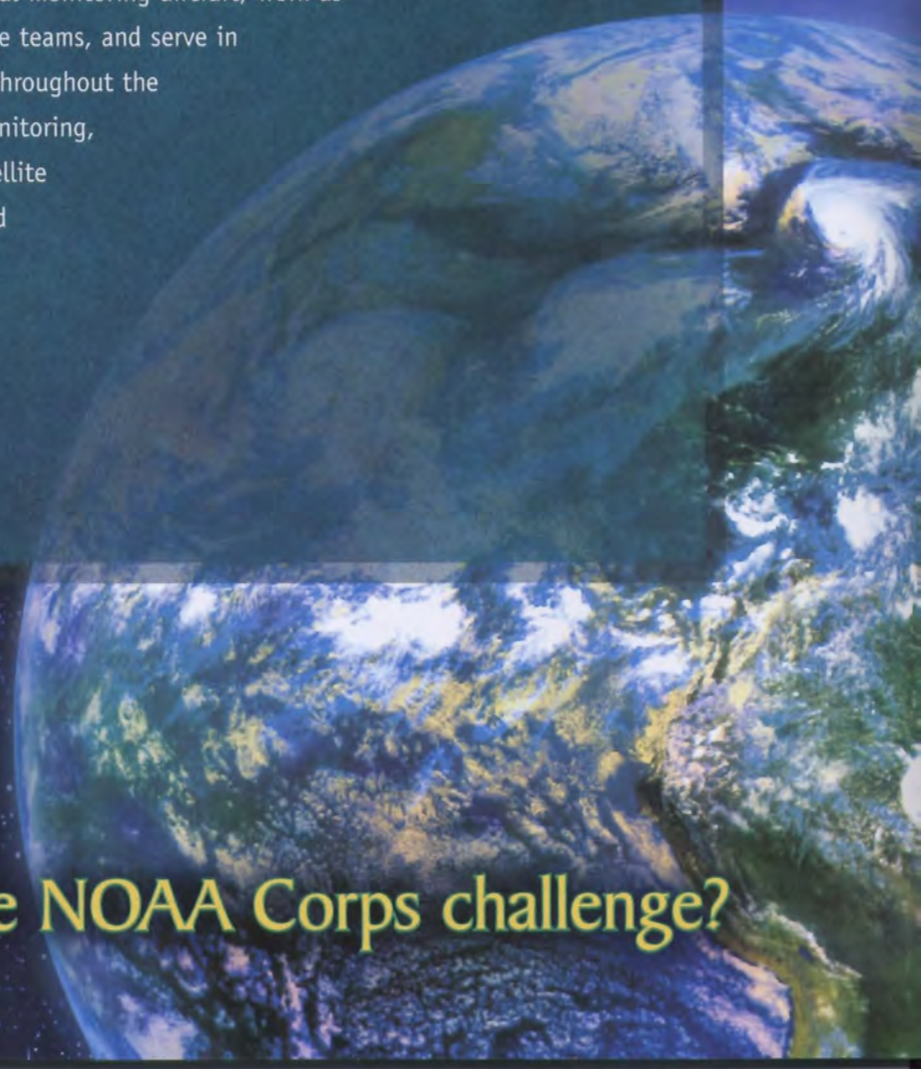


NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the U.S. Department of Commerce, is home to one of the seven uniformed services of the United States, the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.

NOAA Corps' heritage is closely tied to America's oldest scientific and technical agency, the Survey of the Coast, which was established by President Thomas Jefferson and the U.S. Congress in 1807. The forerunner to the NOAA Corps was created in 1917 as the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS) Corps in order to provide officers to command U.S. coastal survey ships and field survey parties. In October 1970, the scientific agency, NOAA, was created and the officers became members of the NOAA Corps.

Today, NOAA Corps officers command NOAA's research and survey vessels, fly NOAA's "hurricane hunter" and environmental monitoring aircraft, work as members of mobile national response teams, and serve in a variety of management positions throughout the agency including coastal pollution monitoring, natural resource management, satellite operations, and other scientific and engineering disciplines to provide the accurate and comprehensive information needed to make wise decisions about our environment.





Are you up for the NOAA Corps challenge?

A Career in the NOAA Corps

A NOAA Corps officer's primary duty is to ensure safe shipboard and aviation operations including proper planning, navigation, equipment deployment, and execution of emergency procedures. Officers provide the leadership and support necessary for day to day operations on board NOAA's research platforms.

