WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47), Vice Chair of the House Homeland Security Committee, today released the following statement regarding President Obama's nomination of Vice Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr. as Commandant of the U.S Coast Guard. If confirmed, Vice Admiral Papp would relieve Admiral Thad Allen in May 2010:

"The Coast Guard plays a critical homeland security role, securing our borders and protecting our ports from potential threats. As Coast Guard Commandant, Vice Admiral Papp will lead approximately 42,000 Active Duty men and women and more than 7,000 civilian employees as they work to protect America's maritime borders. I look forward to working with Vice Admiral Papp and his Coast Guard colleagues as we continue to strengthen our efforts to secure our nation's ports and waterways, stop the flow of illegal drugs and other contraband into the U.S, establish and maintain aids to navigation, and conduct effective search and rescue missions."

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