

## Department of Transportation

### SUPPORTING STATEMENT

#### Quarterly Readiness of Strategic Seaport Facilities Reporting

Please note the following updates have been made:

The number of strategic seaports subject to this reporting is expected to increase from 16 to 17 during 2021. The military's Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) is in the process of designating an additional strategic seaport on the West Coast. They will likely start completing quarterly reports in the December reporting cycle.

The number of responses and burden hours have been adjusted accordingly (Q12).

The salary for the respondents and the federal government has been adjusted to reflect the current hourly wage for both the government (Q14) and the respondents (Q12).

The following updates have been made to Form-MA 1077:

- Changed all references to the previous strategic ports planning document, "Port Planning Order (PPO)", to the current document, "Port Readiness Plan (PRP)".
- Inserted "*after receipt of the DoD Rated Order*" at the end of Question #1.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This is to request the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) three-year approval clearance for the information collection entitled, Quarterly Readiness of Strategic Seaport Facilities Reporting, (OMB Control No. 2133-0548), which is currently due to expire on November 30, 2021.

### A. Justification

**1. Explain the circumstances that make the collection of information necessary. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate the collection. Attach a copy of the appropriate section of each statute and regulation mandating or authorizing the collection of information.**

This collection of information supports DOT's Security, Preparedness and Response Strategic Goal and the Maritime Administration (MARAD) commitment to the Department of Defense (DoD).

Pursuant to EO 12656 and 49 CF 1.81; the Maritime Administration (MARAD) issues, for emergency planning and preparedness purposes, a Port Readiness Plan (PRP) to each strategic commercial seaport (port) designated by the Commander, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC). The PRP identifies specific facilities that DoD may need to support the deployment of Armed Forces of the United States or other emergency needs to promote the national defense. The PRP notifies the port authority that the port is required to

grant DoD priority use of the PRP delineated facilities within 48 hours (or PRP delineated timeframe) of notification to support emergency military deployment. The PRP requires the port to notify MARAD promptly if the port anticipates the port would have difficulty in complying with a Priority Order granting DoD priority use of the facilities specified in the PRP, with an explanation of the reasons, therefore. MARAD reissues the PRPs at least every two years, or when requested by SDDC or the port, after verifying the continued DoD requirement with SDDC and confirming the port's acceptance of the PRP requirements.

Pursuant to DoD request, MARAD has been requesting and receiving a Quarterly Readiness Report on Facilities Listed in Port Readiness Plan from each port to validate the port's ability to provide the PRP-delineated facilities to DoD within the PRP-delineated time frame. The requested information is maintained routinely by the port for normal port operation and management purposes. No unique information is required by the Government for the purpose of this report. The port is not required to conduct any additional recordkeeping for this report. MARAD compiles and submits a consolidated quarterly report to SDDC, which uses the information to conduct a DoD readiness assessment of the strategic commercial seaport's availability and readiness to meet DOD contingency plans for emergency military deployment.

In 2018, MARAD obtained OMB's renewed approval (OMB Control No. 2133-0548), for the current quarterly collection of data from strategic ports.

**2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used. Except for a new collection, indicate the actual use the agency has made of the information received from the current collection.**

The information received has historically been used, and will continue to be used, by MARAD and Department of Defense (DoD) personnel to evaluate strategic commercial seaport readiness to meet contingency military deployment needs and make plans for the use of this capability to meet national emergency requirements. DoD continues to require this information on quarterly basis for DoD contingency planning and readiness evaluation purposes. The contingency plans, with accompanying data, are classified and not available to the public.

MARAD also uses the information to develop agency performance metrics to assess compliance with MARAD and DOT performance goals.

**3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. Also, describe any consideration of using information technology to reduce burden.**

The collection of information utilizes an Adobe electronic form which can be easily completed within a few minutes by each strategic port and emailed to MARAD. This approach reduces the burden on each port.

**4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show specifically why any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purposes described in item 2 above.**

The data from each port will affirm the port's readiness to provide specific facility requirements to meet emergency military deployments and is therefore unique and necessary.

An examination of the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance and the Catalog of Federal Paperwork Requirements did not reveal any similar information collections. Discussions with the respondent ports confirmed that they do not provide similar information to any other federal government agency.

**5. If the collection of information impacts small businesses or other small entities (Item 5 of OMB Form 83-I), describe any methods used to minimize burden.**

Strategic commercial seaports are state or local public port authorities and not small business as defined by the Small Business Administration criteria.

**6. Describe the consequence to Federal program or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.**

If this collection is not conducted, MARAD and the DoD would not be able to determine the availability and readiness of strategic commercial seaports to support emergency U.S. military deployments in time of war or national emergency.

**7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner:**

- **requiring respondents to report information to the agency more often than quarterly;**

Not applicable. The strategic ports are only requested to submit readiness reports on quarterly basis.

- **requiring respondents to prepare a written response to a collection of information in fewer than 30 days after receipt of it;**

Not applicable. DoD requires this information on the fifteenth day of each quarter. MARAD provides the questionnaire annually to each port and requests them to submit it quarterly. MARAD sends an email reminder to each port 30 days before the requested due date of each quarterly report.

