

REAR ADMIRAL PAUL J. PLUTA

Rear Admiral Paul J. Pluta is a 1967 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. He holds an M.S.E. degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering from the University of Michigan.

He started his commissioned service afloat operations as an assistant engineer aboard the cutters CHINCOTEAGUE & MINNETONKA. He followed these duty assignments with postgrad training, then staff engineer tours at the Eighth District Merchant Marine Technical (MMT) Office in New Orleans, LA, and in the MMT Division at Coast Guard Headquarters. He returned to operations ashore, as Chief of the Inspection Department at the Marine Safety Office, Baltimore, MD, where he coordinated the Coast Guard's port security contingency planning efforts and participated in security exercises. RADM Pluta was then assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters as Chief, Engineering Branch and later, Chief, Compliance & Enforcement Branch, Merchant Vessel Inspection Division. His duties included the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers to U.S. flag to facilitate their escort in the Persian Gulf. He also served as a primary U.S. negotiator at the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London, chairing the group which rewrote the controversial IMO Code for Mobile Offshore Drilling Units.

From July 1988 - July 1991, he served as Commanding Officer, Marine Safety Office, Wilmington, NC, where his command played a key role in support of OPERATION DESERT STORM. His forces grew to over 300 and his responsibilities focused on providing port security services to deploying forces in all three major North Carolina ports and coordinating security and intelligence operations with all other military services, as well as Federal, state, and local law enforcement. RADM Pluta assumed command of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve Training Center (RTC), Yorktown, VA, in August 1991, where he led the first military-to-military assessment team to Kazakhstan to help this former Soviet republic form its own Maritime Force, patterned after the U.S. Coast Guard. He also started the Coast Guard Operational Intelligence School and enhanced the existing Maritime Law Enforcement School to meet the growing demand for international and domestic course quotas. In June 1994, RADM Pluta was reassigned as Chief of Staff, Ninth Coast Guard District, Cleveland, OH, where he was responsible for the day-to-day Coast Guard activities throughout the entire Great Lakes region and regional bilateral mutual support agreements with the Government of Canada.

In July 1996, he achieved flag rank and was appointed to the position of Director, Office of Intelligence and Security in the Department of Transportation. He serves as the Secretary of Transportation's principal liaison to the Intelligence Community and has policy responsibility for security measures in all modes of transportation.

His other personal decorations include the Legion of Merit (two awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, and two Coast Guard Commendation Medals. A native of Carteret, NJ, RADM Pluta is married to the former Jane M. Oakley of Weeksville, NC. They have three children, Christine, Kevin, and Brian.