



## **Mr. Benjamin M. Strong** **United States Coast Guard**

### **Director of Amver Maritime Relations**



Benjamin Strong assumed the duties as Director of the U.S. Coast Guard's Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue (AMVER) System on March 7, 2005. Mr. Strong is responsible for the overall direction, management, planning, coordination and administration of the Coast Guard's AMVER worldwide search and rescue system involving more than 20,000 commercial ships from hundreds of nations. He oversees the AMVER awards program which recognizes more than 7,000 ships annually for voluntarily making themselves available to assist in search and rescue cases. Mr. Strong is also responsible for marketing the AMVER program to the media, international government and commercial entities. Mr. Strong is a member of the U.S. delegation to the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response working group of the Arctic Council.

Mr. Strong is a career civil servant with various assignments in Federal government. Mr. Strong served as the Mass Rescue Program Manager in the U.S. Coast Guard office of Search and Rescue, Washington, DC. Prior to working for the Coast Guard Mr. Strong served as a Program Specialist in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Office of Urban Search and Rescue. While at FEMA he deployed to several national incidents including the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001 and the Space Shuttle Challenger crash in 2003. Mr. Strong also served as a professional paramedic in the Prince George's County, Maryland Fire Department.

Mr. Strong is a graduate of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County where he earned both a Bachelor and Masters of Science Degree in Emergency Health Services Management. Mr. Strong is a Senior Fellow with the Excellence in Government Partnership for Public Service. Mr. Strong served in the U.S. Air Force from 1987-1991. His personal awards include the Coast Guard Arctic Service Medal, Coast Guard Presidential Unit Citation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency Director's Award, a Prince George's County Fire Department Unit Citation for assisting in the rescue of three children from a house fire and a U.S. Air Force Good Conduct Medal. Mr. Strong is also the recipient of the Medal for Commonwealth in the Name of Rescue presented by the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and the Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters.