# National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Corps of Commissioned Officers

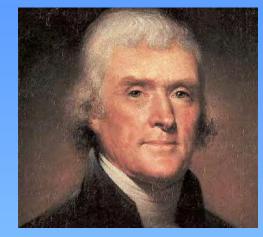


New York City College of Technology

Internship and Fellowship Seminar
May 8, 2012
CDR Will Odell



# 1807. Our Beginning.



- Thomas Jefferson
  - Realized the growing nation needed a survey of the entire coastline of the United States, to ensure safe passage of people and trade goods.
  - Congress agreed and on February 10<sup>th</sup> 1807 they established the Survey of the Coast, our nations first scientific agency.
  - The survey was tasked with making accurate charts of every mile of navigable water in the United States. This endeavor continues today!

### The Coast Survey





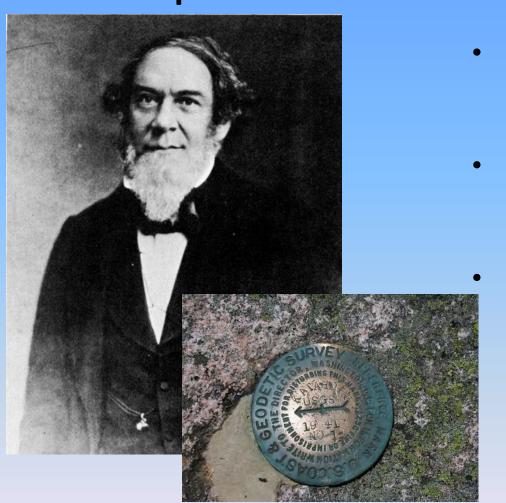
- A total of \$50,000 was allocated for the survey
- Ferdinand R. Hassler, a Swiss mathematician and scientist was put in charge.
- A stickler for detail and scientific accuracy he set the standard for coastal surveying.
- He used the best tools from Europe, sextants, lead lines, and microscopes to survey and create the nations first official charts.

The Coast Survey

- New York Harbor was the first chart created and took 20 years to produce.
- He set the surveying bar at its highest level possible and his legacy continues to this day
- NOAA's newest survey ship "Ferdinand R. Hassler" bears his name.



### **Expansion and Innovation**



 As the country expanded the need for more and highly accurate charts increased.

 As need grew so did technology and the development of standardized procedures.

Alexander Dallas Bache the second administrator of the US Coast Survey introduced automated tide gauges, and the "Red Right, Return" buoyage system.

## Becoming a Uniformed Service

- Initially Naval and Army officers were assigned to the survey teams and worked alongside the civilians.
- During the Civil War all Army officers were removed and never returned. Only 2 Navy officers remained.
- The civilian surveyors continued their work, however not wearing uniforms they found themselves in a precarious situation. If caught behind enemy lines they would be treated as spies and executed.

### A Uniformed Service





- In 1917 Congress created the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey from the existing Survey of the Coast and commissioned their officers, protecting them under the Geneva Convention.
- During World War I and World War II these officers participated as intelligence gatherers, surveying battlefields and landing sites, laying mines, in artillery support, navigating troop transports, and in many other technical roles.

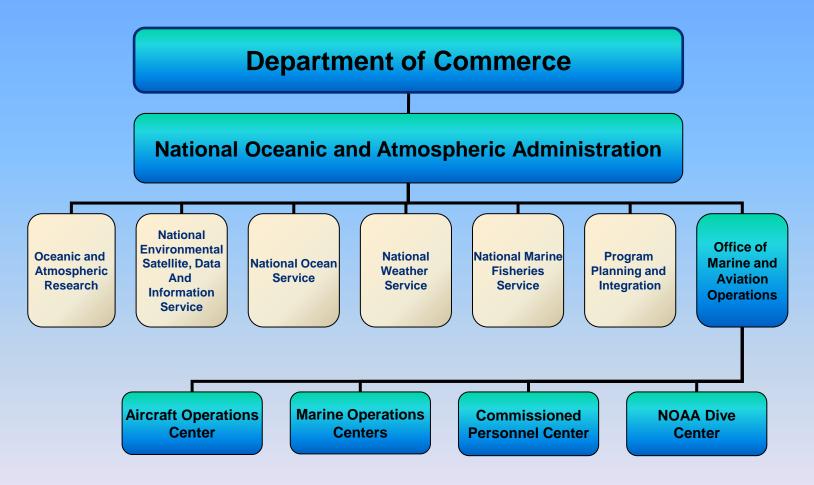
### 1970, The Modern NOAA Corps





- In1965 the USC&GS became the Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA), falling under the US Department of Commerce
- In 1970 ESSA was dissolved, and was replaced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- NOAA Consists of seven line offices
  - National Ocean Service
  - National Weather Service
  - National Marine Fisheries Service
  - Office of Marine and Aviation Operations
  - Office of Program Planning and Integration
  - Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
  - National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service
- Commissioned Officers moved with the organization from the USC&GS to ESSA, and finally to the current NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps

### **NOAA Corps Organization**





### A Uniformed Service

- The NOAA Corps is one of the seven uniformed services, just like the military services or the Public Health Service.
- Currently authorized by Congress to a compliment of 321 commissioned officers from O-1 through O-8
- Although the NOAA Corps is not a military service, they are a uniformed one serving the country under oath, entitling NOAA officers to most of the rights, privileges, and benefits as any other uniformed service

