Coast Guard VTS System Workforce

- 264 qualified as watchstanders
- Slightly more civilians than active duty
- About 1/3 of active duty watchstanders transfer each year
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Training and Qualification Process

• National VTS Certification Course
  • Classroom lectures
  • Simulator exercises

• Qualification at VTS center
  • Individualized training and self-study
  • Tests and practical exercises
  • On-the-job training on watchfloor
  • Ship rides
VTS Simulator Training at National Certification Course

• Simulated VTS workstation displays and traffic scenarios lacked realism

• Insufficient practice time in the VTS operator role

• Trainees wanted more practice applying navigation rules and the four traffic management activities
On-the-Job Training at VTS Centers

- Inconsistencies in mentor teaching abilities
- Expectations varied across mentors and watch sections
- Mentors had different interpretations of traffic management concepts and approaches
- Use of recently qualified watchstanders as mentors
Watch Supervisor Qualifications

- 22% of all watch supervisors indicated they had never worked as a VTS operator
- Proportion was greater among active duty supervisors (38%)
- Currently no formal guidelines or standards for the initial training and certification of watch supervisors