



September 9, 2009

**OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-16-2009**

**TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators**

**SUBJECT: PANAMAX 2009 Multi-National Training Exercise**

PANAMAX 2009, a multi-national training exercise focusing on the defense of the Panama Canal, will be held September 11-23, 2009. This event, to be held in the approaches of the Canal, will provide exercises for ground, sea and air responses should the Government of Panama find it necessary to request assistance in guaranteeing a safe passage to and through the waterway.

Since its inception in 2003, this training exercise has become a premier multi-national training event, with an increasing number of participants over the past six years. Participating nations for this exercise include:

- Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panamá, Perú, United States, Uruguay, Holland and Paraguay.
- Mexico, Belize, and France will participate as observers.
- The Conference of Central American Armies, the Organization of American States and the United Nations will also participate.

Merchant ships approaching the Panama Canal may encounter military vessels from participating countries and may be requested by PANAMAX 2009 Command Posts to report the following vessel information, which will be handled confidentially.

- Ship Name
- Call sign/ IMO#
- Email address
- Type of ship
- Type of cargo
- Position, course and speed
- Previous port of call
- Next port of call.

Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Manuel E. Benítez  
Executive Vice President of Operations