

required by the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) is not required.

List of Subjects in 30 CFR Part 938

Intergovernmental relations, Surface mining, Underground mining.

Ben H. Owens,

Acting Regional Director, North Atlantic—Appalachian Region.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 30 CFR part 938 is amended as set forth below:

PART 938—PENNSYLVANIA

- 1. The authority citation for part 938 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 30 U.S.C. 1201 *et seq.*

- 2. Amend § 938.15 in the table by adding an entry in chronological order by “Date of Final Publication” for “August 4, 2017” to read as follows:

§ 938.15 Approval of Pennsylvania regulatory program amendments.

* * * * *

Original amendment submission date	Date of final publication	Citation/description
August 4, 2017	January 15, 2026	Addition of subsections (i) and (j) to Section 5 of BMSLCA (52 P.S. § 1406.5(i) and (j)); amendment of Section 9a(d) of BMSLCA (52 P.S. § 1406.9a(d)).

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

32 CFR Part 246

[Docket ID: DOD-2023-OS-0058]

RIN 0790-AJ63

Stars and Stripes Media Organization

AGENCY: Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (OATSD(PA)), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule removes DoD's regulation concerning the internal procedures of the Stars and Stripes Media Organization (often abbreviated as Stripes). The regulation is unnecessary and may be removed from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) because it does not have an impact or burden to the public.

DATES: This rule is effective on January 15, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kyle Combs, (703) 695-6290.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

This final rule removes the DoD regulation at 32 CFR part 246, “Stars and Stripes (S&S) Newspaper and Business Operations,” because it addresses internal policy, responsibilities, and procedures for Stripes. The rule was published on April 22, 1994 (59 FR 19137). Although

a proposed rule was published in the **Federal Register** (89 FR 30296–30299) on April 23, 2024, for a 60-day public comment period to update its content and make the public aware of the unique mission of Stripes, after further review of the proposed rule and the public comments, which largely addressed internal procedures, the Department has determined this rule is not necessary. Rulemaking under the Administrative Procedure Act is not required and internal policy and procedures governing Stripes will continue to be published in DoD Directive 5122.11, “Stars and Stripes (S&S) Newspapers and Business Operations” (available at <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/issuances/dodd/512211p.pdf>).

II. Discussion of Public Comments and DoD Responses

During the public comment period for the proposed rule, a total of 91 comments were received. Three of the comments were not related to the rule and are not discussed in this preamble. In general, commenters were supportive of the Stripes program. The majority of the 88 public comments advocated for Stripes employees to be allowed to make Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, to have unescorted access to DoD facilities to cover events or activities open to those with installation access even if commercial media did not have the same unescorted access, or to republish previously classified or controlled unclassified materials. One commenter raised a concern regarding Stripes employees being able to make FOIA requests in their official capacity because section

551 of title 5, United States Code, excludes a Federal agency from the definition of “person” for the purposes of obtaining information under FOIA. These comments will be considered in the update to DoD Directive 5122.11.

Some of the comments also advocated for not changing the existing rule because of perceived concerns that changes would restrict Stripes in continuing its mission of providing editorially independent news and information. However, the existing rule is outdated and does not reflect the current operation of Stripes, only referencing Stripes as a hardcopy/print publication and not the multi-platform (including web-based) publication it has become.

III. Notice-and-Comment Rulemaking Is Not Required

It has been determined that publication of this rule removal for public comment is unnecessary because the underlying rule addresses internal agency policies and procedures and its removal has no impact on the public.

IV. Regulatory Impact Analysis

This rule is administrative in nature with no requirements imposed on the public. This rule does not affect the cost of the program or require changes on behalf of Stripes subscribers. Stripes is partially funded through revenue-generating activities as a nonappropriated fund instrumentality. While Stripes also receives some appropriated funding, it is required to be funded to the maximum extent possible through the sale and distribution of the newspapers, other products, authorized advertising, and other sources of revenue. These internal

DoD procedures are outlined in DoD Directive 5122.11.

