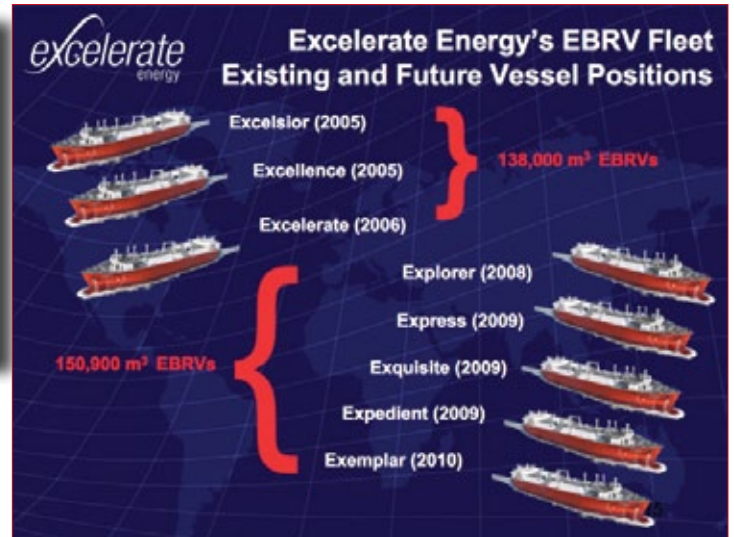


M.E.B.A. is #1! M.E.B.A. is the largest source of U.S. Coast Guard-licensed officers working in the LNG trades worldwide. Our agreement with Exceleerate Energy, enabled through our contract with Alaris Companies, provides terrific salary and benefit compensation for our deck and engine officers as well as Person-in-Charge officers who serve at terminals visited by Exceleerate vessels. The company has a fleet of extremely young, state-of-the-art LNG ships that continues to grow. The chart to the right shows the company's existing and planned Energy Bridge Regasification Vessels (EBRVs) that allow onboard LNG revaporization and cargo delivery through subsea pipelines via submerged turret loading buoys.



Shipping Shorts

EPA Proposes Stringent Standards for Large Ships

The Environmental Protection Agency announced the next steps in a coordinated strategy to slash emissions from oceangoing vessels. EPA is proposing a rule under the Clean Air Act that sets tough engine and fuel standards for U.S. flagged ships that would harmonize with international standards and lead to significant air quality improvements throughout the country.

The rule comes on the heels of a key part of EPA's strategy, a proposal last March by the U.S. and Canada to designate thousands of miles of the two countries' coasts as an Emission Control Area (ECA). The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has begun consideration of the ECA plan, which would result in stringent standards for large ships operating within 200 nautical miles of the coasts of Canada and the United States.

M.E.B.A. Plans' Travel Coordinator

The Trustees of the M.E.B.A. Medical and Benefits Plan and the M.E.B.A. Training Plan have arranged to have an in-house Travel Coordinator provide travel services to participants attending M.E.B.A. Diagnostic Centers and the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School. Participants must book all flights through the Plans' Travel



At the AFL-CIO Convention is M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe, stage and screen actor Theodore Bikel who is also a union activist, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo and the President of M.E.B.A. affiliate NFOPAPE Dan Reynolds.



A photo of the USNS WALLY SCHIRRA, which was recently delivered into the MSC fleet with M.E.B.A. engineers aboard. Another MSC vessel, the USNS MATTHEW PERRY, was launched in August. NASSCO recently began work on the 12th ship in the program, the USNS WILLIAM McLEAN.

Coordinator by calling them toll free. The toll free telephone number is (877) 324-6322. Normal operating hours for the Travel Coordinator are generally Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time (6:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time).

Use of the in-house Travel Coordinator is mandatory for all airline arrangements for travel to the Diagnostic Centers and to the School. Failure to use the Plans' Travel Coordinator may result in the denial of your air travel expenses. The former travel agency should no longer be used.

For more information about this change, visit the MEBA Benefit Plans' website at www.mebaplans.org under "What's New."

Latest M.E.B.A.-Crewed MSC Newbuild Launched

Highly skilled M.E.B.A. engineers are powering the Military Sealift Command newbuild **USNS MATTHEW PERRY**, the latest ship in the Lewis and Clark-class dry cargo/ammunition newbuild program. The **PERRY** was christened and launched on August 16 at the General Dynamics NASSCO shipyard in San Diego. The **PERRY**, designated T-AKE 9, is expected to be delivered to the MSC in early 2010 following a series of tests and sea trials. The 689-foot ship slid into the water for the first time as Hester G. Evans - a great, great,



Member Travis Ellis snapped this panorama shot in an undisclosed SE Asian port. From far left to right there is the SEALAND LIGHTNING operated by Maersk Lines Limited, the USNS 1st LT HARRY L. MARTIN operated by Keystone, and finally the SS CAPE JACOB operated by Matson Navigation. All three ships are crewed with M.E.B.A. engineers. The MARTIN also carries M.E.B.A. deck officers.

great granddaughter of the ship's namesake and the ship's sponsor - broke the traditional bottle of champagne against the ship's bow.

