

# IMLI<sup>e</sup>-News

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute Official Electronic Newsletter (Vol. 12, Issue No.23) 26 March, 2015

## U.S. COAST GUARD RESERVE OFFICER LECTURES AT IMLI

The Institute had the pleasure of welcoming for the first time Lieutenant Commander Ronald Seely, from the U.S. Coast Guard's International Port Security Program, on the 9 and 10 of March 2015. During his visit, Lieutenant Commander Ronald Seely, who met with the staff and students of the Class of 2014/2015, delivered a lecture on “*Ship & Port Security Legislation Development*”.



*Lieutenant Commander Ronald Seely (U.S. Coast Guard Reserve officer) meeting the students of the IMLI Class of 2014/2015*

In his lecture, LCDR Ronald Seely discussed the role of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) in International Port Security Program, which he states among others are assessing the effectiveness of the antiterrorism measures in foreign ports, recommending the steps necessary to improve the antiterrorism measures in use at ports and the implementation of programs to assist in the improvement of foreign port security antiterrorism measures.

Lieutenant Commander Ronald Seely further discussed ship and port security legislation development in the post 9/11 period. The national legislation that developed includes the US Maritime Transportation Security Act, the Maritime Transport and Offshore Facilities Act of Australia, and the Maritime Transportation Security Act of Canada. In the International spheres, he mentioned EU Regulation 725/2004, IMO's International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code and SOLAS 74, Chapter XI-2.

His lecture also covered model legislation on maritime security (MSC 84/4/4 which was restated in MSC 85/WP.6). LCDR Seely stated that this resolution was proposed by 29 IMO contracting governments, including but not limited to promoting legislation defining authorities and responsibilities, defining maritime security administrative structure, establishing guidelines for national authorities, recognized security organizations (RSOs), and ship/port facility operators, defining control and compliance procedures and defining sanctions for security violations.

LCDR Ronald Seely confirmed that many IMO contracting governments have passed laws giving the ISPS Code full and complete effect and that the U.S. Coast Guard has compiled these bodies of law into a collection of international legislative best practices called the Model Port Security Compendium. He confirmed further that there is a current initiative with several international co-sponsors to develop guidance for the development of national maritime security legislation to address port security as per MSC 84/4/4 & MSC 85/WP.6.

LCDR Seely is a U.S. Coast Guard Reserve officer on temporary active duty assignment with the U.S. Coast Guard International Port Security Program, working with United States' maritime trade partner nations to improve legal regimes for implementing effective port security measures. LCDR Seely holds a permanent position as an attorney with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in San Juan, Puerto Rico where he works on issues related to immigration, customs, and criminal investigation in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

LCDR Seely received his Bachelors (B.A.) from University of Hartford in West Hartford, Connecticut and his Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from Northeastern University in Boston, MA.

LCDR Seely began his career after law school as a Coast Guard Direct Commission Lawyer. He has served in active duty assignments at the Coast Guard's Office of Environment Law, Office of Military Justice, and on detail assignment as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico.

In the Coast Guard Reserve, LCDR Seely worked in the areas of Foreign Vessel/ Port State Control Inspections and most recently as Coast Guard Sector San Juan Senior Reserve Officer.

---

*\* If you do not want to receive IMLI e-News in future, please return this message to the above address with request to DELETE in the subject field.*

*\*\* For further information please contact Ms. Ramat Jalloh (Editor, IMLI e-News) at [publications@imli.org](mailto:publications@imli.org)*