



# Environmental Times

A newsletter for Coast Guard environmental management and compliance

## The Commandant's Environmental Stewardship Challenge

Long recognized as *America's Maritime Guardians*, the United States Coast Guard has an obligation to safeguard our nation's precious environment and natural resources. As an enforcer of environmental laws, we are uniquely positioned to exhibit strong leadership in environmental stewardship. Entrusted with this responsibility, I direct every Coast Guard member to recognize his or her individual role in enhancing mission performance through better operational planning and environmental management.

The American public expects us to protect the homeland in a manner consistent with our nation's

environmental values. President George Bush said, "*Stewardship is the calling of government, and it is the calling of every citizen.*" As citizens and as members of the Coast Guard, we will rise to that challenge and be leaders in environmental stewardship. We will meet the President's plan of "*Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management*" by:

- a) INSTITUTING a program of integrated environmental management systems at our larger units by 2006, supported by senior management commitment and ensuring that environmental considerations are made part of day-to-day activities and decision-making;
- b) INCORPORATING rigorous environmental compliance programs that emphasize pollution prevention, which focus on front line acquisition and source reduction by establishing baselines and

reducing use of specific designated hazardous materials by 50% by 2006;

- c) PRIORITIZING funding and resources for mission and support-related environmental needs; and,
- d) PROMOTING organizational Environmental Leadership and Stewardship at every level of the Coast Guard planning process.

I commit Team Coast Guard to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated into all future actions and missions. Environmental Stewardship is essential to sustain the public's trust in the Coast Guard as a premier Homeland and Maritime Security agency. I challenge each Coast Guard employee, to make a strong commitment to excellence in environmental stewardship.

Thomas H. Collins  
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commandant

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## Coast Guard Environmental Management under DHS

Submitted by Ed Wandelt, COMDT (G-SEC-3)

As of March 1, 2003, the Coast Guard became a part of the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Under the new DHS, we will continue to have the responsibility to demonstrate good stewardship of environmental quality and natural resources during the execution of our missions. COMDT (G-SEC-3 and G-LEL) is actively working with the DHS transition staff to establish a series of interim management directives ensuring that the Coast Guard can continue to use its existing environmental management guidance (developed under DOT) until such time as DHS-specific guidance can be provided. At present, we do not anticipate the need for immediate changes to our environmental management directives and guidance.

(Continued on page 2)

## Management under DHS

*(Continued from page 1)*

There is one significant exception to this situation—our responsibility to comply with 49 U.S.C. 303, commonly known as Section 4(f), does not transfer to the DHS. Section 4(f) is a requirement that is specific to the Department of Transportation. A formal change to COMDTINST M16475.1D, National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures, to indicate this difference will be forthcoming. You may operate under this guidance until the formal change is implemented.

The development of DHS-specific NEPA policy will likely be the first new development in environmental management under DHS. 40 CFR 1507.3, from the Council on Environmental Quality, requires agency NEPA procedures be in effect no later than five months of the establishment of the agency. In this case, DHS was established on 24 January 2003, requiring DHS NEPA procedures be in effect by 24 June 2003. COMDT (G-SEC-3 and G-LEL) is actively working with the DHS transition staff to develop this policy in a manner that will minimally impact our need to change COMDTINST M16475.1D. When the DHS NEPA policy is established, COMDT (G-SEC-3) will review COMDTINST M16475.1D to determine the need for changes and initiate field involvement as appropriate. Other policy is also being developed for environmental compliance, environmental management / Greening the Government, pollution prevention, recycling, and affirmative procurement.

## Global Water Quality Monitoring Effort Begins

*Reprinted from EPA website, August 8, 2003*

[http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/hi-water\\_mon.htm](http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/hi-water_mon.htm)

To ensure that Americans and citizens around the globe have clean water for domestic, agricultural, commercial and recreational uses, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is partnering with America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association to urge people around the world to test the quality of their streams, lakes, wetlands, and coastal waters. The first World Water Monitoring Day will be held Oct. 18, 2003.

EPA Assistant Administrator for Water G. Tracy Mehan III, Roberta Savage, President of America's Clean Water Foundation, and Andrew Speers, representing the International Water Association, London, England, held a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. to announce the first World Water Monitoring Day and

to talk about the importance of monitoring water quality by collecting and analyzing water samples and using adequate data to protect the world's water resources.

