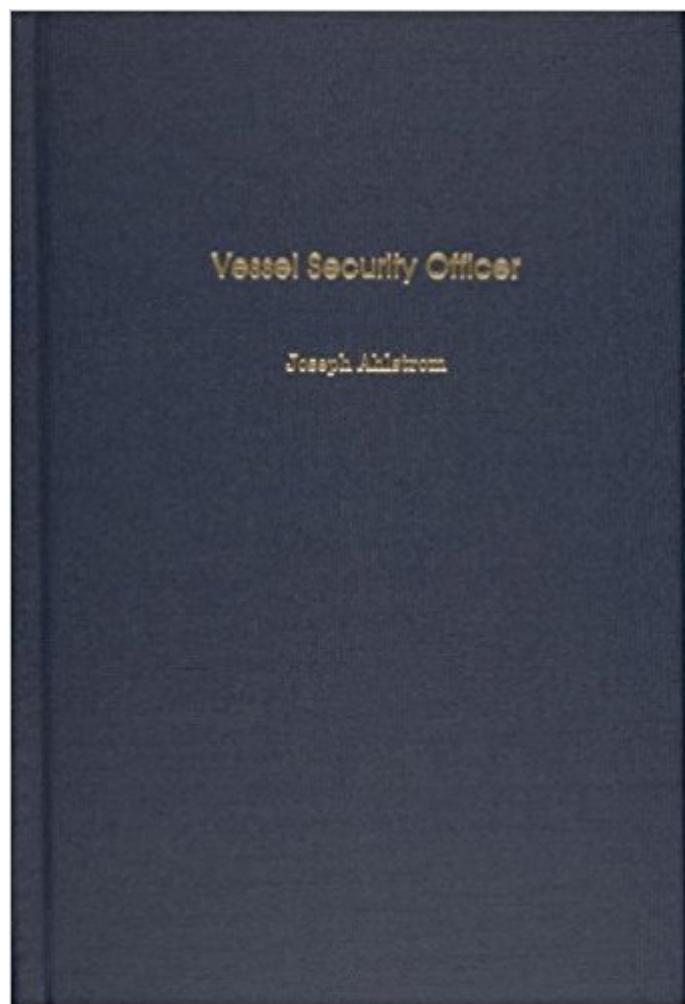


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# Vessel Security Officer



## **Synopsis**

Keeping a ship safe and secure occurs through the investment of time and effort by both the Vessel Security Officer and the crew. Some of the topics covered in this volume include training, drills, exercises, and recordkeeping; threat assessment and analysis; creating a vessel security plan; and maritime terrorism. The appendices contain a Declaration of Security and 33 CFR Part 104 among other documents. This text complements any security course and can serve as a training handbook for a Vessel/Ship Security Officer or Company Security Officer.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Captain Joseph Ahlstrom, author of *Vessel Security Officer*, is a graduate of the State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime, with a bachelors degree in marine transportation. He completed his masters degree in transportation management with honors from SUNY Maritime College. Captain Ahlstrom has commanded six merchant ships, including a tanker, containership, breakbulk carrier, and research and training ship. He sailed for fifteen years in the U.S. and Foreign Merchant Marine. In January 1996, Captain Ahlstrom started teaching at SUNY Maritime College. During his time at SUNY Maritime he was captain of the Training Ship Empire State from 1998-2000. He also was chairman of the Marine Transportation Department from 2003 until May 2005. He currently is an associate professor, focusing on Maritime Security and Maritime Communications. In addition to being an unlimited Master Mariner, Captain Ahlstrom is a Captain (0-6) in the United States Navy Reserve. He lives on Staten Island, is married to Carolyn, and has two children, Emma and Brendan.

I took a class with Captain Alstrom and this was the book we used. It's short, to the point, and gives a lot of background information about historical and emerging maritime security issues. A very technical but useful resource for the maritime professional.

According to Captain Ahlstrom in Vessel Security Officer, if we are to avert security incidents from threats to maritime assets, it is imperative to fashion a new approach to identifying our adversaries.\* ...anticipating how terrorists will attempt to exploit vulnerabilities at sea and in port is the key to prevent an incident. Understanding how terrorists think and operate will assist the CSO/SSO develop measures to decrease vulnerabilities. It is important to study terrorist tactics ...this guidance includes such areas as communications, security, deception, surveillance techniques, weapons/bombmaking, and armed assault tactics. P 36 - 37. The U.S. policy has been to look for potential threats and vulnerabilities after the incident. This will not suffice any longer. We must terminate the threat before the incident is carried out.\* The goal of a ship or facility owner or operator is not to be a target - or the subject of a "transportation security incident." In light of the events, two lessons can be learned: (1) compliance with all applicable legal requirements is necessary, but not necessarily sufficient; and (2) virtually anything is now considered foreseeable. P 58. This book gives insight into the problems facing the maritime industry in today's dangerous world and gives solutions to protecting your ship and/or port facility and stresses such important concepts as operational security (OPSEC).\* In dealing with a vessel or facility, it is essential to perform a threat assessment. A threat assessment deals with identifying vulnerabilities in procedures, physical structure, and personal training. P 76.\* All the crew should be informed not to reveal any information to strangers, contractors, or visitors. P 74.\* As the Vessel Security Officer you must ensure no one off the ship or in the crew without a need to know is shown the security assessment or security plan. P 80. Learn how to better protect your ship or marine facility from this maritime security expert. If your mission involves the sea, you can't afford to ignore the lessons in this very important book.

This book is a needed addition in this field. It gives a concise picture of the duties of the Vessel Security Officer and provides needed information for the performance of the position. Indeed, it is a book that will be kept by merchant marine officers as a reference manual.

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