

Support for Risk-Based Decision Making

The U.S. Coast Guard is committed to establishing a risk-based decision-making culture. From the Commandant's Coast Guard 2020 to RADM North's Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Business Plan, it becomes clear that this is the way of the future. The CG 2020 states that "Domestically, risk assessment will drive ongoing efforts to reduce mishaps." Risk management is also one of five capability goals under RADM North's Performance Plan; its strategic goal is to "establish risk-based decision-making as a core competency to provide for enhanced decision-making and further progress toward achieving organizational goals."

The focus of this article will be to highlight the many ways that the Human Element and Ship Design Division (G-MSE-1) provides support in establishing a risk-based decision-making (RBDM) culture. Specifically, this article targets tangible, day-to-day areas of support.

One exciting area of support we believe will have a positive and lasting effect is the CG Risk Web Site. The site has undergone a complete facelift and also added many new components; you now can access the site at www.uscg.mil/hq/g-m/risk/. The goal of this site is to highlight current activities, provide links to resources and databases, and eventually provide a question and answer forum. Within the Activities section, you will discover what other field units are doing and how risk is being applied to Passenger Vessels, Waterways Management, Response, Preparedness and more. Finally, this site will be used as one of the major launching grounds for the 2nd edition of the Risk-Based Decision-Making Guidelines (RBDMG) and will continue to provide support for the Guidelines.

The R&DC created this edition of the Guidelines with G-MSE-1's sponsorship. The RBDMG will become a major source of support to the marine safety community upon its delivery in spring 2001. You will find an article in the next issue of this newsletter describing the relationship and differences between Operational Risk Management (ORM) and RBDM. As you may be aware, ORM is an initiative to apply risk methods to prevent Coast Guard losses that arise from internal operations. The February PTP article will focus specifically on the ins-and-outs of the new Guidelines. One preview of the Guidelines you can look forward to is the inclusion of the RBDM Navigator. In order to make the guidelines more reader friendly, the Navigator provides a map to help guide you in addressing specific issues as well as finding advice, guidance, or examples you may need.

Training issues related to developing RBDM as a core competency are being addressed as well. In conjunction with the R&DC and the Training Center Yorktown, a workshop aimed at introducing the RBDMG to field personnel is being planned for spring 2001. The rollout workshop will bring personnel together to learn about the applications of the most common techniques. Units with some experience in applying RBDM will share their impressions and lessons learned. Training materials from this workshop will also be provided (and available to all who want them) so training may continue at all units.

Finally, the revised RBDMG will be distributed as an attachment to a new COMDTINST on RBDM. The instruction will establish the policy and provide direction and guidance for using RBDM. This is one aspect of an overall dedication to ensuring that constraints on the field are addressed, that adequate support is available, and that the end result of the RBDM efforts equates to a positive change in how marine safety risks are evaluated and managed.

PRINCIPLES

- Take a Quality Approach
- Honor the Mariner
- Seek Non-Regulatory Solutions
- Share Commitment
- Manage Risk

VISION

To achieve the world's safest, most environmentally sound and cost-effective marine operations by emphasizing the role of people in preventing casualties and pollution.

GOALS

- Know More
- Train More
- Do More
- Offer More
- Cooperate More

Contact us directly with your PTP story:

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