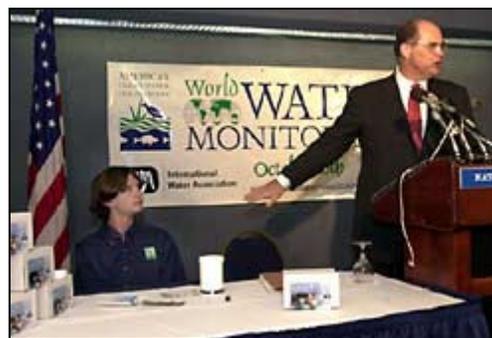
“At this time we do not have sufficient information to provide a national answer to characterize the condition of waters and watersheds in the U.S.,” said Mehan. “We risk flying blind if we aren't able to get dramatic improvements in water quality monitoring and data to support wise management decisions.”

Roberta Savage said, “As the creator of National Water Monitoring Day, America's Clean Water Foundation was delighted by the participation of more than 75,000 Americans in 2002. Now in 2003 we have the opportunity to work with the International Water Association, the US Environmental Protection Agency and other federal partners, state and interstate agencies, watershed organizations and individuals throughout the world to promote personal stewardship and individual responsibility for the integrity of our world water. Our goal is to involve people throughout the world in this annual event and establish a base line for evaluating water quality trends.”

Andrew Speers said, “World Water Monitoring Day is about raising awareness at the global level of the importance of water to us all and the quality of the environment in the local community. World Water Monitoring Day is a perfect example of thinking globally and acting locally.”

Volunteers of all ages will perform four key tests to measure dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity/clarity and temperature. They can then enter their findings on the Web and order test kits through America's Clean Water Foundation.

In 2002, the first National Water Monitoring Day was held to mark the 30th anniversary of the Clean Water Act with more than 75,000 Americans participating.



EPA Assistant Administrator for Water G. Tracy Mehan III presenting Darin Martin from EarthForce with water monitoring test kits.

## News You Can Use

### Guidance Standards within ISO 14000 for Environmental Management

*Submitted by Ed Pinero, Office of the Federal Environmental Executive*

Environmental management system (EMS) practitioners sometimes get so focused on ISO 14001 it is easy to overlook the fact that there are a series of standards in the ISO 14000 Family "Environmental Management." (Almost 30 by now!) None of the others, aside from 14001, are specification standards, which means, you cannot get "certified" to others. They are referred to as guidance standards and are either used to supplement information to help you implement an EMS or can be used as stand-alone documents.

So what's out there? Available information includes:

- Auditing standards that provide guidance on setting up EMS audit programs (including auditor qualifications, etc.)
- A standard on Environmental Performance Evaluation to help select relevant metrics to measure performance
- A series of standards on Life Cycle Assessment to help go through the process of evaluating products and activities in terms of the environmental impacts over the life cycle. This tool is used mainly in product design and purchasing, as well as to enhance aspects identification and prioritization.
- A series of standards on eco-labeling, used mainly for product design and marketing. For example, it formally defines the phrase "recycled content." EPA has consulted these in their green purchasing work.
- A companion "how to" guide to 14001, called 14004, that gives more detail on the EMS standard and tips on developing the elements
- A standard on due diligence and site assessments to help someone assess a property or organization to determine environmental risks and liabilities
- A standard on Integrating Environmental Aspects into Product Design (formerly Design for the Environment)
- A standard on environmental reporting and communication (under development)
- A series of standards on inventorying and verifying greenhouse gas emissions and reductions

- A series of other technical reports, case studies, and papers on the general topic. There is also preliminary work proposed on a standard in Organizational Social Responsibility (dealing with such topics as sustainable development). Although defeated so far, there is always someone that revives talk on a Health and Safety EMS.

For more information regarding ISO 14000 guidance standards, please contact Ed Pinero at (202) 564-1297 or [Pinero.Ed@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:Pinero.Ed@epamail.epa.gov).

