Visit our Web sites for more information:

NOAA
www.noaa.gov

NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations
www.nmao.noaa.gov

NOAA Commissioned Corps
www.noaacorps.noaa.gov

A Career in NOAA

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 physical examination. Candidates are commissioned as ensigns and, after successful completion of a Basic Officer Training Class, report to a NOAA ship for their first assignment. There is a two-year obligatory service period for new officers.

All applicants must meet two academic and two vision requirements to be minimally qualified: candidates must have completed 6 semester (9 quarter) hours in integral and differential calculus and a minimum of 8 semester hours (12 quarters) of physics, and they must have normal color vision and uncorrected visual acuity no worse than 20/400 (each eye) correctable to 20/20 (each eye).

Training: Although there is no military drill or stringent physical training, the curriculum is demanding, with onboard ship-handling exercises coupled with classroom instruction in leadership, seamanship, navigation, and military protocol.

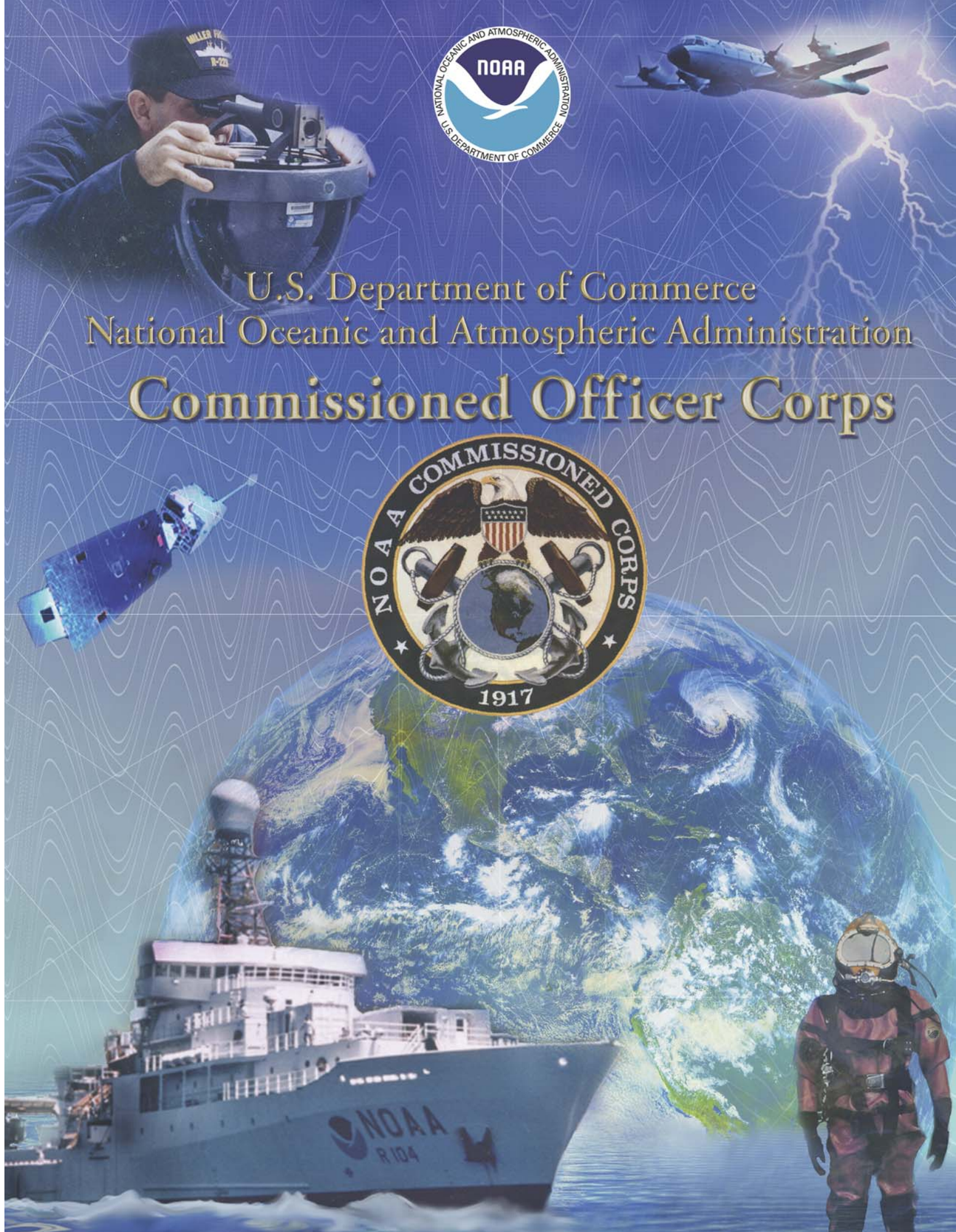
Aviation training is available on a limited basis. Selected officers serve as pilots and navigators on NOAA's research aircraft. Officers are considered for flight training only after they have completed their first sea tour.

