MARAD FACT SHEET
Maritime Careers

America's Advocate for the Maritime Industry

Student on the Bridge

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Strategic Objective: Assure that sufficient sealift capability and intermodal transportation infrastructure exists to support vital homeland and national security interests.

Apprentice Program Students

Vision: A maritime system that serves America with American ships and American labor.

Mission: Section 1301 of title XIII of the Merchant Marine Act, 1936 declares that it is the policy of the United States that "merchant marine vessels of the United States should be operated by highly trained and efficient citizens of the United States…" The Maritime Administration promotes the development and maintenance of an adequate, well-balanced educated and trained United States merchant marine.

Program

In the Engine Room

Mariner Recruitment and Retention – The future of our nation is dependent upon the ability of our maritime transportation system (MTS) to transport the goods and raw materials that sustain the economy of our country. People run the system. The success of our nation's MTS depends on recruiting, training and ultimately retaining professional mariners to ensure that our country's waterborne commerce flows with the highest level of safety, security, efficiency, and protection of the environment.

MARAD established the Maritime Careers Working Group, recognizing that maritime employment opportunities lacked visibility, that employment in the maritime industry is usually not associated with viable long-term careers, and that the maritime industry, in general, received little consideration. The Working Group implements projects and initiatives that facilitate elevating visibility and awareness among youth and young adults about the maritime industry, maritime training institutions, and maritime employment opportunities

The Maritime Careers Working Group comprised of staff from the Offices of the Associate Administrators for Financial Approvals and Cargo Preference and Policy and International Affairs, Offices of Congressional and Public Affairs, Sealift Support, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy work collaboratively to develop and implement initiatives that promote mariner careers, career paths, and employment opportunities.

Initiatives implemented or in progress include:

- Advocating support for maritime industry apprentice programs.
- Facilitating partnering opportunities between maritime training organizations and institutions with educational constituent groups.
- Exploring funding streams in support of maritime industry apprentice programs.
- Producing a public service announcement promoting “A Career Afloat.”
- Developing print material for dissemination at major career fairs and expos.
- Presenting at middle and high schools career day programs.
- Developing a one-stop-shop maritime educational institution package.
- Participating in mariner recruitment and retention focused meetings and conferences
- Coordinating MR&R panel presentations.
- Co-sponsoring a public broadcasting system segment highlighting career opportunities.
- Developing a web page devoted to maritime careers.
- Providing mariner education consortiums print material and give-aways for major events.
- Facilitating information sharing between headquarters and regional offices on maritime career issues.
- Exploring opportunities for establishing unlicensed training billets aboard school ships

Visit: www.marad.dot.gov/acareerafloat/index.htm