



STATE OF FLORIDA

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

CHARLIE CRIST
Governor

RUBEN D. ALMAGUER
Interim Director

December 8, 2009

Leroy Collins, Jr.
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy Reserve (Ret.)
State of Florida
Department of Veterans' Affairs
Office of the Executive Director
11351 Ulmerton Road, Suite 311-K
Largo, Florida 33778

Dear Admiral Collins:

It was a pleasure meeting with you on November 5 to discuss the potential role of the SS American Victory (AMVIC) as an emergency response vessel. Though Tropical Storm Ida drew our attention for a few days, Division staff had an opportunity to review the provided materials and compare the AMVIC's capabilities to our needs. After review, the Division has determined that the AMVIC's emergency response capabilities, even with the overhaul, are very limited.

From a logistics and transportation perspective, the high volume and fast pace required for delivery of commodities, supplies and equipment in an emergency are best met with land-based systems (principally highway). In certain, very limited situations, barge transportation may be practical when high volume is needed, but a slower delivery pace is acceptable. (A barge can carry about 300 40-foot containers or 75 48-foot semi-trailers.) The AMVIC cannot provide this volume, nor can the cargo be shipped in containers or semi-trailers. For sea-based transportation, the Division strongly prefers standard container or semi-trailer storage units. The containers are pre-loaded with commodities and the units are loaded and off-loaded in bulk transport-ready condition. Container shipping requires far less cargo handling than the AMVIC's winch and sling loading.

The Division's staff also reviewed the AMVIC's potential as a base camp. The provided documents show that the AMVIC has a bunking capacity of 86. This is a very small capacity. Generally, the Division's base camps sleep and support 250 or more responders. Public shelter encampments are of similar capacity.

After review of the AMVIC's capabilities, and given the current austere budget environment, the Division cannot financially support the repairs and operations of the ship.

The Division thanks you and the AMVIC Mariners Memorial and Museum Ship Board of Directors for offering the ship in times of emergency. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (850) 413-9969.

Respectfully,

Ruben D. Almaguer
Interim Director

RDA/dks