Statement on Actions Taken by the United States Merchant Marine Academy

June 9, 2017

We understand that the Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy has exercised his authority to suspend the men’s soccer program pending an Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigation. Because our investigation is ongoing, we are unable to provide any further details in accordance with the rules governing sensitive law enforcement information.

The OIG's Office of Investigations is comprised of criminal and general investigators that are responsible for conducting investigations of allegations concerning fraud and other serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies related to the Department’s administration of programs and operations, including the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. Our top investigative priorities involve review of allegations with a public safety impact, fraud schemes that significantly impact DOT funds, and integrity and personnel misconduct violations. For more information on OIG’s investigative process and priorities, please refer to our website at: www.oig.dot.gov/investigations.

OIG also maintains a Hotline for receiving allegations and information pertaining to fraud, waste, and abuse in DOT programs and operations. Allegations may be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week. OIG’s Hotline page can be accessed at: www.oig.dot.gov/hotline.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) generally provides that any person has the right to obtain access to federal agency records. The FOIA also exempts certain categories of information, including some records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes. Records will be withheld if an investigation is ongoing and release of records could reasonably be expected to interfere with proceedings. To file a FOIA request with OIG, please go to the FOIA page on OIG’s website at: www.oig.dot.gov/FOIA.

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