# **NOAA Corps Uniforms**







### 18 Ships

# 9 Homeports

#### O KODIAK, AK (1)



Oscar Dyson



KETCHIKAN, AK (1)

Fairweather





Bell M. Shimada



Rainier



McArthur II

#### **MISSIONS**

**Nautical Charting Fisheries Research Oceanographic Research Coastal Monitoring Ocean Exploration** 



FERDINAND HASSLER

Delaware II

**WOODS HOLE (1)** 



**CHARLESTON (2)** 

**PASCAGOULA** 





**Pisces** 



Ronald H. Brown



Nancy Foster

Gordon Gunter



Oregon II

#### **Temporary Homeports:**

**HONOLULU. HI** 





**Okeanos Explorer** 



Henry Bigelow



Ka'imimoana

Hi'ialaki



### **11 Aircraft**



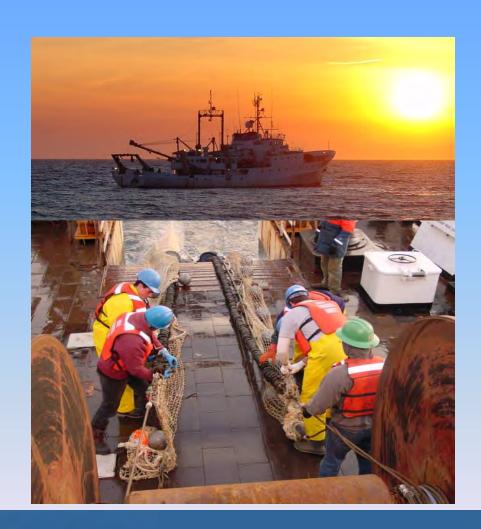
## **Shipboard Duties**



- A NOAA officer's primary shipboard duties include:
- Ensuring safe shipboard operations including proper planning, navigation, equipment deployment, and execution of emergency procedures.
- Officers provide the leadership and support necessary for day to day operations.

### Fisheries Vessels

- These vessels provide an understanding of the physical and biological processes that control year-class strength of key economic fish species.
- They also conduct habitat assessments, survey marine mammal and marine bird populations, and observe other environmental conditions.



# Hydrographic Survey Vessels



- Survey vessels create precise ocean maps of our nation's waterways, ensuring the safe passage of cargo and passenger ships alike.
- Unlike other ships, officers working aboard these ships are directly involved with data collection and processing.

### **NOAA** Aviation

NOAA aircraft perform many types of aerial research.

- Gathering atmospheric data while flying in very close proximity and actually inside hurricanes.
- Measuring snow pack and glaciers.
- Conducting whale and other endangered species assessments.
- Improving the accuracy of aerial navigation charts.





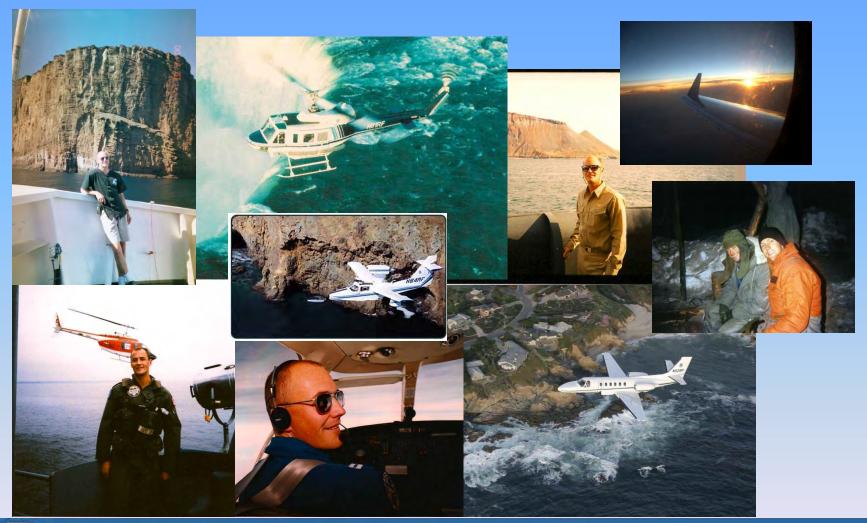
## **NOAA Corps Divers**



- NOAA Corps divers serve many purposes throughout NOAA
- Some duties include wreckage recovery, research assistance, and ship maintenance or hull inspections.



### Join the Excitement!



#### I am a NOAA Commissioned Officer.

I am an Operational Specialist at Sea or in the Air.

I am a Scientist and a Steward of our Oceans & Atmosphere.

Above all though, I am a Leader, dedicated to Safety, Operational Excellence, Professionalism, and the Citizens whom I serve.

I serve with Honor, Respect, and Commitment to my Country and my Corps.

I am always there, from line office to the front line of scientific discovery!







### **Contact Us**

- Main Website
  - www.noaacorps.noaa.gov
  - Officer Recruiting Branch
    - NOAACorps.Recruiting@noaa.gov
    - 800-299-6622
  - Student Opportunities
    - http://www.education.noaa.gov/Special Topics/studen topps.html

### **BACKUP SLIDES**

# Internship Opportunities

