

Guidance for Military Personnel and Veterans interested in obtaining USCG credentials for employment in the US Merchant Marine.

1. People leaving the military have a good chance of crossing over to the Merchant Marine if they desire. The Merchant Marine only has 3 departments to join; deck department, engineering department, or steward department. Your sea time in the military MAY cover some of the sea time required by the USCG in order to become an officer (deck or engine). This path can be time consuming and costly as prior to taking the test you have to have completed additional training required by the USCG. The specific items that are required are listed in the specific checklists for each USCG license grade available at:
<http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/credentials/checklists/default.asp>
2. Military personnel will have to be evaluated by the USCG to determine what credential they qualify for based upon their military seetime, vessel size and type, rating and duties. For this you will need to submit an application to the USCG and a copy of your DD214. You should also submit a copy of your sea time record. Call the USCG **1-888-IASKNMC**(1-888-427-5662) to ask about what is needed for evaluation of your military record and seetime. The application and all forms required can also be found at the USCG's National Maritime Center Website.
<http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/>
3. If you are leaving the Navy as a petty officer (or equivalent) you have a good chance of becoming a merchant marine officer. The USCG evaluation will tell you what license level you are qualified for and the shortfall of USCG/STCW approved training courses you will need to complete. The list of requirements for each credential is at
<http://www.uscg.mil/nmc/credentials/checklists/default.asp>. In some cases your GI Bill/VA benefits can be used to pay for this training. STAR Center accepts GI Bill/VA Benefits. More details can be found at <http://www.star-center.com/veterans.html>

American Maritime Officers is specifically seeking Engineering Officers. Once an individual obtains their USCG credential or their evaluation/approval to sit for a USCG unlimited engineering license additional sponsorship and assistance may be available to assist in the process.

Contact Captain Gerard Pannell, Director of Member Training and Officer Development 1-800-445-4522 ext.7507, if you qualify as noted above.

4. After obtaining your USCG Credential you can contact the following organizations for employment in addition to other organizations:

Entry Level- Seafarers International Union- <http://www.seafarers.org/>

Officers- American Maritime Officers- <http://www.amo-union.org/>