

## UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ATTACHÉ GRADUATES FROM IMLI

Lt. CDR. William Woityra, Coast Guard Attaché, Embassy of the United States in Malta, completed a two year training at the Institute and was awarded the Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law (Public). In an interview with the Editor of the IMLI e-news, Bill, as he is fondly referred to at the Institute, expressed his pleasure to have been a student for the past two years and thus having the opportunity to increase his knowledge in the field of international maritime law far beyond his expectations.



*Lt. Cdr. William C. Woityra with Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) after receiving his Diploma*

During the interview, Bill stated that his time spent at the Institute has been invaluable, as he now has a better understanding and a working knowledge in public international law, law of the sea and international maritime security law. Both public international law and law of the sea, were taught by the Director himself, who is a fountain of knowledge and experience in these areas of the law. He noted that the Coastguard's responsibilities are

directed by the law of the sea and their duty under the IMO conventions are all substantially covered in this course. Thus he noted he has become a better officer and leader.

He noted that each academic year several eminent and distinguished visiting lecturers find the time to come to IMLI to deliver lectures on their specialities and this confirms the universal respect the Institute has carved out for itself in the international maritime world. This experience, he says, has been an incredible one and has been of immense benefit to him because even as a non-lawyer, he has also been furnished with their business cards and encouragement to make contact whenever there are issues they wish to discuss. This Bill exclaims “It’s out of this world!”

He told the Editor “It is my view that every Coastguard Officer must undergo such an expert training”. At this juncture, he commends the Institute for structuring the Advance Diploma Course such that people like himself, who are not lawyers, but to whom certain areas of training given at the Institute is very pertinent to the proper dispensation of their work responsibilities, have the opportunity of participating. In his case, he continued, he was able to choose the subject areas that were relevant to his work and was also able to fuse working and studying very amicably.

In concluding, Bill states that his most invaluable gain is the fellow students he has been privileged to meet over the past two years, with some of whom he has forged a very close friendship. He states that IMLI is a microcosm of the world and he has gained a deeper understanding of various peoples and cultures in a way that can never be acquired from being taught in a classroom.

He thanked the lecturers and the administrative staff of the Institute for their contribution to his career and personal development and he had a special word of thanks to the Director “...whose leadership and foresight cannot be matched.”

Lt. Cdr. Woityra told IMLI-e-news that he has been transferred from the US Embassy in Malta to take up another command stationed in the arctic region. He states that he feels very prepared after his study at IMLI to confidently assume his new post.

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