

U.S. COAST GUARD COMMANDER LECTURES AT IMLI

Commander William Woityra (Program Manager, Domestic and Polar Icebreaking, U.S. Coast Guard) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 6 April 2018 and delivered a lecture on “Ice Breaking in the Polar Regions” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



Commander William Woityra (Program Manager, Domestic and Polar Icebreaking, U.S. Coast Guard) with the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

Commander Woityra commenced his lecture by way of providing the class with a description of icebreakers, including their specifications. Thereafter, he presented to the class a listing of US statutes and policies that govern the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) polar icebreakers, the development and change of priorities in U.S. Polar Icebreaker Operations from 1885 up to the present, and an illustration of operations involving polar icebreakers. He ended his lecture by providing future directions and opportunities for Ice Breaking in the Polar Regions.



Commander William Woityra lectures for the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

Commander (CDR) William Woityra recently completed a Fulbright Scholarship, studying icebreakers in Finland. He is a U.S. Coast Guard Academy graduate, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. Advanced degrees include a Master of Science degree in Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island, an MBA from Chancellor University, and an Advanced Diploma in International Maritime Law from the IMO International Maritime Law Institute. He is a graduate of the Joint Military Attaché School and holds his Joint Professional Military Education certificate from Air University.

A career icebreaker sailor, CDR Woityra has served on four breakers. He led CGC HEALY on five Arctic research missions, including her historic 2015 expedition to the North Pole, the first time an unaccompanied U.S. surface vessel had reached the top of the world. CDR Woityra served for three years as Commanding Officer of CGC NEAH BAY in Cleveland OH. While commanding NEAH BAY, he established a cooperative program with Bowling Green State University that led to his crew earning more than 60 college credits for participating in a lake sampling partnership. He previously served as Executive Officer on CGC THUNDER BAY out of Rockland ME and as Marine Science Officer on the heavy icebreaker CGC POLAR STAR out of Seattle WA, where he made one Antarctic and two Arctic deployments.

Shore assignments include the International Ice Patrol, tracking North Atlantic icebergs over the Grand Banks of Newfoundland and two years as Coast Guard Attaché to Malta, where he advised

the U.S. Ambassador and Armed Forces of Malta on maritime concerns and taught Search and Rescue Coordinator classes at the Maritime Safety and Security Training Center.

Commander Woityra's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Department of State Meritorious Honor Award, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and four Commandant's Letters of Commendation. He is a permanent Cutterman and has also earned the Aviation Mission Specialist and Craftmaster designations. He is a Project Management Professional, LEED Accredited Professional, and American Society for Quality Certified Manager of Quality and Organizational Excellence. He holds his USCG Merchant Mariner 200-ton Near Coastal Master's license and UK Maritime Coastguard Agency Yachtmaster license with commercial endorsement for All Waters. He is an adjunct instructor for Vincennes University in Oceanography and Business.

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