Memorandum

Date:    February 5, 2020

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement | MARAD’s Actions To Address
Congressionally Specified NAPA Recommendations | Project No. 20S3003S000
Maritime Administration

From:    David Pouliott
         Assistant Inspector General for Surface Transportation Audits

To:      Maritime Administrator

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Maritime Administration (MARAD) is responsible for improving the U.S. marine transportation system to meet the Nation’s economic, environmental, and security needs. To support its broad mission, MARAD has several distinct programs, including the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA)—one of five Federal service academies. The Agency also partners with the U.S. Navy to support the Military Sealift Command and provides loan guarantees and grants for shipbuilders.

MARAD asked the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) to independently review its core functions, including its role within DOT and its contributions to the Nation. In 2017, NAPA issued a report that offered MARAD 27 recommendations for improving its mission focus and program alignment.\(^1\) NAPA recognized that MARAD would consult with the Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST), as appropriate, and coordinate with outside entities to fully implement some recommendations. For example, NAPA recommended that MARAD work with the U.S. Coast Guard to update the Merchant Mariner Licensing and Documentation System to allow for data analyses and to meet credentialing and sealift needs.

The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020\(^2\) directs us to audit MARAD’s actions to address 16 of NAPA’s 27 recommendations related to the Agency’s mariner education and training mission and other issues. Accordingly,

\(^1\) Maritime Administration: Defining its Mission, Aligning its Programs, and Meeting its Objectives, November 28, 2017. NAPA reports are available at [www.napawash.org](http://www.napawash.org).

\(^2\) Pub. Law No. 116-92 (2019). The law directed us to submit the audit report to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
we are initiating this audit to assess MARAD’s actions to address the 16 recommendations from NAPA’s 2017 report specified by Congress.

We plan to begin this audit immediately and will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference. We will conduct our work at DOT Headquarters in Washington, DC, with MARAD and, if needed, OST. We may also conduct work at other MARAD locations, such as USMMA in Kings Point, NY, and contact entities outside the Department referenced in NAPA’s recommendations, such as the Office of Management and Budget, Social Security Administration, U.S. Army, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Navy. If you have any questions, please contact me at (202) 366-5630, or Tiffany Mostert, Program Director, at (202) 366-0625.

cc: DOT Audit Liaison, M-1
    MARAD Audit Liaison, MAR-390