

Accomplishments

- ◆ UTV Course (4 convening's), approx 100 students trained
- ◆ Revised UTV Exam form and guidebook
- ◆ Conducted 25 Seminars on Fire-Fighting equipment, attended by over 500 industry and CG personnel
- ◆ Improved & maintained consistency for TVBP by participating in 35 UTV exams, created list server with over 350 subscribers used to disseminate critical policy changes, conducted 15 unit site visits providing training and advisement
- ◆ Provided subject matter expertise for the development and creation of safety alerts and FAQs: safety alerts for Pressure Switch Location for Fixed Fire Suppression Systems, Servicing of Shipboard CO₂ Fire Suppression Systems and Moving Hazards aboard UTVs. FAQs for decal removal requirements, reissuance of decal after UTV re-exam, expiration of examination decals, fire hoses and nozzles, applicability of stability letter operational conditions on UTVs, and assistance towing vessels and the CG TVBP
- ◆ Planned and prepped for TVBP Phase II activities, provided "Just in Time" refresher training, advisement, and onsite assistance with examinations for 15 CG units
- ◆ Worked with industry, National Board of Pressure Vessels, HQ, and established national way forward for nonstandard pressure vessel certification procedures on UTVs.
- ◆ Directly assisted with high profile towing vessel fire investigations on the MV PATRICE MCALLISTER & MV MARGARITE TERREL, also assisted with formal investigation of the MV DELTA MARINER bridge allision
- ◆ Conducted staff professional development to increase TVNCOE capabilities; 2 additional staff members certified as National Verifying Officers and CG Instructors



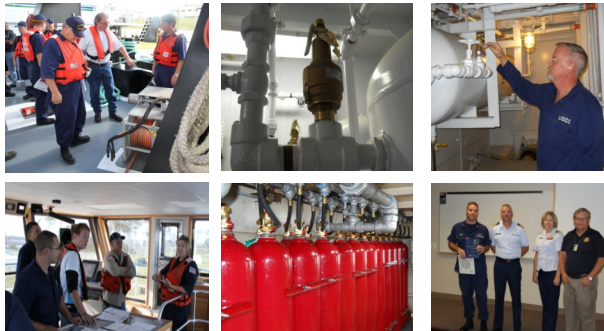
Supervisor: LCDR J. Wade Russell
 National Technical Advisor: LCDR Charlotte Keogh
 Senior Marine Inspector: Roy Murphy

Marine Inspector: LT Jaime Salinas Marine Inspector: Michael Kelly
 Marine Inspector: Steven Douglass Marine Inspector: Dave Phillips



Common acronyms:

AWO - American Waterways Operators	RSS - Really Simple Syndication
CG - Coast Guard	SCI - Seaman's Church Institute
CO ₂ - Carbon Dioxide	TOAR - Towing Officer Assessment Record
FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions	TVBP - Towing Vessel Bridging Program
HQ - Headquarters	TVNCOE - Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise
MV - Motor Vessel	UTV - Uninspected Towing Vessel
NPRM - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	
NVIC - Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular	



United States Coast Guard
 Towing Vessel National Center of Expertise

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



2012 Snapshot Annual Brochure



TOWING Vessel National CENTER of EXPERTISE

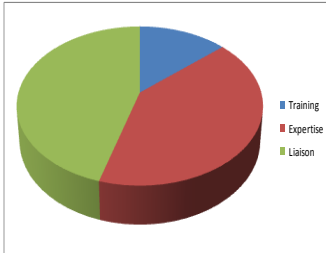
Highlights

Introduction

Our 3rd year in operation continued to be busy and productive. The TVNCOE played a major role in the TVBP as we transitioned into Phase II Prioritized UTV exams and participated in 4 Towing Vessel Examiner class convenings, including one exportable course held in Houston, TX. We represented the Coast Guard in multiple committee meetings and conferences, held Bridging Program presentations nationwide, and continued field unit support and program outreach to industry, including conducting exams, verifying qualifications, conducting training in support of Seamen's Church Institute (SCI), and other projects.

Background

Established on May 22, 2010, the TVNCOE's purpose is to raise the CG's competencies with respect to examining towing vessels, which remains critical in light of the proposed inspected status of the nation's towing vessels and their contribution to our economy. Our mission continues to be training, expertise, and liaison in support of enhancing 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 both military and civilian. Our stakeholders include towing vessel companies, relevant vendors and third parties, local and federal agencies, CG Headquarters, Districts and Sectors, and the community we live in.



Training

Training, in one form or another, accounted for approximately 11% of our 2012 activities. Internally, our staff continued their professional development— including attending Marine Inspector Course, Instructor Development Course, Course Developer Course, and multiple vessel rides and industry training visits. In all, two additional staff members qualified as National Verifying Officers for the training of new Towing Vessel Examiners, and two obtained the Coast Guard Instructor qualification.

