

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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U.S. Coast Guard Hosts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to Dedicate National Maritime Center

MARTINSBURG – The U.S. Coast Guard unveiled the National Maritime Center to the public during a dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony today at 100 Forbes Drive in Martinsburg, near the intersection of Williamsport Pike and Edwin Miller Boulevard.

The National Maritime Center (NMC) is a 60,000-square-foot facility that houses U.S. Merchant Mariner Licensing and Documentation (MLD) Production as well as the Merchant Mariner Training Course Approval and Oversight Program.

At the National Maritime Center, the U.S. Coast Guard has centralized its MLD program, while still retaining 17 Regional Examination Centers (REC) across the country, which operate as “storefronts and advocates” for mariners. Approximately 212,000 actively employed merchant mariners, who serve as crew members aboard vessels operating on America's waterways and the world's oceans, now receive the processing of their licenses and/or credentials through the NMC.

In many ways, the NMC is like a national Division of Motor Vehicles, but instead of licensing motorists, the NMC is licensing and credentialing Merchant Mariners. The mission of the NMC is to issue credentials to qualified mariners and approve training courses in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Ensuring the success of this mission are U.S. Coast Guard CAPT David Stalfort, who serves as Commanding Officer of the NMC, and Mr. Brian “Ike” Eisentrout, who serves as the Deputy Director of the NMC.

Construction of the building began in late 2006 and was completed in December 2007, when the National Maritime Center moved from its temporary facility in Kearneysville to its new, permanent facility in Martinsburg.

The General Services Administration (GSA) and the Coast Guard worked in partnership to construct this facility with developer JDL Castle Corp. of North Carolina, Mackie Johnson Architects of North Carolina, Bristol Group Construction of Kentucky and construction management firm MBP Construction Engineering Inc. of Virginia. The building is owned by JDL Martinsburg LLC, which is an affiliate of JDL Castle Corp., and leased by the U.S. Coast Guard at a cost of \$30 million over the next 20 years.

As yet, the NMC is not fully staffed; however, it is fully operational. Once fully staffed, the center is expected employ upwards of 200 military, federal civilian and contract employees. Nearly 100 additional employees will be located the 17 RECs.

The building is anticipated to be LEED certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) through the U.S. Green Building Council, and recognized for conserving energy and being a high-performance sustainable building. As an example of this type of technology, the lights in the facility operate using motion sensors that automatically turn off without movement to conserve energy. Even the toilets have a dual flush system to conserve water. According to GSA, the developer used low maintenance and low water usage plants for “green” landscaping. Also, a physical security barrier for the building includes strategically located large rocks that were part of the building site’s natural landscape prior to construction.

For more information, visit the National Maritime Center’s website at <http://www.uscg.mil/stcw/>.

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The U.S. Coast Guard is a military, maritime, multi-mission service within the Department of Homeland Security dedicated to protecting the safety and security of America.