



Commandant (G-MVI)
United States Coast Guard

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COMDTINST 16711.11 .

8 DEC 1987

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 16711.11

Subj: Old Vessel Inspection Program

1. **PURPOSE.** This **instruction** sets forth procedures for implementing a program to have senior vessel inspection personnel at Headquarters and district marine safety division staffs attend certain inspections on commercial vessels that are over 4000 gross tons and 20 years of age or more.
2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED.** The contents of this instruction will be incorporated into a future change to the Marine Safety Manual (COMDTINST **M16000.7**).
3. **BACKGROUND.**
 - a. In August 1983, after the MARINE ELECTRIC casualty and related recommendations of the National Transportation Safety Board, the Coast Guard instituted the Old Vessel Inspection Program. A Traveling Inspector Staff consisting of senior officers with a wide range of experience in vessel inspection attended and monitored certain drydockings and inspections for certification of vessels older than 20 years. Their evaluations were reported to Commandant (G-M).
 - b. Billet reductions in 1986 eliminated the Traveling Inspector Staff, and responsibility for the program was shifted to Commandant (G-MVI). Commandant (G-MVI) has continued the program by establishing a pool of senior officers (O-69 O-5, and O-5 selectees) with inspection experience from within Commandant (G-M). Each of **these** inspectors has been tasked with conducting old vessel inspections to evaluate the overall condition of the vessel. These inspectors report their findings to Commandant (G-MVI).

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4. DISCUSSION.

- a. The goal of this program is to have a traveling inspector at every credit **drydock** examination involving an old vessel. Attendance by a traveling inspector at inspections for certification may be required if, in the opinion of Commandant (G-MVI), the presence of a traveling inspector is desired.
- b. The pool of traveling inspectors will now include senior officers and O-5 selectees with inspection backgrounds in district (m) divisions to be used as may be necessary. Personnel from district staffs will generally be assigned inspections within their district, but may, in unusual circumstances, be called upon to travel to locations outside the district. Commandant (~~G-MVI~~) will approve all old vessel inspections by district personnel to a location outside their district,
- c. Inspectors will be assigned to conduct examinations and inspections on the following basis:
 - (1) Personnel from Headquarters will generally be selected on a rotating basis; however, Commandant (G-MVI) may occasionally call upon an officer with specific inspection expertise or program interest to perform an inspection when it would be advantageous to do so.
 - (2) Personnel from district staffs may be called to perform inspections when notification and scheduling of an inspection precludes the assignment of a Headquarters inspector, or when an officer has a specific inspection expertise that would be useful during the inspection.
- d. An integral part of the old vessel inspection program rests with officers in charge, marine inspection (~~OCMLs~~) who must provide sufficient notice to Commandant (G-MVI) when an inspection or examination of an old vessel is scheduled. Commandant (G-MVI) must receive as much advance notice as possible in order to identify an inspector and coordinate travel. Commandant (G-MVI) forecasts inspections due and maintains a list of vessels due for **drydock** examination in the Marine Inspection Field Information (**MIFI**) bulletin board in the Marine Safety Information System (MSIS). This practice, as well as using MSIS class notes to indicate that the vessel is in the old vessel inspection program, should combine to provide maximum opportunity for early notification.
- e. Success of the program rests in feedback to and from the Marine Inspection Program Manager. Each traveling inspector will be briefed before the inspection by Commandant (G-MVI), provide a post-inspection briefing, and submit a trip report.

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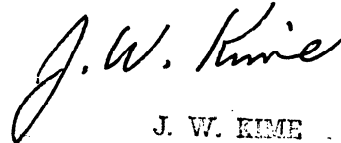
- a. Commandant (G-MVI) will be responsible for maintaining a program to provide a traveling inspector at all **drydock** examinations and, when deemed necessary, inspections for certification of commercial vessels 4000 gross tons and over that are 20 years or older. In managing the program, Commandant (G-MVI) will:
 - (1) Establish and maintain a pool of and establish a rotation for traveling inspectors consisting of senior officers and O-5 selectees within Commandant (G-M). Identify officers qualified for duty as traveling inspectors that are assigned to district **(m)** staffs.
 - (2) Request sufficient funding to meet the goals of the Program.
 - (3) Select inspectors, provide prompt verbal notification followed by written notice, and issue travel orders. If **necessary** or appropriate, arrange for and coordinate assignment of district **(m)** personnel. Use the special expertise of the traveling inspectors to the advantage of the Program.
 - (4) Maintain information systems to forecast inspections of old vessels and publish a schedule of inspections due in MSIS for the information of the traveling inspectors and field offices.
 - (5) Provide, as necessary or appropriate, traveling inspectors with guidance for conducting inspections and submitting trip reports.
 - (6) Notify the cognizant OCMI and district **(m)** officer when a traveling inspector has been assigned to attend an inspection.
- b. Division chiefs within Commandant (G-M) will identify, provide Commandant (G-MVI) with the names of, and make available for this Program senior officers and O-5 selectees with vessel inspection experience. Updates should be provided as rotations occur.
- co Headquarters personnel assigned to an old vessel inspection will:
 - (1) Make an appointment to be briefed by Commandant **(G-MVI)** prior to departure.
 - (2) Coordinate directly with the local inspection staff to schedule attendance at the inspection. Arrange for local travel and lodging. Contact the OCMI and determine if a briefing or debriefing is desired.

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5. c. (3) Conduct inspections and examinations as directed by Commandant (G-MVI).
- (4) After the inspection, conduct a post-inspection briefing and submit, within 30 days, a report of the inspection to Commandant ~~(G-MVI)~~ with copy to the OCMI and district commander **(m)**.
- d. District commanders shall make available senior officers and O-5 selectees with vessel inspection experience in district (m) staffs for this program.
- e. District (m) personnel assigned to an inspection shall:
- (1)** When travel funding is required, contact Commandant (G-MVI-1) to arrange for travel orders.
 - (2)** Prior to the inspection, contact Commandant (G-MU), via telephone for a pre-inspection briefing.
 - (3) Coordinate directly with the local inspection staff to schedule attendance at the inspection, and arrange for local travel and lodging.
 - (4) Contact the OCMI and determine if a briefing or debriefing is desired.
 - (5) Conduct inspections and examinations as directed by Commandant (G-MVI).
 - (6)** After the inspection, contact Commandant ~~(G-MVI)~~ for a **post-**inspection briefing, and submit, within 30 days, a report of the inspection to Commandant (G-MVI) with copy to the OCMI and district commander **(m)**.
- f. **OCMIs** shall:
- (1) **Periodically** check the list of old vessels due for **drydock** posted in the MSIS MIFI bulletin board and all inspection notes in a vessel's MSIS critical profile **(MICP)** to determine if a vessel is subject to the old vessel inspection program.
 - (2) Advise **Commandant** (G-MVI-1) via MSIS mail box or other efficient means as soon as practicable when an old vessel schedules an inspection for certification or **drydock** examination in their zone. Commandant (G-MU-1) should also be informed as soon as possible whenever an old vessel receives a **drydock** extension.

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5. f. (3) Keep the traveling inspector appraised of the inspection schedule.
- (4) Advise the vessel owner or operator that a traveling inspector will participate in the inspection and briefly explain the intent of the old vessel inspection program.
6. ACTION. ~~District~~ commanders and officers in charge, marine inspection shall ensure compliance with this instruction.



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