

MARITIME ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
Center of Excellence (CoE) for Domestic Workforce Training and Education

**Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies –
Linthicum Heights, Maryland & Seattle, Washington**

The Secretary of Transportation redesignates the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) as a Center of Excellence for Domestic Maritime Workforce Training and Education (CoE) for its leadership in advanced full-mission simulation, mariner license advancement, and USDOL-registered apprenticeships. Operating campuses in Linthicum Heights, MD (near BWI Airport) and Seattle, WA, MITAGS functions as a primary non-profit continuing education and training engine for civilian and military mariners nationwide.

Operational Footprint & Assets

MITAGS maintains coast-to-coast training infrastructure equipped with full-mission simulation suites, live fire grounds, advanced technical labs, and maritime conference facilities.

- **East Coast Campus (Linthicum Heights, MD):** 40-acre, 300,000 sq ft complex featuring 55 meeting rooms, a 248-seat auditorium, 232 guest rooms, two 360° Transas full-mission ship handling simulators integrated with bridge tug simulators, an 8-ship radar/ARPA/ECDIS simulator, a liquid natural gas (LNG) cryogenic control simulator, a vessel traffic system (VTS) lab, and an emergency medical lab.
- **West Coast Campus (Seattle, WA):** 20 minutes from SEA-TAC Airport, featuring a 240° DNV Class A full-mission bridge simulator, two 300° tugboat simulators, a 6-ship radar/ARPA lab, two ECDIS labs, a GMDSS communications lab, and the 125-foot *M/V Fire Dragon* live fire/damage control mock-up.
- **Advanced Technology Labs & Facilities:** Features a newly installed Virtual Reality Lab and a state-of-the-art Dynamic Positioning (DP) Lab to support next-generation mariner instruction and complex offshore simulation.
- **Maritime Apprenticeship Program (MAP):** Operates nationally registered USDOL apprenticeship programs offering zero-to-hero pathways to USCG deck officer licenses (OICNW and OICEW tracks). Features expanded self-study program options for the West Coast Licensed Apprentice Program (LAP) and new course offerings, including an Advanced RADAR course.
- **USCG Course Throughput & Accreditation:** Enrolled 2,171 students in 2022, 2,479 in 2023, and over 2,470 annual students across USCG-approved courses. Internationally certified as a Maritime Training & Simulation Centre under DNV-ST-0029, with additional institutional accreditations including Nautical Institute approval for the Dynamic Positioning Lab and UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) approval for STCW training.

Workforce & Regional Impact

MITAGS directly supports commercial vessel operators, public ferry systems, pilot associations, military sealift commands, and regional workforce development initiatives.

- **Targeted Career Advancement Pipelines:**

- **Military Sealift Command (MSC) Advancement Pipeline:** Newly established program advancing mariners from Able Seaman (AB) to Mate. The program has already produced its first 3 graduates, with 15 mariners currently in the pipeline and 6 additional mariners entering in September 2026.
- **Washington State Ferries (WSF) Pathway:** Active workforce development program advancing mariners from Able Seaman (AB) to 3rd Mate to address critical regional ferry staffing needs.
- **Maryland No-Cost Gear Upgrade Initiative:** Launched in June 2026, the *Deck Study & Plotting Pack Initiative* removes financial barriers for Maryland mariners upgrading USCG deck credentials by providing essential navigation tools and study materials at no cost.
- **National Policy & Industry Convening:** Hosted the inaugural national *Mariners for America Conference* at the East Campus, convening vessel operators, labor unions, academics, and regulators to address national mariner shortages, sealift readiness, and the White House Maritime Action Plan. Maintains operational partnerships with major carriers including Crowley, Foss Maritime, Washington State Ferries, Sause Bros., Dunlap Towing, Western Towboat, Centerline Logistics, American Seafoods, and NOAA.
- **Community Engagement & K-12 Outreach:** Conducts interactive facility and simulator tours for regional middle and high schools (including Dulaney, North County, Woodlawn, and Annapolis High School NJROTC). Active participant in "Sail Baltimore," host for the Engineering Society of Baltimore's Engineers Week, and regular representative at K-12 school career fairs and the annual conference for school career counselors.
- **Specialized Mariner Assessments:** Utilizes the proprietary Navigational Skills Assessment Program (NSAP®) to evaluate watchkeeping competency and risk mitigation for commercial fleet operators and pilot organizations.

Strategic Outlook

To address national shortages of credentialed deck and engineering officers, MITAGS is aggressively scaling its career advancement pipelines, simulation capabilities, and distance learning options. By combining targeted mariner advancement programs (such as the MSC and Washington State Ferries pathways) with zero-cost credentialing toolkits and advanced Virtual Reality/Dynamic Positioning simulation infrastructure, MITAGS strengthens national supply chain resilience and delivers rapid, flexible workforce capacity for U.S.-flag commercial shipping, public ferry infrastructure, and military sealift readiness.