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MARINE SAFETY INFORMATION BULLETIN

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March 31, 2005

Stand Up of Sector Delaware Bay

The Captain of the Port (COTP) Philadelphia is notifying the port community that Marine Safety Office / Group Philadelphia will be renamed Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay on April 1, 2005. A formal ceremony marking the establishment of Sector Delaware Bay will be held June 10, 2005 at 10:30 AM at the Sector office located at One Washington Ave, Philadelphia, PA.

Sector Delaware Bay is the latest of new Sector Commands that are being created Coast Guard-wide and will continue to provide for the safety and security of Southern New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania and Delaware. Additionally, Sector Field Office Atlantic City, previously Group Atlantic City will be a subordinate command to Sector Delaware Bay and will continue to perform its safety and security mission on the New Jersey shore.

The Coast Guard is establishing Sector commands by integrating Groups, Marine Safety Offices, Vessel Traffic Services and, in some cases, Air Stations, to more effectively manage the sweeping changes to our operational environment resulting from the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Under the Sector model, the Coast Guard's command and control functions will be unified beneath one local operational commander, resulting in increased interaction and coordination across the Coast Guard's range of missions.

This single interface will also facilitate more efficient execution of homeland security missions by improving the ability to share information and intelligence with federal, state and local homeland security partners, as well as the maritime community. It is our intention that the transition to Sector Delaware Bay will be seamless and transparent to our customers. We are not making large internal transfers of personnel to meet the Sector model. The members of my staff that you currently work with will have the same responsibilities within Sector Delaware Bay, and can be communicated with using the same phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this bulletin or expectations of the Captain of the Port, please contact LCDR Pat Keffler of my staff at (215) 271-4883.

J. D. SARUBBI
Captain, U.S. Coast Guard
Captain of the Port