

A large chemical tanker ship is seen from an elevated perspective, sailing across the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water's surface. The ship is dark against the lighter sky and water. The overall scene is serene and emphasizes global reach and reliability.

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Industry: Transportation  
Location: Gulf of Mexico  
Story: New On-Deck Chemical Storage Tanker

# TRANSPORTATION

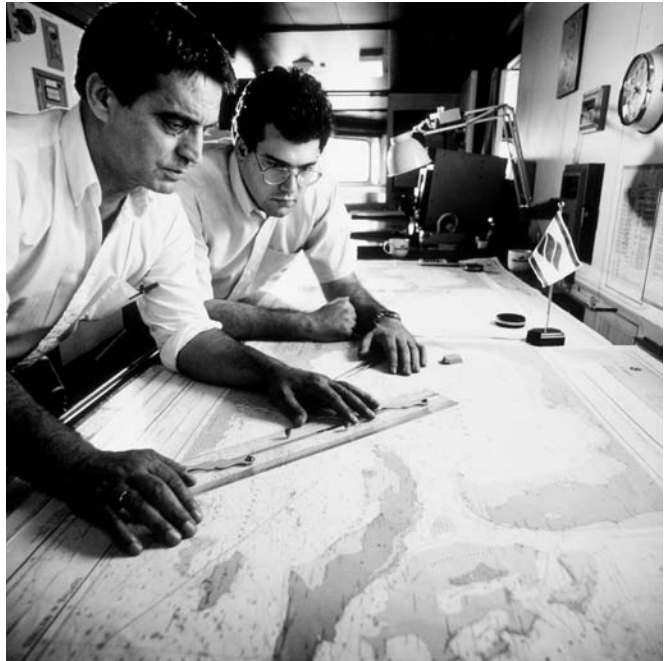
Ocean-going tanker schedules are notoriously unpredictable. A ship's arrival might be delayed by a storm, or it may take on more cargo than expected in a previous port, delaying departure.

So, I'm not surprised to find that our rendezvous with the tanker has been pushed back from mid day to early evening. One must be flexible as well as prepared.

At 6:00PM, with rear doors off for aerial photography, our helicopter heads out to the Gulf in heavy, tropical air for a twilight shoot. The critical issue now is finding the ship before losing the sun. Our pilot is in radio contact, but seems to have language problems communicating with the Greek crew, and it turns out to be far more difficult than I imagined making visual contact. We seem to be flying all over the Gulf guided only by a questionable set of navigational coordinates, with less fuel than I'd like and failing light. When finally we do rendezvous, I'm amazed at how small the big tanker is at sea.

Although the light is weak and the air, heavy, other conditions are ideal -- both wind and sea are calm. Moving quickly into action, I shoot the ship from all angles, heights and distances, even hovering directly before the oncoming prow, tracking her advance with the sun setting in the mist.

It is at once exciting, beautiful and powerful – all that these images should be.





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