



MILITARY  
SEALIFT  
COMMAND

# Seafarer's ADVISOR

ISSUE 3 2009

## Letter from the Director

Dear Partners and Friends,

I hope everyone is having a great summer! Our recruitment is rolling on.

As our nation moves through the current economic climate, you may be curious as to how this recession is affecting MSC. The times may be dismal but MSC is breathing easy. In fact, the recession seems only to highlight the benefits of a career with MSC. As many maritime employers' recruitment efforts are grinding to a halt, MSC hasn't announced a single layoff, hasn't stopped recruiting, and hasn't lost its optimism. Engineering and culinary expertise are still areas of focus and we're hopeful to broaden our recruitment spectrum over the next year.

In this edition of the Advisor, we're recognizing Able Seaman Michael Hales, the 2008 Marine Employee of the Year. Last month, Hales was honored by Military Sealift Fleet Support Command for his outstanding work as a civil service mariner, his exceptional aptitude as an able seaman, and for his personal dedication to the organization. Please read the back cover of this newsletter for Hales' story.

In addition, as you can see from our job fair schedule to the right of this page, we're hosting MSC Mini Job fairs all over the country. These events allow us to spend more one-on-one time with interested prospective employees and answer more specific questions about us. If you are interested in MSC hosting an event at your location, please contact John Kowalik ([johnk@mediacross.com](mailto:johnk@mediacross.com)) and he will work with you to get one

## Job Fair Schedule

8/18/09	MSC Seafarer Day	New York, NY
8/20/09	Recruit Military Career Fair	Miami, FL
8/24/09	Guam Island-wide Job Fair	Tamuning, GU
8/27/09	Recruit Military Career Fair	Houston, TX
8/27/09	Recruit Military Career Fair	Boston, MA
9/3/09	Recruit Military Career Fair	Dallas, TX
9/3/09	MSC Mini Job Fair	Great Lakes, IL
9/3/09	NCOA / Military.com Career Fair	San Diego, CA
9/9/09	MSC Mini Job Fair	Corpus Christi, TX
9/16/09	JEMS Job Fair 2009	Pearl Harbor, HI
9/17/09	MSC Mini Job Fair	Seattle, WA
9/23/09	MSC Mini Job Fair	Ft. Myers, FL
9/24/09	MSC Mini Job Fair	Paducah, KY
9/30/09	Tri-Base Job Fair	Jacksonville, FL

See [www.sealiftcommand.com](http://www.sealiftcommand.com) for more information on upcoming events.

scheduled. You can view our complete job fair schedule at [www.sealiftcommand.com](http://www.sealiftcommand.com).

Wishing the best for your organizations and thank you for your support and encouragement.

Phyllis B. Spano  
Director,  
Human Resources and Manpower  
MSFSC

## MSC Positions

MSC is actively recruiting  
for the following positions:

- Deck Engineer Machinist
- Unlicensed Junior Engineer
- Pumpman
- Damage Control Officer
- Assistant Damage Control Officer

## Success Story: Michael Hales, Able Seaman

When Able Seaman Michael Hales came to Military Sealift Command, he was hoping to do something he loves: work at sea with a talented, skilled team. It's a love he's cultivated during a 20-year career in the Navy, and it's work he missed after retiring in 2005.

As it turns out, not only does Hales love working at sea, he's also quite good at it – one of the best in fleet, in fact. For his service aboard *USNS Grapple*, Hales was recently named the 2008 Marine Employee of the Year and 2008 Military Sealift Command Fleet Support Mariner Award of Excellence.

"I was ecstatic," Hales said of the awards. "It's just unbelievable. I didn't think I had a chance, because I've only been here for three years."

*USNS Grapple* Chief Mate Frank Wareham nominated Hales for the awards. In his nomination letter, Wareham described how immediately after coming aboard as able seaman, Hales took on several new responsibilities in addition to his normal assigned duties – including becoming fire marshal.

"His work as fire marshal was outstanding," Wareham said. As part of this work, Hales set up damage control lockers for *USNS Grapple*, he set up spreadsheets to track inventory, and use and maintenance schedules for damage control gear. He also ordered and maintained all lifesaving and aviation equipment. It's a big job, one normally handled by a full-time dayworker.

By all accounts this alone would have been enough to earn Hales the Mariner of the Year award – but his dedication to his work aboard *USNS Grapple* didn't stop there.

When new hands report to *USNS Grapple's* deck department, they come to Hales – who introduces them to their ship and

their duties. "He was chosen for this task because of his ability to translate big picture operation of a piece of gear and reduce it to the basics," Wareham explained.

"He's not only making his part of the world better, but he's making our people better, too," Wareham said.

"It's simply remarkable the amount of productivity one person can have," Wareham said.

Hales is rightfully proud of his accomplishments, but he's also quite low-key about it. "This is a great place to work," he said. "I've learned new skills, as I could, and taken on new responsibilities – it's rewarding to do something I love."

Hales' career at sea began when he realized, as a freshman at Northwest Missouri State University, that college wasn't for him.

"My mom was paying, and I didn't want her doing that if I wasn't 100% into it," he said. "I was working at Bob's IGA, and went with a buddy to talk to a Navy recruiter." The recruiter was a submarine cook – and he talked Hales into working aboard submarines.

During his Navy career, Hales worked as navigator, a job he loved, both for the technical aspects and for the opportunity to

work with many members of the crew. "I love the camaraderie aboard a ship or submarine," he said.

After retiring from the Navy, Hales returned home to Plattsburg, MO, to his wife and kids. He worked for several months at a lumber yard as a driver and a salesman – but with six kids – ranging in age from 8 to 20 – to support, he needed more stable income. And, he wanted more from his career. He missed the camaraderie of life at sea and a sense of having a real mission at work.

He headed to the regional exam center in St. Louis to get his merchant mariner's document, as an ordinary seaman, where he picked up a brochure for Military Sealift Command. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Hales describes himself as being very goal-oriented and his accomplishments prove the point. His current goal? He's working hard, studying in his free time in preparation to take the United States Coast Guard third officer's test. And beyond that?

"I love to navigate," he said. "I have my sights set on becoming a 2nd mate, ship's navigator."

And if past performance is any guide, he'll get there – fast.



See other MSC Success Stories at [www.sealiftcommand.com](http://www.sealiftcommand.com)

### MSC and the *USNS Comfort* fulfill the promise

MSC civil service mariners (CIVMARs) are currently on their way home from one of the largest-scale humanitarian efforts of 2009 – they're returning from Latin America after completing a project called "Continuing Promise 2009" or "CP09".

During CP09, the *USNS Comfort* was equipped with 250 patient beds, five operating rooms, x-ray machines, a CAT scan, pharmacy, dental suites, physical therapy, and a number of other services.

Along with a staff of volunteers, MSC CIVMARs took the humanitarian and civil assistance mission to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Antigua, Panama, Columbia, El Salvador, and Nicaragua. CP09 also passed out toys and lifted the spirits of these nation's peoples. On the last stop of the mission, the president of Nicaragua extended his personal thanks to the *USNS Comfort* for their visit.

In what may seem adventurous to most,



missions like Continuing Promise 2009 are business as usual for the CIVMARs at MSC.