

Shipping Shorts

M.O. NEEDS VESSEL SHOTS/WORKING PIX

The *Marine Officer* could use your photographs illustrating 'the shipping life.' We can always find use for working photos of M.E.B.A. mariners onboard their vessels and would love to have your ship shots to better catalog the M.E.B.A. fleet. Digital photos can be e-mailed to editor@d1meba.org. Make sure you take them at the highest resolution that your camera can support. Photos of members with New York Yankees or Dallas Cowboys paraphernalia will be discarded or "photo-shopped." Have some courtesies! Regular photographs can be mailed to: M.E.B.A. Marine Officer, 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Suite 800, Washington D.C. 20001. In all cases, make sure you i.d. the vessel and people in the photo.

AFTER SEPT. 25, NO TWIC MEANS NO WORK

U.S. mariners MUST have their Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) by September 25, 2008 in order to continue sailing. It takes at least 30 days from making your initial application until you can pick up the card and activate it. If you wait much longer you may not secure your TWIC by the time you need it to continue working.

The TWIC is a biometric credential to ensure that workers who pose a risk to national security do not have unescorted access to secure areas of sensitive maritime facilities including ports and vessels.

Members should pre-enroll for TWIC on the TSA Web site (www.tsa.gov/twic). Pre-enrollment speeds up the process by allowing workers to provide biographic information and schedule a time to complete the application process in person. This reduces waiting and in-person enrollment times for each individual. Once you enter your information and create a username and password online you need to schedule an appointment at one of the enrollment centers. This can be accomplished by calling the TWIC help line at (866) 347-8942. It should be noted that the enrollment centers are still being established and there may not be one in your area at this time. For your appointment, you will need to bring identification



The HORIZON HAWK, with an M.E.B.A., MM&P & SIU crew aboard, is the second of five Hunter-class newbuilds that Horizon is bringing into its fleet.

to the enrollment center and a form of payment. Your valid U.S. passport or Merchant Mariner's Document can be used



M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe in a recent chat at the Navy Yard with MSC Commander Rear Admiral Robert Reilly.

for a single qualifying piece of identification.

BUSH BUDGET A WIN FOR MSP

President Bush released the last budget request of his Administration in early February with some good news for the Maritime Security Program. The release of the President's budget is the first step in the budget process for Fiscal Year 2009.

Included in the President's budget is a request for \$174 million for the MSP. This is an increase of \$18 million over last years' funding level. The 2009 FY is the first in a series of two authorized funding increases for MSP that were built into the MSP reauthorization passed in 2003. The next one will come during FY 2012. This was a big win for the maritime industry. The President's budget request last year included a 1% cut to MSP, which was successfully replaced thanks to the lobbying efforts of maritime labor. In recognition of the possibility of another cut, maritime labor and the rest of the industry swung into high gear last year to make the case for full MSP funding in the President's budget this year.

