



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**MARITIME  
ADMINISTRATION**

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Washington, D.C. 20590

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**VIA EMAIL**

April 21, 2017

Mr. Andrew C Simpson  
2191 Church St., Ste. 5  
Christiansted, VI 00820  
[andysimpson82@savekingspoint.com](mailto:andysimpson82@savekingspoint.com)

Control No. 17-0048-FOIA

Dear Mr. Simpson:

This is in response to your March 27, 2017 request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552. You requested a copy of the following records:

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).

We are now releasing 148 pages of records. This release of records represents the agency's final response to include all records located and determined to be responsive to your request. The redacted content has been determined by this office to be exempt from the FOIA's mandatory disclosure requirements as described immediately below.

FOIA Exemption (b)(5) protects from disclosure those inter- or intra-agency documents that are normally privileged in the civil discovery context. After carefully reviewing the responsive documents, I determined that portions of the responsive documents qualify for protection under the following privilege(s):

- Deliberative Process Privilege: The deliberative process privilege protects the integrity of the deliberative or decision-making processes within the agency by exempting from mandatory disclosure opinions, conclusions, and recommendations, included within inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters. The release of this internal information would discourage the expression of candid opinions and inhibit the free and frank exchange of information among agency personnel.

You have a right to appeal. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal and a copy of this letter, within 90 days of the date of this letter. The appeal should be sent to [foia.marad@dot.gov](mailto:foia.marad@dot.gov) or mailed to the following address:

Maritime Administration  
Freedom of Information Act Appeal  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Second Floor, West Building  
Room W24-220, Mailstop #4  
Washington, DC 20590

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Hudson", written in a cursive style.

T. Mitchell Hudson, Jr.  
Freedom of Information Act Officer

Enclosure