

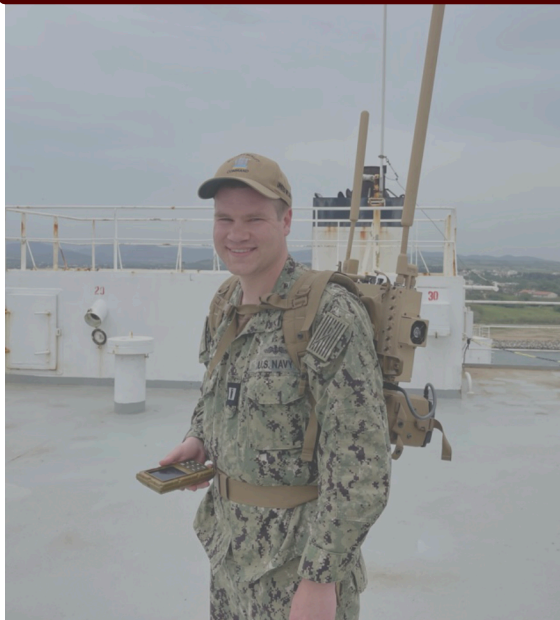


What is the Strategic Sealift Officer Force?

The **Strategic Sealift Officer Force (SSOF)** provides **warfare-qualified Navy Reserve Restricted Line Officers** with **Unlimited Licenses** and military training to **activate, operate, and sustain strategic sealift** in support of **Joint Force and Fleet requirements** in contested maritime environments.

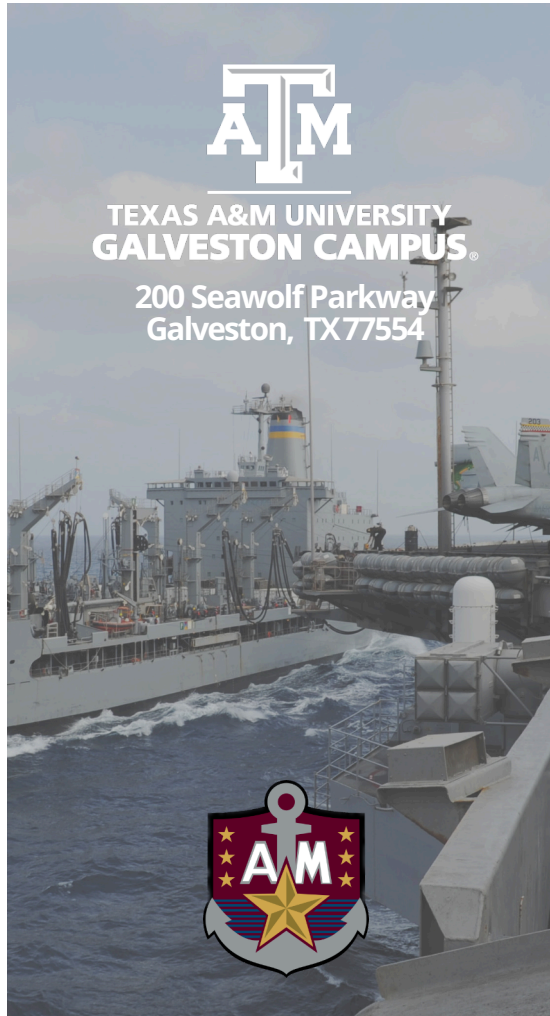
Most notably, during **World War II**, they were known as the **Merchant Marine**, transporting wartime supplies and troops to Europe. Without them—and the might of U.S. shipbuilding—the war could have been lost. Today's **SSOs** serve under the sponsorship of the **Military Sealift Command**, bridging the gap between the military and the **Merchant Marine** during both peace and war.

SSOs are civilians for **96% of the year**, working in the maritime industry, and serve as **Naval Officers** for only **4% of the year** during peacetime.

