

## REAR ADMIRAL BRIAN M. SALERNO

Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship  
United States Coast Guard

To All Maritime Stakeholders:

Please tell us how we are doing.

The Coast Guard regularly evaluates its performance in various mission areas by commissioning independent third party evaluations. I have recently received the independent evaluation of our Marine Safety and Marine Environmental Protection missions called for in our Marine Safety 2009-2014 Performance Plan (because of adjudication and editing, while the document is dated April 2009, we just received the final version in late August).

The evaluation notes that the Coast Guard has been effective in both missions with deaths and injuries having decreased over the long term, and the number and volume of oil and chemical spills decreasing significantly. It does document, however, a number of shortcomings and areas for improvement that we have known about and are addressing. For example, the Coast Guard's 2009 budget included significant increases in funds and staffing for initiatives in our Marine Safety Performance Plan. We have had an aggressive recruitment and hiring effort underway for most of the year, and these new resources are beginning to have an impact on our performance and service delivery. In addition, please note that data contained in this evaluation was captured during the Fall of 2008; therefore, many recommended improvements are already being addressed. Initiatives such as creating seven National Centers of Expertise, establishing 18 "Feeder Ports" with a revitalized focus on training, and the restructuring of Investigating Officer billets at our Sectors have already made great progress, but we acknowledge there is much more that needs to be done.

Please review the evaluation and let me know what you think. It, along with a copy of our Marine Safety Performance Plan, can be found at: [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg54/ms\\_mepeval.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg54/ms_mepeval.asp) Your comments can be sent to: [MS\\_MEPEval@uscg.mil](mailto:MS_MEPEval@uscg.mil)

I ask that you provide your input and feedback by October 15, 2009 so that we may incorporate them in our current performance planning cycle and put additional improvements to work as soon as possible. At the same time, we will be conducting our own review of the evaluation.

Thank you for your time, effort, and for giving us the benefit of your perspective.



Brian M. Salerno

Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard