

**AREA MARITIME SECURITY  
PLAN (AMSP) AND AREA  
MARITIME SECURITY (AMS)  
ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT AND  
MAINTENANCE PROCESS**



**COMDTINST 16601.28C  
December 2023**

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



COMDTINST 16601.28C  
27 DEC 2023

COMMANDANT INSTRUCTION 16601.28C

Subj: AREA MARITIME SECURITY PLAN (AMSP) AND AREA MARITIME SECURITY  
(AMS) ASSESSMENT DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROCESS

- Ref: (a) Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) of 2002, Pub. L. 107-295, Title 1. § 102
- (b) Navigation and Navigable Waters, Maritime Security: Area Maritime Security, 33 CFR Part 103
- (c) Security and Accountability for Every Port Act (SAFE Port Act) of 2006, Pub. L. 109-347, Title 1. § 102
- (d) Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010, Pub. L. 111-281, Title VIII. § 810, 811, 826, 827
- (e) FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Pub. L. 115-254, Div J, § 1805
- (f) Strategy to Enhance International Supply Chain Security, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), July 2007
- (g) Customs and Border Protection/United States Coast Guard Joint Protocols for the Expedious Resumption of Trade
- (h) Marine Transportation System Recovery Planning and Operations, COMDTINST 16000.28 (series)
- (i) Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular (NVIC) 09-02, Guidelines for Development of Area Maritime Security Committees and Area Maritime Security Plans Required for U.S. Ports, COMDTPUB P16700.4 (series)
- (j) DHS Transportation Systems Sector-Specific Plan (TSS-SP) 2015
- (k) Department of Homeland Security, National Response Framework, (4th Ed. 2019)
- (l) U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook, October 2018
- (m) U.S. Coast Guard Emergency Management Manual, Volume I: Emergency Management Planning Policy, COMDTINST M3010.11 (series)
- (n) Emergency Management Manual Volume III - Exercises, COMDTINST 3010.13 (series)
- (o) Commandant (CG-FAC) Policy Letter 17-01 Change 3, Annual Reporting Requirements for Area Maritime Security Committees

1. PURPOSE. This Instruction supplements existing laws and regulations to assign roles and clarify responsibilities within the Coast Guard, and provides policy to operational commanders for the development, maintenance, approval, and exercising of Area Maritime Security Plans (AMSPs), and the development and maintenance of associated Area Maritime Security (AMS) Assessments.
2. ACTION. Coast Guard Area Commanders, District Commanders, Sector Commanders/Captains of the Port (COTP), Deputy/Assistant Commandants, and Chiefs of Headquarters staff elements must comply with the provisions of this Instruction.
3. AUTHORIZED RELEASE. Internet release is authorized.
4. DIRECTIVES AFFECTED. Area Maritime Security Plan (AMSP) and Area Maritime Security (AMS) Assessment Development, and Maintenance Process, COMDTINST 16601.28B is hereby cancelled.
5. BACKGROUND.
  - a. Reference (a) established the AMSPs. Content requirements for AMSPs were established by Reference (b), expanded by Reference (c) to include a Salvage Response Plan (SRP), and by Reference (d) to include recovery protocols to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a Transportation Security Incident (TSI). Reference (e) requires incorporation of a cyber-element into the AMSP including a plan for detecting, responding to, and recovering from cybersecurity risks that may cause a TSI.
  - b. Reference (f) identified AMSPs as a principle means for supporting resumption of commerce at the port level following a transportation disruption. Reference (g) established, and Reference (h) implemented national-level protocols for resumption of trade with associated port-level supporting requirements.
  - c. Reference (i) provides guidance on AMSP development, maintenance, exercises, and related AMS Assessments to the Coast Guard COTP, who is also designated as the Federal Maritime Security Coordinator (FMSC) and oversees the Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC).
6. DISCUSSION.
  - a. Commandant's Intent. The Coast Guard must sponsor and support continuing engagement with port community stakeholders to develop, exercise, and when necessary, implement joint efforts for responding to, recovering from, or otherwise mitigating the effects of maritime threats or TSIs. AMSPs provide the overarching framework to plan for the coordination of measures and procedures used by port stakeholders for TSIs and other disruptions to the Marine Transportation System (MTS). AMSPs cover the spectrum of issues involved in planning for AMS, including prevention, protection, and security response activities; and the facilitation of MTS stabilization and recovery of basic MTS functionality in support of References (j) through (l).

- b. This Instruction establishes responsibilities for implementing Reference (i), and for the regular review, amendment, validation, and approval of AMSPs. It also provides guidance to operational commanders for the coordination, review, and approval of port level AMSPs and associated AMS Assessments.
7. DISCLAIMER. This guidance is not a substitute for applicable legal requirements, nor is it itself a rule. It is intended to provide administrative guidance for Coast Guard personnel and is not intended nor does it impose legally-binding requirements on any party outside the Coast Guard.
8. MAJOR CHANGES. This Instruction implements major changes resulting from the Change 6 updates to Reference (i). Enclosure (2), Guidance for Development and Maintenance of AMSPs of Reference (i) has substantial changes in sections 4000, 5000, and 6000. Enclosure (6), The Salvage Response Plan Template is updated to meet the needs of both the AMSP and the Area Contingency Plan. Additionally, Enclosure (5), the Cybersecurity Risk Plan Template is now a required annex in Reference (i).
9. SCOPE AND AUTHORITIES. It is recommended the reader become familiar with the directives and publications noted throughout this Instruction and are listed in the reference section.
10. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT AND IMPACT CONSIDERATIONS. The Office of Environmental Management, Commandant (CG-47) reviewed this Commandant Instruction and the general policies contained within and determined that this policy falls under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) categorical exclusion A3. This Commandant Instruction will not result in any substantial change to existing environmental conditions or violation of any applicable federal, state, or local laws relating to the protection of the environment. It is the responsibility of the action proponent to evaluate all future specific actions resulting from this policy for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), other applicable environmental requirements, and the U.S. Coast Guard Environmental Planning Policy, COMDTINST 5090.1 (series).
11. DISTRIBUTION. Electronic distribution in the Directives System Library. Intranet/Pixel Dashboard: Directives Pubs, and Forms - PowerApps (appsplatform.us) . If Internet released: Commandant Instructions (uscg.mil) , Coast Guard Forms (uscg.mil) .
12. RECORDS MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS. Records created as a result of this Instruction, regardless of format or media, must be managed in accordance with Records & Information Management Program Roles and Responsibilities, COMDTINST 5212.12 (series) and the records retention schedule located on the Records Resource Center Microsoft SharePoint site at: <https://uscg.sharepoint-mil.us/sites/cg61/SitePages/CG-611-RIM.aspx> .
13. RESPONSIBILITIES.
- a. Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy (CG-5P).
- (1) The Office of Port and Facility Compliance (CG-FAC) is responsible for policy and guidance governing AMSPs and associated AMS Assessments. This

includes policies and guidance for exercise requirements, annual review, and validation of AMS Assessments and AMSPs, and the comprehensive five-year review and update process for AMS Assessments and AMSPs. Commandant (CG-FAC) is also responsible for policy and guidance governing oversight of AMSCs and MTS stabilization and recovery policy.

- (2) The Office of International and Domestic Port Security Assessment (CG-PSA) is responsible for policy, guidance and execution of the Port Security Resiliency Assessment Program, and policy and guidance governing the use of the Maritime Security Risk Analysis Model and serves as the Coast Guard's program office for the DHS Port Security Grant Program.

b. Area Commanders.

- (1) Direct and oversee implementation of Reference (i) by appropriate subordinate units and fulfill the duties of the AMSP approving authority pursuant to 46 USC § 70103. Ensure Enclosure 5 of Reference (i) final review is conducted by the Area MTS Specialist-Cyber (MTSS-C).
- (2) Coordinate, administer, and establish a timeline for the development, maintenance, exercise, evaluation, and approval for each AMSP in accordance with 46 USC § 70103 and References (i), (m), and (n).
- (3) Ensure AMS Assessments and related reports are completed at least once every five years, prior to the five-year formal review, and updates to the AMSPs. AMS Assessment reports must meet the requirements specified in 33 CFR § 103.400.
- (4) Ensure all AMSP and related appendices, annexes, and tabs undergo a formal review and update at least once every five years. The basis for determining the five-year period must be the approval date of the most recent AMSP. All modifications, reviews, and final approval of AMSPs must be completed prior to the end of the five-year period and documented. In order to manage local workloads, the AMS Approving Authority has the discretion to stagger the review and approval sequence within the five-year cycle.
- (5) Provide an electronic copy of each approved AMSP to Commandant (CG-FAC) and ensure the updated AMSP is entered into the Contingency Preparedness System (CPS) Plans Module in accordance with References (m) and (n).
- (6) Identify, assess, and coordinate plan development, best practices, lessons learned, and other issues with Commandant (CG-FAC) on a continuing basis.
- (7) Ensure applicable Regional and National Security planning requirements are considered in each AMSP submitted for approval.
- (8) Ensure each AMS Assessment and AMSP has undergone an annual validation, and, pursuant to Reference (o), is reported in the AMSC Annual Report.

c. District Commanders.

- (1) Serve as the AMSP Reviewing Authority pursuant to Reference (b). Implement Reference (i) within their respective Districts. Assign the District MTSS-C with the review of Enclosure 5 of Reference (i).
- (2) Oversee AMS Assessment and AMSP development, maintenance, review, and the exercise process within the District according to the schedule and implementing directions published by the Plan Approving Authority.
- (3) Ensure AMSPs and related enclosures, appendices, annexes, and tabs within the District are posted in Homeport.
- (4) Report to the AMSP approval authority pursuant to Reference (b) when each AMS Assessment and AMSP within their respective District completes annual validations, and, pursuant to Reference (o), is reported in the AMSC Annual Report.

d. Sector Commanders.