Externally, four convenings of the UTV Examiner course were held again in year 2012, three of them at Yorktown, VA and one in Houston, TX— our first official exportable class! The classes continued to consist of a mix of Coast Guard and industry personnel, totaling approximately 100 persons. The course transitioned to a basic resi-

dent course in FY 2012 with our staff supporting the Training Center in Yorktown, VA and attending as instructors. The purpose of the course is to ensure personnel assigned as UTV examiners have a solid understanding of industry and that they have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to competently and professionally conduct UTV examinations. The course also provides outreach and insight to Industry in the spirit of the TVBP guiding principles: transparency, cooperation and professionalism.

We also continued our partnership with SCI, where our inspectors provided fire fighting systems awareness training to vessel and company personnel, as well as Coast Guard personnel. This provided better awareness of the inspections and testing required for fire suppression systems onboard UTV's. This training reached in excess of 500 Coast Guard and industry personnel through the course of the year.

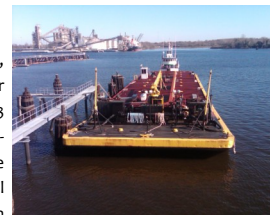
Expertise

Our staff continued to provide supporting activities such as in-depth technical research, fostering policy and providing expert guidance to stakeholders, accounting for 43% of the TVNCOE activities.

We published National Safety Alerts on Moving Hazards, Pressure Switch Location, and Servicing of Shipboard CO₂ Fire Suppression Systems, developed and published FAQ's on our website, provided input regarding UTV manning policy and TOAR's for Great Lakes and Inland River service, and provided maritime curriculum advisement. In addition to taking part in UTV exams throughout the Coast Guard, the TVNCOE staff assisted in the investigations into the fires aboard the M/V Patrice McAllister and the M/V Margarine Terrel, as well as the formal investigation into the M/V Delta Mariner allision with the Hwy 58 bridge over Kentucky Lake. We provided expertise to CG Headquarters for the AWO/CG Subgroup on Inland TV inspection repair standards and guidance on the repair of pressure vessels. The TVNCOE developed an International Addendum to the TVBP exam form and provided technical support to the Towing Safety Advisory Committee for Revision of NVIC 1-95, Voluntary Training Standards for Entry-Level Personnel on Towing Industry Vessels. We worked closely with industry in establishing a way forward regarding the certification of previously unrated, non-fired pressure vessels. We also revised the UTV Exam form and guidebook, which were later used to develop a UTV Examiner Training Aid.

Liaison

Encompassing another 46% of our activities, outreach continues as one of our larger missions. This year the TVNCOE provided 53 TVBP presentations and briefs at major industry functions and CG units. These included the Workboat Show, AWO national/regional meetings, Pacific Marine Expo, TVNCOE Open house, and a three day condensed exportable UTV examiner seminar. We participated in the Falls Overboard work group, and attended all NPRM



public meetings for Sub M, including reviewing and providing comments on Sub M draft. In providing assistance to industry in communicating with the Coast Guard, we assisted a company in requesting and gaining approval for installation plans to be reviewed by CG HQ for the first INERGEN® fire suppression system installed aboard a towing vessel. In addition to traditional outreach activities, the center explored new ways to reach stakeholders. To improve TVNCOE communication, a list-server, incorporating an RSS feed, was developed and implemented which instantly communicates changes or updates from our web-site to over 350 members.

Communication continued to be a primary mission focus as we conducted Coast Guard unit site visits and liaised with industry, conducting company visits across the country and participating in industry partnerships at the local and national level.

On the Horizon 2013

In the upcoming year we anticipate identifying and developing advanced courses and seminars tailored to industry and Coast Guard needs, obtaining additional 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 through the Towing Vessel Bridging Program.

In the Media

Read about us in the following print media:

- ◆ Conference of Professional Operators for Response Towing, "C-Port 25th Anniversary Conference Recap", *The Marine Assistance Industry Journal* Volume VII, January, 2012
- ◆ Susan Buchanan, "The Center(s) of Expertise", *Marine Link.com*, January, 2012
- ◆ Dom Yanchunas, "Voluntary Towing Inspections Give Crews a Glimpse of the Future", *Professional Mariner*, Issue #154, February, 2012
- ◆ Pamela Glass, "Coast Guard Cadets and Tugs and Barges", *Washington Watch*, *Work Boat Magazine* February 7, 2012.
- ◆ Dom Yanchunas, "Towboat exams now mandatory", *Professional Mariner*, Issue #161, September, 2012

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