- **requiring respondents to submit more than an original and two copies of any document;**

Not applicable. Strategic ports are required to submit only one copy electronically.

- **requiring respondents to retain records, other than health, medical, government contract, grant-in-aid, or tax records for more than three years;**

Not applicable. Strategic ports are not required to retain any records related to information collection.

- **in connection with a statistical survey, that is not designed to produce valid and reliable results that can be generalized to the universe of study;**

Not applicable. This information is not utilized for a statistical survey.

- **requiring the use of a statistical data classification that has not been reviewed and approved by OMB;**

Not applicable.

- **that includes a pledge of confidentiality that is not supported by authority established in statute or regulation, that is not supported by disclosure and data security policies that are consistent with the pledge, or which unnecessarily impedes sharing data with other agencies for compatible confidential use; or**

Not applicable.

- **requiring respondents to submit proprietary trade secret, or other confidential information unless the agency can demonstrate that it has instituted procedures to protect the information's confidentiality to the extent permitted by law.**

Not applicable.

There are no special circumstances that require the collection of information to be conducted in a manner described above.

**8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of publication in the Federal Register of the agency's notice required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB. Summarize public comments received in response to that notice and describe actions taken by the agency in response to these comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden.**

MARAD published a 60-day notice and request for comments on this information collection in the Federal Register on May 21, 2021, (FR 27676, Vol. 86, No. 97) indicating comments should be submitted on or before July 20, 2021. No comments were received. In addition, a 30-day notice was published on August 17, 2021, (Vol. 86 F.R. 46076, No. 156) indicating comments should be submitted by September 16, 2021.

- **Describe efforts to consult with persons outside the agency to obtain their views on the availability of data, frequency of collection, the clarity of instructions and recordkeeping, disclosure, or reporting format (if any), and on the data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported.**

MARAD has consulted with and incorporated the recommendations of US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM), SDDC, and other member agencies of the interagency National Port Readiness Network (NPRN).

- **Consultation with representatives of those from whom information is to be obtained or those who must compile records should occur at least once every three years - even if the collection of information activity is the same as in prior periods. There may be circumstances that may preclude consultation in a specific situation. These circumstances should be explained.**

MARAD consults regularly, and at least quarterly, with each strategic commercial seaport regarding their readiness reporting and has received no objections or recommended changes.

On May 18, 2021, MARAD consulted with several strategic ports at the Surface Force Projection Conference, hosted by the National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA), regarding the current quarterly report process. NDTA is a non-profit education organization that facilitate “an environment where government, military, and private sector professionals can solve pressing challenges in the fields of logistics, transportation, and passenger travel services.” The consultation occurred as an agenda item at “Breakout Session #1: MARAD-Strategic Ports,” and was advertised to all designated Commercial Strategic Seaports. No ports present at the meeting provided any comment.

MARAD has further attended several meetings of Commercial Strategic Seaport Port Readiness Committees during summer 2021, where it further consulted with ports and other stakeholders on this topic and received no comments.

**9. Explain any decision to provide any payment or gift to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.**

No payments or gifts are or will be provided to respondents.

**10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.**

All data collected from the strategic commercial seaports will be maintained and treated by MARAD as For Official Use Only (FOUO) and is not intended for release to the public. MARAD will take all necessary steps to protect proprietary or classified data. Due to the business sensitivity and national security implications of the collected information, MARAD will claim statutory exemptions (#1 – national security and #4 - confidential commercial information)

to prevent release if we receive any Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

**11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private. This justification should include the reasons why the agency considers the questions necessary, the specific uses to be made of the information, the explanation to be given to persons from whom the information is requested, and any steps to be taken to obtain their consent.**

Not applicable. There are no questions of a sensitive nature.

**12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the collection of information. The statement should:**

- **Indicate the number of respondents, frequency of response, annual hour burden, and an explanation of how the burden was estimated. Unless directed to do so, agencies should not conduct special surveys to obtain information on which to base hour burden estimates. Consultation with a sample (fewer than 10) of potential respondents is desirable. If the hour burden on respondents is expected to vary widely because of differences in activity, size, or complexity, show the range of estimated burden and explain the reasons for the variance. Generally, estimates should not include burden hours for customary and usual business practices.**
- **If this request for approval covers more than one form, provide separate hour burden estimates for each form and aggregate the hour burdens in item 13 of OMB Form 83-I.**
- **Provide estimates of annualized cost to respondents for the hour burdens for collections of information, identifying and using appropriate wage rate categories. The cost of contracting out or paying outside parties for information collection activities should not be included here. Instead, this cost should be included in item 14.**

|                                 |   |                                       |   |                                       |   |                                 |   |                                   |
|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Number of<br><u>Respondents</u> |   | Responses<br>Per<br><u>Respondent</u> | = | Total<br>Responses<br><u>Annually</u> | x | Hours<br>Per<br><u>Response</u> | = | Total<br>Hours<br><u>Annually</u> |
| 17                              | x | 4                                     | = | 68                                    | x | 1                               | = | 68                                |

A determination of the estimated number of hours required per response was made after consultation with several respondents.

It is estimated that one employee spends approximately one hour of their time collecting and assimilating the information submitted with each response. Therefore, given an average salary of \$60.45 per hour for General and Operations Manager\*, the total cost to the respondents is as follows:

|                                        |                          |                     |   |                           |   |                             |   |                           |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Total Annual<br>Number of<br>Responses | Hours<br>Per<br>Response | Cost<br>Per<br>Hour | = | Hours<br>Cost<br>Annually | x | Other<br>Cost<br>(Benefits) | = | Total<br>Cost<br>Annually |
| 68                                     | x                        | 1                   | x | \$60.45                   | = | \$4,110.60                  | x | 1.4 = \$5,754.84          |

Total annual cost for respondents is **\$5,754.84**

\*The median hourly wage for General and Operations Managers was taken from the BLS Occupational Wage Table ([https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes\\_nat.htm#00-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_nat.htm#00-0000)).

**13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the collection of information. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in items 12 and 14).**

- **The cost estimate should be split into two components: (a) a total capital and start-up cost component (annualized over its expected useful life); and (b) a total operation and maintenance and purchase of services component. The estimates should take into account costs associated with generating, maintaining and disclosing or providing the information. Include descriptions of methods used to estimate major cost factors including system and technology acquisition, expected useful life of capital equipment, the discount rate(s), and the time period over which costs will be incurred. Capital and start-up costs include, among other items, preparations for collecting information such as purchasing computers and software; monitoring, sampling, drilling and testing equipment; and record storage facilities.**
- **If cost estimates are expected to vary widely, agencies should present ranges of cost burdens and explain the reasons for the variance. The cost of purchasing or contracting out information collection services should be a part of this cost burden estimate. In developing cost burden estimates, agencies may consult with a sample of respondents (fewer than 10), utilize the 60-day pre-OMB submission public comment process and use existing economic or regulatory impact analysis associated with the rulemaking containing the information collection, as appropriate.**
- **Generally, estimates should not include purchases of equipment or services, or portions thereof, made: (1) prior to October 1, 1995, (2) to achieve regulatory compliance with requirements not associated with the information collection, (3) for reasons other than to provide information or keep records for the government, or (4) as part of customary and usual business or private practices.**

**(a) Total Capital and Start-Up Costs Estimate:** There are no capital or start-up costs associated with this information collection.

**(b) Total Operation and Maintenance and Purchase of Services Estimate:** There are

no operation and maintenance costs associated with this information collection.

**14. Provide estimates of annualized cost to the Federal Government. Also, provide a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses (such as equipment, overhead, printing, and support staff), and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information. Agencies also may aggregate cost estimates from items 12, 13, and 14 in a single table.**

The total annual cost to the Federal Government for processing the collection is estimated as follows: One GS-13, step 5, employee at an hourly wage of approximately \$56.31 to obtain and collate each quarterly response is estimated to take approximately 2 hours per quarter.

| <u>Number of Employees</u>                  | <u>Hourly Wage</u> | <u>Project Time</u> | <u>Cost Per Response</u> | <u>Benefits</u> | <u>Total Cost/Response</u> |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 1 x                                         | \$56.31 x          | 2 hours =           | \$ 112.62 x              | 1.4 =           | \$157.67                   |
| Times 17 responses                          |                    |                     | =                        | \$ 2,680.36     |                            |
| Total quarterly cost times 4 times per year |                    |                     | =                        | \$ 10,721.42    |                            |

Maximum Total Annual Cost to Federal Government: \$10,721.42

\*The hourly wage for GS-13, step 5, employee was taken from OPM Salary Table 2021 ([https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/21Tables/html/DCB\\_h.aspx](https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/salary-tables/21Tables/html/DCB_h.aspx))

**15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in items 13 or 14 of OMB Form 83-I.**

The number of strategic seaports subject to this reporting is expected to increase from 16 to 17 during 2021. The military’s Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) is in the process of designating an additional strategic seaport on the West Coast. The number of responses and burden hours have been adjusted accordingly.

The salary for the respondents and the government has been adjusted to reflect the current hourly wage for both the government and the respondents.

In addition, the following updates have been made to Form-MA 1077:

- Changed all references to the previous strategic ports planning document, “Port Planning Order (PPO)”, to the current document, “Port Readiness Plan (PRP)”.
- Inserted “*after receipt of the DoD Rated Order*” at the end of Question #1.

**16. For collections of information whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulation and publication. Address any complex analytical techniques that will be used. Provide the time schedule for the entire project, including beginning and ending dates of**



**the collection of information, completion of report, publication dates and other actions.**

There are no plans to publish the results of this information collection. Since this information collection summarizes readiness of the nation's ports to support military deployments, the results are for official use only by MARAD and the Department of Defense. Due to the information's business sensitivity and national security implications, MARAD does not intend to disseminate the results of this information collection to the public.

**17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.**

MARAD is not seeking such approval.

**18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in Item 19, "Certification for Paperwork Reduction Act Submissions," of OMB Form 83-I.**

Not applicable. There are no exceptions to the certificate statement.