



A Message from the Superintendent

There are a certain kind of young men and women who pursue an education at the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point. They are special young people, willing to commit themselves to the demands, stresses and obligations of Academy life. Their reason? They recognize that when they graduate, they will be a step ahead of their friends at traditional colleges.

You too may seek to earn the Kings Point "edge." Our Academy will teach you how to succeed in the maritime and transportation

industries or the Armed Forces, while it prepares you to receive a bachelor of science degree, a merchant marine license and an appointment as a commissioned officer on reserve or active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

But most importantly, through its unique combination of academic, regimental and shipboard programs, Kings Point will train you as a leader of quality, integrity and high ethical standards. The academic and professional credentials that you earn, and the leadership

ability you acquire, will set you apart and above as you enter the career marketplace.

If the challenges and rewards of a Kings Point education appeal to you, then I invite you to seek admission to our Regiment of Midshipmen.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J D Stewart".

Joseph D. Stewart
Vice Admiral,
U.S. Maritime Service
Superintendent

Policy

Policy Regarding Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault and Gender Discrimination

The policy of the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy is to provide a safe and supportive environment for work and learning. Sexual harassment, sexual assault and gender discrimination are not acceptable at our institution. It is the responsibility of all midshipmen, faculty and staff to refrain from such behavior, to discourage it wherever found, to confront those responsible, and to report any such behavior, as mandated in Superintendent's Instruction 2003-5.

The Academy, as an institution dedicated to training men and women as officers in the merchant marine and Armed Forces, must uphold and perpetuate the traditions of an honorable profession. Sexual harassment, sexual assault and gender discrimination, whether in private or public, undermine the principles of honorable and disciplined conduct that are the hallmarks of an officer's character. Inappropriate conduct is corrosive to the cohesiveness, morale and esprit de corps of a military organization or a ship's company.

To fail to take responsible corrective action when witness to such behavior is an act of moral cowardice which, along with physical cowardice, is among the worst failures of which an officer may be guilty.



The U.S. Merchant Marine Academy: Serving The Nation

Introduction

A glimpse at a map of the United States shows us that we are a maritime nation. To the east is the Atlantic Ocean; to the west, the Pacific; off our southern border, the Gulf of Mexico; in the north, the Great Lakes; and crisscrossing our states, great rivers like the Mississippi and other inland waterways.

Every hour of every day, ships of all types ply the waters in and around our nation. They leave our ports laden with U.S. goods bound for foreign markets, or arrive in our harbors with merchandise and materials for American consumers.

There are tankers traveling along the west coast with raw petroleum for our refineries; Great Lakes vessels loaded with iron ore, coal or other minerals for America's industry; huge containerhips in Eastern ports, their box-like containers filled with manufactured goods; general cargo ships in the Gulf unloading pallets of coffee and crates of fruit; tugboats pushing and pulling barges carrying the Midwest's grain.

These kinds of vessels, owned by U.S. companies, registered and operated under the American flag, comprise the U.S. merchant marine. This fleet of highly productive ships is a major part of our system of commerce,

helping guarantee our access to foreign markets for sale of our manufactured goods.

Moreover, in time of war or national emergency, the U.S. merchant marine becomes vital to national security as a "fourth arm of defense." Our merchant ships bear the brunt of delivering military supplies overseas to our forces and allies. The stark lessons of national conflict prove that a strong merchant marine is an essential part of American seapower.

The nation's economic and security needs met by the U.S. merchant marine are compelling. Today, the United States imports approximately 85 percent of some 77 strategic commodities critical to America's industry and defense. Although we, as a nation, account for only six percent of the world population, we purchase nearly a third of the world's output of raw materials. Ninety-nine percent of these materials are transported by merchant vessels.

A ship at sea does not operate in a vacuum. It depends on a framework of shore-side activities for its operations. This industry includes companies which own and manage the vessels; ports and terminals where cargo is handled; yards for ship repair; services like marine insurance underwriters, ship chartering firms, admiralty lawyers, engineering and research companies; and increasingly

today, intermodal systems of trucks and railroads to distribute goods around the country.

But the most important element in a productive merchant fleet and a strong transportation industry is people - men and women who are intelligent, dedicated, well-educated and competent.

The purpose of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy is to ensure that such people are available to the nation as ship-board officers and as leaders in the transportation field who will meet the challenges of the present and the future.



The Program

The Academy is located in Kings Point, New York. Its 82-acre waterside campus lies on Long Island's north shore, about 20 miles east of New York City.

