



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20593-0001

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE COAST GUARD

Congratulations on your **29th** Annual Professional Development and Training Symposium! This year's theme, "Getting Involved: Our Families, Our Community, Our Nation" is appropriate considering all the issues currently impacting our military community. Your theme also reflects the Coast Guard's Guardian Ethos – a willingness to protect, defend, and save the country's maritime interests as well as a commitment to look after our shipmates. This Ethos has defined our Service for over 200 years and it will serve us well into the future.

I am grateful for the Coast Guard's longstanding partnership with the Association of Naval Services Officers (ANSO). This relationship strengthens our ability to attract, develop, retain, and deploy the best possible workforce. I have emphatically stated that diversity is a readiness issue which directly impacts the Coast Guard's ability to meet the complex maritime challenges of the 21st century. Both of our organizations understand the value of a diverse workforce. By working together, we can meet our goals.

I appreciate last year's attendees helping my team identify several actionable items that are already delivering results. Thank you to the ANSO leadership for providing this tremendous venue that enables Coast Guard personnel to receive valuable professional and personal training while they forge lasting relationships that will benefit all the sea services.

I am firmly committed to the Coast Guard's partnership with ANSO and I am enthusiastic about what we can accomplish moving forward. Thank you for all your hard work and for your dedicated service to our Nation.

Semper Paratus!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thad W. Allen", written in a cursive style.

THAD W. ALLEN
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard