



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Maritime
Administration**

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

June 5, 2017

Mr. Andrew C. Simpson
Webmaster of and Attorney for,
www.kingspointsentry.com
2191 Church Street, Suite 5
Christiansted, VI 00820

Re; FOIA Control # 17-0004-APPL

Dear Mr. Simpson,

This letter responds to your April 24, 2017, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) appeal (No. 14-0004-APPL). Your original FOIA Request (No. 17-0048-FOIA) sought the release of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy's February 27, 2017 Monitoring Report to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) relating to accreditation of the Academy. A copy of the report was sent to you in redacted form on April 21, 2017. In your appeal, you challenged the redactions that the agency made in the released report and asked for an un-redacted version of the report.

We have reviewed your appeal and, upon consideration with MARAD's FOIA Appeals staff, have determined to provide you with the complete and un-redacted version of the Monitoring Report, as soon as practicable after completion of the current ongoing phase of the accreditation process. We anticipate that this process will be concluded by mid-July when the MSCHE will respond to MARAD's Monitoring Report. We believe that it is appropriate for the accreditation process to be completed before providing a copy of the document, so that the process leading to MSCHE's accreditation decision may continue to its conclusion, at which time you will also have the benefit of the MSCHE's decision.

I am the official responsible for this decision which constitutes the final administrative action on your appeal.

Sincerely,

Joel Szabat
Executive Director,
In Lieu of the Maritime Administrator