

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

*Q: Why does the Coast Guard need these weapons?*

A: These weapons are necessary for Great Lakes Coast Guard units to meet a level of readiness that is prescribed for all Coast Guard operational units. Training and qualification on the M-240s meets service-wide requirements for conducting safe and effective law enforcement, military and national security operations.

*Q: Doesn't the Rush-Bagot treaty with the nation of Canada forbid mounted automatic weapons on the Great Lakes?*

A: Both the United States and Canadian governments agree that the Rush-Bagot Agreement was not intended to cover law enforcement vessels with small caliber weapons such as the M-240.

*Q: Is there lead in the round and what damage does it do to the lakes?*

A: Yes, there is lead in the round, but a Human and Environmental Risk Assessment conducted by the Coast Guard and two independent environmental consulting companies concluded there would be no elevated risks to humans or the environment from the residual pieces of the bullet.

*Q: Who generated the studies?*

A.: The Coast Guard contracted with two respected independent environmental consulting companies, E2M and CH2MHill, to conduct the study. The Coast Guard adopted the conclusions of the study before deciding to go ahead with the training.

*Q: Are the safety zones marked?*

A : No the safety zones are not marked. When small boats are conducting the training there will be one boat engaged in training and another monitoring vessel traffic.

*Q: What happens when someone inadvertently enters the safety zone?*

A: Training will be halted. The safety vessel will attempt to notify the vessel transiting the zone to have them stay out. If the safety vessel is unsuccessful in raising the vessel on the radio it will attempt to notify the vessel through other means.

*Q: How was the Coast Guard able to conduct the 23 exercises if safety zones were not in place?*

A: The Coast Guard had to establish temporary safety zones and the temporary safety zones had to comply with current regulations.

*Q: How do I know where the safety zones are so I don't wander into one when you are shooting?*

A: Information regarding the location of the proposed safety zone locations was published in the Federal Register on August 1, 2006. A copy of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking may be found at [http://www.access.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/fedreg/a060801c.html](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/fedreg/a060801c.html). Safety broadcasts on marine radio bands are made by the Coast Guard prior to each exercise that specify the zone being used and the time the exercise will be completed. There is also a designated safety vessel and observer present to monitor the safety zone, which ensures boating traffic remains clear of the restricted area.