DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement/Joint Planning Advisory Group Meeting

AGENCY:  Maritime Administration, Department of Transportation

ACTION: Notice.

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SUMMARY: The Voluntary Intermodal Sealift Agreement (VISA) program requires that a notice of the time, place, and nature of each VISA Joint Planning Advisory Group (JPAG) meeting be published in the Federal Register. On January 14, 2020, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) co-hosted a classified VISA JPAG meeting at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The JPAG is co-chaired by MARAD and USTRANSCOM and is convened jointly. The U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Trade Commission were informed of the JPAG meeting prior to its occurrence, in accordance with VISA program requirements.

Participants in the JPAG meeting were required to possess a secret clearance due to the classified nature of the event and attendance at the meeting was by invitation only. MARAD and USTRANSCOM invited participating VISA carriers and representatives of maritime labor organizations to attend the meeting. In addition, representatives from the U.S. Department of Transportation, MARAD, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Department of Defense (DOD) to include the Office of the Secretary of Defense, USTRANSCOM, the U.S. Navy, the Military Sealift Command, and the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, as well as operational elements of Geographic Combatant Commands, were in attendance.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William G. McDonald, Director, Office of Sealift Support, U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590; Telephone (202) 366-0688 or electronic mail to: william.g.mcdonald@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Vice Admiral (VADM) Dee L. Mewbourne, Deputy Commander, USTRANSCOM, and Mr. Kevin Tokarski, Associate Administrator for Strategic Sealift, MARAD, welcomed the participants. Mr. Tokarski thanked the industry participants for their continued support. He spoke of the unique value of the JPAG in maximizing the effective use of joint resources to meet deployment and sustainment requirements and expressed confidence that JPAG meetings would serve to prepare attendees for what could occur during a VISA activation. VADM Mewbourne discussed the current operational picture and said JPAG operations are crucial to development of concepts of operations focused on VISA participants’ ability to meet DOD requirements for moving contingency cargo from CONUS Sea Ports of Embarkation to designated OCONUS Ports of Debarkation and onward to operational areas.

The purpose of the JPAG meeting was to: 1) brief members on current strategic and operational developments; 2) affirm industry’s readiness, ability, and resilience to meet DOD contingency transport requirements, and; 3) discuss planning assumptions for potential deployment scenarios. The meeting was rated a success by industry participants, who offered informed and useful information on the provision of capacity and resources to meet DOD requirements.

VISA is a USDOT/DoD Emergency Preparedness Program (EPP) administered by MARAD in partnership with USTRANSCOM. The program is designed to provide DoD with assured access to vessels and intermodal capacity to meet contingency requirements in the event of national emergency. On September 30, 2019, MARAD published a notice in the Federal
Register/ Vol. 84, No. 189, 51710, announcing extension of the VISA program until October 1, 2024.

The following ocean carriers are VISA participants:

American International Shipping, LLC
American President Lines, Ltd.
American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier, LLC
APL Marine Services, Ltd.
APL Maritime, Ltd.
Argent Marine Operations, Inc.
Beyel Brothers Inc.
Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC
Crimson Shipping Co., Inc.
Crowley Marine Services, Inc.
Crowley Puerto Rico Services, Inc.
Curtin Maritime, Corporation
Dann Marine Towing, LC
Dann Ocean Towing, Inc.
Dunlap Towing Company
Farrell Lines Incorporated
Fidelio Limited Partnership
Foss International, Inc.
Foss Maritime Company
Hapag-Lloyd USA, LLC
JM Ships, LLC
Laborde Marine, LLC
Liberty Global Logistics, LLC
Liberty Glory Corporation
Lynden Incorporated & Affiliates
Maersk Line, Limited
Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
McAllister Towing and Transportation Co., Inc.
McCulley Marine Services, Inc.
Moran Towing Corporation
National Shipping of America, LLC
Northcliffe Ocean Shipping & Trading Company, Inc.
Pacific Maritime Freight, Inc.
Pasha Hawaii Holdings LLC
Patriot Shipping, LLC
Resolve Towing & Salvage, Inc.
Samson Tug & Barge Co., Inc.
Schuyler Lines Navigation Company, LLC
Seabridge, Inc.
Sealift, Inc.
SeaTac Marine Services, LLC
Smith Maritime, Inc.
Stevens Towing Company, Inc.
Stevens Transportation, LLC
Superior Maritime Services, Inc.
TOTE Maritime Alaska, Inc.
TOTE Maritime Puerto Rico, LLC
Trailer Bridge, Inc.
Waterman Steamship Corporation
Waterman Transport, Inc.
Weeks Marine, Inc.

Western Towboat Company

Young Brothers, Limited

(Authority: 49 CFR 1.93(l), 44 CFR part 332)

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Dated: January 21, 2020

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

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T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr

Secretary, Maritime Administration

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