

Subject:

FW: FW: Meeting with DoT 9/13/16

From: Redacted

Sent: Tuesday, September 13, 2016 7:22 PM

To: Redacted

Good evening Class of 2019,

This morning I was invited, along with members of the class of 2020, 2019, 2018, and 2017, to attend a lunch with a few staff members of the Department of Transportation. Deputy Administrator Michael Rodriguez was also in attendance. I'd like to share with you what they told us, and what they want us to pass on to you.

PLEASE READ B-SPLITTERS, what DoT mentioned today will be very important next trimester and into the new year.

Before I present these points, I want to be clear that there are two issues we are faced with as a class: sea year and the accreditation warning. Or, looking at the bigger picture, getting a USCG License and Bachelor's Degree from the Academy. That being said, note that this, judging on the information we heard today, will be helpful in moving away from accreditation warning when we are re-evaluated in March 2017.

Here we go:

As we heard from the most recent all hands town hall meeting, DoT has decided to assemble a committee to analyze the culture, command climate, procedures, trainings, and reporting methods at the Academy.

They **have contracted** an outside entity that specializes in these kind of analyses and they will generate a report for DoT with suggested solutions to issues they come across during this ANALYSIS. The key word is ANALYSIS, because this is not a TEST, or EVALUATION. They said today that this is not something that can fuel the Academy to be shut down...

This team needs to see flaws in command climate, leadership, sea year experiences, interactions with faculty (in the classroom and the regiment) and they asked if we would encourage other midshipmen to be honest and thorough as they are prompted with questions about culture at the Academy. However, they also **NEED TO HEAR POSITIVE THINGS**. That means, if 2017, 2018, and 2019-B have had awesome and problem-free sea year experiences, you need to elaborate and make that known during this analysis time.

There wasn't much discussion on how much time and what specific forums and surveys or anything that I would assume happens in an analysis, but we'll find out when they get here.

Most important, and in my eyes, the most awesome thing we heard today was this:

This is not the fault of the midshipman, this is our fault. (in a nutshell)

KEY POINTS: 1) be honest, because this is not a test, it's an observation and an analysis 2) elaborate and bring positive experiences and good systems we have in place at school and at sea, and 3) this is not the fault of the midshipman, and DoT at least, knows that.

Again, take this information however you see fit.

Have a wonderful rest of your day, and for 2019-B, get those days and keep persevering!

Very Respectfully,

Redacted

Class of 2019-A, President

Wellness & Skill Development Coordinator, Campus Activities Board

“Look at the world with eyes of knowledge, not with your bodily eyes. The world is a river of kindness, make a ship to cross it.” – Rudaki, Persian Proverb