



The Captain's Corner

Sometimes it's very simple to implement a change that eases the burden on mariners and lessens the workload on the Coast Guard. In many cases, our processes and procedures are driven by tradition; "because we've always done it this way". This week, we announced a change in the way the NMC issues and renews "Designated Examiners" for the assessment of competence of candidates for towing vessel licenses.

Since 2001, the National Maritime Center has approved almost 2,500 mariners to act as Designated Examiners. To date, Designated Examiners were approved for a period of two years.

New Procedure

To help reduce the burden on the towing industry and the Coast Guard, the National Maritime Center will begin approving Designated Examiners for a period of five years instead of the current two. This change will apply to all original approvals and renewals of previously granted approvals that occur on and after November 1, 2007. This will not change the expiration date of existing approvals. The process for obtaining or renewing an approval as a Designated Examiner is as follows:

- **Original Approvals**
Mariners seeking approval to serve as a Designated Examiner should send a written request to the National Maritime Center. This request should include a description of the mariner's experience operating towing vessels that includes the dates, towing vessels involved and their tonnage and horsepower, the capacity in which they served, the types of tows and areas transited. The request should also include a description of the mariner's experience and training in conducting assessments and providing training.
- **Renewals of Existing Approvals.**
Mariners wishing to renew their approval as a Designated Examiner need only send a short letter to the National Maritime Center that requests renewal and briefly describes their experience operating towing vessels since their last approval.

For Additional Information

If you have specific questions regarding this new procedure, please contact Mr. James Cavo in the NMC's Mariner Training and Assessment Division at James.D.Cavo@uscg.mil or (304) 724-9546.

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

Staffing Updates

NMC-4 Legal Instrument
Examiner, GS-11
Closing: October 19th

NMC-2, Merchant Marine Evaluation
Specialist, GS 12,
Closing Date: October 24th

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

NMC staffing 61% of full strength



MILLITARY

LT Jill Creigh, US Coast Guard Reservist

CIVILLIAN

Jennifer Hogge, NMC-5, Merchant Marine
Evaluation Specialist
Ray Lewis, NMC-4, QA Specialist

CONTRACTOR:

Christine Weist, NMC-4, Mariner Document
Clerk.
Kathleen Peters, NMC-5, Documents
Specialist
Liz Schroades, NMC-5, Documents
Specialist
Mike Toth, NMC-4, Project Lead QA
Branch

A warm welcome to NMC West Virginia



Future Event

05 November - 09 November 2007

REC T.E.A.M. Meeting

Meeting Theme:

The REC Transition Book

Location: Shepherdstown, WV

NMC-Morale Committee - Skating Party

The first event hosted by the National Maritime Center Morale Committee was an enormous success and the turn out was impressive. There was a large attendance of staff, family and friends. Looking at this event from the perspective of team building efforts, it was a great way to improve the way team members interact, boost morale, and increase team mentality. I appeal to all **RECs** to share with us your local events and "Get Togethers". Introduce your teams and send your pictures to Claudis.S.Anderson@uscg.mil



Building Updates

Jeffrey Brandt, NMC-3 Division Chief reports that due to issues in the construction process related to getting power to the building, the decision was made to push up the move dates by 1 week. The schedule will remain consistent with the previous plan. Arlington, NMC-0, 1 & 2 will move over the weekend of 7-9 December and NMC 4 & 5 over the weekend of 14-16 December. Furniture installation is slated to begin on 12 November starting from the 3rd deck downward and be allotted 21 working days to completion. The IT infrastructure installation will follow right behind and overlap with the furniture installation. Looking at a calendar, you can see that this is very tight timing.

There is a lot to be done yet, but we are reasonably confident that the builder can get us to this schedule. We have told the Contracting Officer that we would not entertain move dates over the weekends of 22 and 29 December. Therefore, if anything were to slip further, the move would have to occur after the New Year. The pressure is on and the contractor has significant penalties for being delayed, so you can be assured that they will do everything they can to get the building ready for occupancy.



The building is coming along. The outside received its first coat of paint this week. Wallboard is nearly complete on the 3rd floor and some painting has begun inside. Second floor wallboard is nearly complete. HVAC systems are nearing completion. You can view and follow the building progress by going to the webpage below.

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



RECorner

REC T.E.A.M. Meeting Update

REC T.E.A.M. UPDATE

The NMC will be hosting the Regional Examination Center (REC) Transitional Education Action Meeting, in short, REC T.E.A.M., in Shepherdstown, WV during the week of 05 Nov 07 through 09 Nov 07. This meeting will replace the traditional REC SIP conference. We have provided TONO's, generated travel orders and arranged accommodations for the individuals participating along with authorizing 3 rental vehicles to assist with transportation needs. Meeting preparation updates are being sent regularly to keep you informed.

The focus of the meeting will be to construct and partially complete the NMC/REC Transition Book as well as obtain valuable input from each REC Chief to ensure a smooth transition as each REC centralizes in the MLD program. A draft agenda has been presented to the NMC Senior Staff for review and feedback and, once approved, a copy of the agenda, a meeting guide (highlighting expectations) and an outline of goals and objectives will be sent to each participant. The meeting will be comprised of short presentations in the morning and working groups in the afternoon. The goal is to conclude the meeting on Friday at noon after submission and acceptance of all required deliverables. A friendly reminder, please bring the previously requested items (see below) with you for discussion. We look forward to your participation and for further questions and inquiries, please contact Rob Hess at (304)728-9153.

REQUESTED INFORMATION

Budget Preps - In preparation for the upcoming REC TEAM, Mr. Barry Walker sent an email last week requesting operating expenses used by your REC for FY07. Ideally, we would like to see your FY08 spend plans for analysis (FY07 will do if FY08 is not available). I realize this may be a tall order for some.

If spend plans are not available, we can look up your historical spending. To get that information, we need access to your Finance & Procurement Desktop (FPD) account to allow us to run accounting transaction reports specific to the REC. To run the reports, we would need your account ID (if an independent account was established for your REC) or the account ID of the supporting CG financial management entity. Specifically: (1) Region Code, (2) Appropriation LIM Code, (3) Project Code assigned to the REC, and (4) Program Element. This info should be readily available from your supporting CG financial management entity.



RECorner

REC T.E.A.M. Meeting Update

REQUESTED INFORMATION (continued)

Property Management - We also would like to see your property listing. If property list is not available, please provide the custodian code assigned to the REC, OPFAC and cost account of the supporting/servicing CG unit.

For specific questions or clarification on FPD or property accounts, please contact Mr. Reno D. Villanueva (Chief, Finance Branch, NMC-3) at (304)724-9534.

Otherwise, please provide all of the above requested information as best as possible to either Mr. Reno Villanueva or Mr. Barry Walker.

OCMI Agreements - Please gather your current and working local policies, memorandums of understanding (MOU) and any letters of intent (LOI) which you are utilizing for discussion and possible work group while you are here. If you prefer you may email them to Pam Brill (Pamela.G.Brill@uscg.mil) or to me instead of bringing them with you.

CDR Craig S. Swirbliss (NMC-1)

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

Questions on restructuring and implementation may be sent to
Claudia.S.Anderson@uscg.mil