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## DOT Eyes Ports for Stimulus Spending

R.G. Edmonson | Jun 4, 2009 8:26PM GMT

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\* Washington \* | Ports/Terminals \* | Government + Regulation \* | United States

### Merchant Marine Academy in line for improvements, says LaHood

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said Thursday that a “significant” amount of \$1.5 billion in federal stimulus money will go for port infrastructure and related freight transportation projects.

“We will have some for port enhancements. We’re receiving some significant proposals for intermodal projects, and what’s more intermodal than a port,” LaHood said to the House Appropriations subcommittee on transportation.

He said the enhancements would include infrastructure to connect ports with the national transportation system.

DOT is receiving proposals for spending \$1.5 billion in discretionary money for transportation infrastructure that was included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. LaHood said the money will be used to expand capacity and relieve congestion.

LaHood also told the committee he would like to polish the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point to the same luster as the “jewels” of the Air Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

The Maritime Administration’s 2010 budget proposal includes a \$12 million increase in Kings Point’s budget for operations and capital improvements.

LaHood said he will appoint a blue ribbon committee to study the long-term needs of the academy. The committee will be chaired by Thomas Barrett, retired Coast Guard vice admiral and DOT deputy secretary in the Bush Administration.

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## Remembering D-Day June 6, 1944

*Allied naval and [merchant navy](#) personnel in over 5,000 ships were involved.*

The **Normandy Landings** were the first operations of the [Allied invasion of Normandy](#), also known as **Operation Neptune** and [Operation Overlord](#), during [World War II](#). The landings commenced on June 6, 1944 (**D-Day**), beginning at 6:30 [British Double Summer Time](#) (H-Hour).

In planning, [D-Day](#) was the term used for the day of actual landing, which was dependent on final approval. The assault was conducted in two phases:

an [air assault](#) landing of American, [British](#) and Canadian [airborne troops](#) shortly after midnight, and an [amphibious landing](#) of Allied infantry and armoured [divisions](#) on the coast of France commencing at 6:30. The invasion required the transport of [soldiers](#) and [materiel](#) from the United Kingdom by troop carrying aircraft and ships, the assault landings, [air support](#), naval interdiction of the [English Channel](#) and naval [fire-support](#). There were also subsidiary 'attacks' mounted under the codenames [Operation Glimmer](#) and [Operation Taxable](#) to distract the [Kriegsmarine](#) and the German army from the real


landing areas.<sup>[3]</sup> The operation was the largest single-day amphibious invasion of all time, with 160,000<sup>[4]</sup> troops landing on June 6, 1944. 195,700<sup>[5]</sup>

Allied naval and [merchant navy](#) personnel in over 5,000<sup>[4]</sup> ships were involved.

During World War II, 733 American merchant ships were lost under enemy fire taking with them more than 6,000 U.S. merchant seamen.

Included were **142 midshipmen of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.**

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