



March 2018

Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) and the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps





OMAO Introduction

NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) supports an array of specialized ships and aircraft that gather oceanographic, atmospheric, hydrographic, and fisheries data in support of NOAA's public safety, environmental stewardship, and scientific missions, which are vital to the Nation's economic security. OMAO includes civilians, mariners, and officers of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps, one of the seven uniformed services of the United States. NOAA is currently authorized for 321 Corps officers, excluding flag officers. OMAO civilians and NOAA Corps officers operate, manage, and maintain NOAA's active fleet of 16 research and survey ships and nine specialized aircrafts.



OMAO and the NOAA Corps

Rear Admiral Michael J. Silah (2 star)

Director of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps and Office of Marine and Aviation Operations



As Director of the NOAA Corps and OMAO, Rear Admiral (RADM) Silah is responsible for the safe, efficient and effective operation of the agency's fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft, as well as guiding the 321 commissioned NOAA officers and approximately 1,000 civilian personnel assigned to OMAO. He was commissioned into the United States Navy in 1992 and served in Patrol Squadron Nine (VP-9) as the squadron's safety officer, completing three deployments to Southeast Asia and the Persian Gulf. He also served in Naval Force Aircraft Test Squadron (FORCE) before transferring to the NOAA Corps in 2002.

RADM Silah previously served as Commanding Officer of NOAA's Aircraft Operations Center, Chief of Staff of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction, Chief of Staff of OMAO, and aide-de-camp to the NOAA Administrator. RADM Silah has flown over 3,000 flight hours in the P-3, including over 1,500 hours as pilot-in-command, over 500 hours of Navy flight test, and nearly 150 hurricane penetrations.

RADM Silah's full bio may be viewed on the [OMAO website](https://www.omaο.noaa.gov/find/people/michael-j-silah) (<https://www.omaο.noaa.gov/find/people/michael-j-silah>).

OMAO and the NOAA Corps

Rear Admiral Nancy L. Hann (1 star)

Deputy Director of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps and Deputy Director for Operations, Office of Marine and Aviation Operations



As Deputy Director, Rear Admiral (RDML) Hann is responsible for the direct leadership and management of program and business operations, providing for the safe, efficient and effective operation of the agency's fleet of research and survey ships and aircraft, as well as the management of the NOAA Corp's 321 commissioned officers and approximately 1,000 civilian personnel assigned to OMAO.

RDML Hann most recently served as the Commanding Officer of the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center (AOC). Previously, she served as Chief of Staff of OMAO, Executive Officer, Marine Operations Center – Atlantic, and two additional tours at AOC as both manned and unmanned aircraft pilot.

RDML Hann holds an undergraduate degree in Marine Science and Biology from The University of San Diego and Graduate Degrees in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School, and in Aeronautical Science and Space studies from Embry–Riddle Aeronautical University.

