



U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Pittsburgh



“Three Rivers Guardians”

REV. 4/13/2021

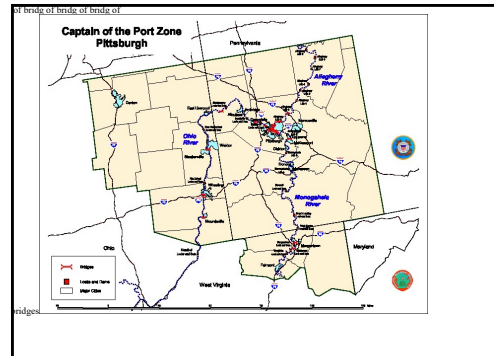
Commanding Officer: CDR Aaron W. Demo	Executive Officer: LCDR Stephen R. Miros
Senior Enlisted Advisor: MSTC Caesar Valdez	
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General Jurisdiction & Responsibilities

The Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Pittsburgh is designated by federal regulation as the Captain of the Port (COTP) and Officer-in-Charge of Marine Inspection (OCMI) for Western Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio and Northern West Virginia. In the nation’s 4th largest inland port, MSU Pittsburgh is responsible for directing all Coast Guard activities related to Port Security, Waterways Management, Marine Environmental Protection, Investigations and Inspections. The Commanding Officer is also designated as the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator (FMSC) for planning and response to security incidents as well as the Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) for oil and HAZMAT releases.

Area of Responsibility

MSU Pittsburgh is responsible for an area that covers South Western Pennsylvania and portions of Ohio and West Virginia. The area of responsibility (AOR) is comprised of 328 miles of the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers. The MSU is responsible for 63 regulated waterfront facilities that conduct over 2000 transfers annually, involving over 50 different hazardous cargos. The unit’s fleet of responsibility consists of 19 tank barges and 14 passenger vessels. Nearly 170 towing vessels operate within the unit AOR.



Homeland Security

As the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator, MSU Pittsburgh plays an integral role in ensuring the safety and security of local ports and protecting the navigable waterways within the COTP Zone. Under the Maritime Transportation Security Act of 2002, MSU Pittsburgh plays the lead role in developing and implementing the Area Maritime Security Plan, assessing security risks and implementing mitigation strategies in concert with the Pittsburgh Area Maritime Security Committee.

Recreational Boating Safety

As the Premiere Maritime Life Saving the Coast Guard Play an active role in ensuring Recreational Boater Safety



Waterways Management

MSU Pittsburgh is devoted to assuring the safety of commercial and recreational boaters on the Upper Ohio River System. MSU Pittsburgh reviews and is the final approving authority for all marine regattas & parades including the annual Pittsburgh Steelers Fireworks and the City of Pittsburgh’s 4th of July fireworks display. Marine construction projects and removal of hazards to navigation are also monitored by the MSU. These activities combined with everyday river traffic, often present potential hazards that require special oversight, mediation or enforcement action.

Oil & Hazardous Substance Response

The FOSC is the lead federal official for coordinating and directing all federal action and support in response to an oil or hazardous substance release threatening federal waters. Working with state and local agencies, the FOSC ensures that all appropriate action is being taken to protect the public and to mitigate environmental damage. To accomplish this MSU Pittsburgh has direct access to a multitude of asset, technical support, and funding resources. Coast Guard assets include small boats, cutters, and aircraft. Technical support is provided by the Atlantic Strike Team, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC). Funding provisions from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) Fund allow the FOSC to utilize commercial contractors to conduct pollution response. These funds may also be used to fund certain personnel and equipment from federal, state, and local agencies responding to a pollution incident. MSU Pittsburgh employs the Incident Command System (ICS) as its management organization to respond to all types of emergent incidents. For oil/hazmat spills, the Unified Command System (UCS) consists of the FOSC, the State OSC, the Responsible Party, and the local agency representative. ICS/UCS allows for the most effective use of resources from multiple agencies.

Prevention

MSU Pittsburgh enforces laws and regulations promoting personnel safety, environmental protection and port security. Through the Coast Guard's marine inspection program, MSU Pittsburgh conducts periodic inspections, examinations, equipment tests, and drills onboard towing vessels, barges, and passenger vessels within the AOR. Another key prevention program is the enforcement of waterfront facility standards. Marine Inspectors and boarding officers use existing standards and "lessons learned" from casualty data and risk analysis in their efforts to prevent injury, loss of life, loss of property, danger to the environment, and promote overall safety on the rivers. MSU Pittsburgh partners with MSU Huntington in conducting quarterly marine incident summits with the towing industry in order to discuss issues and to determine lessons learned and risk reduction measures.

Investigations & Analysis

MSU Pittsburgh is also responsible for investigating marine casualties occurring within its AOR. The primary purpose of an investigation is to ascertain the cause(s) of the accident in order to prevent future or similar casualties. Secondly, investigations are conducted to determine whether any violation of federal law or regulation occurred. Marine casualties requiring investigation consist of groundings, collisions, allisions, flooding, loss of propulsion or steering, injury or death, and any incident causing property damage in excess of \$75,000. In addition to recommending policy and regulation changes to hone marine safety standards, the MSU may also initiate administrative action against licensed mariners in the event of negligence or misconduct.

**IMMEDIATE DANGER TO LIFE OR PROPERTY:
CALL 911 OR LOCAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE**

**CONTACT THE NATIONAL RESPONSE CENTER
AT 1-800-424-8802 FOR:
POLLUTION & HAZMAT RELEASES
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTING**

**FOR INFORMATION ON CG AUXILIARY
VESSEL SAFETY CHECKS VISIT:
<http://www.cgaux.org/>**

**MSU PITTSBURGH OFFICE EXTENSIONS:
(412) 221-0807 ext: —**

- **MARINE EVENTS COORDINATOR: x 225**
- **FACILITIES MANAGER: x 218**
- **VESSEL AND CASUALTY INFORMATION: x 224**

**TWIC INFO & ENROLLMENT CENTER LOCATION:
1-855-DHS-UES1 (1-855-347-8371)
<https://universalenroll.dhs.gov/>**

Did you know ? —

In an average year MSU Pittsburgh will:

- Perform 85 maritime security patrols
- Conduct 90 vessel security boardings
- Create and enforce 25 temporary safety and security zones
- Inspect 191 commercial vessels
- Conduct 134 facility examinations
- Investigate 262 reports of pollution
- Investigate 69 marine casualties
- Process 20 marine violation cases
- Issue 40 marine event permits
- Participate in 82 meetings with local stake holders
- Lead 35 ceremonial and military honors events

