

~~#33~~ #33

GOOD AFTERNOON LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,  
AND OFFICERS AND CREW OF PENOBSCOT BAY. ALTHOUGH OUR WEATHER  
CAN MOST CHARITABLY BE TERMED SEASONAL, IT'S MOST APPROPRIATE  
THAT WE COMMISSION THIS FINE NEW CUTTER AT THIS TIME OF YEAR.  
SHE WAS DESIGNED AND BUILT TO OPERATE IN THE HARSH ENVIRONMENT OF  
COLD WEATHER AND ICE, AND FROM ALL REPORTS I'VE RECEIVED SHE'LL  
DO A MASTERFUL JOB OF BREAKING ICE -- HELPING INSURE THAT ~~NEEDED~~ **ESSENTIAL**  
~~AND SOMETIMES VITAL~~ SHIPMENTS OF FUEL AND OTHER COMMODITIES ARE  
DELIVERED WHERE NEEDED, WHEN NEEDED.

PENOBSCOT BAY AND HER SISTERS ARE REPLACING THE COAST  
GUARD'S AGING 110 FOOT CLASS OF ICEBREAKING TUGS. THERE'S NO  
QUESTION THAT WE GOT OUR MONEY'S WORTH FROM THE 110'S. BUT NOW  
THEY'RE WORN OUT AND BY-PASSED BY TECHNOLOGY. AMONG PENOBSCOT  
BAY'S ADVANCED ICEBREAKING DESIGN FEATURES ARE A SPECIALLY  
DESIGNED ICEBREAKING BOW, FRICTIONLESS BOTTOM PAINT, AND A  
BUBBLER SYSTEM WHICH LUBRICATES THE HULL ~~WITH~~ USING COMPRESSED  
AIR. IF TECHNOLOGY WON'T DO IT, THE BRUTE FORCE WILL. HER 2500  
HORSEPOWER MAKE HER MORE THAN TWICE AS POWERFUL AS THE 110 FOOT  
ICEBREAKING TUGS AND EVEN OUR LARGER 180 FOOT BUOYTENDER-  
ICEBREAKERS.

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH PENOBSCOT BAY'S SIX OLDER SISTERS HAS BEEN GRATIFYING. DESIGNED TO BREAK UP TO 18 INCHES OF ICE IN CONTINUOUS FORWARD MOTION, IN PRACTICE THESE VESSELS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CONSISTENTLY ALMOST DOUBLE THAT FIGURE IN THE GREAT LAKES.

ALONG WITH HER MANY NEW ICEBREAKING FEATURES THIS VESSEL IS CREWED UNDER A NEW CONCEPT -- MINIMAL MANNING. ALTHOUGH PENOBSCOT BAY IS LONGER, WIDER, <sup>AND</sup> WITH TWICE THE DISPLACEMENT AND POWER OF THE 110 FOOT VESSELS SHE REPLACES, HER CREW IS 20% SMALLER. WHILE MINIMAL MANNING GIVES US A CONSIDERABLE SAVING IN PERSONNEL AND DOLLARS, IT REQUIRES MOST ROUTINE AND EMERGENCY MAINTENANCE BE PROVIDED BY SHORESIDE PERSONNEL. THIS NEW WRINKLE PROVIDES AN ADDED ~~NEW~~ CHALLENGE TO OUR SHOREBASE ~~WORK~~ ENGINEERING FORCES AT THE GROUP, SUPPORT CENTER, AND DISTRICT LEVELS. I'M CONFIDENT THEY'LL RISE TO <sup>THE</sup> ~~CHALLENGE~~ CHALLENGE AND PROVIDE PENOBSCOT BAY THE KIND OF SUPPORT SHE DESERVES, ~~AND NEEDS~~.

LIEUTENANT BECHTLE, I CONGRATULATE YOU AND YOUR CREW ~~TO THIS CUTTER AND HER CREW I WISH GOOD LUCK AND GOD'S BLESSING FOR A LONG AND GLORIOUS CAREER.~~

FOR THE HARD WORK IT HAS TAKEN TO PREPARE YOUR VESSEL TO COME INTO ACTIVE DUTY. I SPEAK FOR ALL OF US AND WISH YOU AND YOUR CREW THE GREATEST SUCCESS AS THE PENOBSCOT BAY BEGINS HER CAREER OF SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES. THANK YOU, AND WELCOME TO THE FLEET.