



SHIP OPERATIONS COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

BUSINESS ▪ GOVERNMENT ▪ EDUCATION ▪ WORKFORCE

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Dear Paul,

I received a forwarded copy of your email to cadets Michael Bentley and Spencer Meine this morning along with their request for me to assist them with a response to Dean Lima's concerns regarding their request to attend the Ship Operations Cooperative Program's Spring Summit in Seattle, Washington on April 5th and 6th.

The Ship Operations Cooperative Program (SOCP) *"is a non-profit organization of maritime industry professionals to promote beneficial innovations in ship and other maritime operations through the identification, development, and application of new methods, tools, and technologies. SOCP's overall objective is to improve the safety, productivity, efficiency, security, and environmental performance of U.S. vessel operations."* This organization was originally formed by the U.S. Maritime Administration to advise the government on maritime industry issues, and remains the industry's primary means of communicating and working with government agencies. Membership includes virtually all U.S. maritime companies, every government agency with operations related to the maritime industry, many Classification Societies and all maritime academies. Please see www.socp.us for more information. Massachusetts Maritime Academy's representative for the SOCP is Capt. Elizabeth Stevenson.

The Howard Coble Coast Guard and Marine Transportation Act of 2014 included several provisions directly aimed at assessing and developing the state of the U.S. maritime industry. The Maritime Administration was directed by Congress to develop a National Maritime Strategy to further these objectives. Of the five Strategic Goals contained in this Strategy, three are directly related to developing the industry workforce, through a variety of methods. In

response to the Strategy and with the cooperation of MARAD's SOCP liaison, SOCP formed the Future Leader's Committee and the Workforce Recruitment, Development and Retention Committee. I am APL Maritime's representative for SOCP and am a member of the Operating (governing) and Future Leader's Committees, and Chairman of the Workforce Recruitment, Development and Retention Committee. One of the first actions our Committees initiated was to design a national program to develop future industry leaders at each maritime academy with the intent of bringing these future leaders together with their counterparts from the other colleges and seasoned industry veterans, for the purpose of sharing and developing fresh ideas and providing mentors. Whether by chance or design (no comment), the SOCP Future Leaders Committee membership consists solely of Massachusetts Maritime Academy graduates from member organizations APL Maritime, HMS Global Maritime, Crowley Maritime, Keystone Shipping Company and MMA. Coincidentally, we voted to initiate the first maritime academy SOCP Future Leaders group at Mass. Maritime, with Capt. Stevenson as the cadet group's SOCP and MMA sponsor. The cadet leadership for this group was formed in late 2016 and the President and Vice President attended the 2016 SOCP Fall Summit in Houston. See the MMA web site home page for the recent article "Leaders for Change" for more information – and note the photo of cadets Michael Bentley (2C) and Spencer Meine (1C) with Hannah Jette (MMA '14) HMS Global Maritime, Kaitlyn Nanartowich (MMA '14) Keystone Shipping and Capt. Chris Volkle (MMA '81) APL Maritime. Also in our group but not pictured were Zoe Goss (MMA '99) Crowley Maritime, Elizabeth Stevenson (MMA '97) MMA, and Capt. Francis Pelosi (MMA '81) Canadian Shipping Line. I will also point out that one of the MMA alumni in the photo received numerous job offers upon graduation due to her involvement in the SOCP and accepted employment with an SOCP member company as a result. Just this morning, I was asked by another member company if I could recommend someone for a management opening they anticipate this Summer. I gave a very strong recommendation for a current member of the MMA Future Leaders group that will graduate this year, and sent this company his resume'.

There is a more comprehensive article on the SOCP Future Leader's group at MMA coming out in the next edition of Maritime Executive magazine.

