

The Mission of the NMC

Our mission is to issue credentials to fully-qualified mariners in the most effective and efficient manner possible in order to assure a safe, secure, economically efficient and environmentally sound Marine Transportation System. NMC is proud to work with each US mariner to ensure that we are protecting our vast waterways. We have a long-standing tradition of always putting the mariner first and we will do whatever we can by legal means to help them become a credentialed mariner.

Our goal for the next few years is to automate the entire process online, via the Internet, by offering interactive systems that will help each merchant mariner to better understand the credentialing process. NMC deals with more than 212,000 mariners on an annual basis. By automating our process, we will be able to continue to reduce processing time and help our mariners more efficiently.

It has been a long road and we still have a few more hills to climb. However, we are now processing credentials in less than 15 days and our use of technology has helped us to track records in a much more efficient manner. Our website has nearly a million hits a year from 215 different countries that speak more than 130 different languages. This is telling me that our outreach programs are working and our customers are happy to work with us.

In 2012, our customer satisfaction survey had an average rating of 96% percent which is one indicator that we are on the right track. The success starts with the mariner and ends with the fine men and women who work hard every day to ensure that the National Maritime Center is one of the top units in the United States Coast Guard, and for that I thank them all.



Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey P. Novotny
Commanding Officer of NMC

Captain Novotny's biography and additional information about the National Maritime Center @ http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/about_us/default.asp

National Maritime Center



Contacting NMC

Send ALL applications
for credentials
to your nearest REC.

<http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/recs/default.asp>

E-mail comments
and questions to
IASKNMC@uscg.mil

Contact Us
1-888-427-5662

Scan the QR Code below
with your smartphone
to visit our website:



"Serving America's Mariners"

History of the National Maritime Center





The United States Coast Guard history began on August 4, 1790 when President George Washington signed the **Tariff Act** authorizing the construction of ten vessels, referred to as "cutters," to enforce federal tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling.



The first federal licensing of mariners was required by the **Steamboat Act of 1852**, which authorized the Steamboat Inspection Service to issue licenses to engineers and pilots of steamers carrying passengers.



On **February 14, 1903**, congressional action transferred the Steamboat Inspection Service to the newly created United States Department of Commerce and Labor. When that department was split in 1913, the service came under the control of the new United States Department of Commerce.



The **Morro Castle** fire off the coast of New Jersey in 1934, which killed 124 people, paved the way for the **Act of May 27, 1936**. It reorganized the Bureau of Navigation and Steamboat Inspection and renamed it the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation.



The **Motorboat Act of 1940** was enacted to cover safety requirements for every vessel propelled by machinery and not more than 65 feet (19.8 meters) in length, with the exception of tugboats and towboats of this length propelled by steam, which were covered under other laws. In addition to covering safety equipment, running lights, and reckless or negligent operations, this law gave the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation the authority to examine the operators of these boats and issue licenses provided they carried passengers for hire.



After the United States entered World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a wartime measure signed Executive Order 9083 on **February 28, 1942**. It transferred the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation's inspection duties, among other things, temporarily to the control of the United States Coast Guard.



History of the National Maritime Center



On **July 16, 1946**, Reorganization Plan Number 3 abolished the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation and transferred all of its functions permanently to the U.S. Coast Guard. This marked the first time in the nation's history that all functions of maritime safety came under one agency.



In **1982**, the US Coast Guard establishes Regional Exam Centers (REC) throughout the United States to process mariner licenses and documents. There are currently 17 RECs strategically located throughout the United States.



In **1997**, the US Coast Guard creates the National Maritime Center in Arlington, VA to manage the Coast Guard's Merchant Mariner licensing program.



In **2008**, the National Maritime center moves to its new home in Martinsburg, WV. The U.S. Coast Guard centralizes its Mariner License Document (MLD) program and changes its name to the Merchant Mariner Credentialing (MMC) program. The 17 Regional Examination Centers operate as "storefronts and advocates" for mariners.



The U.S. Coast Guard issues the first consolidated Merchant Mariner Credential Thursday, during the Towing Safety Advisory Committee meeting held on **May 7, 2009** at Dania Beach, FL.

