



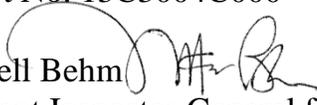
Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement—Review
of the United States Merchant Marine Academy’s
Progress in Addressing Sexual Harassment and
Sexual Assault
Project No. 13C3004C000

Date: July 17, 2013

From: Mitchell Behm 
Assistant Inspector General for Rail, Maritime,
Hazmat Transport, and Economic Analysis

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-50

To: Maritime Administrator

Less than half of the population of female upperclassmen, faculty and staff at the United States Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), which is operated by the Maritime Administration (MARAD), believe that the senior leadership has created a climate that is intolerant of sexual harassment and sexual assault, according to the Academy’s most recent publicly available survey conducted in the 2009-2010 academic year.¹ Academy leadership agreed that the survey findings were unacceptable and in November 2011 established nine goals in its “Plan to Reduce Sexual Assault and Harassment” intended to ensure that every member of the Academy community feels safe and has confidence in the reporting system. However, the impact of the Academy’s actions on the climate of intolerance described by the USMMA population remains unclear.

On April 23, 2013, Ranking Member Elijah Cummings and Congresswoman Jackie Speier of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform requested that we conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Academy’s efforts to date to create a climate in which sexual harassment and sexual assault are not tolerated. Accordingly, our objectives are to (1) assess USMMA’s implementation of its action plan to prevent, respond to, and resolve instances of sexual harassment and sexual assault;

¹ The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 requires the Academy to conduct a survey of midshipmen, faculty, and staff every two years; and to assess its prevention policies, training, and procedures annually. The USMMA conducted a survey in the 2011-2012 academic year, but the Academy has not yet made the results publicly available.

and (2) assess DOT's oversight of the Academy's sexual harassment and sexual assault prevention, response, and resolution efforts, including MARAD's management of these efforts.

We plan to begin this audit the week of July 29, 2013, and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. The audit will take place at USMMA in Kings Point, NY; DOT Headquarters; and other sites as needed. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (202) 366-9970, or Toayoa Aldridge, Program Director, at (202) 366-2081.

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cc: Audit Liaison, MARAD, MAR-392
Audit Liaison, OST, M-1