

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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Passenger Vessel Association

Eric Christensen Joins PVA Staff

Alexandria, VA -- Retired Coast Guard Captain, Eric Christensen has joined the PVA Staff as the Director of Regulatory Affairs and Risk Management. In this position he will be a valuable resource for PVA members regarding safety, security and environmental protection compliance issues and the PVA staff liaison for the PVA Safety and Security Committee.

"We are thrilled that Eric is joining the PVA staff team," said PVA Executive Director John Groundwater. "Eric is very familiar with the passenger vessel industry and with PVA member operations. This knowledge and experience will immediately enhance the service and benefits that our members receive."

Eric is a 1987 graduate of California Maritime Academy, with a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering and maintains his Third Assistant Engineer's license for steam or motor vessels of unlimited horsepower (5th issue). He also earned a Master of Engineering degree from the University of Maryland in 2004.

Prior to joining the PVA team, Eric spent his 26 year Coast Guard career exclusively in the marine safety program. His field assignments included stints in San Francisco, CA, Portland, OR, Chicago, IL, New York, NY and Washington, DC in a variety of leadership positions, including serving most recently as the Coast Guard's Chief of the Traveling Inspection Staff to provide professional Marine Safety expertise and leadership to improve Coast Guard workforce proficiency and performance. He also played an integral role in several crucial regulations including the development of the *Final Rule for Small Passenger Vessel Inspection (Subchapters T and K)*, *International Safety Management Code Compliance Policy for Small Passenger Vessels*, and the *Streamline Inspection Program*.

Eric is a published author and a recipient the 2007 David Clark Excellence in Editorial Award. He has spoken nationally on marine safety topics including the PVA Annual Convention at MariTrends, Workboat, Rutgers University and the Coast Guard Academy. You can reach him at PVA Headquarters at 1-800-807-8360 x 26, on his cell at 703-853-0003 or echristensen@passengervessel.com.

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