OMAO

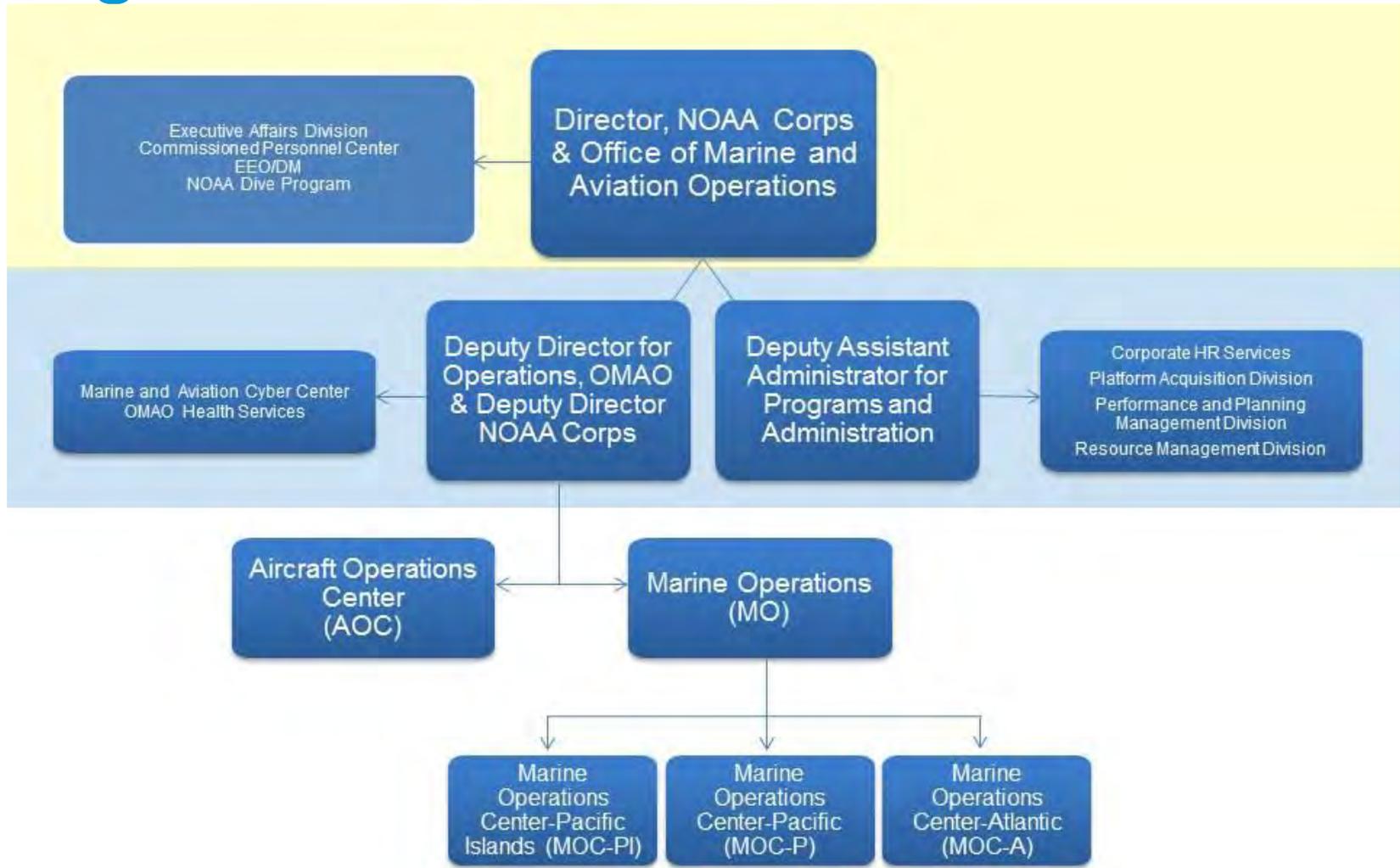
Providing Environmental Intelligence For a Dynamic World

The personnel, ships, and aircraft of OMAO play a critical role in gathering environmental data vital to the nation's economic security, the safety of its citizens, and the understanding, protection, and management of our natural resources.

The fleet of specialized research ships and aircraft is managed and operated by OMAO, which is composed of civilians, mariners, and officers of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps - one of the seven uniformed services of the United States.



Organizational Chart



Please visit the [About Section](https://www.oma.noaa.gov/learn/about-oma) of OMAO's website for more information on its leadership and organizational structure (<https://www.oma.noaa.gov/learn/about-oma>).

OMAO Personnel



A diverse workforce consisting of six distinct personnel systems & five bargaining units that includes:

- Federal Civilian Employees: Primarily land-side mission support, platform acquisition and maintenance, resource management, and administration.
- Wage Mariners: Sea-going crew aboard NOAA Ships; engineers, deck, stewards, and mates.
- Commissioned Officers:
 - NOAA Corps officers serve in NOAA operational and leadership positions at sea, in the air, and ashore.
 - Public Health Service officers provide medical care at sea and medical administrative services ashore.
- Contractors: Specialized support in IT, platform acquisition, and administration.

NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps

- The NOAA Corps traces its roots back to the former U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, which dates back to 1807 and President Thomas Jefferson.
- NOAA Corps officers all have a science or engineering background and provide the technical and operational expertise, dynamic leadership, and breadth of experience to optimize NOAA's missions through planning, preparation, and execution.
- NOAA Corps officers serve throughout the agency to support nearly all of NOAA's programs and missions.
- NOAA Corps officers operate OMAO's ships, fly aircraft, manage research projects, conduct diving operations, and more.
- Visit the [NOAA Corps website](https://www.oma.noaa.gov/learn/noaa-commissioned-officer-corps) to learn more (<https://www.oma.noaa.gov/learn/noaa-commissioned-officer-corps>).





OMAO Assets and Facilities

Ships, Homeports, and Marine Operations Centers (MOCs)



Please visit the [Marine Operations](https://www.oma.noaa.gov/learn/marine-operations) section of OMAO's website for more information (<https://www.oma.noaa.gov/learn/marine-operations>).



OMAO Ships – Sample of Missions

OMAO's Ships Sailed 2,631 Days at Sea in FY17



Hurricane Response

In 2017, after Hurricane Maria, NOAA Ship *Thomas Jefferson* departed Florida for Puerto Rico and the U.S Virgin Islands to conduct surveys in and around ports. The ship searched for sunken storm debris and provided critical information regarding navigational safety for multiple vital ports.



Fisheries Research

In 2017, the NOAA Ship *Oregon II* hosted scientists from the NOAA Southeast Fisheries Science Center, Tulane University, and Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi as they sampled the northern Gulf of Mexico from the south Texas coast to the south Florida, using trawling gear to determine the abundance and distribution of benthic fauna.

Please view the latest [Fleet Update](http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs.html) for more mission samples (<http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs.html>).





OMAO Assets and Facilities

Aircraft and the Aircraft Operations Center (AOC)



2 - Lockheed WP-3D Orion
“Hurricane Hunters”



1 - Gulfstream IV-SP “Hurricane Hunter”



4 - DeHavilland Twin Otter



1 - Beechcraft King Air 350CER



1 - Gulfstream Turbo Commander

OMAO’s nine light and heavy aircraft operate throughout the United States and around the world; over open oceans, mountains, coastal wetlands, and Arctic pack ice. When not flying missions, the aircraft are home based at the Aircraft Operations Center (AOC) in Lakeland, Florida.



Please visit the [Aircraft Operations](https://www.omaο.noaa.gov/learn/aircraft-operations) section of OMAO’s website for more information (<https://www.omaο.noaa.gov/learn/aircraft-operations>).



OMAO Aircraft – Sample of Missions

OMAO's Aircraft Flew Over 4,200 Flight Hours in FY17



Hurricane Forecasts/Response

NOAA flight crews and scientists flew a combined 622 hours for hurricane surveillance, research, and emergency response in 2017.

OMAO's King Air aircraft collected over 65,000 aerial images of damaged communities from Houston to the U.S. Virgin Islands, rapidly providing that imagery to first-responders and the public.

Water Resource Surveys

Flying just 500 feet above the Upper Midwest, and the Northeast, OMAO's Jet Prop Commander Aircraft collected Snow Water Equivalent data for NOAA's National Weather Service. This data is used when issuing river and flood forecasts, water supply forecasts, and spring flood outlooks.

Please view the latest [Aircraft Flights and Mission Info Summary](http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs.html) for more mission samples (<http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs.html>).



