



The Captain's Corner

Naming Contest for our Electronic Credential System

As you've heard me say before, we will build a "turbo-tax" like system for mariners to use to submit their credential applications. The system will help mariners by guiding them through the application process. It will prompt mariners for specific information to ensure their application is complete. Mariners will use this system to electronically submit applications, rather than using paper-based applications. Mariners could even use the system to take exams. Finally, we will use this system to manage workflow, produce/grade exams, conduct security, medical and qualification evaluations, and produce finished credentials. The system will have links to references and will have the capability to pull data in from other systems, internally and externally.

Intuit, Inc. already has a trademark for "Turbo-Tax" so we can't use this. Further "Turbo-tax" doesn't refer to credentials...and there's nothing maritime about it. So we need a name for this soon-to-be-developed system.

So, I'm offering an award to the person that dreams up the best name to call this new system. Several people have already suggested some possible names, so start thinking! Please email me your best ideas by October 12th.

Good luck!

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

Building Updates

There are no new building updates to report to this date. You can view and follow the building progress by going to the webpage below.

<http://www.gsa-projects.com/ProjectDetails.aspx?id=14>.



Upcoming Future Event

05 November - 09 November 2007

REC T.E.A.M. Meeting

Meeting Theme:

The REC Transition Book

Location: Shepherdstown, WV

NMC Personnel Move to WV Is Complete

As of 01 October 2007, the move of all National Maritime Center personnel located in Arlington, VA to Kearneysville, WV is complete. With the arrival of the remainder of the Command Staff and NMC-2 (Mariner Training & Assessment Division), the NMC organization is now located in one central, however temporary, work location. The consolidation of the NMC organization in one location will allow for continuous improvement of the mariner licensing and credentialing processes. Later this year, NMC will relocate into its permanent location located in Martinsburg, WV.



Staffing Updates

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

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

NMC-2 Marine Transportation Specialist, GS-13
Closing: October 12th

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

NMC staffing 61% of full strength



FAREWELLS

Mrs. Carolyn Campbell (NMC-4) Arlington retires on 01 Oct. after over 34 years of service with NMC.

BMCS Eric Renker, (NMC-5) left NMC Kearneysville, WV on 24 Sep 07

PS1 Michael Stallings, (NMC-4) left NMC Kearneysville, WV on 30 Sep 07

MST1 Gary Johnson, (NMC-5) left NMC Kearneysville, WV on 30 Sep 07

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

WELCOME

Mr. William Allen III, NMC-43 Data Management Branch. Report date: 01 Oct 07

Ms. Mildred Morris, NMC-5 LIE
Report date: 01 Oct 07

Ms Sherry Gilley, NMC-43, Data Management Branch

Mr. Mike Clements, NMC-43 Data Management Branch

A warm welcome to NMC West Virginia

REC T.E.A.M. Meeting (A.K.A. - REC Chief Conference) Update

Keeping with the spirit of creating one consistent methodology to support credentialing, the name of the REC Chief Conference was changed to REC **T**ransitional **E**ducation **A**ction **M**eeting in short, REC T.E.A.M.

We would like to update you on the planning of the upcoming REC T.E.A.M. meeting. Reservations for conference rooms for the 5th through the 9th of November are being made at the Clarion Inn in Shepherdstown, WV. Accommodations, conference rooms and meals are included. This week, we will be sending out TONO information to all REC Chiefs and I am in the process of gathering topic suggestions. I would encourage and value input from all REC Chiefs. Consider what you want to talk about relative to our upcoming transition. Tentative topics now include:

- Processing maritime academy applications (this is a definite item)
- “Bulk” processing from schools
- Streamline Evaluation Process
- Cash-free operations
- Budget building.

If you have specific topics that you'd like to hear about or want to devote a breakout session to, please contact Rob Hess (304-728-9153) Robert.P.Hess@uscg.mil



RECorner

Sea Service Calculator

We are initiating a program to develop sea service calculation and need your assistance! What we are looking for are best practices, in regards to how your REC calculates sea service.

- Do you have a job aid that spells out, in detail, how you calculate sea service?
- Do you have a “smart” spreadsheet that assists you in your calculations?

Please forward any suggestions to Craig.S.Swirbliss@uscg.mil

REC Transition Guide

Last week, I sent you a .pdf version of the “NEW” and “Slightly-Improved”, REC Transition Guide presentation. That presentation was meant to replace the previously published version. Depending on the image version on your computer, I found that the fonts were inconsistent throughout the presentation. Changes made to the newly released presentation included:

- Adjusted the fonts throughout the presentation
- Converted presentation to .pdf
- Added explanatory text to centralization slides
- Updated the NMC Divisions organizational chart

This guide should provide an overview of the transitioning process. The anticipated audience for this presentation are the legacy (non-transitioned) RECs, and their Sector commands. But it also provides enough details about future states for all of the RECs.

NMC Website Redesign Update and Outreach

As reported in a prior issue of the Wave, NMC is committed to improving customer service and is in the process of redesigning the websites most frequently used by the Mariners. LT Stickle reports that efforts to consolidate, update and reorganize the NMC web site continue with the focus on improved communications and accessibility. With this direction in mind, the NMC web site has some new functionality; a new button in the left menu bar called “What’s New at NMC.” This button provides access to information about the NMC transition from Arlington, VA to Martinsburg, WV and other process improvements and updates.

Future updates are forthcoming and will include:

- 1) Website functionality review to ensure the NMC web site design aids mariners in locating the information they need.
- 2) Review and refresh of all data on the NMC web site .
- 3) The addition of an NMC Web support in WV to implement these efforts.

Also, to enhance mariner outreach and communications, NMC has implemented nine mailing lists. To subscribe to these mailing lists and the associated notice of information updates, use the following address: http://cgls.uscg.mil/grp_list.php. Messages sent to that mailing list are then delivered to the e-mail address you provide when subscribing.



RECorner

Evaluation Process Update

In a continued effort to help customers with the credential evaluation process, partial evaluations in the areas of sea service, medical fitness and safety/security can be requested prior to official submission of a complete application package. This partial evaluation will allow customers direct contact with evaluators to receive guidance or address specific concerns. A full application will still be required if the customer is seeking a documented response. To request a partial evaluation, customers should contact the Help Desk to be connected with an evaluator.

This service is now available at the National Maritime Center and will save the customer time and money, as well as provide the NMC with the opportunity to evaluate this process and allow for the future introduction of electronic screening calculators.

Tina Bassett, NMC-5 Division Chief

Looking for Best Business Practices

The RECs have been on the front line delivering the Coast Guard's credentialing processes. Over time, some of you have become known for specializing in certain areas. We would like to share your expertise with the other RECs in the form of 'Best Practices'. What do you consistently perform on a high level? Does your REC excel in an area other RECs should know about? Please take a moment to examine your particular competencies, outline what they are, and forward this information to Rob Hess (304-728-9153) Robert.P.Hess@uscg.mil

Thanks.

CDR C. Swirbliss, NMC-1

Questions on restructuring and implementation may be sent to
Claudia.S.Anderson@uscg.mil
We encourage questions from
ALL REC & NMC Employees!