The Academy is a national institution, operated by the Federal Government's Maritime Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Transportation. The Academy's four-year program centers on a regimental system that instills its students - called midshipmen (a term used for both men and women) with the traits of leadership, discipline and dedication required for a career that typically may include service at sea, maritime employment ashore, and serving as a commissioned officer in a reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The Academy's Regiment of Midshipmen numbers approximately 950 young men and women who represent every state of the Union as well as U.S. Trust Territories and Possessions. The size of the student body contributes to a true sense of camaraderie among the members of the Regiment and permits the Academy to maintain an excellent student-teacher ratio.

A sound college education is the foundation for every profession in our society and the mariner's profession is no exception. Elements of the academic program provide all midshipmen with the specialized training and education for success as U.S. Coast Guard-licensed merchant marine officers, in compliance with the requirements set forth in the International Convention on the Standards of

Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978, as well as the STCW Code in subsequent related amendments. The curriculum at the Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and provides each midshipman with the broad college education required for a bachelor of science degree. The military knowledge necessary for commissioning in a reserve component of the Armed Forces rounds out the academic program. Few colleges can offer such a full range of credentials at graduation.

The Academy challenges its midshipmen intellectually and physically. The academic program is demanding, the regimental system rigorous. Freshman (fourth class or plebe) year is particularly strenuous as students make the transition from high school graduate to Academy midshipman. In their first few months, they learn many new terms, the quality of endurance, how to perform under pressure, and most importantly, how to successfully manage time.

During sophomore (third class) year, and again during junior (second class) year, midshipmen are sent to sea for practical ship-board training. Aboard ship, sailing the trade routes of the world, they learn the value of self-reliance and initiative as they gain first-hand experience in the mariner's environment.

In senior (first class) year, they fine tune the skills learned in the classroom and at sea as they prepare to enter the professional world.

Enrollment at the Academy requires

many personal sacrifices, but the goal is worthwhile. Students must be prepared for numerous demands on their time, a degree of stress, and some limitations on their personal freedom. In return, the Academy develops leaders and prepares its graduates for careers that are bounded only by their talents and desire.

History

The Academy represents Federal involvement in maritime training that is more than a century old. Since the administration of President Ulysses S. Grant, the U.S. Government has initiated various programs to train its citizens for service in the merchant marine. The Academy, dedicated in 1943, represents the realization of these efforts.

Between 1874 and 1936, diverse Federal legislation supported maritime training through schoolships, internships at sea and other methods. A disastrous fire in 1934 aboard the passenger ship MORRO CASTLE, in which 134 lives were lost, convinced the U.S. Congress that direct Federal



involvement in efficient and standardized training was needed.

Congress passed the landmark Merchant Marine Act in 1936, and two years later, the U.S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps was established. The first training was given at temporary facilities until the Academy's permanent site in Kings Point, N.Y. was acquired in early 1942. Construction of the Academy began immediately, and 15 months later the task was virtually completed. The Academy was dedicated on September 30, 1943. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, noted at that time that "the Academy serves the Merchant Marine as West Point serves the Army and Annapolis the Navy."

World War II required the Academy to forego normal operation and devote all of its resources toward meeting the emergency need for merchant marine officers. Enrollment rose to 2,700, and the planned course of instruction was reduced in length from four years to 18 months. Notwithstanding the war, shipboard training continued to be an integral part of the Academy curriculum, and midshipmen served at sea in combat zones the world over. One hundred and forty-two midshipmen gave their lives in service to their country, and many others survived torpedoings and aerial attacks. By war's end, the Academy had graduated 6,634 officers.

World War II proved that the Academy could successfully meet the needs of a nation in conflict. As the war drew to a close, plans were made to convert the Academy's wartime curriculum to a four-year, college level pro-

gram to meet the peacetime requirements of the merchant marine. In August 1945, such a course was instituted.

The Academy has since grown in stature and has become one of the world's foremost institutions in the field of maritime education. Authorization for awarding the degree of bachelor of science to graduates was granted by Congress in 1949; the Academy was fully accredited as a degree-granting institution that same year; it was made a permanent institution by an Act of Congress, signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in 1956.

The Academy's national value was again recognized as it accelerated graduating classes during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, and for its involvement in such programs as training officers of the first U.S. nuclear-

powered merchant ship, the SAVANNAH.

Admission requirements were amended in 1974 and the Academy became the first federal service school to enroll women students.

During the first Persian Gulf conflict in early 1991, and for many months prior to the war, both Academy graduates and midshipmen played key roles in the massive sealift of military supplies to the Middle East. Midshipmen training at sea have since participated in the sealifts to Somalia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq.

While the Academy's curriculum has changed dramatically since 1943 to reflect the technological advances of America's merchant marine, the institution has maintained its unswerving commitment to quality education and excellence among its midshipmen.