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### Welcome Aboard to the OFEE

*Submitted by T.J. Granito, COMDT (G-SEC-3)*

The Environmental Management Division and staff and writers of the Environmental Times Newsletter would like to extend a hearty welcome to Mr. John Howard (Federal Environmental Executive - FEE), Mr. Ed Pinero (Deputy FEE), and their entire staff of the Office of the Federal Environmental Executive (OFEE) as new readers (*and potential contributors*) to our U.S. Coast Guard's Environmental Times newsletter.

For those of you who may not be aware, the position of Federal Environmental Executive was originally established in 1993 under Executive Order (EO) 12873, Federal Acquisition, Recycling, and Waste Prevention to foster and strengthen Federal response to existing RCRA mandates to reduce solid waste, build markets for recycled content products, encourage new technologies, and protect the environment by increasing purchases of recycled content products. On September 14, 1998, the President signed EO 13101, Greening the Government Through Waste Prevention, Recycling, and Federal Acquisition, which further strengthened the Federal government's commitment to recycling and buying recycled content and environmentally preferable products, including bio-based products.

Currently, the OFEE's new mission statement is "Promoting sustainable environmental stewardship throughout the federal government." OFEE is devoting its time, talents, and resources to six priorities that expand its historical core waste prevention and recycling priorities into the related areas of green buildings and electronics stewardship. OFEE is helping Federal agencies to provide a strategic framework for sustainability through the use of environmental management systems (EMS).

For more information, please visit the OFEE website at [www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov). There you will find a wealth of information and links to other excellent sites.



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## **CG Success Story: Hanover Principles, CEPAPP Goals, and ISC Seattle RECAP**

*Opinion by Capt. Richard Beseler, FDCCPAC*

The Civil Engineering Program Annual Performance Plan (CEPAPP) goal of adopting the Hanover Principles is a great "50,000 foot" goal but it does not translate well for the project managers as they work to develop and implement projects. Therefore FDCCPAC has adopted the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) system as a practical means to deploy the subject CEPAPP goal. We have chosen this system since it is recognized/implemented on the west coast by local and state governments, is measurable, and has been adopted by the local ACOE - Seattle District in their MILCON work at Fort Lewis and McCord AFB.

We are certainly far from fully integrating the LEED system into the daily project development process, but we have taken the first initial steps. I intend to utilize this system as part of the design-build contractor selection process with respect to the ISC Seattle Recap project.

For more information, visit our website at [http://cgweb.pnw.uscg.mil/fdcc/sustainable\\_building\\_design.html](http://cgweb.pnw.uscg.mil/fdcc/sustainable_building_design.html).

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## **Green Bullet Initiative**

*Collected from email exchange and submitted by Martin Nguyen, COMDT (G-SEC-3)*

It appears that the Department of Defense (DOD) is making the switch to green ammunition, and in the long run, the cost per round, cost of range maintenance, and cleanup costs should be less. DHS has also indicated that they are using green-type ammunitions at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and will be evaluating the tungsten bullet.

The Coast Guard is buying some of the green ammunition, but currently the only green ammunition available from DOD is the M16 5.56mm round. There are 10 million rounds in inventory. In addition, most of the 9mm round is not green, and DOD is not making a 9mm green round at this time. The Coast Guard, however, is preparing to field a new service pistol of a different caliber (40CAL). All available green rounds will be evaluated for that pistol. Once the best round is chosen, Coast Guard will have it type classified and put into the military stock system.

It is important to remember that Coast Guard has millions of rounds of the old lead ammunition in

stock. All old ammunition must be expended; it will cost millions to not use that ammunition. The other branches of the Armed Forces are in the same situation. To help address immediate concerns, Coast Guard is installing better bullet traps that contain the lead HAZMAT, making it easier to clean up and control. In addition, there are still no completely green rounds. No one has found a way to make the primers lead free and still meet MILSPEC. Most of the airborne lead and lead particles on ranges do not come from the bullet, but the lead azide in the primers. Coast Guard continues to work towards a solution.

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## **Clean Lakes Initiative: Open the Door to Clean Lakes!**

The following suggestions are from a door hanger available from the EPA website at [www.epa.gov/owow/lakes/month/pdf/doorhanger.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/owow/lakes/month/pdf/doorhanger.pdf).

Open the Door to Clean Lakes!