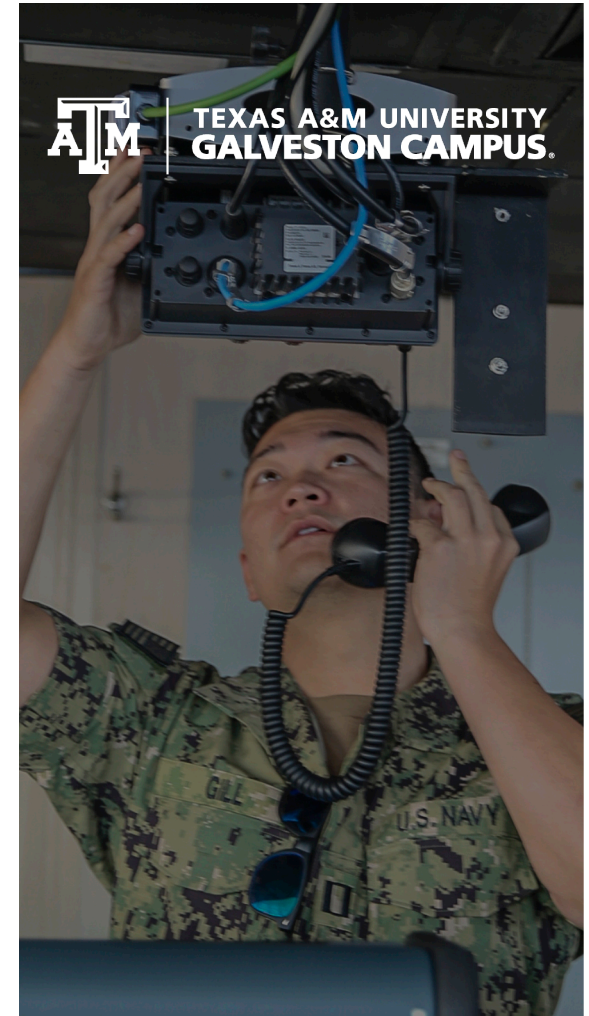


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STRATEGIC
SEALIFT
MIDSHIPMAN
PROGRAM

TEXAS A&M MARITIME ACADEMY
DEPARTMENT OF NAVAL SCIENCE

Strategic Sealift Midshipman Program

The **Strategic Sealift Officer Force (SSOF)** offers an excellent opportunity to serve your country while working in the maritime industry as a **Licensed Merchant Mariner**. Since **90% of military cargo** is transported by sea, **SSOs** play a crucial role in ensuring its movement during both peace and wartime.

The **Strategic Sealift Midshipman Program (SSMP)** is designed to train and educate highly qualified students to become commissioned officers in the **SSOF component of the U.S. Navy Reserve (USNR)**—all while pursuing a civilian maritime career.



"It's like a rewards program offered by the Navy, recognizing civilian mariners who sail under their license in exchange for their seafaring expertise, should they be called upon in times of war."

-LCDR Pearson Smith '14

Eligibility

- Be a **U.S. citizen**.
- Be **at least 17 years old** upon joining but younger than **42** at the time of commissioning.
- Meet Navy **physical qualification** standards.
- Demonstrate strong **academic ability** and moral integrity.
- Be enrolled in a Bachelor of Science or a Graduate **License Option (LO)** program.
- Not have started their junior year or have at least **two years remaining** before graduation.

Requirements

- Pass the Navy **BCA/PRT** at a **"Good-Low"** standard each semester.
- Maintain a **minimum GPA of 2.5** (both term and cumulative).
- Pass the **DoD Medical Examination (DODMERB)**.
- Complete three Naval Science courses:
 1. **NVSC 101** – Introduction to the Navy
 2. **NVSC 200** – Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO) Course (Required for all cadets)
 3. **NVSC 402** – Leadership and Ethics
- **Participate** in the NROTC program.
- Attend unit **PT twice a week**.
- Complete the **Weekly Leadership Lab (ZOPT 200)**.

Student Incentive Program \$64,000

Once a student **passes the DoD Medical Examination Review Board**, they may apply for the U.S. Maritime Administration's Student Incentive Program (SIP).

If selected, a student is eligible to receive **up to \$64,000**, divided per semester throughout their time in the Strategic Sealift Midshipman Program (SSMP)—as long as they remain in good standing. SIP funds can be used for **Summer Sea Terms, subsistence, uniforms, books, or tuition**.

The SIP program requires students to obtain a **U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Unlimited License** and **apply for—and accept, if offered—a commission as a Reserve Officer** in the U.S. Navy.

Students who receive SIP incur an **eight-year obligation to both MARAD and the Navy Reserve**.

For more information, email tamma@tamug.edu.

** Payouts vary based on class year and are only available within the first eight semesters of academic enrollment at TAMUG.*

Apply

1. Access the Application: Visit <https://www.tamug.edu/corps/pages/About/Application-Maritime.html>
2. Follow the Steps: Under **Step 2: Apply to Texas A&M Maritime Academy**, review the outlined application process.
3. Complete Required Forms: Fill out the **NROTC College Program Application*** and the **Authorization for Release of Records Form**.
4. **Submit Your Application:** Send all completed forms to **Student Enrollment Services** at admissions@tamug.edu.

**If SSMP Application form is present, use instead.*

Post Commissioning & Graduation

8 Year Minimum Obligation to 20 Year Retirement Benefits

Minimum Obligation: 8 Years in the Navy Reserve

Upon graduation and commissioning, the minimum service commitment is eight years in the Navy Reserve, which includes:

- **Two weeks of Active Duty Training per year** (a total of four months over eight years).
- **Maintaining Navy physical and health requirements annually**.
- Submitting an online **Annual Service Compliance Report** to MARAD each year.
- **Sailing at least 150 days per year** aboard a U.S.-flagged vessel for the **first three years**.
- Maintaining your **Unlimited USCG License and STCW** certification for at least **six years**.
- After **eight years**, you may separate with an **Honorable Discharge** (without retaining benefits).

Go Further: 20 Years in the Navy Reserve

By continuing your service to 20 years, you can unlock additional benefits, including:

- Earning **20 Good Retirement Years** with minimal annual requirements while maintaining your license.
- Receiving a **military retirement pension** at age 62.
- Qualifying for free **TRICARE for Life** at age 65.
- Retaining full military benefits.

The more time you invest in the program, the greater the benefits you gain.



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