

THE KINGS POINT SENTRY

WATCHING OVER AND SAFEGUARDING THE U.S. MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

www.KingsPointSentry.com

March 27, 2017

Via email: FOIA.Marad@dot.gov

Division of Legislation and Regulations
U.S. Department of Transportation
Maritime Administration
Second Floor, West Building
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE, W24-233
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Freedom of Information Act Request – USMMA Response to Middle States Commission on Higher Education

Dear Sir or Madam:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, I am requesting the following document(s):

1. The “monitoring report” (or if a monitoring report was not sent, a copy of whatever was submitted in lieu of a monitoring report, including, without limitation, any letters requesting an extension of the deadline for submitting the monitoring report) provided by or on behalf of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE). For ease of reference, a copy of a June 26, 2016 letter from MSCHE setting a March 1, 2017 deadline for submission of the monitoring report is attached to this request.

This request is made on behalf of www.KingsPointSentry.com (“KPS”). KPS is a News Media FOIA Requester for calculation of fees under FOIA. It regularly publishes news items of interest to stakeholders of the US Merchant Marine Academy. It uses editorial skills to turn raw information into distinct work and distributes that work to an audience. It’s audience has reached over 21,000 users in the last 9 months with over 130,000 page views (as measured by Google Analytics).

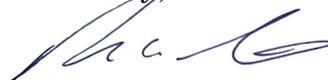
To further minimize costs, we request copies in electronic format whenever possible.

Finally, we ask for expedited processing of this request (and have deliberately made this a narrow request so that it will be easy to provide an expedited response). KPS is primarily engaged in disseminating information to the public and the information is urgently needed to inform the public about the status of the response by USMMA to MSCHE. As indicated on the KPS website, it has now been 270 days since USMMA updated the public about its response to MSCHE. The Academy's potential loss of accreditation has major ramifications for students attending the school. Furthermore, KPS has regularly been attempting to update the public about the status of USMMA's response as can be seen by the following:

- The "MSCHE Update Countdown" timer prominently displayed on KPS's home page (www.kingspointentry.com);
- <http://www.kingspointentry.com/sea-year-stand-down/beyond-ridiculous-ye-t-another-actually-a-continuing-example-of-failed-leadership/>
- <http://www.kingspointentry.com/sea-year-stand-down/this-proves-that-the-administration-does-not-take-accreditation-seriously/>
- <http://www.kingspointentry.com/sea-year-stand-down/fiddling-while-kp-bur-ns-the-deadline-for-meeting-the-requirements-to-maintain-accreditation-is-5-6-days-away/>
- <http://www.kingspointentry.com/sea-year-stand-down/the-deadline-for-mee-ting-the-requirements-to-maintain-accreditation-is-exactly-five-months-away/>

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



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