



The APL AGATE in Norfolk with the name of the ship newly painted.

M.E.B.A. Crews Up Two New APL U.S.-Flagged Ships

Expert M.E.B.A. officers are powering a pair of vessels that American President Lines, Ltd. has newly brought into the U.S.-flag fleet after winning a recent government bid. Both the APL AGATE and APL JAPAN hoisted the Stars and Stripes in ceremonies in April and June respectively. The two non-Maritime Security Program vessels were crewed up with M.E.B.A. and MM&P officers along with unlicensed crews of SIU, MFOW and SUP mariners.

The AGATE is a 5,020 TEU, fully cellular containership built in 1997. The vessel pulled up the U.S. flag on April 24th in Norfolk, VA.

The 4832 TEU C-11 APL JAPAN was built in 1995 and is powered by a single MAN B&W 11 cylinder diesel, 66,385 HP@104 RPM. The vessel flagged into the U.S. fleet on May 18th in Charleston, SC.

Both vessels are being deployed on the 56-day Suez Express run. They are operated by APL Marine Services for the benefit of APL Ltd.

M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe noted that this new work for our members “is an excellent sign for the American fleet” in that it “expands the number of ships flying under the U.S.-flag – without MSP – during tough economic times. The company and these ships will benefit by the proficiency and sheer know-how that our hardworking membership brings to the job every single day.”



The first American crew aboard the APL JAPAN shortly after the reflagging. Standing left to right are Maintenance Engineer Greg Higgs, Baltimore Branch Agent Tom Suneson who welcomed in the new crew, 1st A/E Ed Caspers, 2nd A/E Chris Butcher and Day Engineer Steve Miernicki. In front are 3rd A/E Chris Vandeventer and Engine Cadet A.P. Durchett.



M.E.B.A. engineers Chris Butler and George Henderson pull a piston aboard the APL AGATE during its stop in Norfolk, VA in April.