



# Memorandum

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

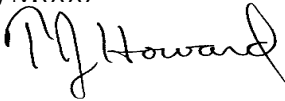
Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

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Subject: ACTION: Notification of Audit of the Search  
and Rescue Program, United States Coast Guard  
Project Number: 02M3007M000

Date: July 3, 2002

From: Thomas J. Howard   
Deputy Assistant Inspector General  
for Maritime and Highway Safety Programs

Reply to  
Attn of: JA-40

To: Chief of Staff  
United States Coast Guard

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is initiating an audit of the Coast Guard's Search and Rescue Program at small boat stations. In the Act providing the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 appropriations, we were directed to audit and certify that \$14.5 million earmarked for small boat station search and rescue program improvements was used to supplement and not supplant Coast Guard's level of effort in this area during FY 2001. We also plan to determine if Coast Guard spent the \$14.5 million for the purposes identified in the Act and whether staffing, training, and equipment deficiencies identified in our September 14, 2001 report on small boat stations have been addressed.

This audit has taken on added significance in light of the proposal to transfer Coast Guard to the Department of Homeland Security and the corresponding interest in how the traditional search and rescue mission has fared due to the increase in Coast Guard's security activities. We plan to conduct the audit at Coast Guard Headquarters, District Offices, Groups, Boat Stations and other facilities selected during the audit. We will arrange an entrance conference with your audit liaison. If I can answer any questions or be of further assistance, please contact me at (202) 366-5630 or the Program Director, Edward Stulginsky, at (202) 366-1420.

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