V. Regulatory Compliance Analysis

A. Executive Order 12866, “Regulatory Planning and Review,” and Executive Order 13563, “Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review”

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). Executive Order 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. This final rule is not a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

B. Executive Order 14192, “Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation”

This rule is not an Executive Order 14192 regulatory action because this rule is not significant under Executive Order 12866.

C. Congressional Review Act (CRA) (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*)

This action is subject to the CRA (5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*), and DoD will submit a rule report to each House of Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. This action is not a “major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

D. Public Law 96-354, “Regulatory Flexibility Act” (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*)

The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs certified that this rule is not subject to the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) because the rule only addresses the operations of Stripes, and it would not, if promulgated, have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

E. Sec. 202, Public Law 104-4, “Unfunded Mandates Reform Act” (UMRA)

This action does not contain an unfunded mandate of \$100 million or more (in 1995 dollars) in any one year as described in UMRA, 2 U.S.C. 1531-1538, and does not significantly or uniquely affect small governments.

F. Public Law 96-511, “Paperwork Reduction Act” (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*)

This rule does not impose reporting or recordkeeping requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

G. Executive Order 13132, “Federalism”

This action will not have federalism implications as specified in Executive Order 13132 (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999), because it is not expected to have a substantial direct effect on States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. Accordingly, the requirements of Executive Order 13132 do not apply to this action.

H. Executive Order 13175, “Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments”

This action will not have Tribal implications as specified in Executive Order 13175 (65 FR 67249, November 9, 2000), because it is not expected to have substantial direct effects on Indian Tribes, significantly or uniquely affect the communities of Indian Tribal governments and does not involve or impose any requirements that affect Indian Tribes. Accordingly, the requirements of Executive Order 13175 do not apply to this action.

List of Subjects in 32 CFR Part 246

Government publications, Newspapers and magazines.

PART 246—[REMOVED]

■ Accordingly, by the authority of 5 U.S.C. 301, 32 CFR part 246 is removed.

Dated: January 13, 2026.

Aaron T. Siegel,
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.
[FR Doc. 2026-00695 Filed 1-14-26; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

46 CFR Part 350

[Docket No. MARAD-2026-0004]

RIN 2133-AC00

Seamen’s Service Awards; Amendment Replacing Gulf of Mexico With Gulf of America

AGENCY: Maritime Administration (MARAD), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule amends MARAD’s regulations governing Seamen’s Service Awards. The amendment changes the name “Gulf of Mexico” to “Gulf of America”

consistent with Executive Order (E.O.) 14172, *Restoring Names that Honor American Greatness*. The amendment also provides factual clerical changes, such as updating citations to authority and physical office names and addresses.

DATES: This final rule is effective January 15, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Hatcher, Office of Sealift Support, at (202) 366-0688 or *David.Hatcher1@dot.gov*. The mailing address for the Maritime Administration, Office of Sealift Support is 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20590.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access and Filing

An electronic copy of this document may also be downloaded by accessing the Office of the Federal Register’s home page at: www.federalregister.gov.

Background

This action conforms 46 CFR part 350 to Executive Order 14172 by changing “Gulf of Mexico” to “Gulf of America” in the name of a seaman’s service award during World War II specified in the regulations.¹ The rule would also provide necessary clerical updates to DOT’s regulations, such as updating citations to authority, physical office addresses, and office names.

Regulatory Analyses and Notices

Administrative Procedure Act

MARAD issues this final rule without prior notice and the opportunity for public comment and the 30-day delayed effective date ordinarily prescribed by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B), general notice and the opportunity for public comment are not required with respect to a rulemaking when an “agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest.” MARAD has determined that there is good cause to waive the opportunity for prior notice and comment, finding it unnecessary with respect to a geographic name change effectuated previously by Executive direction and for factual clerical changes such as updating citations to authority, physical office addresses, and

¹ MARAD is unable to revise 46 CFR 350.47(d) to update the term “Gulf of Mexico” to “Gulf of America” because the term “Gulf of Mexico” within the regulation is statutorily mandated in the term “Gulf of Mexico Fisheries” (see 16 U.S.C. 1852 (b)(2)(D)(i)).