

4-258398

USCG-2006-25767-124

9/11 Peace Initiative of Erie
PO Box 1533, Erie, PA 16507

Nov. 12, 2006

To: Docket Management Facility

U.S. Dept. of Transportation (via fax: 202/493-2251)

From: 9/11 Peace Initiative of Erie (www.geocities.com/eriepeaceinitiative/)

Re: Comments on Safety Zones -- US Coast Guard Water Training Areas, Great Lakes
(USCG-2006-25767)

The Iraq war involved a military deployment based on false or distorted premises. We believe that invoking the 9/11 attacks and the "war on terrorism" to justify militarizing our Erie area public waters is similarly bogus and insufficient.

The record of the Bush Administration's politicizing of security/defense related issues gives us the perception that this proposed commandeering of public space, however occasional it may be, is being used to advance a political agenda rather than to prepare for any realistic security threat along the United States-Canada border. Additionally, numerous safety, economic, and environmental concerns would further burden our scarce regional resources if these maneuvers were performed in Erie area waters.

We oppose the plan to establish permanent safety zones for live-fire M-240 machine gun training exercises on the Great Lakes, and we respectfully request that such weapons exercises be called off.

The 9/11 Peace Initiative is a group of people from Erie and Crawford counties in Pennsylvania concerned that the U.S. war on terrorism will become permanent global war and committed to education and action to stop war and work for true justice and peace.