

Mid-America Regional Quality Steering Committee

TASK STATEMENT

January 28, 2010

I. TASK TITLE

Identify an alternative to the Inland River Vessel Movement Center (IRVMC) to maintain maritime awareness of certain dangerous cargoes (CDCs) while decreasing costs and impacts to the towing industry.

II. BACKGROUND

In 2003, Coast Guard Districts Eight and Nine established Regulated Navigation Areas (RNAs) requiring vessels carrying CDCs (defined in 33CFR165.830) on the Inland Rivers to report their movements relative to high-density population areas. Since then, the Districts have been using the Inland River Vessel Movement Center (IRVMC) to monitor and track CDC movements along the Inland Rivers. The intent of this CDC reporting requirement is to allow local Coast Guard commands to take timely security actions such as escorting CDCs through critical navigation areas and accounting for CDCs in emergency situations.

III. PROBLEM STATEMENT

It has been nearly seven years since this RNA and the IRVMC were established. The Coast Guard Security Program has matured and information system technology has improved. The Coast Guard is validating the security requirements for Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) of CDCs on the Inland Rivers. The Coast Guard is also researching more effective and/or less costly alternatives to the IRVMC process for collecting and disseminating information on CDCs. A Coast Guard workgroup has been detailed to complete this work and submit findings and recommendations to the Commandant by 15 March 2010. The Coast Guard intends to implement any approved changes to reporting requirements and the reporting process by 1 October 2010. The Eighth District has asked the towing industry to review potential changes to the RNA and IRVMC process.

IV. TASK

Establish a working group comprised of industry and Eighth District personnel, via the RQSC, to review the proposal and develop recommended courses of action (COAs) to effectively and cost efficiently collect and disseminate information on CDCs.

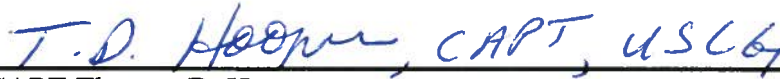
ESTIMATED TIME TO COMPLETE TASK

The QAT will meet in spring 2010 to review the document and provide suggestions for improving it. The QAT will provide a report for final approval by March 2010.

V. RQSC CONTACTS

Eighth District Contact: CAPT Thomas D. Hooper

Industry Contact: Lynn M. Muench



CAPT Thomas D. Hooper
Eighth U.S. Coast Guard District
January 28, 2010



Lynn M. Muench
American Waterways Operators
January 28, 2010