OMAO – Other Programs and Support

NOAA Dive Program

OMAO manages and implements [NOAA's Diving Program](#) (NDP), which trains and certifies scientists, engineers, and technicians from federal, state, tribal governments, and the private sector. NDP also has cooperative diving agreements with over 100 government agencies and academic institutions. NOAA has more than 400 divers who perform over 14,000 dives per year.

Small Boat Program

OMAO sets policy and provides safety inspections for almost 400 small boats throughout NOAA through the [Small Boat Program](#).



Teachers at Sea

The [Teacher at Sea](#) program provides a unique environment for learning and teaching by sending kindergarten through college-level teachers to sea aboard OMAO's ships to work under the tutelage of scientists and crew, including officers of the NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps.

In 2017, 29 teachers representing 20 states participated in the Teacher at Sea Program.

Unmanned Systems

OMAO and the NOAA Corps provide a number of services to NOAA and NOAA's Partners to support [unmanned systems](#) from launch platforms, to technical support, to pilots.



Please view the latest [Fleet Update](http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs.html) for updates on all of these Programs and support efforts (<http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/policybriefs.html>).

OMAO and NOAA Corps Support

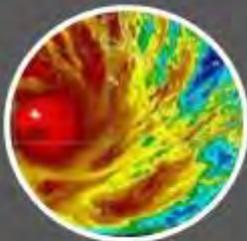
OMAO Personnel and Assets Work With, and Serve, All NOAA Line Offices



**National
Weather
Service
(NWS)**



**Office of
Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Research
(OAR)**



**National
Environmental
Satellite, Data,
& Information
Service
(NESDIS)**



**National
Ocean
Service
(NOS)**



**National
Marine
Fisheries
Service
(NMFS)**

Please visit the NOAA's [Organization page](http://www.noaa.gov/about/organization) for more information on NOAA's Line, Corporate, and Staff Offices (<http://www.noaa.gov/about/organization>).

OMAO and NOAA Corps Support

NWS



Did you know?

Using our aircraft (P-3, G-IV, Jet Prop) and ships, OMAO supports NWS missions such as:

- Hurricane track and landfall predictions
- Winter storm intensity and tracks
- Snow Surveys and soil moisture measurements
- Tropical Atmosphere Ocean (TAO) Buoy Maintenance



OMAO and NOAA Corps Support

OAR

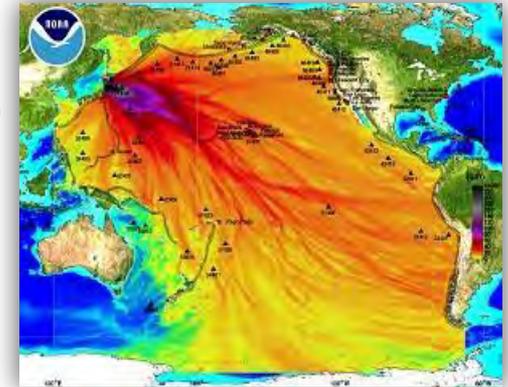


Office of
Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Research
(OAR)

Did you know?

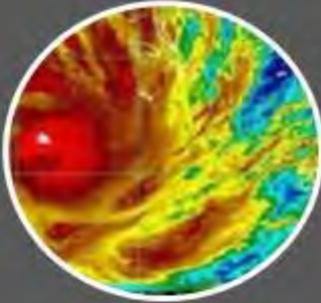
Using our aircraft (P-3) and ships, OMAO supports OAR missions such as:

- Blue water oceanographic research hydrothermal vent studies
- Air quality studies
- Research to anticipate and respond to weather extremes such as El Niño



OMAO and NOAA Corps Support

NESDIS

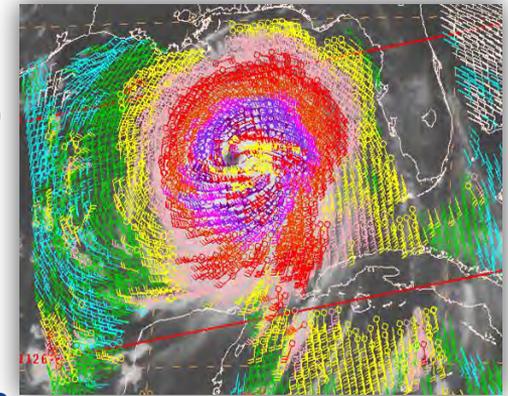


National
Environmental
Satellite, Data,
& Information
Service
(NESDIS)

Did you know?

