

Headlines:

USMMA – Gender Relations Focus Group Report;
Louisiana – Navigation Channel project; and
IMO – woman receives Bravery Award.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining **Dennis Bryant** directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format, requiring use of Adobe Acrobat Reader. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. When I was young, I thought nap time was punishment; now I consider it a mini-vacation.*

USMMA – Gender Relations Focus Group Report



The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) posted the 158-page **2015 US Merchant Marine Academy Gender Relations Focus Groups Report**. Participants in the survey agreed that there is a greater level of awareness of sexual assault and harassment at the USMMA than in previous years. There was

no consensus as to whether the rate of unwanted sexual contact at the Academy has changed. Midshipmen and staff noted that sexist jokes and jokes related to sexual assault or harassment are common on campus and that these jokes convey that the issue of sexual assault is not taken seriously. Sea duty – and the maritime industry as a whole – presents a difficult environment for midshipmen to navigate when it comes to sexual relations. The midshipmen indicated that they understood the maritime industry is male-dominated and sailors are often characterized as using profane language, making sexist remarks, and drinking heavily. This confluence of factors creates a situation that is unique among the service academies to the USMMA and facilitates an environment where unwanted sexual contact may be especially likely to occur. (December 2015) [http://www.brymar-consulting.com/wp-content/uploads/Misc/2015_USMMA_Focus_Report.pdf].

Louisiana – Navigation Channel Project



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice stating that it intends to prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for modification of the Bayou Lafourche and Lafourche-Jump Waterway, Louisiana, Navigation Channel Project in Lafourche Parish. **81 Fed. Reg. 84562** (11/23/16) [].

IMO – woman receives Bravery Award



The IMO issued a **news release** stating that the 2016 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea has been awarded to Captain Radhika Menon, master of the tanker Sampurna Swarajya, for the rescue of seven fishermen during a severe storm in the Bay of Bengal in June 2015. Captain Menon is the first woman to receive the award. (11/22/16) [<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/30-Bravery-2016.aspx>].

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