



The U.S. Coast Guard Academy Board of Trustees (BOT) conducted the spring 2021 meeting with a mixture of in-person and virtual attendance via Microsoft Teams on 06-08 April 2021 at the Coast Guard Academy. The following Board Members and special representatives participated in the meeting:

RADM Thomas (Chairman)	RADM Kelly	RADM Dermanelian
RADM Nunan	RADM Johnston	RADM Fears (virtual)
RDML Allan	RDML Fedor	Dr. Brignoni
Dr. Logan (virtual)	Mr. Curry	MCPO Hendricks
Ms. Bailey (virtual)	President Scott (virtual)	VADM Brice-O'Hara (Ret.)
Dr. Vorbach	RADM Schneider (Ret.)	Mr. Losi

Ongoing Studies and Efforts

- **Coast Guard Academy Improvement Act (CGAIA) and National Academy for Public Administration (NAPA) study**
 - The 2021 CGAA included a section focused on CGA entitled the Coast Guard Academy Improvement Act. Among other things, the CGAIA specifically legislated the following:

The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall seek to enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Public Administration not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the this Act under which the National Academy of Public Administration shall—

(1) conduct an assessment of the cultural competence of the Coast Guard Academy as an organization and of individuals at the Coast Guard Academy to carry out effectively the primary duties of the United States Coast Guard listed in section 102 of title 14, United States Code, when interacting with individuals of different races, ethnicities, genders, religions, sexual orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds, or from different geographic origins; and (2) issue recommendations based upon the findings in such assessment.
 - This study will take place over the next year and will conclude in April 2022.
 - DCMS-5 and CGA have had positive weekly interactions with NAPA and DHS since February to start work on the cultural competence study.
 - Initial staff work to this point has been focused on implementing the contracting vehicle for the study and reviewing NAPA's proposed panel members (bios included as an attachment to this document).
 - DHS is acting as KO and COR for the contract.
 - Coast Guard is funding the \$860K study.

- Many thanks to Ms. Angie Bailey and her DHS CHCO team for assisting the Coast Guard in getting the contract awarded within the 60 day timeline stipulated in the legislation.
 - A second NAPA study, also costing approximately \$800K, will begin in April 2022 to assess the Academy's admissions process.
 - The NAPA panel has requested to meet with Coast Guard and Academy principals on 10 May for an introductory meeting.
 - NAPA will want to engage with both the BOT and the Board of Visitors (BOV) as part of their study.
- **Diversity Stewardship Action Plan (DSFAP) and the Supt's Equity Advisory Council (SEAC)**
 - The BOT noted and appreciated work on CGA's DSFAP and gave feedback to edit the document to better align with the Coast Guard's DIAP and to focus on diversity and inclusion vice racial equity.

Good Order and Discipline – Sexual Assault & Harassment Cases

- CGA's SJA provided the BOT a brief on recent sexual assault and harassment trends for awareness on numbers and types of cases. There is an increased awareness of complaint recognition mechanisms at the Academy, and the SJA is focused on making sure that resolution and accountability procedures and policies are explicitly followed.
- Sexual Assault cases since 2019: 6 Article 32 USCMJ hearings; 2 Article 15 UCMJ NJPs, 1 general court martial.
- 1 AHHI complaint every 5 days
 - An average of 72 admin investigations per year
- The number of reports of discrimination at CGA have risen steadily in the past four years and are on track to do so again this year. While further research would be needed to determine the reason or reasons behind the rise, the increase itself does not indicate that more discrimination is occurring. The rise in numbers could be associated with better awareness on how to report and resolve a complaint, as well as trust in the command to receive a report and respond appropriately. Given the increased external scrutiny at CGA and the emphasis of the Coast Guard and CGA in particular on handling the complaints, both are likely factors in the increasing numbers.
 - 2016 – 16 cases
 - 2017 – 8 cases
 - 2018 – 15 cases
 - 2019 – 24 cases
 - 2020 – 58 cases
 - 2021 – 16 cases so far and on pace to meet or exceed 2020's numbers
- Efforts are being undertaken at the Academy to decrease sexual assault numbers and for cadets to use conflict resolution at the lowest level possible before a situation fully develops to assault.
- The new victim advocate (VA) arriving at the Academy will allow the SARC to focus solely on prevention. Prevention efforts will be focused on :
 - Peer leadership and training on the continuum of harm (sexual harassment can often lead to sexual assault if there is no intervention)
 - Using the 1/c to talk to the 4/c about sexual harassment and assault; challenging 1/c cadets with the responsibility of leading the charge against these types of harmful behaviors

- Looking to cadet peer leaders to hold discussions because the SARC has observed that constant warnings about sexual assault from CGA leadership, faculty, and staff does not resonate with cadets

