

(3) **FACTORS.**—In developing a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into account, at a minimum—

- (A) the availability of existing research (as of the date of publication of the plan); and
- (B) the need to ensure results that have broad applicability for the United States merchant marine workforce development.

(4) **CONSULTATION.**—In developing a plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with representatives of the maritime industry, labor organizations, including the Commander of the Transportation Command and the Commander of the Military Sealift Command, and other governmental entities and stakeholders in the maritime industry.

(5) **TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS.**—The Secretary shall transmit copies of any plan published under paragraph (1) to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(6) **TERMINATION DATE.**—The requirement to publish a plan under this paragraph shall terminate on the date that the Administrator of the Maritime Administration determines that there is an adequate number of United States mariners for sustained strategic sealift.

(Added Pub. L. 116-283, div. C, title XXXV, §3508(a), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4405.)

**Editorial Notes**

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 116-283, which was approved Jan. 1, 2021.

**CHAPTER 519—MERCHANT MARINE AWARDS**

- Sec.
- 51901. Awards for individual acts or service.
  - 51902. Gallant Ship Award.
  - 51903. Multiple awards.
  - 51904. Presentation to representatives.
  - 51905. Flags and grave markers.
  - 51906. Special certificates for civilian service to armed forces.
  - 51907. Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements<sup>1</sup>
  - 51908. Prohibition against unauthorized manufacture, sale, possession, or display of awards.

**Editorial Notes**

**AMENDMENTS**

2008—Pub. L. 110-181, div. C, title XXXV, §3523(a)(5)(B), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 599, substituted “Provision of decorations, medals, and replacements” for “Manufacture and sale of awards and replacements.” in item 51907.

**§ 51901. Awards for individual acts or service**

(a) **GENERAL AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Transportation may award decorations and medals of appropriate design (including ribbons, ribbon bars, emblems, rosettes, miniature facsimiles, plaques, citations, or other suitable devices or insignia) for individual acts or service

<sup>1</sup> So in original. Probably should be followed by a period.

in the merchant marine of the United States. The design may be similar to the design of a decoration or medal authorized for members of the armed forces for similar acts or service.

(b) **SPECIFIC AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may award—

- (1) a Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal to an individual for outstanding acts, conduct, or valor beyond the line of duty;
- (2) a Merchant Marine Meritorious Service Medal to an individual for meritorious acts, conduct, or valor in the line of duty, but not of the outstanding character that would warrant the award of the Merchant Marine Distinguished Service Medal;
- (3) a decoration or medal to an individual for service during a war, national emergency proclaimed by the President or Congress, or operations by the armed forces outside the continental United States under conditions of danger to life and property; and
- (4) a decoration or medal to an individual for other acts or service of conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity, and extraordinary heroism under conditions of danger to life and property that would warrant a similar decoration or medal for a member of the armed forces.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1584.)

**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>         | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>                                |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 51901(a) .....         | 46 App.:2001.                     | Pub. L. 100-324, §§2, 3, 5(d), May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 576, 577. |
| 51901(b) .....         | 46 App.:2004(d).<br>46 App.:2002. |  |

**§ 51902. Gallant Ship Award**

(a) **AWARDS TO VESSELS.**—The Secretary of Transportation may award a Gallant Ship Award and a citation to a vessel (including a foreign vessel) participating in outstanding or gallant action in a marine disaster or other emergency to save life or property at sea. The Secretary may award a plaque to the vessel, and a replica of the plaque may be preserved as a permanent historical record.

(b) **AWARDS TO CREWS.**—The Secretary of Transportation may award an appropriate citation ribbon bar to the master and each individual serving, at the time of the action, on a vessel issued an award under subsection (a).

(c) **CONSULTATION.**—The Secretary of Transportation shall consult with the Secretary of State before awarding an award or citation to a foreign vessel or its crew under this section.

(Pub. L. 109-304, §8(b), Oct. 6, 2006, 120 Stat. 1584.)

**HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES**

| <i>Revised Section</i> | <i>Source (U.S. Code)</i> | <i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 51902 .....            | 46 App.:2003.             | Pub. L. 100-324, §4, May 30, 1988, 102 Stat. 576. |

In subsection (a), the words “a vessel (including a foreign vessel)” are substituted for “a United States vessel or to a foreign-flag vessel” to eliminate unnecessary words.