

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Secretary

[Public Notice 4337]

Amendment of the Restriction on the Use of United States Passports for Travel To, In or Through Iraq

On February 1, 1991, pursuant to the authority of 22 U.S.C. 211a and Executive Order 11295 (31 FR 10603), and in accordance with 22 CFR 51.73(a)(2) and (a)(3), all United States passports, with certain exceptions, were declared invalid for travel to, in, or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel. The restriction was originally imposed on the grounds that (1) armed hostilities then were taking place in Iraq and Kuwait and (2) there was an imminent danger to the safety of United States travelers to Iraq. American citizens then residing in Iraq and American professional reporters and journalists on assignment there were exempted from the restriction on the grounds that such exemptions were in the national interest. The restriction has been extended for additional one-year periods since then, and was last extended through February 25, 2004 by Public Notice 4283 of February 25, 2003. (68 FR 8791).

The armed hostilities now taking place in Iraq have increased the danger faced by U.S. citizens in Iraq, and current conditions in Iraq are extremely hazardous for Americans. Nevertheless, in light of U.S. national interests in facilitating the provision of humanitarian and other critical services in support of the Iraqi people, and pursuant to the authorities set forth in 22 U.S.C. 211a, Executive Order 11295, and 22 CFR 51.73, I have decided to amend the restriction on the use of U.S. passports for travel to, in, or through Iraq to exempt from its coverage certain persons providing humanitarian and other critical services in support of the Iraqi people.

Accordingly, Public Notice 4283, published on February 25, 2003 (68 FR 8791) is hereby amended by deleting the penultimate paragraph (beginning with "Accordingly") and replacing it with the following:

"Accordingly, United States passports shall continue to be invalid for travel to, in, or through Iraq unless specifically validated for such travel under the authority of the Secretary of State. This restriction on the validity of U.S. passports for travel to, in or through Iraq shall not apply to U.S. passports held by (1) persons resident in Iraq since February 1, 1991; (2) professional reporters and journalists on assignment there; (3) persons conducting humanitarian activities,

as defined in 31 CFR Section 575.330, through nongovernmental organizations registered with the U.S. Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) pursuant to 31 CFR Section 575.527(a); (4) persons conducting humanitarian activities subject to a specific license issued by OFAC; (5) persons conducting humanitarian activities funded by the U.S. Government; (6) personnel of the United Nations and its agencies; or (7) U.S. States Government personnel and contractors on official U.S. Government assignment in Iraq."

This Public Notice amending Public Notice Number 4283 shall be effective from the date it is published in the **Federal Register** and shall expire at midnight on February 25, 2004, unless sooner extended or revoked by Public Notice.

Dated: April 11, 2003.

Colin L. Powell,

Secretary of State, Department of State.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Navigation and Spectrum Policy 2003 Federal Radionavigation Plan

AGENCY: Office of Secretary of Transportation.

ACTION: Notice and request for public comment.

SUMMARY: Under the authority of the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 1998, the Department of Transportation, in conjunction with the Department of Defense, is required to publish a Federal Radionavigation Plan (FRP) not less than every two years. The FRP represents the official United States government policy and plan for common-use (*i.e.* civil and military) radionavigation systems. The FRP was last published in 2001 by the Department of Defense and the Department of Transportation. The next publication of the document is planned for 2003. When it is signed, a notice will be published in the **Federal Register** announcing its availability.

Due to the many advances in technology, radionavigation services are now widely used by public, industry, and government sectors alike. Improved services, lowered costs of user equipment, and new benefits have increased the overall user base of radionavigation services. As such, a key goal of the Office of Navigation and Spectrum Policy is to solicit input from all user communities on the desired policy and plan for federally operated

common-use radionavigation services. The Department of Transportation encourages all users of radionavigation systems and users of the FRP to submit their comments and inputs for updating the content of the 2001 FRP to reflect the current policy and plan for the 2003 FRP edition.

DATES: Comments must be filed by July 1, 2003. Late-filed comments will be considered to the extent possible.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the content, format, or scope of the FRP document should be emailed to: FRPinputs@ost.dot.gov Copies of the 2001 FRP can be downloaded free of charge at: <http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/pubs/frp2001/default.htm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Office of the Secretary, Navigation and Spectrum Policy at (202) 366-0353.

Dated: April 7, 2003.

Michael E. Shaw,

Director, Navigation and Spectrum Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council

ACTION: National Advisory Council public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Maritime Administration announces that the Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC) will hold a meeting to discuss the Council's Team reports, its SEA-21 proposal, short sea shipping, shipbuilding, MTS infrastructure needs and other issues. A public comment period is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2003. To provide time for as many people to speak as possible, speaking time for each individual will be limited to three minutes. Members of the public who would like to speak are asked to contact Raymond Barberesi by May 5, 2003. Commenters will be placed on the agenda in the order in which notifications are received. If time allows, additional comments will be permitted. Copies of oral comments must be submitted in writing at the meeting. Additional written comments are welcome and must be filed by May 20, 2003.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 2003, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday, May 13, 2003, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.