- Organize lakeshore cleanups to collect trash and litter washed up to shore.
- Recycle used oil at appropriate facilities.
- Clean off recreational equipment after use to stop aquatic hitchhikers.
- Use pump-out station for boat waste.
- Let natural vegetation grow by the lake—mow and fertilize less!
- Join your local lake organization, or start one on your own (Visit [www.epa.gov/adopt](http://www.epa.gov/adopt)).
- Become a volunteer lake monitor (Visit <http://dipin.kent.edu>).
- Enjoy your lake!

**Did You Know?** The lake is more than what the eye can see. It's part of a watershed, an area of land that drains rain and snow to a stream, lake, wetland, estuary, or the oceans.

These pollutants can harm your lake:

- Excess fertilizer and pesticides that run off lawns and gardens
- Aquatic hitchhikers such as zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil
- Litter dumped into lakes or via storm sewers
- Direct discharge of municipal or industrial waste
- Soil from eroding shorelines
- Oil and salt from road runoff
- Wetland drainage and filling
- Leaking septic systems
- Runoff from cropland or feedlots

For more outreach materials and reference documents regarding lake awareness, please visit the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/lakes/month>.

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## Membership in U.S. Green Building Council

*Submitted by Ken Malmberg, COMDT (G-SEC-3)*

The Coast Guard is registered as a member of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). This membership allows the Coast Guard to take advantage of training provided by the USGBC, specifically related to the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System. Designing new facilities to be sustainable is a goal of the Civil Engineering Program and of G-SEC-3. LEED provides a certification program and a methodology of accomplishing this goal.

For more information, please contact Mr. Bill Logan at (202) 267-1936.

## Awards

### Winner of the 2003 White House Closing the Circle Award: Coast Guard Yard

The Coast Guard Yard won one of 26 White House Closing the Circle awards this year, in the category of Environmental Management Systems (EMS). In 2000, the Yard was the first shipyard in the United States to achieve ISO 14001 Certification in environmental management. This certification set up a framework for development of the EMS, by which the many industrial functions at the Yard could minimize hazardous waste and achieve compliance with environmental requirements. Every industrial process in the Yard was assessed during 2002, with commensurate minimization of volatile organic compound emissions in a severe non-attainment area



Secretary Tom Ridge with Capt. Rabago, Mr. Warble, and Mr. Galliford of CG Yard posing with White House Closing the Circle Award.

for ozone (Baltimore) and improved spill cleanup, refueling, and paint stripping practices, which greatly reduced storm water runoff from further polluting Curtis Creek. In addition, all tenant commands maintained compliance with environmental requirements, including control of trash and recyclable scrap.

The mechanism by which the Yard executed their program was through the Environmental Compliance Committee, a group approach that ensured all tenant commands were involved in making environmental policy and committed to continual improvement.

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## Green Procurement Environmental Awards

*Submitted by Ken Malmberg, COMDT (G-SEC-3)*

A total of nine Coast Guard units, teams, and individuals were recent recipients of the USCG Environmental Award for their environmental stewardship efforts over the last year. Three of these units submitted winning nominations that included efforts in affirmative (green) procurement. This award category addresses procurement of recovered content EPA-designated products; environmentally preferable products ("green" products that are not EPA-designated items, including bio-based products); and use of innovative environmental procurement techniques. Below is a brief description of these efforts.

### ATC Mobile, Overall Environmental Excellence

This unit made substantial progress in almost every environmental category during 2002, bringing special efforts to bear in affirmative procurement (green purchasing). A Flag letter cited their 'special efforts' in procurement of recycled material for resurfacing their basketball court, furniture built from recycled materials, mercury-free fluorescent tubes base-wide, and procuring solar lights for parking lots and roadways that use recyclable batteries.

### Air Station Borinquen, Source Reduction and Pollution Prevention

This unit initiated a two-tier environmental review process prior to procurement of hazardous materials, and thereby reduced its procurement of hazardous materials by 18% during 2002, with comparable reductions in hazardous waste disposal costs.

### ISC Miami, Pollution Prevention

This unit utilized green procurement practices to reduce its hazardous materials inventory by 75%. They sought out environmentally friendly substitutes that performed as well as the original materials, often gaining in cost efficiency as well as environmental acceptability.

