

The background of the slide is a faded American flag, with the stars and stripes visible in a light, watermark-like style.

YOUR MARITIME SERVICE COMPLIANCE OBLIGATION

**State Maritime Academy
Graduates**

BRIEFING GOALS

- 1. Ensure you understand your service obligation and how to stay in compliance**
- 2. Ensure you understand the point at which you become obligated**
- 3. Ensure that if you have questions in the future, you know where to find answers**
- 4. Encourage you to take full advantage of career fairs/training opportunities**

WHEN DO I BECOME OBLIGATED?

- **After attending Maine Maritime Academy for at least 2 academic years**
 - **“Academic year” - Successful completion of 2 semesters**
- **After successful completion of 4 semesters.**
- **If you wish to withdraw prior to being obligated**
 - **Contact MARAD**
 - **Contact DNS**
 - **In writing (email acceptable)**

OBLIGATION REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Graduation:

- 1. Complete the course of instruction at the Academy**
- 2. Maintain good standing as a midshipman in the Navy reserve**
- 3. Pass USCG license exam**
- 4. Graduate**

Post-Graduation:

- 1. Service/Employment – 3 years**
- 2. Maintain USCG Merchant Mariner Credential (MMC), TWIC, Medical Certificate**
- 3. Reserve Obligation**
- 4. Annual Reporting – Including Active Duty**

POST GRADUATION SERVICE

MARAD Approval **NOT** Required

- Serve in the foreign and domestic commerce and the national defense of the United States for at least three (3) years following graduation as:
 - *A merchant marine officer on a U.S. documented vessel (150 days minimum)*
 - A commissioned officer :
 - on active duty in the U.S. armed forces
Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard
 - **Uniformed Service (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Corps or U.S. Public Health Service (PHS) Corps)**

POST GRADUATION SERVICE

MARAD Approval **Required**

- **Serve in the foreign and domestic commerce and the national defense of the United States for at least three (3) years following graduation:**
 - **With the Federal government in a maritime-related position that serves the national security interests. **Requires MARAD Approval****
 - **Foreign Flag. **Requires MARAD Approval. A graduate's first priority is to seek afloat employment on U.S. flag vessels.****
 - **You must submit evidence to MARAD that you have conscientiously sought afloat employment as a merchant marine officer on a U.S. documented vessel and that such employment is not available**
 - **Ashore, in a U.S. maritime related industry, profession or marine science. **Requires MARAD Approval****
 - **You must submit evidence to MARAD that you have conscientiously sought afloat employment as a merchant marine officer on a U.S. documented vessel and that such employment is not available**
 - **Only if MARAD determines that service afloat is not available to the individual**
 - **MARAD will grant the shoreside employment option infrequently and only on the basis of comprehensive evidence.**

SEA SERVICE CALCULATIONS

- **150 days afloat = good year**
- **1 day = 1 day**
- **12 month increments from date of Graduation**
 - **All report January 1 – March 1 each year**
 - **3 years service = 3 years from date of graduation**
- **Must be signed onboard in the capacity of a crew member or onboard as a Pilot trainee**
 - **Discharge certificate or letter of sea service required with annual reporting**

POST-GRADUATION REPORTING

- Who is required to report? **Everyone, including Active Duty Military**
- How often do you report? **Annually**
- When is your first report due? **NLT March 1, 2021**
 - Reporting period is January 1- March 1 each year
 - Report is for the previous calendar year
- How many years do you need to report?
 - Minimum of 9 annual reports
 - Or until service obligation is fulfilled, 9+ years for deferrals
- How do I report? **Maritime Service Compliance System**
 - <https://mscs.marad.dot.gov/>
 - If unable to access MSCS, hard copy may be submitted

POST-GRADUATION USCG CREDENTIAL & TWIC

- **Maintain a USCG Credential for minimum 6 years following graduation**
 - **USCG Credentials expire after 5 years so one upgrade or renewal is necessary**
 - **Maintain officer and STCW endorsements**
- **Maintain a valid TWIC for 6 years**
- **Maintain a valid medical certificate**
- **Exemption: Active Duty ~ An individual who for the 5 year period following graduation serves as a commissioned officer on active duty in an armed forces of the U.S. or the uniformed service (NOAA or Public Health Service) shall be excused from this requirement but still must annually report compliance**

POST GRADUATION RESERVE COMMISSION

- **Apply for and accept, if tendered, an appointment as a commissioned officer in the reserves of the armed forces of the United States and maintain that commission for at least eight (8) years after graduation**
- **Liaison Officers are on the campus of most SMA or available for each of the armed forces at local centers**
- **Explore your options!**



SUMMARY

Once obligated you must:

Pre-Graduation:

- 1. Complete the course of instruction at the Academy**
- 2. Maintain good standing as a midshipman in the Navy reserve**
- 3. Obtain a USCG Merchant Mariner Credential**
- 4. Graduate**

SUMMARY (Continued)

Once obligated you must:

Post-Graduation:

- 1. Sail, Active Duty, or Approved service - 3 years**
- 2. Maintain a USCG Credential, with officer and STCW endorsements, a valid medical certificate, and a TWIC for at least 6 years after graduation**
- 3. Serve for a period of at least 8 years in the U.S. Naval Reserve, the USCG Reserve, or any other reserve unit of an armed force of the United States**
- 4. Report compliance annually via Maritime Service Compliance System**

If you serve on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for a minimum of 5 years you are exempt from obligations 2 & 3 above, but you still must annually report compliance.

ENFORCEMENT OF OBLIGATIONS

- Failure to meet any component of your obligation, including reporting, may result in a breach of your Service Obligation Commitment.
- If you are found in default prior to graduation:
 1. Referred to DOD for Active Duty Service in one of the US armed forces for up to **2** years, or
 2. Repay SIP Funds for Education (w/interest and attorney fees) .
- If you are found in default after graduation:
 1. Referred to DOD for Active Duty Service in one of the US armed forces for not less than **2** years and not more than the unexpired portion of the **3** year service obligation , or
 2. Repay SIP Funds Received (w/interest and attorney fees).

ASSISTANCE/QUESTIONS

Information on Your Service Obligation:

1. Your SMA Contract - **Copy available upon request**
2. Letter for Seniors from the MARAD Administrator
and for Sophomores Executive Director Letter
3. MARAD MSCS Website
<https://mscs.marad.dot.gov>
4. Questions about Service Obligation Compliance:
email: maritime.graduate@dot.gov
Phone: (202) 366-7618

**CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2020 !!!!**



**CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATE!**

ANY QUESTIONS

