

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.40, to advise mariners of important matters affecting navigational safety, including new hydrographic discoveries, changes in channels and navigational aids, etc. (U.S. Code Title 10, Sec. 442 and Title 44, Sec. 1336 refer). Nothing in the arrangement of information implies endorsement or acceptance by NGA in matters affecting the status and boundaries of States and territories. The Notice to Mariners presents corrective information affecting charts, NGA/DLIS Catalog of Maps Charts and Related Products, Coast Pilots, Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides, USCG Light Lists, NGA List of Lights, Radio Navigational Aids and other products produced by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, National Ocean Service and U.S. Coast Guard.

Information for the Notice to Mariners is contributed by the following Agencies: National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) (Department of Defense) for waters outside the territorial limits of the United States; National Ocean Service (NOS) (Department of Commerce), which is charged with the surveys and charting of the coasts and harbors of the United States and its territories; the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) (Department of Homeland Security), which is responsible for the safety of life at sea and the establishment and operation of aids to navigation; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Department of Defense), which is charged with the improvement of rivers and harbors of the United States. In addition, important contributions are made by foreign hydrographic offices and cooperating observers of all nationalities.

For further information concerning NGA hydrographic products and services, including the Maritime Safety Web site, users may contact:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>DSN</u>	<u>FAX</u>
Maritime Safety Office	571-557-8384	N/A	571-558-3213
World Wide Navigational Warning Service	571-557-5455	547-5455	571-558-3426
Maritime Safety Web site	571-557-7103	547-7103	N/A
Notice to Mariners: Regions 1 and 2	571-557-8282	547-8282	571-558-3213
Notice to Mariners: Regions 3 thru 9	571-557-8383	547-8383	571-558-3213
Sailing Directions, Fleet Guides	571-557-5943	547-5943	571-558-3261
Navigation Publications	571-557-8080	547-8080	571-558-3261
DLA Catalog of Maps Charts and Related Products	269-961-7766	661-7766	269-961-7791

The Maritime Safety Web site can be accessed directly at <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. For your convenience NGA provides four e-mail addresses. For information affecting Notice to Mariners use MCDNtM@nga.mil, for information affecting Sailing Directions and all other navigational publications use MCDPubs@nga.mil, for information concerning the Maritime Safety Web site, use webmaster_nss@nga.mil and for information concerning the World Wide Navigational Warning Service, use NavSafety@nga.mil.

Mariners are requested to notify NGA of discrepancies in charts and publications, using the Marine Information Report and Suggestion Sheet at the back of this Notice to Mariners. This form should also be used to report permanent changes, additions, or deletions from charted or published information. Reports which constitute an immediate hazard to navigation should be sent to the nearest NAVAREA Coordinator via coast radio stations. All reports are greatly appreciated. Marine Information Report and Suggestion sheets received during the past week were submitted by the following observers:

Observer	Ship/Organization
LT Brian T. Gardler	ITAM-Navy & Marines
Robert Richter	AUTEC
OS2 Adam Richards	PORT OPS, Sasebo, Japan
QMC(SW) Adam Mathews	USS HOPPER
Michael T. Miller	PORT OPS, Port Hueneme, CA

Cover Photo: The **USCGC FORWARD (WMEC-911)** is the sixth cutter of the *Famous-class* medium endurance cutters. She was built at Robert Deree Shipyard, Inc. in Middletown, RI and was commissioned on August 4, 1990. **FORWARD** was named for Walter Forward, the fifteenth United States Secretary of the Treasury. Her missions are law enforcement, defense operations and search and rescue. The **USCGC FORWARD** is on a scheduled deployment in West Africa supporting the Africa Partnership Station (APS), which aims to increase resident host nation capabilities and contribute to the development, economic prosperity and security on and off shore of West Africa. **USCGC FORWARD** is 270 feet in length, has a beam of 38 feet, a draft of 14.5 feet and displaces 1,800 tons. Her armament includes 1 OTO Melara Mk 75 rapid fire gun and two 50-caliber machine guns. She deploys with an aviation detachment with one helicopter. **FORWARD** is powered by twin turbo-charged ALCO V-18 diesel engines each delivering 3,600 shaft horsepower and has two caterpillar diesel generators. She has a crew of 14 officers and 86 enlisted personnel. **USCGC FORWARD** is home ported in Portsmouth, VA.