



August 14, 2008

**OP'S ADVISORY TO SHIPPING No. A-21-2008**

**TO : All Steamship Agents, Owners, and Operators**

**SUBJECT: PANAMAX 2008 – Multi-National Training Exercise**

PANAMAX 2008, a multi-national training exercise focusing on the defense of the Panama Canal, will be held from August 16 through August 21, 2008. This event will be held in the approach of the Canal. It will provide exercises for ground, sea, and air response should the Government of Panama find it necessary to request assistance in guaranteeing a safe passage to and through the waterway. Since its inception in 2003, this training exercise has become a premier multinational event with an increasing number of participants over the past three years. This year the 20 nations participating are:

Argentina	Brazil	Canada	Chile	Colombia
Costa Rica	Dominican Republic	Ecuador	El Salvador	Guatemala
Honduras	Nicaragua	Panama	Peru	United States
Uruguay				

France, Mexico, Paraguay and Spain are scheduled to participate as observers. The Conference of Central American Armies, the Organization of American States, and the United Nations will also participate.

Merchant ships approaching the Panama Canal may encounter military vessels from participating countries and may be requested by PANAMAX 2008 Command Post to report the following vessel information, which will be handled confidentially.

- Ship Name
- Call sign/ IMO Number
- Email address
- Type of ship
- Type of cargo
- Position, course and speed
- Previous port of call
- Next port of call.

The cooperation of all will be greatly appreciated.

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

Manuel E. Benítez  
Executive Vice President of Operations