In addition to operational assignments, NOAA Corps officers train to serve in a broad variety of shore assignments, often outside their academic field. Imagine yourself:

- Using satellites to quickly detect and locate distress signals from emergency beacons onboard aircraft and boats.
- Researching coastal environments to promote healthy ecosystems.
- Charting coastal areas and developing navigational data in order to protect ships from potential accidents.
- Training with one of the most elite dive training centers in the world.
- Wintering at the South Pole.
- Developing as a leader in the Nation's foremost oceanic and atmospheric agency.

NOAA Corps officers have played key roles in assessing environmental damage, helping unlock the mysteries of global climate change, exploring the ocean floor in NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries and throughout the world, working to modernize weather forecasting and warnings of severe weather, and serving prominently in NOAA's efforts to describe and predict changes in the Earth's environment while managing the Nation's coastal and marine resources.

TRAINING

All officer candidates must attend an initial 16-week Basic Officer Training Class (BOTC). The curriculum is challenging, with onboard ship-handling exercises coupled with classroom instruction in leadership, seamanship, navigation, and military protocol.

Upon completion of the program, officers could be eligible for the following licenses and/or endorsements:

- U.S. Coast Guard Mate 1600 GT Oceans License (Upon passing the USCG Examination)
- Able Bodied Seaman Limited Endorsement
- Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW-95) (And all applicable certificates)

Aviation training is available on a limited basis. Selected officers serve as pilots and navigators on NOAA's research aircraft. Officers are considered for flight training only after they have completed their first sea tour.

Diver training may be available to officers during their first sea tour or subsequent shore assignments. The NOAA Diving Program conducts basic and advanced diver training several times each year at the Diving Operations Center in Seattle, Washington. Although diving operations are essential to NOAA's programs, diving is a collateral activity for NOAA Corps officers. Selection for diver training is dependent upon the needs of the ship or facility to which the officer is assigned.

"The Corps was willing to take a recent college graduate and provide on-the-job training in hydrography, ship-driving, marine operations and more. I was entrusted with high levels of responsibility much sooner than I would have been able to achieve in a civilian job"

~ LTJG Laurel Jennings, NOAA,
BA Zoology,
NOAA Corps officer since 2005

Your Benefits With NOAA Corps

As a NOAA Corps officer, you will receive a highly competitive benefits package similar to other uniformed services, including:

- 30 days of paid vacation each year.
- Retirement with pension after 20 years of active duty service.
- Thrift Savings Plan (similar to 401(k) plan).
- Comprehensive medical and dental coverage at no cost.
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits.
- Military exchange and commissary privileges.
- Montgomery GI Bill Education Benefit Program.
- Ongoing opportunities for paid training, continuing education, and professional development.

"I have been able to participate in so many opportunities...I have my hands in presentations, data analysis, logistics, field work, and dive operations. NOAA Corps is a great opportunity because you can be so flexible within your career and always learn something new. You get such a broad exposure to so many diverse opportunities not found in any other career."

~ LT Natasha Davis, NOAA,
BS Biological Science,
NOAA Corps officer since 2002

"NOAA has a peace-time mission. Every time we fly our aircraft or operate our ships we are collecting data in support of that mission. That wasn't always the case when I flew for the Navy. There is a great sense of job satisfaction knowing that we are collecting important data that will serve public knowledge with every mission I fly for NOAA."

~ LCDR Albert Girimonte, NOAA,
BS Marine Engineering,
NOAA Corps officer since 2006

NOAA Corps Employment Process

The NOAA Corps is an organization that offers many unique challenges and rewards to those selected for a commission. In no other service will you find the exciting and challenging opportunity to travel, work at sea, serve the Nation, and develop as a leader in the Nation's foremost oceanic and atmospheric agency.

The NOAA Corps offers commissions to selected applicants who are U.S. citizens, hold a baccalaureate or higher degree in science, math or engineering, meet the entry requirements, and pass the required medical examination. Candidates are commissioned as ensigns and, after successful completion of the Basic Officer Training Class, report to a NOAA ship for their first assignment.

Individuals interested in a NOAA Corps career should contact the NOAA Corps, Officer Recruiting Branch today!

PHONE: **1-800-299-6622**

E-MAIL: **NOAACorps.Recruiting@noaa.gov**

MAIL: **NOAA Corps Commissioned Personnel Center**
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 500
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

"I have a friend who has a pretty high level job with a professional sports team. He sent me a picture from his fancy corner office window and the caption said, 'This is the view from my office'. So, over the course of a few days, I took pictures of the scenery from the ship. Photos of the mountains in Alaska, whales, seascapes... and wrote back, 'this is the view from my office'. I think I have the better job"

~LT John (Jay) Lomnicky,

NOAA, BS Biology,

NOAA Corps officer since 2002

Visit our Web sites
for more information:

NOAA Commissioned Corps

www.noaacorps.noaa.gov

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations

www.omao.noaa.gov

NOAA

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