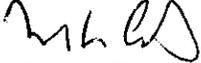




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DEC 21 2009

MEMORANDUM

From:  Sector Commander

To: Sector Department Heads, Division Officers, MSD Lewes, Station Commanding Officers, Station, Cutter and Aids to Navigation Team Officers-in-Charge

Subj: SIGNIFICANT EVENTS WITHIN SECTOR DELAWARE BAY'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY

1. **Situation.** Sector Delaware Bay's AOR is home to numerous petrochemical facilities and critical infrastructures, stretches across three states including a major metropolitan statistical area with over 5.8 million people, and incorporates numerous state, local and federal government agencies that have interest in maritime issues. In addition, there are six nuclear power plants, critical transportation nodes including an international airport, railways, pipelines and bridges, and a nationally significant Tier 1 port with high interest operations. Sector Delaware Bay must provide significant effort to maintain situational awareness of the strategic context in which we live. To achieve our unit vision of becoming the leading Sector in creating unity of maritime effort across our AOR, we must implement and continuously improve a new significant events awareness process.

2. Definitions.

a. **Significant Events** are planned or unplanned occurrences, operations, meetings, or spontaneous gatherings which may not directly involve Coast Guard operations and do not meet the regulatory or Coast Guard definitions for *distress*, *marine casualty*, *security breach*, *oil spill*, *hazardous materials release*, *suspicious activity*, or *marine event*, but which are noteworthy for other reasons. Significant events may also qualify as Critical Incidents as defined in COMDTINST 3100.8A. Characteristics of significant events include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Information about the event is NOT classified or limited distribution.
- The event occurs or will occur within the AOR.
- The event/operation could cause confusion or be mistaken for a terrorism incident.
- The event receives or is likely to receive significant attention from the news media.
- The event causes significant changes to Coast Guard policy, or has the potential to lead to such changes.
- The event may result in the serious injury or deaths of people ashore immediately adjacent to the maritime domain.
- The event involves DoD or Foreign Military Vessel movements.
- The event involves a high-risk non-military vessel transit or movement thru the AOR (i.e., larger-scale deadship tows, etc.).
- The event involves or is planned to involve multiple prominent political figures or celebrities at a waterfront or waterborne venue, or requires Coast Guard support for dignitary protection.

- The event has been designated a Nation Special Security Event, a SEER Level 1, or is a national level exercise.
- The event is the subject of a major Federal investigation.

b. **Critical Incidents** are any occurrence of national interest. National level interest is presumed when it is conceivable that the Commandant or Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security will request timely knowledge of the incident.

3. **Mission.** Sector Delaware Bay's Departments, Marine Safety Detachment Lewes, Stations, Cutters, and Aids to Navigation Teams will share information about Significant Events to assure unity of effort and to de-conflict any planned operations and training, thereby precluding unintended confusion to or distraction from the significant event.

4. **Execution.**

a. **Policy.** Sector Delaware Bay will integrate our planned operations with those of our maritime and ashore partners to achieve unity of effort. As a corollary, we will avoid conducting planned operations or training where, in our view and considering the views of our partners, that training or operation will cause confusion to or distract from the significant event.

b. **Procedure.** In order to accomplish our unity-of-effort mission, Sector Delaware Bay's Department Heads, Marine Safety Detachment Lewes, Station Commanding Officers, Station Officers-in-Charge, Cutter Officers-in-Charge, and Aids to Navigation Team Officers-in-Charge shall:

- (1) Continuously monitor regular sources, partner agencies, and the press for significant events in their AORs and Coast Guard mission areas;
- (2) Report all emergent, planned, or potential significant events to the Sector Command Center for listing on the Master Significant Event Calendar.
- (3) Review planned training or operations against the Sector Command Center Master Significant Event Calendar, and identify our operations scheduled for the same time and same location (or adjacent locations);
- (4) Establish liaison with agencies ashore or partner agencies in the maritime domain where Coast Guard operations can be made complementary;
- (5) Consult private sector partners, agencies ashore, or partner maritime agencies where uncertainty exists about whether planned Coast Guard training or operations will confuse the event or distract from it;
- (6) Reschedule the planned operations and training where doing so will not unduly impact Coast Guard missions or readiness; and
- (7) Advise partner agencies and the Sector Command Center where planned operations and training will distract or potentially confuse, but cannot be rescheduled.
- (8) If unsure if an event constitutes a significant event, pass the info to the Sector Command Center.

c. **Hypothetical Example Significant Events.**

- Station Philadelphia support to the escort of HIV's/SIV's/MOTR Vessels.
- Canal Days / Air shows.
- TTP Boat training or mock-boarding MLE training is scheduled.
- Escorts of the LNG barge M/V Texan-Poinciana.
- Military Out loads and Offloads.
- Multi-Agency SAR/LE/PWCS Training.
- Gun Shoots.
- POTUS/High level dignitary visits.

5. **Administration.** This policy remains in effect until updated.

a. **Master Significant Event Calendar.** The Master Significant Event Calendar will be available as a Public Calendar through Microsoft Outlook, OPSEC will be considered. If not OPSEC sensitive, the Master Significant Event Calendar will include the date or planned date, title, description, and reporting source for each event. If OPSEC provides the exclusion of event details, then only the date and time will be listed as a placeholder. The Sector Command Center will brief the Master Significant Event Calendar to the Sector Commander at the daily 0745 morning brief.

b. **Morning Briefing.** At the 0745 Morning Brief, the Command Duty Officer will brief those Significant Events occurring in the next 72-hours. If the events are Intel driven, the Command Intelligence Officer will brief those Significant Events

6. **Command and Control.** The Deputy Sector Commander is responsible for this policy, and will initiate a review at least annually.

a. All Sector Departments and Divisions shall deconflict and synchronize their planned operations and training with the Master Significant Event Calendar.

b. Station and ANT Commanding Officers or Officers-in-Charge shall de-conflict and synchronize their planned operations and training with the significant events relevant to their AOR only.

c. All personnel shall submit lessons learned and recommendations for improving the Significant Event process to the Deputy Sector Commander as they arise.

d. Where planned operations and training will distract or potentially confuse, but cannot be rescheduled, the cognizant Department Head will immediately be advised.

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