



**SUPERINTENDENT
UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY
KINGS POINT, NEW YORK 11024-1699**

15 February 2008

Dear Parents:

Earlier this month, the United States Merchant Marine Academy established a campus-based Emergency Notification System to alert midshipmen, faculty and staff to developing emergencies. This system will be used by security personnel and senior staff to disseminate timely information and instructions to those individuals who live and work on campus.

In order to keep parents informed about developing situations at the Academy, we have also created a separate Academy Alert System. Messages sent over this system would provide more general information about emergencies, and direct users to the Academy's website for more details. I encourage you to register for this system by visiting the Academy's website at www.usmma.edu/parents.

These two programs are part of the Academy's ongoing efforts to strengthen our emergency preparedness program. Last fall, we participated in a campus security drill with several local law enforcement agencies. Just two weeks ago, the American Red Cross was aboard to train members of the Regiment of Midshipmen in emergency shelter operations, so that they could serve as volunteers at local shelters in the event of weather emergencies or other disasters.

Should you have any questions or suggestions for improvement, please contact the head of our Emergency Preparedness Committee, CAPT Eric Wallischeck, at wallischecke@usmma.edu.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. D. Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

JOSEPH D. STEWART
Vice Admiral, U.S.M.S.