

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**UNITED STATES COAST GUARD**

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UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Complainant

vs.

REGINALD A. WATKINS

Respondent.

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Docket Number CG S&R 03-0138  
CG Case No. PA1748638

**DECISION AND ORDER**

**Issued by: Archie R. Boggs, Administrative Law Judge**

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

This proceeding is brought pursuant to the authority contained in 5 USC 551-559; 46 USC Chapter 77; and 46 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 5.

Reginald A. Watkins was served with a Complaint dated 24 February 2003 which was issued by U.S. Coast Guard Investigating Officer LT J. T. Catanzaro of the Marine Safety Office Mobile, AL.

The factual allegations are "Misconduct" in that on "on February 21, 2003 while in the process of requesting an STCW endorsement on his Application for License as an Officer, Staff Officer, or Operator and for Merchant Mariner's Document at the Regional Exam Center in New Orleans, LA, the Respondent: Falsified his application by stating that he had never been convicted by any court - including military court - for an offense other than a traffic violation."

Mr. Watkins was represented at the hearing by Donald A. Friedlander, attorney at law, 21<sup>st</sup> floor AmSouth Bank Building, Mobile, AL 36652.

On 17 March 2003 the Respondent filed an Answer in which he admitted the jurisdictional allegations and denied the factual allegations. He requested a hearing.

A hearing was held at Daphne Municipal Court House, 5002 Highway 98, Daphne, AL 36526, on 18 April 2003.

In support of the Complaint the Investigating Officer introduced in evidence five (5) exhibits.

I.O. Exhibit No. 1 – a certified copy of an application for a merchant mariner's document which was completed by Mr. Watkins on 21 February 2003.

I.O. Exhibit No. 2 – an "NCIC III Record Response" which indicates that Mr. Watkins was convicted in Mobile for selling marijuana in 1985.

I.O. Exhibit No. 3 – a copy of a record of a conviction for assault in Mobile Municipal Court on 17 February 1994.

I.O. Exhibit No. 4 – a copy of a judgment in the Circuit Court of Mobile County, dated 16 April 2003 entitled "State of Alabama vs. Reginald A. Watkins."

I.O. Exhibit No. 5 – a copy of an endorsement of a certificate issued to Reginald A. Watkins, which indicates that he is qualified to serve as tankerman "on tank vessels carrying (sic) either dangers (sic) liquids or liquefied (sic) gas cargoes."

Mr. Watkins admitted that he fraudulently altered his document to include the above "qualifications."

The Investigating Officer did not call any witnesses. Mr. Watkins testified under oath in his own defense.

I.O. Exhibit No. 1, which application was executed by Mr. Watkins, clearly falsely states that he has never been convicted by any court.

The Complaint is clearly proved. The only appropriate order is revocation of Mr. Watkins' document.

ORDER

Merchant mariner's document No. 423 828 648 issued to Reginald A. Watkins, is  
revoked.

Rules governing appeals are attached hereto.



ARCHIE R. BOGGS  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

Dated: 9 May 2003  
New Orleans, Louisiana