

Deepwater missions are defined as operations that occur at least 50 nautical miles offshore, or require an extended on-scene presence, long transit times to reach the operations area, and/or the forward deployment of forces. Deepwater missions typically require Coast Guard personnel to be involved in long-term, continuous missions, often with deployments away from home stations for several months on end. These missions may also take place in severe environments from arctic to tropical, 24 hours a day, wherever the Coast Guard's presence is required.

Overall, the Coast Guard performs fourteen statutorily mandated missions in the Deepwater regions around the globe. These fall into four main categories: Maritime Law Enforcement; Maritime Safety; National Defense; and Marine Environmental Protection.

Maritime Law Enforcement includes: Living marine resources enforcement, drug interdiction, alien migrant interdiction and general law enforcement.

Maritime Safety includes: Search and rescue (SAR) and the International Ice Patrol.

National Defense includes: General defense operations, maritime intercept operations, deployed port security and defense operations, environmental defense operations, and peacetime military engagement.

Marine Environmental Protection includes: Maritime pollution enforcement and response, lightering zone enforcement and foreign vessel inspection.

In 1999, an Interagency Task Force on United States Coast Guard Roles and Missions was appointed to "provide advice and recommendations regarding the appropriate roles and missions for the Coast Guard through the year 2020," with special attention to the Deepwater missions. The Task Force's findings affirmed that the Coast Guard must remain a military, multi-mission, maritime service in the 21st century to meet national policies and statutory mandates. The Task Force further recommended that the Coast Guard forces possess inherent operational flexibility and adaptability, including the ability to operate alongside the forces and personnel of other US armed services, US civilian agencies, and nations. In addition, the Coast Guard must strive to be cost effective across all missions.

The Coast Guard's Deepwater ships and aircraft (assets) are aging and technologically obsolete. This equipment was originally acquired from the early 1960s to the mid 1980s. The average age of the Deepwater cutters is 27 years old, making this force older than 36 of the world's 41 major naval fleets. Although some cutters received upgrades, during the next 10 years these cutters will reach the ends of their projected service lives.

Consequently, Deepwater assets lack fundamental capabilities and technologies necessary for efficient and effective mission performance. Examples include poor sensors and night operations capability, inadequate communication systems among Coast Guard units and forces of other services, agencies and navies of other countries. In addition, antiquated technology increases operating and maintenance hours and costs, placing

greater demands on the logistics infrastructure.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

[USCGD08-00-025]

Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee (LMRWSAC) will meet to discuss various issues relating to navigational safety on the Lower Mississippi River and related waterways. The meeting will be open to the public.

DATES: LMRWSAC will meet on Thursday, December 7, 2000, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. This meeting may close early if all business is finished. Written material and requests to make oral presentations should reach the Coast Guard on or before November 20, 2000. Requests to have a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee should reach the Coast Guard on or before November 20, 2000.

ADDRESSES: LMRWSAC will meet at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, 900 Center Blvd, New Orleans, LA Hall D, Room 338 during the International Workboat Show. Send written material and requests to make oral presentations to LT(jg), Zeita Merchant, Committee Administrator, c/o Commanding Officer, Marine Safety New Orleans, 1615 Poydras Steet, New Orleans, LA 70112. This notice is available on the Internet at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions on this notice, contact LT(jg) Zeita Merchant, Committee Administrator, telephone (504) 589-4222, Fax (504) 589-4241.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2.

Agenda of Meeting

Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee (LMRWSAC)

The agenda includes the following:

- (1) Introduction of committee members.
- (2) Election of Committee Chairman & Vice Chairman
- (3) Remarks by RADM P. Pluta, Committee Sponsor.

(a). Establishment of a working group to develop strategic planning to guide LMRWSAC.

(4) Approval of the April 26, 2000 minutes.

(5) Old Business:

Captain of the Port status report

VTs update report

PORTS update report

River crossing dredging ranges side markings

(6) New Business:

(7) Next meeting.

(8) Adjournment.

Procedural

The meeting is open to the public. Please note that the meeting may close early if all business is finished. At the Chair's discretion, members of the public may make oral presentations during the meeting. If you would like to make an oral presentation at the meeting, please notify the Committee Administrator no later than November 20, 2000. Written material for distribution at the meeting should reach the Coast Guard no later than November 20, 2000. If you would like a copy of your material distributed to each member of the committee or subcommittee in advance of the meeting, please submit 30 copies to the Committee Administrator at the location indicated under Addresses no later than November 20, 2000.

Information on Services for Individuals with Disabilities

For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities, or to request special assistance at the meetings, contact the Committee Administrator at the location indicated under Addresses as soon as possible.

Dated: October 16, 2000.

Paul J. Pluta,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

Public Notice For Waiver of Aeronautical Land-use Assurance Lawrence Municipal Airport, North Andover, Massachusetts

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT.

ACTION: Request for Public Comments. Notice of Intent to Waiver with respect to land.