



## **NCI FLEETWOOD TRAINING MANUAL**

### **PART 19**

### **ASSESSMENT**

The NCI Training Manual sets out the basic content of required training for watchkeepers while allowing for variations appropriate to local conditions. The form of training, the balance of 'on watch' experience and classroom lessons, is a matter for each NCI station to design for itself. The importance of practical 'on watch' is emphasized such that a sufficient number are to be undertaken prior to formal assessment.

The decision as to when a trainee is ready for assessment is a matter for the Training Officer who, after seeking the views of those who have been involved in the training process, may invite the trainee to undertake assessment. The trainee is also required to assess his or her own training progress and may themselves request an assessment.

A standard assessment procedure has been devised at Fleetwood (Rossall Point) in order to ensure that trainees have acquired a consistent level of knowledge and experience to qualify as watchkeepers. The assessment will be conducted during a normal morning watch, unless there is good reason for it to be an afternoon watch, and will be conducted by the Training Officer, the deputy Training Officer or a nominated Senior watchkeeper.

The standard required on assessment is best summed up by the answer to the question, "would this trainee be able to conduct a single handed watch to a satisfactory and safe standard?" If the answer is, 'Yes', then the trainee will have passed the assessment. It is a requirement that a newly qualified watchkeeper will not conduct a single handed watch until at least another 10 watches have been carried out and should such a circumstance arise during that period the newly qualified watchkeeper **MUST** contact a member of the emergency backup team for immediate support.

Every watchkeeper will have had different life experiences, some of which may be pertinent to watch-keeping duties, and each will also have differing family and other personal commitments. For this reason there is not a set number of required watches before assessment but from experience it is generally recognised that assessment should only be considered after a minimum of 12 watches, and even more if attendance at the classroom lessons has not been exemplary.



# National Coastwatch Fleetwood

## EYES ALONG THE COAST



When both trainee and Training Officer agree that it is appropriate for an assessment to take place a Watch will be arranged on a date mutually convenient to the trainee and Training Officer (or deputy or other appointed officer). The Officer carrying out the assessment will ensure that another senior watchkeeper shall also be on duty in support of the watch.

It is preferable for the assessment to be during a morning watch and it will commence from the moment the trainee steps from the car park onto the Promenade. To this end the assessor and trainee should meet not later than 0930hrs at the car park exit to the Promenade.

The trainee will act as 'senior' watchkeeper for the whole watch and will be observed throughout as normal duties are fulfilled. At various times relevant questions will be asked, some of which will involve practical demonstration of learned skills at which times the third watchkeeper will cover normal duties.

After successful assessment the Training Officer will advise the outcome to the Station Manager, the Secretary, the Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Quarter Master and Social Media Officer. The Membership Secretary will arrange for issue of keys and the Quartermaster the issue of epaulets.