

## Officers

- Underway deck watch officers' (DWO) and engineering watch officers' (EWO) duties are considered equivalent to the watchstanding duties performed by licensed mates and engineers, respectively, aboard merchant vessels. Therefore, this qualifying sea service (when accompanied by a designation letter) may be used to satisfy the experience requirements for an original or raise of grade of a master, mate, or assistant engineer license.
- Service experience obtained as a junior officer of the deck, when accompanied by a designation letter, is considered equivalent to able-bodied seaman time.
- Graduates of the United States Coast Guard Academy or United States Naval Academy may qualify for 3rd mate or 3rd assistant engineer, respectively, with the qualification as underway officer of a navigational or engineer watch.
- Executive officers (XO) and commanding officers (CO): Since the XO and CO do not receive Professional Qualification Standards letters, a copy of the orders may be submitted in lieu of designation letters.
- Applying for upper level ratings requires a mariner to meet the requirements of each lower level license, in order of progression. This means the military sea service will be evaluated sequentially over the course of a military career, to simulate the progression for a merchant mariner. Tonnage and horsepower limitations, if any, shall be calculated for each license level through the progression. For example: If the application is for an officer's endorsement as master, any gross tons, oceans. The applicant must first qualify for a 3rd mate, then a 2nd mate, and then a chief mate.
- Often, service stated in a History of Assignments, Transcript of Sea Service, or Abstract of Operations report for military officers lists the rank but not the capacity (duties/ jobs) of the officer. Supporting information must be given to verify the capacity of the officer showing deck or engine room attachment.