



**PORT HURON LODGE NO. 2**  
**INTERNATIONAL SHIPMASTERS' ASSOCIATION**

*P.O. BOX 611634*  
*PORT HURON, MICHIGAN 48061-1634*

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January 30, 2014

**To the ISMA Grand Lodge and all Member Lodges,**

The following proposal concerning the establishment of medium-range, all weather capability SAR helicopters by the U.S. Coast Guard on the Great Lakes, was approved by the membership of Port Huron Lodge No. 2 at its regular business meeting on January 30, 2014. It is to be presented to the Grand Lodge at its annual meeting at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on February 7, 2014.

**Background:**

Coast Guard aviation on the Great Lakes over the years since World War II consisted of a combination of fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft until 1986. Three rotary-wing air stations have been operated on the Great Lakes, Traverse City, Detroit and Chicago, with Traverse City also home to fixed-wing aircraft. The last fixed-wing aircraft, the HU-25 Falcon jet, along with the HH-65 Dolphin helicopter, were replaced by the HH-3 Pelican medium-range helicopter in 1986. Since this time, no fixed-wing aircraft have been permanently stationed on the Great Lakes. The HH-3 Pelicans had a range of 621 miles and a capacity for 6 survivors although they could probably fit more with an 18,000 lb. cargo capacity.

In 1991, the Pelicans were replaced by the HH-60 Jayhawk helicopter at Air Station Traverse City. Jayhawks have a range of 700 NM with a capacity for 11 survivors and they are an all-weather aircraft. In 1995, the three Jayhawks were replaced by five HH-65 Dolphins. The Jayhawks were moved to Air Station Astoria, Oregon. HH-65 Dolphin helicopters have a range of 290 NM, a capacity for 2 survivors and are classed as a short-range helicopter.

Air Station Chicago was closed in 1995 and designated an Air Facility, later moved to Waukegan, IL, due to budget cuts. The HH-65 Dolphins are based at Traverse City and Detroit (Selfridge ANG). In the summer months, Air Facilities are operated at Muskegon, MI supported by AirSta Detroit and Waukegan, IL supported by AirSta Traverse City.

The Canadian Coast Guard has helicopters based in Parry Sound, Ontario and fixed wing aircraft at CFB Trenton, Ontario.

Distances from Traverse City to points on Lake Superior:

Manitou Island	201 miles	(Tip of Keweenaw Peninsula)
Caribou Island	177 miles	(Eastern Lake Superior)
Isle Royale	262 miles	(Northwestern Lake Superior)

## **Proposal:**

**WHEREAS:** The HH-65 Dolphin is the only helicopter operated by the U.S. Coast Guard on the Great Lakes. It is approaching the end of service life and has no all-weather ability to provide coverage of Lake Superior or Eastern Lake Erie without refueling first. It only has capacity for 2 survivors, and,

**WHEREAS:** In January 2013, an ATB accidently disengaged from its barge in heavy weather and seas approximately 12 miles east of Manitou Island on Lake Superior. A Mayday distress call was put out from the tug with a crew of 15. Should the tug have needed a timely rescue of survivors and the injured, the HH-65 Dolphin would have been limited in its ability to rescue the crew in a timely manner, and,

**WHEREAS:** Surface craft are limited by distance and time to respond in extreme sea and ice conditions, and,

**WHEREAS:** Extreme weather can happen during any time of the year on the Great Lakes, and,

**WHEREAS:** Large commercial vessels with 15 or more crew operate year round on the Great Lakes. Large cruise vessels with 100 or more passengers operate on all five Great Lakes. Isle Royale ferries with many passengers operate seasonally on Lake Superior. Numerous tugs, workboats, fishing vessels, recreational vessels with crews of three or more operate on all Great Lakes. Many large sailing vessels with large crews compete in the Chicago-Mackinac and Port Huron-Mackinac races, and,

**WHEREAS:** All mariners, professional and recreational, would have better chances of survival and rescue with the enhanced Search and Rescue capabilities of the HH-60 Jayhawk helicopters if they were stationed on the Great Lakes.

**BE IT PROPOSED:** That the Grand Lodge instruct the Navigation, Legislative and Engineering Committee to contact the U.S. Coast Guard and Great Lakes State Congressional members, and ask that the HH-60 Jayhawk helicopters be re-established on the Great Lakes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Captain George P. Haynes  
Grand Lodge Delegate  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President  
ISMA Port Huron Lodge No. 2