**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security**

**United States
Coast Guard**

Port Everglades Field Office
USCG, Sector Miami

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February 19, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in reference to Mr. John Banister's request for written verification as a qualified Federal Boarding Officer with the U.S. Coast Guard. I have been a Federal Boarding Officer and Deputized U.S. Marshall with Sector Miami, Preventions for the past four years and during this time I have had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Banister both professionally and personally. As an active Reservist's with the Coast Guard John completed an Extended Active Duty (EAD) tour with my office from April of 2003 through April of 2004. During John's EAD we worked together extensively as we completed our daily missions. It was also during this time that John's intelligence, initiative, and desire allowed him to quickly obtain his Federal Boarding Officer qualification. John participated as the Lead Boarding Officer almost exclusively during his EAD tour, performing several hundred commercial vessel boarding's for the Coast Guard.

The curriculum covered during the course of study for Federal Boarding Officer is extensive. One particular area of emphasis is the study of fraudulent documentation/identification. It is crucial for the Boarding Officer to be proficient in this area. Generally the Coast Guard is the first agency to board foreign flagged commercial vessel's arriving into U.S. jurisdictional waters and it is our job to notify other agencies if there is a suspected problem. John's experience and training as a Law Enforcement Officer allowed him to excel in this area.

I have included a copy of the Immigration & Naturalization Service guide we use as part of the curriculum listing the different forms of identification covered during the course of study for Federal Boarding Officer. If you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance I can be contacted at 786-295-9031.

Sincerely,

R. A. Dorin USCG

RUSSELL A. DORIN
MST2, U.S. Coast Guard