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.

Advanced training/graduate school is available to officers through a part-time university program. Supplemental course work is available through the Office of Personnel Management and through correspondence courses. In addition, NOAA Corps officers are encouraged to obtain other types of certification, such as a Professional Engineer's license, a U.S. Coast Guard Merchant Mariner's license, or an Airline Transport Pilot license.

Individuals interested in a NOAA Corps career should contact the NOAA Corps Recruiting Unit:

Phone: 1-800-299-6622
E-mail: NOAACorps.Recruiting@noaa.gov
Mail: NOAA Corps Commissioned Personnel Center
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 500
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282

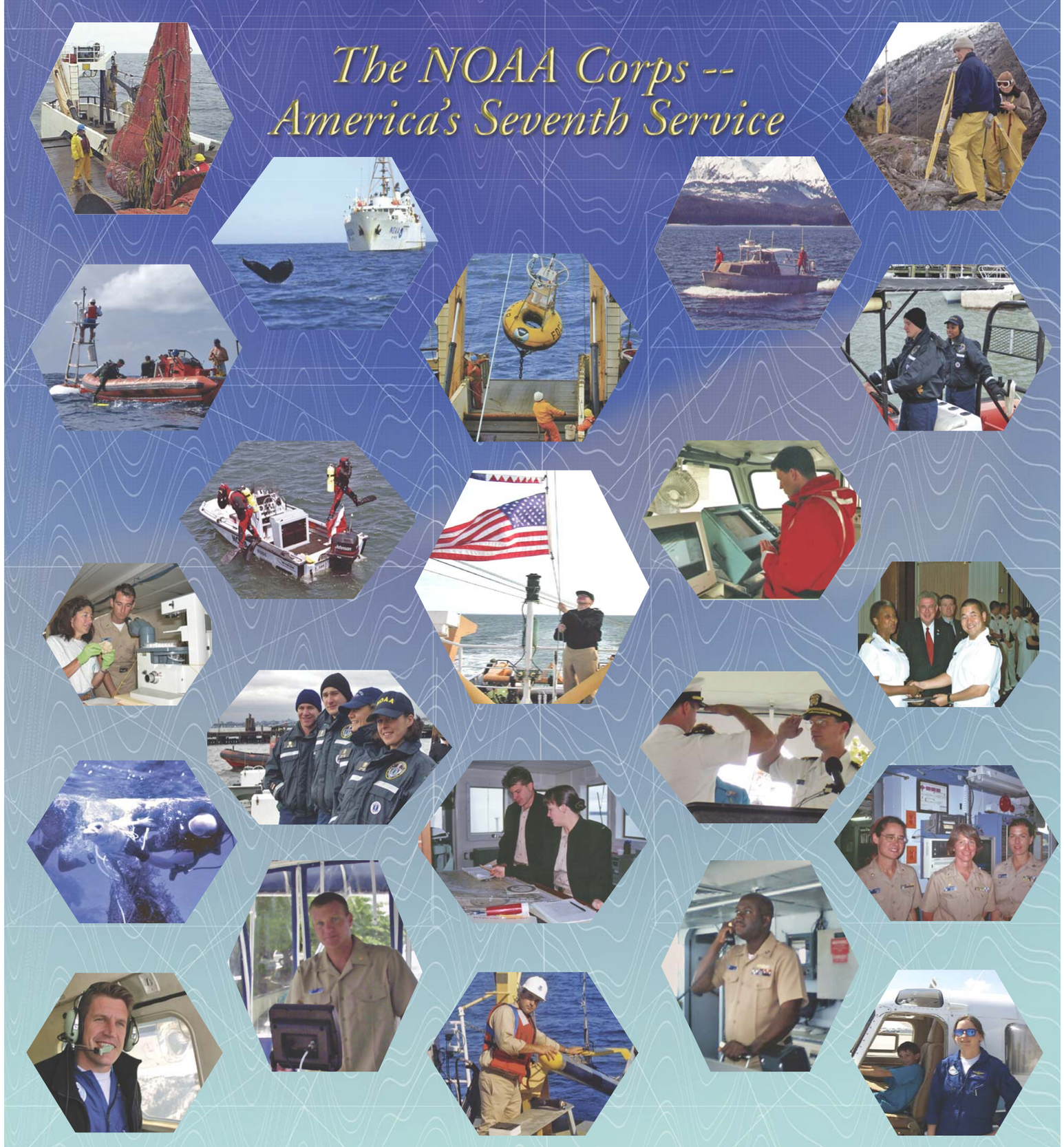


NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the U.S. Department of Commerce, is home to the Nation's seventh, and smallest, uniformed service - the NOAA Commissioned Corps. The officers of the NOAA Corps command NOAA's research and survey vessels, fly NOAA's "hurricane hunter" and environmental monitoring, aircraft work on mobile field survey parties, and serve in a variety of management positions throughout the agency.

In a typical career, a NOAA Corps officer's resumé could include such duties as serving aboard a hydrographic, fisheries, or oceanographic research ship; scuba diving; conducting fish and marine mammal surveys, environmental satellite operations, and engineering field work; research at one of NOAA's numerous laboratory facilities across the country; or flying into the eye of a hurricane.

NOAA Corps officers have played key roles in assessing the environmental damage from the Exxon Valdez and Persian Gulf oil spills, 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. Most recently, NOAA aircraft and personnel provided support to the World Trade Center and Pentagon recovery and clean-up efforts by mapping the wreckage using remote sensing technology. NOAA ships also assisted in the search and location of the wreckage from the crashes of TWA flight 800, John F. Kennedy, Jr.'s aircraft, and EgyptAir flight 990.

Service in today's NOAA Corps combines a scientific or engineering career with extensive travel and varied assignments rotating between ships or aircraft and office assignments in technical and management positions. A commissioned officer enters the NOAA Corps in the grade of ensign and may be promoted to the grade of rear admiral.



NOAA Corps History

The 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 agency was tasked with charting U.S. coastal waters to promote seaborne commerce along the newly formed United States. The forerunner to the NOAA Corps was created in 1917 by Congress as the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (C&GS) Corps to provide officers to command the Survey's ship and field survey parties.

During World War I and II, C&GS officers and hydrographic officers were transferred to the military during wartime. Following the war, officers and ships returned to C&GS.

The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey was transferred to the Environmental Science and Services Agency (ESSA) during the 1960's and the U.S. C&GS Corps was renamed the ESSA Corps. In October 1970, NOAA was created and the officers became members of the NOAA Corps.

Corps officers have been instrumental in continuing the advancement of science and engineering, particularly in the refinement and development of new technologies for automated data collection, environmental analyses, aerial mapping, and hydrographic and meteorological instrumentation.

Growing public environmental awareness and concern since the 1970's were matched by an expansion of NOAA and Corps' responsibilities into 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.