The ship honors Navy Commodore Matthew C. Perry (1794-1858), whose distinguished naval career spanned 50 years. In 1853, Perry led a squadron of ships to Japan, where he successfully negotiated a landmark trade treaty with the Japanese. Perry also served during the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, and sailed off the coast of Africa to suppress the slave trade.

PERRY is the ninth ship in the Navy's T-AKE class. MSC recently took delivery of the eighth ship in the class, the **USNS WALLY SCHIRRA**.

These ships are owned and operated by MSC and deliver ammunition, provisions, spare parts, potable water and petroleum products to U.S. Navy and other navy ships at sea, allowing them to stay underway and combat ready for extended periods of time. Construction began on **PERRY** in October 2008. Once delivered to MSC, **PERRY** is slated to operate out of San Diego. The Navy plans to build 14 dry cargo/ammunition ships, all of which will be turned over to the MSC and crewed by expert M.E.B.A. officers.



Cleveland Rep. Torey Zingales (r) presents a check to Rear Admiral John Tanner, Great Lakes Maritime Academy Superintendent, to provide scholarships to future M.E.B.A. officers at the Academy.

PAY YOUR DUES!

Any member or applicant two or more years in arrears on their dues and/or service charges will be put under review by the District Investigating Committee (DIC) and WILL BE DROPPED from the membership or applicant rolls. If you are in arrears and desire to retain your membership or applicant status, you must contact Headquarters immediately to make payment on your arrearage to return to good standing.

Inform Plans and HQ of Address Changes
Be sure to inform Headquarters if you recently changed your contact information. There is an address change form on our website to help expedite the process. Address changes require a signature for validation along with your new information. You can

get the form in either a .pdf or a Word document from www.mebaunion.org. The form can be printed out by the member or retiree, filled out completely with a signature and faxed or mailed to Headquarters. Those of you with scanners can complete the document with your signature then scan and e-mail it back to us.

Active and retired members who have not received mailings from Headquarters such as the *Marine Officer* or other important information may want to log onto our website to clarify their address. Because the M.E.B.A. Plans office in Baltimore and Headquarters databases are NOT linked you must also forward a signed change of address form to the Plans Office if you wish to update your information with them.

Support the M.E.B.A. "Good & Welfare" Fund

M.E.B.A. members are encouraged to continue their support of the Good & Welfare Fund. The Fund is used to help active and retired members and their families in case of crisis. It proved very useful following Hurricane Katrina when money from the fund helped members recover from the devastating aftermath of the storm. Strengthening the fund will allow additional assistance to members and retirees in their time of need.



At a Baltimore baseball game played earlier in the year when the Orioles still had hope are American Maritime Congress Legislative Affairs Director Matt Dwyer, MM&P President Tim Brown, SIU Baltimore Port Agent Elizabeth Brown, Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger, M.E.B.A. Secretary Bill Van Loo, MM&P's Mike Rodriguez who recently left for a staff job in the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, M.E.B.A. Baltimore Dispatcher Joe Barbacane and M.E.B.A. member Mike McFeeley.



Officials from M.E.B.A. affiliate Union de Ingenieros Marinos – or U.I.M. – spent a week in Washington D.C. for a slew of meetings around town. They dropped in several times at Headquarters during the week. Left to right are U.I.M. Counselor Luis Yau Chaw, Gabriel Ayu Prado (a U.I.M. member who also serves as the President of the Panama Canal Workers' Syndicate), Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, U.I.M. Secretario General Vladimir Small, Govt. Fleet Rep. Randi Ciszewski, President Don Keefe and U.I.M. Treasurer Sebastian King. U.I.M. represents mariners working on the Panama Canal.

M.E.B.A. has dispatched Good & Welfare receipt books to each of the Union halls and offices. The Internal Revenue Service has ruled that the Good & Welfare Fund is exempt from Federal Income tax. Your contributions to the fund are tax deductible so please give liberally in order to help a Union brother or sister in need. Seek out your local Union hall for further details.

M.E.B.A. Visits with New MarAd Deputy Administrator/Acting Administrator David T. Matsuda was recently named Deputy Maritime Administrator by the President also replacing Jim Caponiti as Acting Maritime Administrator. Caponiti returned to his post overseeing MarAd's international and strategic policy office. There is no formal word on whether Matsuda will serve as the next official Maritime Administrator or simply hold the spot until a Presidential appointment.

