



9110-04-P

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**Coast Guard**

[Docket No. USCG-2016-0782]

Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice of Federal Advisory Committee Meeting.

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**SUMMARY:** The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee and its working groups will meet to discuss various issues related to the training and fitness of merchant marine personnel. The meetings will be open to the public.

**DATES:** The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee and its working groups are scheduled to meet on Tuesday, September 13, 2016, from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and the full Committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, September 14, 2016, from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Please note that these meetings may adjourn early if the Committee has completed its business. These meetings will be held as scheduled subject to the finalization of meeting site arrangements. Anyone interested in attending the meeting may want to contact the Coast Guard before making their travel and hotel reservations. Please contact Mr. R. Sam Teague, listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**

section to confirm that the meeting will be held on these dates or if the meeting has been re-scheduled.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the St Louis City Center Hotel, 400 S. 14th St., St. Louis, Missouri, 63103 (<http://www.stlouiscitycenterhotel.com/> ).

For further information about the meeting facilities, please contact the St. Louis City Center Hotel at (314)231-5007. For information on facilities or services for individuals with disabilities or to request special assistance at the meeting, contact the Alternate Designated Federal Officer as soon as possible using the contact information provided in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice.

To facilitate public participation, we are inviting public comment on the issues to be considered by the Committee as listed in the "Agenda" section below. Written comments for distribution to Committee members must be submitted no later than September 5, 2016, if you want Committee members to review your comments before the meeting. Written comments may be submitted using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. For assistance with technical difficulties, contact the individual in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this document.

*Instructions:* You must include "Department of Homeland Security" and docket number USCG-2016-0782 in all written comments. Comments received will be posted without alteration at <http://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. You may review a Privacy Act notice regarding the Federal Docket Management System in the March 24, 2005, issue of the Federal Register (70 FR 15086).

*Docket Search:* For access to the docket to read documents or comments related to this notice, go to <http://www.regulations.gov>, type USCG-2016-0782 in the "Search" box, press Enter, and then click on the item you wish to view.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. R. Sam Teague, Alternate Designated Federal Officer of the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee, 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE., Stop 7509, Washington, District of Columbia, 20593-7509, telephone 202-372-1425, fax 202-372-8382 or [ronald.s.teague@uscg.mil](mailto:ronald.s.teague@uscg.mil).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Notice of this meeting is given pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Title 5 United States Code Appendix.

The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee was established under authority of section 310 of the Howard

Coble Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2014, Title 46, United States Code, section 8108, and chartered under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, (Title 5, United States Code, Appendix). The Committee acts solely in an advisory capacity to the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security through the Commandant of the Coast Guard on matters relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards and other matters as assigned by the Commandant. The Committee shall also review and comment on proposed Coast Guard regulations and policies relating to personnel in the United States merchant marine, including training, qualifications, certification, documentation, and fitness standards; may be given special assignments by the Secretary and may conduct studies, inquiries, workshops, and fact finding in consultation with individuals and groups in the private sector and with State or local governments; and shall advise, consult with, and make recommendations reflecting its independent judgment to the Secretary.

## **Agenda**

### **DAY 1**

The agenda for the September 13, 2016 meeting is as

follows:

(1) The full Committee will meet briefly to discuss the working groups' business/task statements, which are listed under paragraph 3 (a)-(f) below.

(2) Public comment period.

(3) Working groups will separately address the following task statements which are available for viewing at <https://homeport.uscg.mil/merpac>:

(a) Task Statement 30, Utilizing military education, training and assessment for the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers and National Certifications;

(b) Task Statement 58, Communication between external stakeholders and the mariner credentialing program, as it relates to the National Maritime Center;

(c) Task Statement 87, Review of policy documents providing guidance on the implementation of the December 24, 2013 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers rulemaking;

(d) Task Statement 89, Review and update of the International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee Circular MSC.1014, "Guidelines on Fatigue Mitigation and Management";

(e) Task Statement 90, Review of International

Maritime Organization Model Courses Being Validated by the International Maritime Organization's Human Element, Training, and Watchkeeping Subcommittee; and

(f) Task Statement 94, Review the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee recommendations with a view to evaluating their current relevance.

(4) Reports of working groups. At the end of the day, the working groups will report to the full Committee on what was accomplished in their meetings. The full Committee will not take action on these reports on this date. Any official action taken as a result of these working group meetings will be taken on day 2 of the meeting.

(5) Public comment period

(6) Adjournment of meeting.

## **DAY 2**

The agenda for the September 14, 2016, full Committee meeting is as follows:

- (1) Introduction;
- (2) Swear in newly appointed Committee members;
- (3) Remarks from Coast Guard Leadership;
- (4) Designated Federal Officer announcements;
- (5) Roll call of Committee members and determination of a quorum;

(6) Reports from the following working groups;

(a) Task Statement 30, Utilizing military education, training and assessment for the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers and National Certifications;

(b) Task Statement 58, Communication between external stakeholders and the mariner credentialing program, as it relates to the National Maritime Center;

(c) Task Statement 87, Review of policy documents providing guidance on the implementation of the December 24, 2013 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers rulemaking;

(d) Task Statement 89, Review and update of International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee Circular MSC/Circ.1014, "Guidelines on Fatigue Mitigation and Management";

(e) Task Statement 90, Review of International Maritime Organization Model Courses Being Validated by the International Maritime Organization's Human Element, Training, and Watchkeeping Subcommittee;

(f) Task Statement 91, Merchant Mariner Credential Expiration Harmonization; and

(g) Task Statement 94, Review the Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee recommendations with a view to

evaluating their current relevance.

(6) Other items for discussion:

(a) Report on the Implementation of the 2010 Amendments to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping;

(b) Report on National Maritime Center activities from the National Maritime Center Commanding Officer, such as the net processing time it takes for mariners to receive their credentials after application submittal;

(c) Report on Mariner Credentialing Program Policy Division activities, such as its current initiatives and projects;

(d) Report on International Maritime Organization/International Labor Organization issues related to the merchant marine industry; and

(e) Briefings about on-going Coast Guard projects related to personnel in the U.S. merchant marine.

(7) New Business

(a) New task statement - "Firefighting Training for UTVs on Inland Service;

(b) New task statement - "Course Approval Requirements"; and

(c) New task statement - "Designated Examiner, Qualified Assessor and Designated Medical Examiner

Verification Tool".

(8) Public comment period.

(9) Discussion of working group recommendations.

The Committee will review the information presented on each issue, deliberate on any recommendations presented by the working groups and approve/formulate recommendations.

Official action on these recommendations may be taken on this date.

(10) Closing remarks/plans for next meeting.

(11) Adjournment of meeting.

A public comment period will be held during each Working Group and full Committee meeting concerning matters being discussed.

Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker. Please note that the public comment periods will end following the last call for comments. Please contact Mr. R. Sam Teague, listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section, to register as a speaker.

Please note that the meeting may adjourn early if the work is completed.

Dated: 24 August 2016

J. G. LANTZ,  
Director of Commercial Regulations and Standards.

