

## Top Ten Accomplishments

- ◆ UTV Course (4 convenings) & final approval as "C" school
- ◆ Revised UTV Exam Form & Guidebook
- ◆ Draft Int'l Addendum to exam form
- ◆ 12 (2hr) seminars on Fire-fighting equipment
- ◆ Researched & developed 3 Safety Alerts (pressure vessel, fire suppression companies, moving machinery)
- ◆ Researched & developed 10 FAQ's on TVNCOE website
- ◆ Assisted CG-543 in development of UTV manning policy
- ◆ Participated in falls overboard workgroup (TSAC)
- ◆ Participated in implementation NVIC workgroup (BAIT)
- ◆ Presented at Workboat Show & Pacific Marine Expo
- ◆ Attended Subchapter M NPRM public meetings
- ◆ Designation as National Verification Officer for 2 staff mbrs



### Common acronyms:

- ◆ CID - Chief of Inspection Department
- ◆ CG-543 - CG Office of Domestic Vessels
- ◆ ISO - International Organization for Standardization
- ◆ NVIC - Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular
- ◆ PQS - Personal Qualification Standards
- ◆ SCI - Seaman's Church Institute
- ◆ TVBP - Towing Vessel Bridging Program
- ◆ TVNCOE - Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise
- ◆ UTV - Uninspected Towing Vessel

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## 2011 Snapshot

Annual Brochure



# TOWING Vessel National CENTER of EXPERTISE

# Highlights

## Introduction

In our second year of operations, 2011 began with government wide budget uncertainties and major flooding events right here at home. It was also comprised of significant events for TVNCOE: the highly anticipated Notice to Proposed Rules for Subchapter M was released in late summer; the UTV Examiner Course was given final approval as an official C-school course; internal reorganization shifted the NCOE chain of command from Headquarters to TRACEN Yorktown within FORCECOM; and a change within TVNCOE leadership with the departure of CAPT Greg Case and arrival of LCDR Wade Russell.

## Background

Established on May 22, 2010, the TVNCOE's purpose is to raise the CG's competencies with respect to towing vessels, which is especially critical in light of the proposed inspected status of the nation's towing vessels. Our mission is three-fold: training, expertise and liaison. Our vision is simply, to enhance the safety, security and environmental stewardship of our nation's towing vessels. Our office, located in beautiful downtown Paducah, Kentucky, is staffed with subject matter experts and instructors. Our stakeholders include towing vessel companies, relevant vendors and third parties, local and federal agencies, CG Headquarters, Districts and Sectors.

## Training

Four convenings of the UTV Examiner course were held again in fiscal year 2011. This time, it underwent a transformation from "just-in-time" training to a formalized curriculum, which was officially evaluated and approved in late fall. The courses were held twice in Paducah and once each in Alameda, CA and Yorktown, VA. The Alameda convening was to test out our sea legs in an exportable class while the Yorktown convening was in preparation for final evaluation and consequent transition to Yorktown. The course is considered to be a basic resident course, which would naturally reside at the training center in Yorktown. To date, 202 participants have successfully completed the course, 23% of which were industry representatives. Although the purpose of the course is to train CG members on how to conduct a UTV exam, Industry representatives are invited to attend this course in the spirit of the TVBP guiding principles: transparency, cooperation and professionalism.



Other training initiatives include partnership with SCI. We use this opportunity to discuss with SCI's students the mission of TVNCOE and TVBP as well as focused issues like the specifics of fire fighting equipment requirements and best practices. Our partnership with SCI also included their involvement in the Paducah convening of the UTV Examiner Course, in which the students got to "get behind the sticks" in the simulator and negotiate bridges and bends in the river.

## Expertise

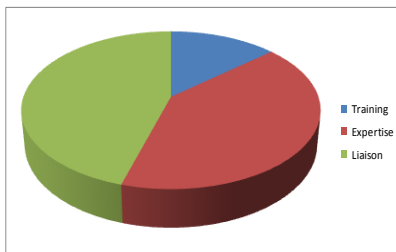
This mission encompasses the professional development of our staff, in-depth technical research, fostering policy and providing expert guidance to stakeholders.

We drafted 3 Safety Alerts on key issues identified during UTV exams and casualty investigations: pressure vessel hazards, fire suppression equipment servicing issues, and moving machinery hazards. We researched, developed and posted 10 FAQ's on our website this year; the TVNCOE FAQ's are informal means of policy (sanctioned by CG -543) that clarify regulations, common issues or questions. We provided expertise to CG-543 on the UTV manning policy. We developed the International Addendum to the UTV exam form, a job aid to assist and promote consistency for towing vessels on international voyages. We improved and revised the UTV exam form and guidebook. We're active participants on the currently in-progress implementation NVIC and the falls overboard workgroups. We provided guidance and oversight on the new "green" INERGEN fire suppression system plan approval and installation aboard M/V DONNA RUSHING.



Aside from countless hours of guidance provided over the phone and email to field units and industry alike, we also proffered doctrine within the CG Marine Safety community thru Prevention and CID conferences, UTV Coordinators workshop, unit industry days, visits to units and UTV exams conducted in partnership with MSU Paducah.

Formal staff development included Marine Inspector Course, ISO Lead Auditor Course, Instructor Development Course, industry training, and qualifications training. Two of our staff mem-



bers have also obtained designation as National Verification Officers, which means that they can verify the knowledge and skills of any UTV trainee anywhere in the country.

## Liaison

As you can see from the pie graph, liaison with industry takes up a large portion of our work and includes CG-Industry workgroups, tradeshow, committees, meetings, and conferences. Much of our outreach this year consisted of program updates and expert technical guidance to promote nationwide consistency and safety. Besides some of the industry liaison activities that are already inherent in our training and expertise mission, other notable involvements include participation and presentations at the Towing Safety Advisory Committee, Merchant Mariner Personnel Advisory Committee, CG-AWO Quality Steering Committee, Workboat Show, Inland Waterways Conference, and several company-wide captain/engineer meetings. We also visited several companies across the country to strengthen partnerships and stay abreast of current issues and to keep a pulse on the progress of the TVBP in the field.

## On the Horizon 2012

In the upcoming year we anticipate identifying and developing advanced course(s), developing seminars tailored to industry needs, obtaining additional highly technical training for TVNCOE staff, staying abreast of current and future regulatory issues and maintaining a forward leaning posture on the new towing inspection paradigm. We will continue to promote consistency nationwide and play a key role in facilitating industry's transition to inspected status.



## In the Media

Read about us in the following print media:

- ◆ Rebecca Feldhaus, "Built Up and Moving On", *The Paducah Sun*, June 19, 2011
- ◆ David Murray, "Green 'Boat of Tomorrow' Creates Industry Buzz", *The Waterways Journal*, Vol. 125, No. 34, November 21, 2011
- ◆ Dom Yanchunas, "Voluntary Inspections Help Tug Operators Prepare for the Coming Requirements", *Professional Mariner*, Issue #143, Feb 2011.
- ◆ Dom Yanchunas, "Towing", *Professional Mariner*, Issue #154, Feb 2012
- ◆ Jeff Yates, "Case, Rushing Honored in Paducah Ceremony", *The Waterways Journal*, Vol. 125, No.9, May 30, 2011