## Coast Guard Environmental Pollution Prevention Awards Nominations

The Coast Guard Environmental Awards Program was established in 1996 to recognize those individuals and units that have demonstrated outstanding leadership in various areas of environmental protection. Award categories include:

- Source Reduction,
- Recycling,
- Affirmative Procurement (including bio-based),
- Natural Resources,
- Pollution Prevention,
- Compliance,
- NEPA,
- Historic and Cultural Resources,
- Prevention of Environmental Damage, and
- Environmental Excellence.

The deadline for submission of nominations to COMDT (G-SEC) is **November 15, 2003**. Nomination forms, criteria, and instructions for submitting nominations are available at <http://cgweb.uscg.mil/g-c/g-ccs/g-cit/g-cim/directives/cgci.html>.

There are a number of excellent Coast Guard projects and processes that are deserving of recognition. If you would like more information or have any questions, please contact Dr. Ken Malmberg (G-SEC-3), at Tel.: (202) 267-6214, Fax (202) 267-4219, or e-mail: [ken.malmberg@uscg.dhs.gov](mailto:ken.malmberg@uscg.dhs.gov) or [kmalmberg@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:kmalmberg@comdt.uscg.mil).

## Federal Register Notices

### Criteria for Classification of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities and Practices and Criteria for Municipal Solid Waste Landfills: Disposal of Residential Lead-Based Paint Waste

This final rule will expressly allow residential lead-based paint waste that is exempted from the hazardous waste management requirements as household waste to be disposed of in construction and demolition landfills by stating that a construction and demolition landfill accepting residential lead-based paint waste, and no other household waste, is not a municipal solid waste landfill unit. Today's action would not prevent a municipal solid waste landfill unit from continuing to receive residential lead-based paint waste.

This final rule became effective on June 18, 2003. The Agency finds good cause to make this rule effective immediately because today's final rule provides an additional disposal option for residential lead-based paint waste.

For general information, contact the RCRA Hotline at (800) 424-9346 or TDD (800) 553-7672 (hearing impaired). In the Washington, DC metropolitan area, call (703) 412-9810 or TDD (703) 412-3323.

For information on specific aspects of this rule, contact Paul Cassidy, Municipal and Industrial Solid Waste Division, Office of Solid Waste (mail code 5306W), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA, HQ), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460; (703) 308-7281; [cassidy.paul@epa.gov](mailto:cassidy.paul@epa.gov). The index and some supporting materials are available on the Internet. You can find these materials at <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/muncpl/landfill/pb-paint.htm>.

## Environmental Extras

### Departing Program Analyst Receives Commendation

Ms. Christine Degliumberto was presented with a Flag letter on her departure from G-SEC-3 as a summer employee program analyst. Christine helped the Environmental Management Division move toward achieving several of its goals over the summer, including development of the Master List of Lighthouses and documentation of their history. She simultaneously worked on developing a standardized EMS protocol for the Coast Guard, surveying Representational Facilities, and several other key programs.



RADM Erroll Brown and Christine Degliumberto.

### Record-Keeping Requirements and Disaster Management Plans

*Submitted by Bonnie Capito, Librarian and Records & Information Specialist, Department of the Navy, Norfolk, VA*

Be aware of environmental record-keeping requirements and have a records disaster management plan in place. Federal and state governments have either guidelines or legal requirements for retention and disposition of all records. If you do not follow the guidelines or meet the legal requirements, your agency could fall into legal difficulties if you are sued and ordered to produce your records.

Remember, having records that you should have destroyed can be as bad as not having records you should have retained. Know which of your records are considered 'vital' and must be protected from disaster. Think, could you do business within 24 hours if your paper and electronic records were

wiped out? Do you have the vital records backed up off site?

Create a plan by identifying legal requirements (or guidelines) that apply to your work. Identify your vital records. Make everyone in your company aware of the plan and make it available to all.