M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe met with Matsuda this summer along with representatives from TTD, MM&P, ILA and ILWU. Topics discussed included the Maritime Security Program, piracy, short sea shipping, PL-480 food aid cargo and federal tax exemption for mariners.

Matsuda has served as Acting Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy since March 2009. Prior to that, he spent seven years on Capitol Hill.



At the Annual Baltimore Propeller Club Crab Feast that draws hundreds of shipping company representatives are M.E.B.A. Chief Counsel Nils Djusberg, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, Rear Admiral Robert Reilly, MSC Executive Director Rick Haynes and President Don Keefe. Former MSC Commander Reilly recently turned the reins over to Rear Admiral Mark H. Buzby who became MSC's new Commander in mid-October.

Rep. Kratovil Visits Calhoun School

Congressional Freshman Rep. Frank Kratovil, who represents the First District of Maryland, visited the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School recently and was very impressed with the facility. Easton, MD, where the School is located, is part of Kratovil's District. M.E.B.A. Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo was on hand as Acting Director Chuck Eser shuttled the Congressman around on an extensive tour that included stops at the damage control trailer, diesel and refrigeration labs, machine shop and bridge simulator among other sections of the School. Instructors Barry Van Vechten and Lee Brown also accompanied Kratovil on part of the tour helping to better familiarize the Congressman with the maritime industry and the intricate training that mariners master before shipping out. The Congressman is already eyeing future dates to make a return to the School.

DOT Direct Observation Tests

Expanded drug and alcohol testing regulations went into effect on August 31st after a court stay was recently lifted. Among other things, an amendment to the new rules requires transportation workers to be directly observed when providing urine specimens for necessary follow-up and return-to-duty drug tests.

In early August, the Department of Transportation (DOT) issued a final rule reinstating the requirements issued in June 2008 that had been disputed by M.E.B.A. and the Transportation Trades Dept. (AFL-CIO) among others. After a lawsuit leveled by transportation worker unions, a temporary stay of the controversial amendment was granted by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit effective November 1, 2008. However, that stay was lifted on July 1, 2009 leading to DOT's reissuance of the Final Rule.

Specifically, the court ruled that DOT's regulations governing observed specimen collections were "neither arbitrary nor capricious," and concluded that the new rule

"does not violate the Fourth Amendment provision against unreasonable searches and seizures."

Successful OMES E-Learning Conference

An e-learning summit that drew a vast cross-section of maritime training principals at the Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School in July proved so successful that it will become an annual affair.

The International Maritime e-Learning Conference was attended by every major stakeholder in distance learning – a technology for the 21st century that allows the online training of mariners. Last year, the Calhoun School established the first true Distance Learning system to be approved for training mariners when it received Coast Guard approval for its online STCW Crowd Management Course.

The conference was set up to further progress toward a more widespread use of this technology and to provide the industry with a better understanding of the complexities involved in getting course approval from



The Calhoun M.E.B.A. Engineering School staged such a successful e-learning conference that it will now become an annual event.

the U.S. Coast Guard. This event was held from July 20-23 at the School and included participation of shipping company executives, maritime regulators, training administrators, and faculty from around the world.

Among many others, speakers included Acting Maritime Administrator James Caponiti who spoke about "The Looming Challenges Facing Maritime Educators;" Captain Art Sulzer who discussed how eLearning can benefit schools nationwide and the Coast Guard's Mayte Medina, who focused on International Maritime Organization training requirements for the future.



Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo (l) and M.E.B.A. President Don Keefe (r) with new MSC Commander Rear Admiral Mark Buzby, the night before Buzby took over for outgoing Commander Rear Adm. Robert Reilly, Jr.



At the Baltimore Propeller Club Feast, the M.E.B.A. contingent included (l-r) Seafarers & International House Director of Development Chris Roehrer, Baltimore Branch Agent Tom Suneson, Keystone's Lou Cavaliere (red shirt), M.E.B.A. Contracts Officer Mark Gallagher, Chief Counsel Nils Djusberg, Tony Antonelli (recent K.P. graduate sailing as 3rd A/E on Keystone's USNS FRED STOCKHAM), M.E.B.A. retiree Bob Vint, Secretary-Treasurer Bill Van Loo, Member Tom Rogers, Member & CAA President Mike Fanning, MarAd's Jim Fox (in M.E.B.A. hat), Retiree Fran Cadden, Retiree Lou Martone & Baltimore Dispatcher Joe Barbacane.



John Cronan, former 3rd A/E on the MAERSK ALABAMA during the pirate attack, (in M.E.B.A. shirt making thumbs-up sign) with his fiancé Heather (behind) and SIU's ATM Reza (AB on the ALABAMA – in blue jacket) were honored guests in October at the Lynyrd Skynyrd show in Las Vegas. The band dedicated "Sweet Home Alabama" to the crew of the MAERSK ALABAMA who, they said, "kicked some pirate ass!"