



## Commandant Outlines Plan for Improvements in Maritime Safety

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subcommittee on improvements to the maritime safety function of the Coast Guard.

He started by stating very strongly his commitment to an integrated approach to safety, security and stewardship. He mentioned the effort by retired VADM Jim Card to get feedback from outside the Coast Guard by going out, talking to stakeholders and reporting back on what they thought of the Coast Guard and what their suggestions were. He said that he had received VADM Card's report and that it contained six recommendations:

1. The need for an overall strategy to achieve improvements in the Coast Guard.
2. The need for leadership in implementing that strategy, and especially the need for leadership to ensure that the strategy is understood and implemented from top to bottom.
3. A focus on people, specifically qualifications, standards and training.
4. An understanding of the implications of current policies.
5. An emphasis on customer service.
6. A willingness to change the structure of the Coast Guard where necessary.

ADM Allen said that the bottom line of VADM Card's report was that the Coast Guard needs to change and grow along with the maritime industry.

ADM Allen noted a number of mission areas where the Coast Guard is doing an effective job with small numbers of personnel. But with regard to maritime safety, he said that there was clearly a "performance gap." He attributed this in part to the growing numbers of vessels to be regulated, but also acknowledged that the marine safety system lacks capacity, competence and customer focus.



He returned to the concept of an integrated approach to safety, security and stewardship, saying that the Coast Guard can adapt to new and growing needs in these areas, but that it will demand the attention of senior leadership. He said that the components of the improvement would be (1) an increase in capacity, (2) a higher standard of customer service, and (3) greater outreach. He also said that sooner or later, there must be a discussion of resource needs, and that he is ready to have those discussions.

ADM Allen concluded his remarks with a metaphor he had received in an email from one of his Captains. The email sender did not see safety and security as "two sides to the same coin." Rather the Captain saw a "fabric of protection," where safety, security and stewardship were threads of a fabric that were tightly woven together to provide protection. But if those threads became loose, then the fabric would unravel and lose its ability to protect.

The Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is expected to hold a hearing in October on the Coast Guard's proposal for achieving improvements in maritime safety. 🌐

### THE AWO FALL CONVENTION IS ALMOST HERE...

*Have you made your reservations yet?*

The AWO Fall Convention is being held in Houston, TX this year at the Four Seasons Hotel. Meetings will begin on the morning of Thursday, October 4 and conclude at noon on Friday, October 5. New Directors should plan to attend the Board orientation session to be held the day before the Convention, on Wednesday, October 3 at noon. To register, or if you have any questions, please contact Hermoine Wellman at (703) 841-9300, extension 291, or via email at [hwellman@vesselalliance.com](mailto:hwellman@vesselalliance.com). 🌐



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