

TALKING POINTS FOR SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION ANDREW CARD
COAST GUARD UNIT VISITS

- Although I've only been Secretary of Transportation for less than a week, I really want to get out and meet as many of the men and women of the United States Coast Guard as I can. And this is my first visit.
- In my previous job as Deputy Chief of Staff at the White House, I followed closely the seemingly endless -- and I must say -- incredible accomplishments of the Coast Guard -- as you responded to crises, catastrophes and major natural disasters world wide. All this while continuing to maintain your essential missions of saving life and property and enforcing laws at sea.
 - I know there are countless numbers of people whose lives were in peril who are grateful a "Coastie" was there at the right moment.
- It takes dedicated men and women like you to translate all the policies we make back in Washington into service for our nation and actions on our seas, waterways, coasts, and wherever the Coast Guard is needed.

-- As a citizen, I thank you for those services. As Secretary of Transportation, I am proud to be associated with you.

- I want you to know that I have heard the President on many occasions speak very highly of the Coast Guard. He even has his "sticker" for **Fidelity** -- his boat he keeps docked at Kennebunkport, Maine. Even the President is not going to take any chances of running afoul of the Coast Guard.
- From my involvement through the years with the departments of State and Defense, Congress and the Administration as well as other members of the public and private sectors, I can tell you the Coast Guard enjoys a hard earned and well deserved reputation of being a hard working efficient organization.
- What a pleasure to be able to meet the men and women who make the Coast Guard motto, Semper Paratus (always ready) -- really happen.
- And what better place to begin than in one of the busiest districts in the Coast Guard -- on what I'm told is one of the hardest working units in the Coast Guard. -- (crowd reaction)
 - I stand corrected -- the hardest working unit in the Coast Guard.

-- I'm still new on the job but I should have known that.

- They are already talking about me back at headquarters. My coming in at 0600 and leaving at 8:30 p.m. has a lot of people talking. But by no way do my hours compare with those you put in.
- Like each of you, I believe in hard work. And I intend to work as hard as I know each and every one of you to make sure the Coast Guard gets the resources it needs to do its job.
- Admiral Kime places strong emphasis on taking care of people -- and I support that emphasis. We are moving ahead on a 93 budget which reflects this with a continued growth in housing among other high priorities.
- I am confident that the downsizing of the other services will not be a factor which affects the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard mission continues to remain an integral element of our nation's fabric.
- I came here today because I want you to know that I'm very much aware of your hard work, sacrifice and on occasion separation from loved ones to get the job done.

- The Coast Guard has continued to be responsive to changing national priorities. And I believe that as a result of the recent court ruling we turning the corner on the AMIO situation.
- Finally, let me say again I'm very proud to be a member of this team. I applaud your humanitarian efforts.
- Any questions I can answer after being on the job for a week, I would be happy to do so at this time.

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