

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2023

Vice Admiral Joanna M. Nunan
Superintendent of the United States Merchant Marine Academy
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Point, New York 11024

Superintendent Nunan,

We write to convey our concerns about the United States Merchant Marine Academy's (USMMA) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Director, Anton Tripolskii. Specifically, we write to request clarification from the Merchant Marine Academy about whether Mr. Tripolskii's outspoken comments about race and gender in the United States are reflective of the academy and its beliefs.

According to a [transcript](#) from your formal installation as superintendent, Mr. Tripolskii has been with the USMMA since September 2022.

Mr. Tripolskii has a long history of blaming specific racial groups and genders for societal evils. Before joining the Merchant Marines as a director, he [tweeted](#), "We don't have forces who do right by survivors of intimate partner and sexual violence because we don't have forces who don't abuse Brown and Black people. Same forces, same reasons. Misogyny and racism grow from the same white, male root."

This was not a one-off incident. Mr. Tripolskii, who is white and male, has made these kinds of comments repeatedly. On October 29th, 2020, Tripolskii shared [a tweet](#) that again seemed to suggest that white men were uniquely capable of radical violence.

We would hope that the Merchant Marines would disavow Mr. Tripolskii's argument that society lacks the capacity to treat survivors of rape and sexual assault or, more generally, Americans of all ethnicities with dignity and respect. In the same vein, we hope the Merchant Marines would disavow the argument that any failures to that effect "grow from the same white, male root."

More recently, on April 26th, 2023, Mr. Tripolskii sent an email to All Midshipmen about the Academy's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office's "inaugural Field Day." Rather than focusing on the prevention of sexual assault of all Midshipmen at the USMMA, Tripolskii explained that the goal of this event was to "*support LGBTQ+ community members.*" Tripolskii went on to say that "*LGBTQ+ people are marginalized in our society, making it more difficult to report and seek assistance for sexual violence.*"

In light of these findings, please provide answers to the following questions no later than May 12th, 2023:

- You have repeatedly stated the importance of inclusion at Kings Point. Do you believe that Mr. Tripolskii's social media account disparaging white men as a group is inclusive language?
- Do you believe that it would be difficult for white, male students to report sexual assault to a director that has repeatedly promoted disparaging remarks about white men?
- As a general matter, does the USMMA agree with Mr. Tripolskii's declaration that "[m]isogyny and racism grow from the same white, male root"?
- Did the language in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development's June 2022 report directing USMMA to "implement SASH [Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment] prevention measures, provide additional support to survivors, help support broader culture change at the USMMA and across the maritime industry, and advance measures to support diversity, equity, and inclusion" influence USMMA's decision to hire Mr. Tripolskii?

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your response.

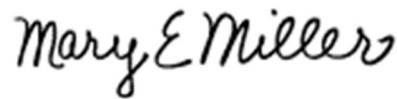
Sincerely,



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress