

# Window on Washington: Sailing Close to the Wind



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The United States is facing a shortage of qualified mariners. This presents a national and economic security crisis that must be addressed by Washington policymakers to put America's power projection capability and supply chain security on an even keel. With a small internationally-trading merchant fleet and a dwindling supply of seafarers, the nation is beholden to foreign interests for international trade and faces uncertain challenges manning and sustaining national defense sealift capability to faraway theaters such as the Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM).

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