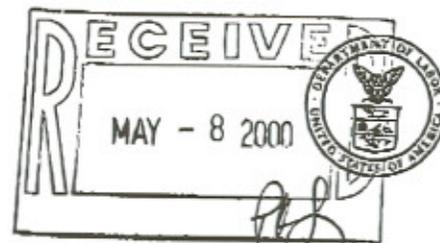


U.S. Department of Labor

Office of the Assistant Secretary for
Veterans' Employment and Training
Washington, D.C. 20210

May 3, 2000

DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM NO. 23-00MEMORANDUM FOR: REGIONAL ADMINISTRATORS AND DIRECTORS FOR
VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAININGFROM: *Stanley A. Seidel*
STANLEY A. SEIDEL
Director, Operations and Programs

SUBJECT: Merchant Marine Reemployment Rights Protection

I. Purpose: To inform VETS staff of referral procedure for members of the Merchant Marine requesting reemployment rights information or assistance.

II. Background:

Section 10 of Public Law 104-239, the Maritime Security Act of 1996, amended the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 to provide USERRA-like protection to certain members of the Merchant Marine. The protection is administered and enforced by the Secretary of Transportation. Pursuant to Public Law 104-239, the Secretary of Transportation issued regulations implementing Section 10.

Title 46, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 349 provides that the Maritime Administration (MARAD), under authority delegated by the Secretary of Transportation, certifies, upon application, that certain merchant seamen are entitled to reemployment rights by virtue of completion of service on vessels used by the United States for a war or other emergency requirement. MARAD assists eligible seamen who claim an employer has failed or is about to fail to grant the individual his or her statutory reemployment rights or benefits.

III. Action:

Merchant Marine members are not covered under USERRA and VETS is not authorized to provide assistance to Merchant Marine seamen with questions or concerns about their reemployment rights. As provided in Part 349, refer Merchant Marine reemployment rights inquiries to:

Maritime Administration
Office of Maritime Labor, Training, and Safety, MAR-250
400 Seventh St., S.W., Room 7302
Washington, D.C. 20590

- 2 -

The phone number for that office is (202) 366-5755

IV. Effective Date: Immediately

V. Inquiries: Direct questions on this Memorandum to Rob Wilson (202) 693-4717.