



## All Hands Messages

### *Modernization Review Process*

To the Men and Women of the Coast Guard:

The next year will be a critical period in our effort to modernize our Service. We are in the decision process for transitioning to the new field structure for both operations and mission support. As we consider options for establishing a Coast Guard Operations Command, Force Readiness Command, and new Logistics and Service Centers, we have an unprecedented opportunity. More correctly, you have an unprecedented opportunity. Let me explain.

Under law, the scope of our modernization requires that we consider the environmental impacts of the changes under consideration. The law that requires this is the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, commonly referred to as NEPA. You can find many online references and the law is codified at 42 USC 4321 through 4347 (one resource is <http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/nepanet.htm> ). The law applies to any “major federal action significantly affecting the human environment.”

Recently, RADM Jody Breckenridge issued ALCOAST 387/08 to all Coast Guard commands laying out the process by which we will consider the environmental impacts of modernization. It announces that we will publish in the Federal Register on Friday, 15 August, a “Notice of Availability” of our “Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment.” The documents associated with the NEPA review are available on line at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Members of the Coast Guard are considered stakeholders and interested parties and may comment on the review. This can be done by entering USCG-2008-0751 in the “comments or submission” box on the website and clicking on “go.” Please note that comments regarding the Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment made to the website become part of the public record and are viewable by anyone. It is perfectly acceptable to make comments anonymously, and there is no need to clear them through command channels. Please ensure your comments are as clear and specific as possible to help make this a fully informed decision.

While we expect that the Programmatic Environmental Assessment will result in a “Finding of No Significant Impact,” I welcome your thoughts and input in the environmental review process. No one knows the Coast Guard better than its workforce and it is important that Coast Guard personnel become involved in the process as citizen stakeholders. This is the first time in Coast Guard history that we have initiated an assessment with service-wide interest and impact. I urge you to learn more about our modernization efforts on the Modernization Section of CG Central, in the August issue of

U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings (Thad Allen's Blue Tsunami), and the latest edition of our own Coast Guard Magazine.

Thank you for all the hard work you do for the Coast Guard and our Nation every day. Our modernization efforts will improve mission support and mission execution and would not be possible without your dedication and service.

Admiral Thad Allen  
Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