- (1) If applicable, support Marine Safety Units that have COTP authority within their Sector Area of Responsibility (AOR) in the performance of their duties as FMSC, pursuant to Reference (b), and the other COTP responsibilities specified herein.

e. Captains of the Port.

- (1) Perform the duties of FMSC, pursuant to Reference (b).
- (2) Implement Reference (i) within their COTP Zone.
- (3) Develop, maintain and exercise AMSPs in accordance with Reference (i), and execute the schedule and other implementing directions published by the AMSP Approving Authority. Ensure Enclosure (5) of Reference (i) development and maintenance is a collaborated effort with the unit MTSS-C (where assigned), Cyber Subcommittee Chair and personnel from other unit departments (i.e., Prevention, INTEL, Emergency Management/Force Readiness, etc.).
- (4) Ensure an AMS Assessment is conducted and documented in a written report at least once every five years. The AMS Assessment must be reviewed and validated at least annually to ensure currency before the annual review of the AMSP described in (5) below. The annual validation of the AMS Assessment must consider the results of any port risk assessments, port security resiliency assessments, current national or local threat intelligence, vulnerability, consequence assessments, changes in port infrastructure and critical port operations, and lessons learned from exercises or real-world events. The AMS Assessment must be updated if the annual validation indicates data or other information has changed since the previous assessment.

- (5) Ensure each AMSP is reviewed, at least annually, to ensure its adequacy, accuracy, consistency, and completeness. The purpose of this informal review is to ensure the AMSP incorporates relevant and appropriate changes/updates resulting from the annual validation of the Area Maritime Security Assessment, corrective action and lessons learned from Area Maritime Security Training and Exercise Program (AMSTEP) exercises and real-world events. The dates of annual reviews and plan updates must be documented in the Plans Module of the CPS.
- (6) Ensure each AMSC within each COTP's AOR conducts a detailed review of their specific AMSP at least once every five years, taking into account the results of port risk assessments, port security resiliency assessments, current national or local threat intelligence, vulnerability and consequence assessments, changes in port infrastructure and critical port operations, and lessons learned from any real-world security events or exercises.
- (7) Ensure that access to critical infrastructure information , as defined in 6 USCA § 650, is limited to the purpose for which it was obtained and voluntarily provided by owners of such material. Access to, use of, and safeguarding critical infrastructure information must be done in strict accordance with the requirements of 6 CFR part 29. Critical infrastructure information must not be included in the AMSP, it will be maintained and safeguarded separately.
- (8) Maintain a current version of each completed AMSP on Homeport (e.g., in a Homeport SBU Community), providing access to the appropriate Commandant, Area, and District staff elements. The specific Area and District staff elements requiring access to the plans must be identified by the Plan Approving and Plan Reviewing Authorities. AMSP information must be entered in the Plans Module of the CPS.
- (9) Include all AMSP appendices, annexes, and tabs contained in Reference (i) in the submission of the AMSP to the Plan Reviewing Authority. Where a region wide AMSP has been established and major sub-areas are addressed using AMSC Regional sub-committees, ensure these geographically defined areas are included as annexes to the AMSP.
- (10) Establish, direct, and administer the AMSC in accordance with 33 CFR § 103.205 and other guidance published in Enclosure (1) to Reference (i).
- (11) Direct, assist, and coordinate as needed with AMSCs to fulfill AMSC responsibilities pursuant to Reference (b). AMSC responsibilities regarding AMSPs discussed in Reference (b) include (but are not limited to) the following:
  - (a) Identify critical port infrastructure and operations;
  - (b) Identify physical and cyber risks (threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences);



- (c) Determine mitigation strategies and implementation methods;
- (d) Develop and describe the process to continually evaluate overall port security by considering consequences and vulnerabilities, how they may change over time, and what additional mitigation strategies can be applied;
- (e) Advise and assist the COTP in developing and maintaining the AMSP;
- (f) Serve as a conduit for communicating terrorist threats, enhanced security measures, changes in Maritime Security (MARSEC) levels, and other appropriate security information among port stakeholders; and,
- (g) Support and coordinate with the COTP in exercising the AMSP.

14. FORMS. None.

15. SECTION 508. This policy is created to adhere to accessibility guidelines and standards as promulgated by the U.S. Access Board with consideration of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) requirements. If accessibility modifications are needed for this artifact, please communicate with the Section 508 Program Management Office (PMO) at [Section.508@uscg.mil](mailto:Section.508@uscg.mil). Concerns or complaints for non-compliance of policy and/or artifacts may be directed to the Section 508 PMO, the Civil Rights Directorate (<https://www.uscg.mil/Resources/Civil-Rights/>) for the Coast Guard, or to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at [accessibility@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:accessibility@hq.dhs.gov).

16. REQUEST FOR CHANGES. All requests for changes and questions regarding implementation of this Instruction should be directed to the Critical Infrastructure Branch within the Domestic Ports Division, (CG-FAC-1), at [HQS-SMB-CG-FAC-1-AMSC@uscg.mil](mailto:HQS-SMB-CG-FAC-1-AMSC@uscg.mil).

/WAYNE R. ARGUIN/  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy