



Washington Dignitaries Hosted by the U.S. Superyacht Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fort Lauderdale, FL — October 12, 2009— In the tradition of the Captains Briefings held annually in St. Maarten, Newport and at last year's boat show, the U.S. Superyacht Association (USSA) , in a collaborative alliance with the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF) and the International Superyacht Society (ISS) called YachtInfo, has invited high-level Washington dignitaries for a forum and dialogue with the superyacht captains and senior officers in town for the boat show.

This year's "Captains Briefing" is scheduled for Friday, October 30, at 4:30 in the Grande View Ballroom, upstairs at the Bahia Mar Resort, with a networking reception immediately following. It is the closing event to a full day of professional development seminars for crew called YachtInfo. The purpose of the Captains Briefing is to update and inform the captains and senior officers of all the large yachts that are in Fort Lauderdale, about the latest regulations from the U.S. Coast Guard, Customs & Border Protection and the U.S. Department of State.

For the first time, the year's panel includes the expertise of the International Maritime Pilots' Association, Michael Watson, who is also president of the American Pilots' Association. He is joined by Rear Admiral Kevin Cook of the U.S. Coast Guard and Paul Minton of Customs & Border Protection. All are traveling from Washington, D.C. for dialogue with superyacht captains and officers. "We believe we finally have definitive direction and answers about crew visas from the State Department," commented USSA Board member, John Mann, after his recent visit to Washington, D.C.

- Crew Visas – B1/B2, length of stay, re-entry? Problems at consular offices worldwide?
- Captains Licenses – What requirements are expected to change soon?
- ANOA Procedures - Potential changes in ANOA? Why the duplicity of data for USCG & CBP?
- Mandatory Pilotage Regulations – Why is enforcement regional? Where is that information?

Captains and senior officers may pre-register at <http://www.USyachtinfo.com>. The activities of the USSA are member-supported and sponsorships remain available for both YachtInfo and the Captains Briefing. The next USSA Captains Briefing & Reception will be in St Maarten, January 26-28, 2010.

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The U.S. Superyacht Association (USSA) is a non-profit trade association, whose stated mission is to protect and promote the superyacht industry of the United States. Membership is open to businesses and individuals having a bona fide U.S. presence and activity in the U.S. superyacht industry.