## P2 and You

### CG Air Station Miami Benefits from Attending Joint Service P2 Conference

*Submitted by Lt. Rodd Ricklefs and AMT1 Ralph T. Cieslinski, USCG Air Station Miami FL*

Members of Air Station Miami were exposed to a large number of beneficial environmental products that they normally would not have seen outside of the P2 Conference. One such product, which was subsequently purchased, was the SMASH-IT produced by American Compactors, Inc. As one can imagine, all Air Stations use some form of rags to clean and wipe down various products used to maintain and operate aircraft (e.g., fuels, oils, adhesives). How these rags are purchased and disposed of varies from unit to unit. Staff members at Air Station Miami have determined the most cost-beneficial way to run their "rag-program" is to purchase their own paper rags and collection barrels and dispose of the rags themselves through DRMO. The SMASH-IT system allows them to pneumatically press as many rags as possible into a drum. As a result, the SMASH-IT has proved to be a cost-beneficial investment and has improved their process efficiency in the following ways:

**COST:** Fifteen months prior to purchasing the SMASH-IT, Air Station Miami disposed of 60 drums of rags weighing 7797 pounds, averaging 130 pounds per drum. With the SMASH-IT, they can routinely press 220 pounds of rags in one drum. Factoring in the weight of the drum itself (42 pounds), they now pack twice as many rags into one drum with the SMASH-IT than by manually packing the drum. Using half as many drums during those fifteen months, the air station would have saved \$750 in barrel costs and another \$352.80 in disposal costs.

**EFFICIENCY:** Less drums to maintain means less drums for disposal and less processing work for all. The Hazmat Pharmacy now only has to seal, label, weigh, and move 50% of the rag drums that they did before. In addition, the Environmental Coordinator has less paperwork to file with DRMO. Also, since purchasing the SMASH-IT, inadequate aisle space

(previously identified as an issue by an inspector) is no longer a problem.

**SAFETY:** Before the SMASH-IT, Pharmacy personnel would manually pack the drums as best they could to get as many rags in a drum as possible. Purchasing the SMASH-IT provided Pharmacy personnel with the right tool for the job. One possible safety downfall is that the drums now weigh a little more, so Pharmacy personnel are required to be more conscience of safety during handling and transport. This is a small price to pay, however, when compared to the other benefits of the SMASH-IT.

Personnel at Air Station Miami have been satisfied with the SMASH-IT system, which was first discovered at the P2 conference. Total cost for the machine was \$2499.00 (including free shipping and handling). For Air Station Miami, the monetary savings will pay for the machine within two years time. If you would like more information about this product, contact American Compactors, Inc., at P.O. Box 1303, Mansfield, OH 44901 or by telephone at (800) 473-5463, or visit their website at [www.smash-it.com](http://www.smash-it.com). Exposure to innovative tools such as this is what made the P2 Conference so valuable.

## Mark Your Calendars

### October 28-29, 2003

You are invited to participate in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Environmental Forum ("Forum").

The Forum will focus on the U.S. Coast Guard and 21 other entities that became part of the new DHS. These agencies will continue to have the responsibility to demonstrate good stewardship of environmental quality and natural resources. The

Coast Guard invites all DHS agencies to attend the Forum to discuss environmental issues, lessons learned, and future initiatives. The goal of the Forum is to achieve a better understanding of the environmental issues confronting DHS, what challenges to environmental stewardship lie in the future, and how we might collectively meet those challenges.

Among the topics tentatively scheduled include:

- Small Arms Firing Ranges
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Endangered Species Act
- NEPA Training
- Environmental Management Systems
- Beneficial Landscaping and Cultural Resources Management

In addition, the Forum will be web cast via the Internet. This will be a simultaneous feed of the presentations with audio, as well as speaker profiles, downloadable presentations and handouts, an interactive bulletin board to post questions to the speakers, and MUCH MORE!

*For any additional questions, please contact Ms. Shari Tavel at [Stavel@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:Stavel@comdt.uscg.mil) or at (202) 267-1944.*

### Save the Date

for the

**Department of Homeland Security  
Environmental Forum**

**October 28-29, 2003**

**Ronald Reagan Building and  
International Trade Center in  
Washington, DC**

Hosted by the United States Coast Guard



# Homeland Security



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<p><i>In support of our environmental mission and goals for a paperless office, if you are currently receiving a paper copy of the publication and are capable of receiving it electronically, please notify Martin Nguyen.</i></p>		

*The Environmental Times is a quarterly publication designed to keep Coast Guard personnel apprised of environmental issues impacting Coast Guard facilities, operations, planning, and policy making. We encourage you to share your stories and successes as environmental stewards.*