



**DIRECTOR OF PREVENTION POLICY
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-0001**

APR 23 2008

Dear Colleagues,

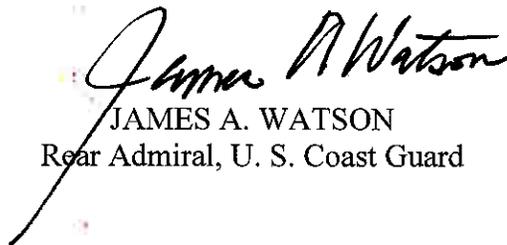
Admiral Allen reported during last week's Senior Executive Leadership Conference that we must complete the modernization of the Coast Guard to meet the nation's expectations for Safety, Security, and Stewardship in the 21st Century.

I have attached a letter from four former Chiefs of Marine Safety. It reflects the support they have for our modernization efforts as well as our Marine Safety Enhancement Plan. Their letter reinforces the importance of both these initiatives to the maritime industry. These flag officers are all active within that industry. They have emphasized to me how vital the Coast Guard's work is to the industry and our Maritime Transportation System. This is further validation that we are on the right path to improvement, and how important it is to our nation.

I encourage you to take them up on their offer to assist in achieving our Marine Safety and modernization goals. Success in this area will take commitment from the entire Coast Guard senior leadership corps.

Be particularly active addressing the maritime community's questions and concerns that accompany Coast Guard changes. The Coast Guard is the world's preeminent marine safety authority. We provide day-to-day engineering, inspection, and investigation services essential to keep the nation's economy moving while minimizing risk to the marine environment and the people who enjoy and work on the water. Our modernization and the marine safety enhancement are both vital to the nation's security and prosperity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

JAMES A. WATSON
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard