

TESTIMONY OF
RADM ROBERT S. LUCAS
COMMANDER, 17TH COAST GUARD DISTRICT
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COAST GUARD AND NAVIGATION
COMMITTEE ON MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
APRIL 16, 1984

GOOD AFTERNOON MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, I AM REAR ADMIRAL ROBERT S. LUCAS COMMANDER OF THE SEVENTEENTH COAST GUARD DISTRICT. WITH ME TODAY IS CAPTAIN RICHARD E. SARDESON, MY CHIEF OF STAFF, AND, COMMANDER G. J. SEPEL, MY PLANNING OFFICER. THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON OUR COAST GUARD OPERATIONS IN ALASKA. FOR THE TWO THOUSAND ACTIVE DUTY COAST GUARD MEN AND WOMEN STATIONED IN ALASKA, LIFE IS OFTEN CHALLENGING IN ALASKA'S BEAUTIFUL BUT NOTORIOUSLY UNFORGIVING ENVIRONMENT.

THE VAST ALASKAN WATERS ATTRACT LARGE AND DIVERSE MARITIME ACTIVITIES INCLUDING FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC FISHING VESSELS, TOURIST CRUISE SHIPS, TANKERS AND ICE CAPABLE TUGS AND BARGES ENGAGED IN NORTH SLOPE ACTIVITIES, AND A LARGE RECREATIONAL BOATING COMMUNITY. THIS HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITIES, COMBINED WITH ALASKA'S OFTEN HARSH WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS KEEP US VERY ACTIVE. LAST YEAR WE HAD 1,127 SAR CASES; SAVED 334 LIVES, AND, ASSISTED IN PROTECTING 67 MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF PROPERTY. THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 1980 PRINSENDAM LUXURY CRUISE LINER SAR CASE IN WHICH 519 LIVES WERE SAVED FROM THE BURNING SHIP 115 MILES OFFSHORE IS INDICATIVE OF OUR SAR READINESS IN ALASKA. SAR RESPONSE CAPABILITY IS BEING ENHANCED IN THE PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE SEASONAL STATION AT CORDOVA TO PERMIT FULL TIME SUPPORT OF OUR AIR OPERATIONS.

ALASKAN WATERS CONTAIN SIGNIFICANT FISHERY RESOURCES. THE LATEST STATISTICS SHOW THAT 84 PERCENT OF ALL FISH CAUGHT IN THE 200 MILE ZONE BY FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS WAS CAUGHT IN THE ALASKAN REGION. ON ANY GIVEN DAY THERE CAN BE 100-200 FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS OPERATING IN THE 200 MILE FISHERY CONSERVATION ZONE. LAST YEAR WE HAD 760 CUTTER PATROL DAYS DEVOTED TO FISHERIES LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CONDUCTED 348 BOARDINGS OF FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS. THIS RESULTED IN 77 SANCTIONS RANGING FROM SEIZURES TO WRITTEN NOTICES OF VIOLATIONS. WE ARE ACHIEVING ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF OUR SURVEILLANCE GOAL AND 66 PERCENT OF OUR BOARDING GOAL. THE MAJORITY OF THE CUTTERS PATROLING ALASKAN WATERS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT ARE DEPLOYED FROM WEST COAST DISTRICTS AND HAWAII. THE RESTORATION OF A 6TH C-130 AT KODIAK HAS IMPROVED OUR FISHERIES SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY.

COAST GUARD RESOURCES IN ALASKA INCLUDE:

1. AIR STATION KODIAK (THE LARGEST AIR STATION IN THE COAST GUARD) WITH 6 C-130 FIXED WING AIRCRAFT, 4 H3 MEDIUM RANGE HELICOPTERS, AND 3 H52 SHORT RANGE HELICOPTERS THAT PRIMARILY PERFORM SAR AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PATROLS. THE H52 HELICOPTERS ALSO DEPLOY ABOARD SOME OF OUR HIGH ENDURANCE CUTTERS WHILE THESE SHIPS ARE CONDUCTING FISHERIES PATROLS. THE C-130'S ARE ALSO UTILIZED FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT OF LORAN STATIONS. ONE H3 HELICOPTER IS DEPLOYED TO CORDOVA DURING THE SUMMER FISHING SEASON.

2. AIR STATION SITKA HAS 3 H3 HELICOPTERS THAT PERFORM SAR AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PATROLS, AND ASSIST IN CERTAIN AIDS TO NAVIGATION SUPPORT.

3. TWO KODIAK-BASED MEDIUM ENDURANCE CUTTERS, YOCONA AND STORIS, PERFORM SAR AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PATROLS. STORIS HAS ICE-BREAKING CAPABILITY.

4. SIX 180' SEAGOING BUOY TENDERS - 2 AT KODIAK, 1 IN HOMER, 1 IN CORDOVA, 1 AT SITKA, AND 1 IN JUNEAU. I HAVE RECOMMENDED THAT THE JUNEAU TENDER (PLANETREEE)

BE MOVED TO KETCHIKAN IN SUMMER OF 1985. BESIDES SERVICING 1,400 AIDS TO NAVIGATION THROUGHOUT ALASKA, THESE CUTTERS ALSO PERFORM DOMESTIC FISHERY PATROLS, SAR, AND LOGISTICS MISSIONS.

5. FOUR 95' PATROL BOATS PRIMARILY PERFORM SAR AND DOMESTIC FISHERY AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT PATROLS SUCH AS THE DIXON ENTRANCE PATROL.

6. THREE MARINE SAFETY OFFICES CONDUCT MERCHANT VESSEL INSPECTIONS, ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS, POLLUTION INVESTIGATIONS, AND PROVIDE MERCHANT VESSEL DOCUMENTATION. AN IMPORTANT DIVISION OF THE MSO AT VALDEZ IS THE VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE (VTS) WHICH MANAGES VESSEL TRAFFIC IN VALDEZ AND PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND TO AVOID CASUALTIES AND RESULTING ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE.

7. THREE ISOLATED LORAN STATIONS (ST PAUL, PORT CLARENCE, AND ATTU) PROVIDE RADIO-NAVIGATION SERVICES.

8. BASE KETCHIKAN CONDUCTS SMALL BOAT SAR, BUOY MAINTENANCE, MINOR CUTTER/SMALL BOAT MAINTENANCE, AND SHORE FACILITY MAINTENANCE.

9. AND, FINALLY, AN ASSORTMENT OF 3 OTHER LORAN STATIONS, A COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT KODIAK, 1 MANNED LIGHT STATION, AND THE CORDOVA SEASONAL SAR FACILITY WHICH I MENTIONED EARLIER.

THE DISTRICT HAS A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF FUNDED AND PLANNED PROJECTS TO UPGRADE VESSEL, AIRCRAFT AND SHORE FACILITIES HERE IN ALASKA. THE 3 OLDER HH-52 SHORT RANGE RECOVERY HELICOPTERS WILL BE SOON REPLACED WITH A NEW CLASS OF HH-65A HELICOPTERS AND A 4TH HELICOPTER WILL BE ADDED. FUNDS PROVIDED IN THE FY 1984 DOD APPROPRIATIONS WILL ALSO ALLOW SAFETY, RELIABILITY AND HABITABILITY UPGRADES OF THE KODIAK BASED CUTTERS STORIS AND YOCONA.

KODIAK AIR STATION AND SUPPORT FACILITY HAS BEEN THE FOCUS OF RECENT SIGNIFICANT BUDGET SUPPORT TO REPLACE THE MANY WORLD WAR II VINTAGE STRUCTURES. THESE EFFORTS WILL SIGNIFICANTLY UPGRADE MISSION READINESS AND

IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THE 1,200 ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL AND 1,300 DEPENDENTS WHO LIVE AND WORK IN KODIAK. KODIAK IS THE ONLY MAJOR COAST GUARD SITE THAT IS ESSENTIALLY SELF SUPPORTING IN TERMS OF COMMUNITY SERVICES. I BELIEVE THAT IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR COAST GUARD PERSONNEL IN ALASKA IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR OVER READINESS AND MORALE. THE FY 1985 BUDGET REQUEST INCLUDES 7 ADDITIONAL CIVILIANS TO IMPROVE MAINTENANCE OF THE AGING FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES SUPPORT. CURRENTLY A NEW PERSONNEL ACTIVITIES CENTER IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION. FIVE KODIAK PROJECTS TOTALLING \$16.5 MILLION WERE FUNDED IN THE FY 1984 DOD APPROPRIATIONS ACT. THESE INCLUDE WATERFRONT IMPROVEMENTS, FIRE/SECURITY ALARM SYSTEM, HANGER ENERGY RETROFIT, AIR STATION READY CREW BERTHING AND A FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER. OUR FY 1985 BUDGET REQUEST INCLUDES FUNDING FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND A MUCH NEEDED COMMUNITY CENTER.

AT THE KODIAK COMMUNICATIONS STATION, A \$7.4 MILLION EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM IS IN PROGRESS TO IMPROVE OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY.

THE IMPROVEMENTS I HAVE OUTLINED WILL GO A LONG WAY TOWARD IMPROVING THE MISSION EFFECTIVENESS OF OUR ACTIVITIES HERE IN ALASKA AND WILL DRAMATICALLY IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR COAST GUARD PERSONNEL.

AGAIN, LET ME EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW OUR ALASKAN OPERATIONS. I WILL BE GLAD TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE.