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## Western Pacific Maritime Academy offers first US Coast Guard-approved course in NMI

Press Release  
Sep 23, 2022



Western Pacific Maritime Academy conducted its first inaugural maritime course on Saturday, Sept. 17.

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**(Press Release)** — Western Pacific Maritime Academy is pleased to announce that it offers the first U.S. Coast Guard-approved course in the CNMI.

WPMA conducted its first inaugural maritime course to the CNMI public on Saturday, Sept. 17.

The vessel security course — Vessel Personnel with Designated Security Duties — was provided to a full house of 12 candidates who are seafarers holding a Merchant Marine Credential or MMC, or men and women who wish to become professional mariners.

WPMA is a non-profit corporation on Saipan with its maritime offices and classrooms located at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in Lower Base.

The academy will offer a full suite of USCG-approved maritime courses and services to the seafaring public. Included in its offerings are free seminars to the public on how to obtain an MMC.

WPMA's workforce development program steers candidates into high paying jobs in the maritime sector as entry-level credentialed professional mariners: deck seamen, engineers or members of the catering department.

An entry level seaman in the U.S. Merchant Marine can earn upwards of \$5,000 per month through one of a number of Maritime Unions or Military Sealift Command. In the wake of Covid-19, the maritime sector is experiencing a huge demand for credentialed mariners.

Education Commissioner Alfred Ada has approved a four-year high school vocational maritime track at Kagman High School, and has signal his intent to expand the program CNMI-wide in the very near future.

The PSS Maritime Vocation Track will allow students to enter the maritime workforce as fully credentialed mariners. Within the vocational program are college-bound STEM courses that will prime students to further their education in one of several maritime academies. Maritime colleges graduate deck and engineering merchant officers who may also serve on active duty or as reserve officers in the U.S. Navy or U.S. Coast Guard.

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