U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard

MARINE BOARD OF INVESTIGATION

Dr. Jeffrey Stettler, Ph.D.

Marine Board of Investigation Technical Advisor

U.S. Coast Guard

Dr. Jeff Stettler is an experienced and multi-disciplined maritime engineer with expertise gained through advanced education and practical experience over 30 years. He is a recognized expert in the field of naval architecture and marine engineering, with special expertise and experience in engineering for marine casualty response and salvage, and forensic naval architecture.

Dr. Stettler currently serves as the supervisor of the Coast Guard's Salvage Engineering Response Team (SERT) where he leads the team of naval architects and salvage engineers in responding to marine casualties including grounding, sinking, capsizing, collision, and structural damage.

During a 28-year naval career, Dr. Stettler gained experience in a breadth of technical and operational leadership roles, including tours of duty in ship operations, shipyard construction, repair and dry-docking operations, ship design, and deep-sea diving and marine salvage operations. As a Navy Diving and Salvage officer, he participated in over a hundred deep-sea diving and marine salvage projects, and personally supervised more than thirty salvage projects, including ship salvage and deep ocean search and recovery involving military and commercial ships, aircraft and space vehicles, many requiring comprehensive engineering for which he was also responsible. As a Navy Engineering Duty officer, he served as ship design manager, repair manager and project manager for many technical projects, providing technical and operational leadership for ship design, repair, casualty response and salvage teams, including international and interagency teams with military, government and commercial components. Dr. Stettler also served as a Military Professor in the Department of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy and as adjunct Professor in the Aerospace and Ocean Engineering Department at Virginia Tech, teaching a variety of courses in naval architecture, marine engineering and mechanical engineering.

Dr. Stettler has conducted and supervised applied naval architecture and engineering research in ship flooding and damaged stability, ship and marine structures, and marine hydrodynamics, including extensive use of experimental methods and model testing, and computer analysis and simulation. He has written, published, and presented extensively throughout his career. He holds three graduate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, including a doctorate in naval architecture and marine engineering. He is a licensed professional engineer and a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers.

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