Using our aircraft (P-3) and ships, OMAO supports NESDIS missions such as:

- Ocean Winds – Advanced measurements to improve the use of ocean surface wind data
- VIIRS – Validation and calibration of ocean color sensor missions



OMAO and NOAA Corps Support

NOS

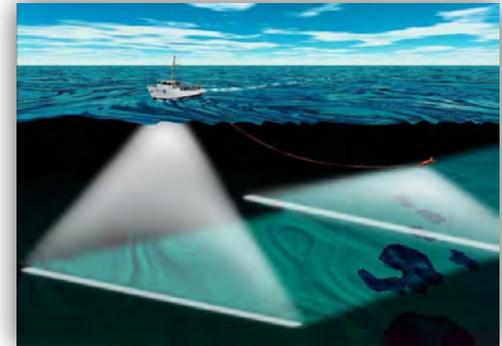


National
Ocean
Service
(NOS)

Did you know?

Using our aircraft (King Air, Twin Otter, Jet Prop), ships, unmanned aircraft systems, and small boats, OMAO supports NOS missions such as:

- Nautical chart data, habitat, and coral reef mapping
- Sanctuary support and coral reef research and monitoring
- Dive platforms and operations
- Updates to U.S. coastline data needed to manage coastal resources and support marine navigation



OMAO and NOAA Corps Support

NMFS



**National
Marine
Fisheries
Service
(NMFS)**

Did you know?

Using our aircraft (Twin Otter) and ships, OMAO supports NMFS missions such as:

- Fish stock assessments
- Marine mammal surveys
- Biological sampling
- Ecosystems research



OMAO's Partnerships

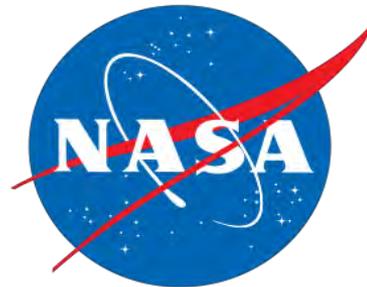
OMAO and the NOAA Corps provide key services and leadership to a number of federal agencies and external partners to help them meet their mission – and ours - and to better leverage federal resources.



US Army Corps of Engineers®



FEMA



BOEM
BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT



UNOLS
UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORY SYSTEM

NOPP
National Oceanographic Partnership Program



Helpful OMAO/NOAA Corps Web Links

OMAO Sites

[OMAO](#)

[NOAA Corps](#)

[NOAA Fleet Update](#)

[Aircraft Flights and Mission Info Summary](#)

Two Pagers, Reports, and Informational Slide Decks

[OMAO two pager with Recent Mission Highlights – 2018](#)

[OMAO Fleet Recapitalization Slide Deck – Building NOAA’s 21st Century Fleet](#)

[OMAO Fleet Recapitalization Questions and Answers \(Q&As\)](#)

[NOAA Fleet Independent Review Team Final Report](#)

[The NOAA Fleet Plan: Building NOAA’s 21st Century Fleet](#)

Other OMAO Sites

[OMAO Marine Operations](#)

[OMAO Aircraft Operations](#)

[OMAO on Facebook](#)

[OMAO on Twitter](#)

[OMAO Ship Tracker - \(restricted to only .gov or .mil users\)](#)



NOAA

SCIENCE. SERVICE. STEWARDSHIP.



On the Web: www.noaa.gov | On Twitter: @NOAA | On Facebook: NOAA