Late last year, the Maritime Administration awarded a substantial contract to SOCP to develop training materials to address the Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment (SASH) issue that has come to light in the industry and at the federal maritime academy. The SOCP team established to design and create the training materials includes four of the previously listed MMA alumni AND the MMA Future Leaders group, who were tasked with designing posters to reinforce our training objectives. The MMA Future Leaders group has delivered a series of about a dozen poster prototypes, one of which includes a relatively new technology for an interactive poster that plays a short story line when a smart phone is aimed at it. The MMA Future Leaders group worked with Mymic Training Technologies in Portsmouth, VA to produce this interactive poster. These posters, including the interactive prototype, are to hopefully be presented at the SOCP Spring Summit by the MMA Future Leaders members that designed them. They will then hopefully (with your administration's permission) be exhibited at MMA to gauge student and faculty reaction and effectiveness of this innovative technology.

The SOCP is highly impressed by the accomplishments of the MMA Future Leaders group in such a short period of time. I will be visiting MMA on May 4 and 5 for the purposes of attending the Co-op advisory Board meeting, performing guest lectures in several IMB and Deck classes, and meeting with the Future Leaders group with Capt. Stevenson. The SOCP is funding a MMA Future Leaders dinner or similar social event (to be determined by the cadets) during my visit. We are also currently in the process of developing funding mechanisms and a budget for the Future Leaders group's additional activities, which will include an annual community service project in the local area. SOCP Membership dues for cadet members is set at only \$25 per year to encourage participation (corporate and other members pay \$5,000 per year).

I have also attached a copy of the Agenda for the SOCP Spring Summit. As you can see, the Agenda addresses current topics of extreme importance to the industry and the speakers include high level industry leaders from every industry segment. Other attendees include decision makers from industry and government. The Executive Director of the Congressional Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) will be facilitating a discussion on Extreme Weather Events and Control Measures to solicit industry input for a report to Congress on this issue as a direct result of the loss of the El Faro with all hands on October 1, 2015. This report is required under the National Defense Authorization Act of 2017 and is due to Congress on June 15, 2017.

To summarize the value of attendance at this conference to MMA cadets:

1. The cadets would represent not only the SOCP Future Leaders group, but also the Academy, in a highly beneficial manner. In fact, if MMA would agree to allow them to attend and assist with their travel, the SOCP will add MMA as a sponsor of the Conference, with the MMA logo on Conference materials and recognition of sponsorship to all attendees during the Conference.
2. The cadets would attend not only the Conference sessions but also all planned (and unplanned/informal) social sessions; meeting and speaking with a large number of industry leaders from corporate and government entities. They would start forming their professional network in the maritime industry. As a result of the last Conference in October, these social events led to at least one MMA graduate being offered and accepting a job, with likely another employment offer to another MMA cadet upon graduation this year.
3. The cadets would showcase their efforts to create a series of posters that they designed to supplement MARAD and SOCP's Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment Prevention training program. They would introduce a new training technology with their design of an interactive poster.
4. The cadets would learn much more about the industry in several days at the Conference than they would in the several days of the classes they would miss – and they would learn from the top experts in government and industry.

5. The cadets (and therefore MMA) would have a voice in the development of proposed industry regulations and guidelines. The SOCP listens carefully to our Future Leaders group at MMA and highly encourages them to speak up, ask questions and offer opinions. They are given the same voice and respect as any member, and they can and have already, had an impact on the industry. We see this as probably the first opportunity MMA cadets will have in their careers to interact and communicate directly with the industry at a professional level, and we are determined to further develop the skills necessary for these cadets to interrelate in this manner.
6. MMA grads and Future Leaders are already in contact with Texas A&M and San Jacinto College, who have expressed interest in the SOCP Future Leaders program. MMA Future Leaders members met with cadet and faculty representatives from these schools at the SOCP Fall Summit in Houston. The MMA Future Leaders group will be used as a model for establishing additional Future Leaders groups at other maritime schools likely starting in late 2017 or early 2018, and we expect the MMA Future Leaders group to be heavily involved in this process. There will be opportunities to interact with additional maritime school representatives at the Spring Summit in Seattle.
7. The SOCP leadership has determined that the presence of MMA Future Leaders at this Conference is critical to our future plans for this program and for the industry. For MMA's perspective, we believe it should also be viewed as a unique and valuable opportunity to further the goals of the Academy and promote the institution's leadership role in industry.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Capt. Christian Volkle
Deputy Director of Operations
APL Maritime, Ltd.
Ship Operations Cooperative Program member