



U.S. Department of
Transportation

News:

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 23, 1996

CG 02-96

Contact: Frank Jennings

Tel.: (202) 267-0931

**U.S. COAST GUARD/PASSENGER VESSEL
ASSOCIATION SIGN PARTNERING AGREEMENT**

The U.S. Coast Guard and the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) have signed an agreement that establishes a partnership aimed at promoting the safety of personnel and property within the domestic passenger vessel industry while protecting the environment within our nation's waters.

The document, signed during the Association's 25th Anniversary Convention in St. Louis, signifies an evolving relationship between the Coast Guard and the nearly 500 companies that make up the PVA membership.

In addition, a partnership action team comprised of government and industry representatives will be created to review and act on opportunities for improvement within areas of safety oversight. These opportunities may be suggested by individuals or companies within the domestic passenger vessel industry as well as Coast Guard personnel.

These activities are expected to complement the work of current safety advisory committees and improve the operation of current safety regulations governing small passenger vessels in a results-oriented, non-regulatory manner.

The first action taken as a result of the agreement will be the establishment of an action team by April 30, 1996, to focus on advancing the streamlined inspection program on domestic vessels.

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U.S. Department
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**United States
Coast Guard**

2100 Second St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20593

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

CG 03-96

Contact: Lt. Chuck Diorio

Tel.: (202) 267-0932

JUNIPER BUOY TENDER DELIVERED TO COAST GUARD

The U.S. Coast Guard accepted delivery of Coast Guard Cutter JUNIPER, the first of a new fleet of buoy tenders, from Marinette Marine Corporation of Marinette, Wis., on Jan. 12.

JUNIPER will undergo operational testing and evaluation, and then will make its way to its homeport of Newport, R.I. This is the first ship of the new fleet of multi-mission seagoing buoy tenders used to replace the over 50 year-old, World War II era 180-foot buoy tenders currently in service. JUNIPER was named to honor an earlier Coast Guard buoy tender of the same name.

The Coast Guard is leveraging technology with its new class of cutters. The 16 planned Juniper Class cutters are scheduled to replace 26 of the older cutters. The new Juniper Class will be 45 feet longer, but because of its efficiency it will have 10 fewer crew members on board. JUNIPER also will be able to cover a larger area of responsibility because of its increased speed and advanced technology.

JUNIPER will be equipped with Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) and electronic charts. It also will have a Dynamic Positioning System that will allow it to approach, maneuver and automatically maintain position within a 10-meter radius. In addition, an improved 20-ton hydraulic telescoping boom will be standard on the Juniper Class.

The primary mission of the Juniper Class buoy tenders is to maintain and repair more than 50,000 buoys, day markers and lights. These aids are essential to the safety and welfare of maritime vessels and recreation boats that use U.S. waters.

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The cutters also will undertake search and rescue, law enforcement, defense and icebreaking missions. In addition, the Juniper Class buoy tenders will be outfitted with a permanently installed spilled-oil recovery system. This provides an additional marine environmental protection capability that does not exist in the current buoy tender fleet.

For further information, contact Coast Guard Public Affairs, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Commandant (G-CP-2), 2100 Second St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20593-0001, tel.: (202) 267-0932.

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News:

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, March 13, 1996

CG 07-96
Contact: CPO Frank Jennings
Tel.: (202) 267-0931

U.S. Coast Guard Announces Findings of Cruise Ship Safety Review Task Force

The final report of a U.S. Coast Guard task force on cruise ship safety recommends crew training and communications improvements, particularly on vessels employing multinational crews. Additionally, contingency planning and exercises performed in partnership with industry, emergency responders and other associated port agencies should receive greater emphasis.

The findings of the task force were announced by Coast Guard Vice Commandant Vice Admiral Gene Henn, during a noontime address before the Seatrade Cruise Shipping Convention in Miami.

The report states that over the past ten years, not one passenger death due to a vessel casualty has been reported on passenger vessels operating from U.S. ports. Of reported injuries, nearly all were minor in nature. The task force concluded that there was no evidence of trends or heightened risks associated with oceangoing cruise ships from U.S. ports. It is the opinion of the task force that the cruise ship industry is a safe industry.

The task force was commissioned by Rear Admiral James C. Card, Chief of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety and Environmental Protection Directorate, in response to several cruise vessel casualties this past summer. Although there was no apparent link between the incidents, the Coast Guard deemed it prudent to conduct a safety review to assess the myriad factors that impact the overall safety of cruise ships operating from the United States.

During the course of the study, the task force focused on four primary review areas: the vessel inspection process, international safety standards, casualty analysis -- both recent and historical, and cruise ship management.

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Forthcoming international initiatives in the area of fire safety, crew licensing and training and safety management practices should further enhance the industry's safe record. Additionally, the report's recommendations for further improvement, primarily in the human factors area, will be addressed through the Coast Guard's "Prevention Through People" initiative.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 22, 1996

CG 08-96
Contact: Lt. Chuck Diorio
Tel.: (202) 267-0932

Coast Guard Awards \$8.9 Million Contract for Construction of New Coastal Patrol Boats

Transportation Secretary Federico Peña today announced that the U.S. Coast Guard has awarded an \$8.9 million contract to Bollinger Shipyards, Inc., of Lockport, La., to design and construct a new 26.5 meter coastal patrol boat.

The initial contract award includes the design and construction of a lead ship with options for up to 50 additional cutters. Bollinger Shipyards, Inc. said the contract would create approximately 100 new jobs. Bollinger had previously constructed 49 110-foot island class cutters between October 1984 and March 1992.

The new Coastal Patrol Boats will be the first of an expected 31 to 51 cutters and will be named CONDOR. This new cutter class will replace the thirty-seven 82-foot Point Class cutters currently in service.

Secretary Peña said, "Safety is President Clinton's top transportation priority, and new design and equipment upgrades make this class of patrol boat better suited for search and rescue, marine environmental protection and recreational boating safety missions."

Mission areas for the 26.5 meter class cutters include enforcement of laws and treaties, search and rescue, marine environmental protection/response and military readiness.

CONDOR will be equipped with state of the market systems and equipment incorporating proven technology.

For further information, contact Coast Guard Public Affairs at U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Commandant (G-CP-2), 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, D.C., 20593-0001, or telephone (202) 267-0932.

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