



The Captain's Corner

One day, a mariner will be able to renew or upgrade their credentials on demand from any location in the world, much like you can access cash from an ATM machine or electronically file your income tax returns. The process will take minutes instead of weeks or months. Getting there will involve change. The Restructuring and Centralization project is a critical part of achieving this vision.

As we proceed with Restructuring and Centralization, it is important that everyone be familiar with the changes that will take place with the MLD program. The role of the RECs, the NMC, and even the mariner will change as the credentialing process is improved.

Last week, we distributed a presentation to each REC on how the MLD processes will change with centralization and as we moved towards electronic application submission and evaluations. This same presentation was distributed to the Areas, Districts, and Sector Commanders. I also presented this to MERPAC and TSAC to help members of these important advisory committees become familiar with what is changing. Please take the time to review this presentation and use the vision as a focal point for examining how you can add new value for our customers. To access the process presentation, go to: <http://www.uscg.mil/stcw/Whats%20new%20o%20NMC/Mariner%20Licensing%20and%20Documentation%20Centralization%20Overview.ppt>.

David C. Stalfort
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commanding Officer
National Maritime Center

Building Updates

The interior walls and windows for the training room are being constructed as we speak. For previous building updates and to follow the on-going progress, please visit: <http://www.gsa-projects.com/ProjectDetails.aspx?id=14>.



NMC Address Change

As we proceed with the NMC restructuring and centralization project, we continue to evolve and this is another sign that we are moving forward. Mr. Keith Janssen, NMC-32 Admin Officer, reported that NMC asked for an internal Coast Guard change of address from Arlington, VA to Kearneysville WV. This will be a temporary change due to the planned relocation of the NMC to the new building in December. However, please forward all mail intended for the National Maritime Center to the address below. Effective Date: 14 Sep 07

**Commanding Officer
United States Coast Guard
National Maritime Center
130 East Burr Blvd.
Kearneysville, WV 25430**



Staffing Updates

NMC-5 Marine Evaluation Specialist, GS-11
Closing: October 1st

NMC-5 Legal Instruments Examiner, GS-09
Closing: October 3rd

NMC-3 Budget Technician, GS-07
Closing: October 9th

See USA Jobs <http://www.usajobs.gov/>
Search: Homeland Security, US Coast Guard

NMC staffing 61% of full strength

REC Chief Conference Planned

Mark your calendars! We are tentatively planning a REC Chief Conference during the first full week of November (5 – 9 Nov). The theme for this conference will be to finalize our REC Transition Book. I have asked you to look at the topics being covered in the book and have received lots of input. Additionally, I anticipate coming back to you for more assistance – we can't do it alone! I hope to have a draft REC Transition Book for each of you before the conference (actually, as a read ahead) and would like to hammer out some of the last details during the conference. To that end, the format for the conference will be drastically different from years past. The first two days, I hope to have NMC "presentations" and discussions, mostly focused on the transitions. I then want to devote the next two days to breakout sessions, specifically addressing transition issues. Topics tentatively include: processing maritime academy applications, "bulk" processing from schools, Streamline Evaluation Process, budget building. If you have a specific topics that you'd like to hear about or want to devote a breakout session for, please let me know!

CDR Craig S. Swirbliss, NMC-1

FAREWELLS

LT Mike Toth (NMC-1) leaving NMC
Kearneysville, WV on 20 Sep

CWO3 Elizabeth Blackford (NMC-3) leaving
NMC Kearneysville, WV on 30 Sep

Perry Stutman (NMC-2) leaving NMC
Arlington, VA on 28 Sep

Kestutis (KC) Boga (NMC-2) retiring from NMC
Arlington, VA on 28 Sep

We thank them for their countless contributions and wish them all the best for their future endeavors.

Upcoming Future Events

Nov 5th- 9th, 2007
REC Chief Conference
Conference Theme:
The REC Transition Book

Technical Difficulties with USCG Email account!!

Please be advised that we **were** experiencing technical difficulties with the IASKNMC@uscg.mil email account. We were not able to see or respond to the emails sent to that address since 24 Aug. As of 18 Sep, IT folks at NMC, HQ and TISCOM were able to correct the problem and transfer all waiting emails to the help desk and they are responding to them now. Our apologies for delayed responses to these queries and we appreciate your patience.

Ms. Tina Bassett, NMC-5 Division Chief



RECorner

Fall out money

As the fiscal year spending was winding down earlier this month, the NMC budget people discovered an excess of money that was already obligated by NMC but needed to be “spent” elsewhere. Since we had already passed our own spending deadlines, we needed to forward the spending opportunity onto the 17 RECs. As a result, I received numerous requests from RECs to help spend the money. We were able to successfully FTA an excess of \$100K to nine of the RECs who requested funding. Some of the things purchased were replacement copiers, computer monitors, desks, chairs and office supplies (sorry – no 54” hi-def plasma TV for “training purposes”!) We hope to have more opportunities like this in the future to assist the RECs.

CDR Craig S. Swirbliss, NMC-1

REC NOLA visit

As part of the REC Transition process, following lessons learned from our transitioning of REC Baltimore, we realized that we needed to bring REC NOLA management up to NMC to see the actual processing of applications. So, on Wednesday, Sep 19th, Rich Wells and Dalva Augillard visited NMC in West Virginia. We showed them the entire process at NMC– from when the application arrives in the door up to when the credential gets mailed out. Even though REC NOLA has been working under the transition process for a better part of a year now, a lot of changes and progress has been made in the overall process that we felt REC NOLA needed to see first hand. We were able to answer a lot of Rich and Dalva’s questions and further picked their brains for lessons learned for future REC transitions.

CDR Craig S. Swirbliss, NMC-1

Introduction Letter from the new Communication Manager

In last week’s issue of the “Wave”, Christine Nohre bid her farewell and introduced me to you as your new communications manager. This week, I would like to take the opportunity to ensure you that I will continue in the efforts set forth, and hope that you will assist me in doing so, by carrying on the steady flow of feedback and suggestions. I share the concept that we are a team and as the saying goes, “There is no letter ‘I’ in team”. I look forward to working with you as the team progresses to the new and improved National Maritime Center.

Claudia Anderson

Claudia.S.Anderson@uscg.mil



How about a little Coast Guard Humor

A friend, driving home from a fishing trip in northern Michigan with his boat in tow, had engine trouble a few miles inland from Lake Huron. He didn't have a CB radio in his car, so he decided to use his marine radio to get help. Climbing into his boat, he broadcast his call letters and asked for assistance.

A Coast Guard officer responded, "Please give your location."

"I'm on Interstate-75, two miles south of Standish."

The officer paused, "Could you repeat that?"

"I-75, two miles south of Standish."

A longer pause - then an incredulous voice asked, "How fast were you going when you hit shore?"

**We encourage questions from
ALL REC & NMC Employees!**

Please sent all your questions
on restructuring and
implementation to

Claudia Anderson

Claudia.S.Anderson@uscg.mil