



16732

OCT - 8 2015

## MEMORANDUM

From:  Mark E. Butt, RADM  
Acting DCO

To: J. D. Neubauer, CAPT

Subject: MARINE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE SINKING OF THE S. S. EL FARO (O.N. 561732) APPROXIMATELY 36NM NORTHEAST OF ACKLINS & CROOKED ISLANDS, BAHAMAS, WITH MULTIPLE LOSS OF LIFE

1. Pursuant to the authority contained in Title 46, United States Code (U.S.C.), Section 6301 and the regulations promulgated thereunder, you are to convene a Formal Marine Board of Investigation consisting of the following membership. The Board will convene as soon as practicable to inquire into all aspects of the subject casualty at such times and places as directed by you:

- CAPT Jason Neubauer, USCG, Chariman
- CDR Jeff Bray, USCG, Legal Counsel
- CDR Matthew Denning, USCG, Member
- Mr. Keith Fawcett, Member
- LCDR Damian Yemma, USCG, Recorder

2. The Board will thoroughly investigate the sinking and loss of life of the S. S. EL FARO (O.N. 561732) in accordance with the all applicable statutory and regulatory mandates. Upon completion of the investigation, the Board will issue a report to the Commandant with the collected evidence, the established facts, and its conclusions and recommendations. Conclusions or recommendations concerning commendatory actions or misconduct that would warrant further inquiry shall be referred by separate correspondence to the cognizant District Commander for consideration and action. A daily summary of significant events shall be transmitted to Commandant (CG-5PC) while the Board is in formal session.

3. You will complete and submit your investigative report to Commandant (CG-5PC) within 12 months of the convening date. If this deadline cannot be met, a written explanation for the delay and the expected completion date shall be submitted. You are highly encouraged to submit any interim recommendations intended to prevent similar casualties, if appropriate, at any point during your investigation.

4. The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is also charged with the responsibility of determining the cause or probable cause of this casualty by the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 (49 U.S.C. 1901, et. seq.) and may designate a representative to participate in this

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investigation. The NTSB representative may make recommendations regarding the scope of the inquiry, may identify and examine witnesses, and/or submit or request additional evidence.

5. The Commandant (CG-INV) will furnish such funding and/or technical assistance as may be required by the Marine Board when deemed appropriate and within the requirements for the scope of this investigation. Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, will provide such administrative, logistical, and/or legal support as may be required.

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Copy: CG-LMI  
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