

Robson Forensic

Engineers, Architects, Scientists & Fire Investigators

MARJORIE MURTAGH COOKE

Marine Safety Expert

More than thirty years experience in the marine industry including ship construction, operations, maintenance and repair, inspection, and the development and interpretation of both domestic and international regulations and requirements. A recognized expert, both nationally and internationally, in marine accident investigation.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2006 to **Robson Forensic, Inc.**

present *Associate*

Provide technical investigations, analysis, reports, and testimony toward the resolution of marine matters.

1996 to **World Maritime University**

present *Visiting Professor*

Instructor in marine accident investigation to international graduate students, naval personnel and commercial investigators. Topics covered include domestic and international rules for marine accident investigation, collection of evidence, interviewing techniques, technical review, report preparation, analytical techniques, and recommendation preparation.

1994 to **National Transportation Safety Board**

2005 *Director, Office of Marine Safety*

Senior manager of the Safety Board's marine modal office of accident investigation. Managed the major marine transportation investigations for which go-teams are launched to the accident site. Responsible for: overall management, technical accuracy and direction of domestic and international marine accident investigations and reporting processes, including the collection of evidence and analysis of facts to determine probable cause of accidents; preparation of detailed reports for use by other domestic and international government agencies, Congress, the marine transportation community and the traveling public; formulation of recommendations to minimize recurrence of similar accidents; improvement of public safety by advocating changes to international (e.g. Safety of Life at Sea Convention) and domestic (e.g. United States Coast Guard regulations) marine transportation regulations, requirements, policies, practices and systems in government and industry. Represented the Safety Board before Congress, federal regulators, the maritime industry, safety groups, labor organizations, associations, societies, and as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nation's International Maritime Organization (IMO) meetings addressing marine accident investigation issues. Instructed foreign and domestic personnel in marine accident investigation standards and procedures. Responsible for the production of marine reports produced by the Safety Board. Production of reports included the marine investigation, development of facts and analysis, writing, editing, presentation, and publication of the final report.

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1984 to **United States Coast Guard**

1994 *Chief, Fire Protection Section*

1986-1994

Served as the senior technical advisor and principal Coast Guard spokesman on marine fire protection and fire safety of merchant ships. Responsible for: development and direction of marine fire protection programs and projects to assure they were technically sound, consistent with Coast Guard goals and Congressional intent and that enforcement and compliance with marine safety standards were carried out uniformly and equitably. Served as the Chairman of the U.S. Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Working Group on Fire Protection and responsible for developing and presenting United States technical positions through research, analysis, technical discussions, and both informal and formal communications and meetings with the U.S. maritime community and the public. As the Department of State's U.S. representative to the International Maritime Organization's Subcommittee on Fire Protection responsible for negotiating U.S. interests with other international heads of delegation. In that capacity, researched and developed technical standards and requirements for the installation of smoke detectors, smoke alarms and sprinklers aboard all large passenger ships (cruise ships) worldwide.

Marine Engineer

1984-1986

Served as staff engineer in two branches of the Marine Technical and Hazardous Materials Division of the U.S. Coast Guard's Office of Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection. As staff engineer in the Engineering Branch, responsible for evaluating proposed new and unique (state of the art) design features and construction methods for marine applications and their effects on safety. Developed criteria for new regulations based upon marine engineering principles for evaluating materials, systems and components proposed as substitutes to existing requirements to establish equivalent protection. Responsible for the development, preparation and successful completion of the USCG's Guidelines Governing the Use of Fiberglass Pipe (FGP) on ships inspected by the U.S. Coast Guard. As staff engineer in the Ship Design Branch, prepared and coordinated the review of a plantship design to produce methanol on offshore production vessels. Served as the project manager and technical advisor on a contract assessing the safety of a Concrete Island Drilling Structure (CIDS). Served as project manager and technical advisor for a project reviewing and assessing Classification Societies, such as the American Bureau of Shipping, for delegation of USCG inspection authority. Chaired a working group under ASTM F.25 developing testing and approval procedures for marine firestop materials and prepared policy and field guidance for the review and approval of firestop materials aboard merchant vessels. Reviewed, assessed, and made technical recommendations for US Coast Guard casualty investigations and reports for possible revision of regulatory requirements to improve safety. Reviewed and evaluated National Transportation Safety Board marine investigation reports for possible application to marine safety upgrades. Prepared U.S. position papers for presentation to the International Maritime Organization's Maritime Safety Committee.

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1983 to **United States Navy Military Sealift Command**

1984 *Marine Engineer*

Served as staff engineer in the Engineering Operations Office. Planned and executed general engineering operations and practices for maintenance, repair and overhaul of 10 MSC fleet ships. Served as the “type desk” engineer for the Naval Fleet Auxiliary Force tankers and MSC’s Range Instrumentation Ships (*USNS Redstone, USNS Vanguard, and USNS Observation Island*). Responsible for maintaining ships’ scheduled operations and served as technical liaison with MSC’s management, field commands and port engineers as well as Department of Defense sponsors, contractors and shipyards. Developed reliability alteration plans for ship-life extension programs; responsible for reviewing proposed modifications, maintenance, and repair as well as shipyard specifications, including evaluating their compliance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Reviewed and analyzed ships’ casualty reports.

1979 to **Santa Fe Corporation**

1983 *Marine Operations Analyst*

Served as project manager for a performance assessment program which segregated the machinery from the hull and propeller performance for commercial ships. Served as the project manager for multiple in-situ hull and propeller surveys of commercial and military vessels. Prime technical participant in several projects aimed at energy conservation and the use of alternative fuel aboard merchant ships, including the development of maintenance and repair data for modern coal-fired ships propulsion components. Diverse experience in technical research; project management, technical liaison and report preparation.

1977 to **Ford Motor Company**

1979 *Marine Engineer*

Served as USCG licensed marine operating engineer for a main steam engine plant aboard a Great Lakes ore carrier. Responsible for the operation, troubleshooting, maintenance, repair, teardown and overhaul of main engine room equipment including boilers, turbines, main propulsion gear, generators, the lube oil system and other auxiliary equipment. Experienced in lay-up, fit out and winter work, including the dismantling, inspecting, repair and reassembling of main and auxiliary equipment.

1974 to **State University of New York Maritime College**

1977 *Assistant Dean of Students*

Responsible for developing and establishing the first program for female students at a United States uniformed higher education facility. Responsibilities including the establishment of policies and procedures for providing equitable training, supplies, clothing, and living quarters aboard ship and ashore. Developed and implemented programs for logistics management, prepared specifications for contracts and analyzed bids for final award.

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PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS

Instructor in all aspects of marine accident reconstruction and marine accident investigation including domestic and international rules for marine accident investigation, ethics, collection of evidence, interviewing techniques, technical review, report preparation, analytical techniques, conclusion development and recommendation preparation. World Maritime University, Malmo, Sweden; National Transportation Safety Board Headquarters, Washington, DC; NTSB Academy, Ashburn, Virginia; SUNY Maritime College, New York, New York.

Chairman, International Maritime Organization's Subcommittee on Fire Protection; Vice-Chairman, International Maritime Organization's Subcommittee on Fire Protection; Chairman, Ad-hoc Working Group on Passenger Ship Fire Protection, International Maritime Organization, Maritime Safety Committee; Chairman, U.S. Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Working Group on Fire Protection

U.S. Coast Guard License: Third Assistant Engineer, Unlimited Horsepower

Recipient of Department of Transportation's Silver Medal for negotiating unprecedented international fire safety requirements for passenger ships.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Engineering, State University of New York Maritime College

PUBLICATIONS

"Ship Fire Safety Design." ByDesign (a technical publication of ASSE's Engineering Practice Specialty) Vol. 7 (2007), No. 2: 1+.

Article addresses shipboard fire protection requirements for large international passenger ships.