

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Notice to Mariners is published by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), under the authority of Department of Defense Directive 5105.60, 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, USCG Light Lists, NGA List of Lights 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:

<b>Observer</b>	<b>Ship/Organization</b>
Sherman Haylock	USS PEARL HARBOR
Matthew Tansy	Old Saybrook, CT

**Cover Photo:** The **M/V Virginian (T-AK 9205)** is a combination container, heavy-lift and roll-on/roll-off ship chartered by the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command. She was built at Bremer Vulkan in Bremen, Germany in 1984. **Virginian** has performed a variety of missions since first chartered by MSC in 1992: a 500-bed fleet hospital was prepositioned aboard the ship while she also delivered equipment and supplies to Africa as part of Operation Restore Hope, transporting a bio-safety lab, ferrying harbor tugs used by the U.S. Navy from Diego Garcia to Guam and back, and prepositioning U.S. Army cargo as part of the Army's port opening packages. These packages are used to give the military access to rarely used ports in areas vital to U.S. military operations. Recently **M/V Virginian** has supported U.S. troops around the world by transporting supplies and equipment. She can be reconfigured at a moments notice to carry containers, or tanks and tracked vehicles or landing craft utility vessels or any combination thereof. The ship has one large cargo hold with a tween deck that can be set at three different heights, a single 800-ton derrick for heavy-lift use and a single traveling gantry crane fitted with dual portal cranes, both of which are rated at 75 metric tons independently, and can be operated together for lifts up to 150 metric tons. For roll-on/roll-off cargo, the ship has two trailer elevators and ramps. **M/V Virginian** is 512 feet in length, has a beam of 53 feet, a draft of 30 feet and displaces 34,601 tons. She is manned by 21 contract mariners.