Cadet Capstone Presentations

- In alignment with the Coast Guard's Strategic Vision for the Coast Guard Academy, cadet capstone projects provide an excellent connection to the Service. The projects are a pathway for cadets to interact with Coast Guard units and provide a valuable and useful product to a Coast Guard "client." The BOT received briefs on six different cadet capstone projects from the 2020-2021 academic year.
 - **D17 and Offshore Lightering:** The cadets developed a risk calculator for offshore lightering operations that will incentivize increased response capabilities within industry.
 - **Analysis of Standardized Tests in the Prediction of Cadet Success:** The cadets used statistical methods and data disaggregated by race and sex to see if standardized test scores predicted outcomes in graduation rates, GPA, and the military precedence average (MPA) for the Academy Admissions Office.
 - **OILMAP/GRS (Sectors Del Bay, SE New England, LI Sound, and D9):** The cadets used OILMAP to develop a single value metric to assess the impact of different geographic response strategies (GRS) so that Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSC) can have a quantitative approach to assess trade-offs in oil spill response planning.
 - **Small Icebreaker Design (SIB-70X) for CG-4 and SFLC:** The cadets designed a smaller ice breaker to fulfill the mission of the Bay Class cutters while incurring lower acquisition and lifecycle costs.
 - **Seagoing Vessel Control Environment Laboratory Resource (SVCELR) for CG Cyber and C5I Service Center:** The goal of this project was to create a platform that demonstrated the vulnerabilities in electronic navigation and machinery equipment used across the maritime industry. The platform will be capable of training security teams on maritime network security and exploitation.
 - **Design of best management practices (BMP) to meet Training Center Yorktown's storm water permit requirements:** The cadet team worked with facilities engineers at TRACEN Yorktown to assess the current state of storm water pollution abatement and provide practices for improving watershed quality. The team will present BMPs to include biofiltration, swales, porous pavement, and non-structural prevention and maintenance practices.

PCTS Analysis

- As directed by the Coast Guard's Strategic Vision for the Coast Guard Academy, DCMS-5 worked with FC-PRC to look at the PCTS program and the mix of civilian, rotating military, and permanent military faculty at the Academy:
 - 2.1.4. Assess the existing Academy faculty balance and determine the desired end-state of professional educators and active duty instructors, to include an evaluation of the Permanent Commissioned Teaching Staff program.*
- FC-PRC delivered a brief and draft final copy of their report to the BOT.
- The BOT posed many deliberative questions to the FC team and will schedule an intersessional meeting to review this report again and explore the topic more deeply.
- This report may not be the only effort undertaken to achieve this directive in the Strategic Vision. Additional steps may be required to ascertain that the Academy has the right faculty balance.

CGA Campaign Plan

- Led by Mr. Curry, the BOT recommended that the Academy initiate an infrastructure campaign plan with guidance from Senior Executives in the Service.
- The BOT recommended that the Academy:
 - Identify their full infrastructure requirements, to include possibly expanding the footprint of CGA, in order to truly meet the Service's needs and elevate the Coast Guard Academy as a competitive STEM institution of choice to a diverse candidate pool.
 - Create an installation development plan based on the requirements.
 - Created a multi-year, multi-phased sequence with a resource dollar amount tied to each fiscal year in order to carry out the plan.
- Mr. Curry used Base Charleston as an example of how this type of plan has been achieved recently.
- RDML Fedor also emphasized taking advantage of legislators' unfunded priority lists (UPLs) to execute some immediate infrastructure needs.

Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association and Coast Guard Foundation Presidents

- The BOT invited CGA Alumni Association (CGAAA) President Andrea Marcille and VADM Manson Brown to discuss their intent with regards to recent articles in *The Bulletin* and other recent equity efforts of the CGAAA.
 - This incredibly rich discussion created better alignment between CGAAA, CGA, and the BOT.
 - Most notably, VADM Brown noted that the efforts were not an attempt to disparage CGA but rather to create the space to have tough conversations, promote awareness within the association, and build CGAAA into a racially equitable group. The intent was to point out the treatments, policies, and practices at CGA not to make a statement on the institution itself.
 - The BOT left with a better understanding of CGAAA's intent and purpose in highlighting certain narratives in recent editions of *The Bulletin*. CGAAA agreed that the Coast Guard and CGA are responsible to affect cultural change at CGA and acknowledge that much progress has been made in the decades since the period highlighted in *The Bulletin*. Diversity and inclusion efforts will be better aligned going forward.
- Coast Guard Foundation (CGF) President Susan Ludwig presented on funding sources and fundraising challenges and opportunities during COVID.
- Both CGAAA and CGF stated that they were pleased to have the Business Ops Division director on board. Ms. Sarah Price will interface with both organizations to articulate CGA needs and track requirements of CGA thru non-appropriated funding sources.

Committee Outbriefs

- **Leadership and Pro Dev:** RDML Allan briefed that the committee would be working with CG-7 to help the Commandant of Cadets identify requirements for the campaign infrastructure plan. Additionally, the committee continues work on the Fleet Ready Ensign (FRE) Study results and plans to reach out to OPM to incorporate OERs into this effort. Finally the committee articulated the need for an endowment or AFC-45 support for maintenance on the training vessel Schuman.

- **Resources:** RDML Fedor articulated that the current UPL trifold that CGA developed was solely focused on physical infrastructure needs but that it would be important to incorporate strategic program needs as well. The CGA Cyber Major is a prime example of a strategic effort that requires further resources and would be appropriate for the trifold. RDML Fedor also noted the committee's excitement to have the Business Ops Director on board to have a more strategic and focused approach to non-appropriated funding streams for the Academy.
- **Admissions and D&I:** RADM Johnston briefed the BOT on the importance of using the NAPA cultural competence study to advocate for all the D&I initiatives that are happening at the Academy. He also noted that the BOT should be interviewed by the NAPA panel for the study. Finally, RADM Johnston noted that the candidate pool for the Class of 2025 is the most diverse pool that CGA has ever had.
- **Athletics:** RADM Nunan highlighted the Athletic Division's awards and accomplishments over the last year, both on and off the field, with a focus on diversity. Additionally the committee discussed the rollout of notifications of the Rifle and Pistol team being downgraded to a club sport. Finally, RADM Nunan advocated for a legislative change proposal which will provide additional funding streams for CGA which will put CGA on par with other service academies.
- **Academic Affairs:** RADM Dermanelian discussed academic reorganization ideas and the need to include the new Provost in the decision making process once he or she is onboard. Additionally RADM Dermanelian highlighted the need to fill the Cyber Major positions so that the program can achieve accreditation in 2023. The committee emphasized the need to update the Civilian Faculty Pay, Promotion and Tenure Policy for faculty retention, future accreditation, and equitability. Dean Colella will be focusing on this effort prior to his retirement. Finally RADM Dermanelian highlighted the need to take a look at CGA's mission statement, as directed by the NECHE accreditation, to incorporate the core value of respect.
- **Strategy:** RADM Johnston stated that the infrastructure campaign plan will be the major focus for the Strategy Committee over the next 10+ years. Strategy will be the integrator of all committees and facets of the plan. Strategy will also have the lead on the cross-pollination of action items from the NECHE accreditation, Strategic Vision, FRE study, and the PCTS Analysis. Additionally the Strategy Committee should help develop strategy as to how to best employ the Board of Visitors with positive engagements with the Coast Guard Academy.

Faculty & Staff Outbrief

As BOT Chair, RADM Thomas presented faculty and staff with an outbrief of the fall BOT meeting both in person and virtually via Microsoft Teams. Additionally, all BOT members were present. There were over 50 faculty and staff attendees virtually and approximately 20 in the audience. There were few questions from faculty and staff but two members specifically focused on continued requests to release the Culture of Respect Report from 2015.

Board Membership

- RADM Thomas will be departing as BOT Chair after this meeting. RADM Nunan will act as the temporary Chair.
- Ms. Angela Bailey, DHS CHCO, will be departing the Board after this meeting.
- BOT members recommended keeping a DHS representative on the BOT. The BOT Chair will approach Ms. Stacy Marcott, Deputy Chief Financial Officer at DHS, to gauge her interest in Board membership.
- RADM Johnston will be departing CG-9 but will remain a member of the BOT.

- RADM Fears will be departing after this meeting and will be replaced by RDML Clendenin.
- Mr. Jim Losi will serve an additional five year term on the BOT as the Auxiliary representative.
- RADM Schneider will remain as a member of the BOT indefinitely.

Future Meetings

- The Summer BOT Call will be held virtually Wednesday 30 June 2021 1300-1400 EST on Microsoft Teams.
- The Fall BOT meeting will be held at the Coast Guard Academy Tuesday through Thursday 19-21 October 2021.



CGA Board of Trustees - Spring Meeting
Coast Guard Academy, New London, CT
06 Apr – 08 Apr 2021



-----Tuesday 06 April-----

Time	Topic/Event	Speaker/POC	Location	Audience
1130	<i>Full CGA Board of Trustees Convenes</i>			
1130-1230	Lunch – All BOT Members*	CGA	Alumni Center	Open
1145-1155	Welcome to Board of Trustees	BOT Chair	Alumni Center	Open
1155-1210	Superintendent's Welcome	RADM Kelly	Alumni Center	Open
1210-1310	Ongoing studies & efforts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NAPA & CGAIA• SEAC/ DSFAP• Governance	CGA & DCMS-5	Alumni Center	Open
1310-1325	<i>Break</i>			
1325-1420	Good order & discipline - Sexual Assault	CGA SJA & SARC	Alumni Center	Open
1420-1515	Cadet Capstone Projects	CGA	Alumni Center	Open
1515-1530	<i>Break</i>			
1530-1630	PCTS Analysis Brief	FORCECOM-VRC	Alumni Center	Open
1630-1730	Executive Session	BOT Chair	Alumni Center	BOT
1730-1800	<i>Executive Time/Travel to Quarters One for Reception</i>			
1800-1930	Superintendent's Reception	CGA	Quarters One	BOT and Selected Faculty/Staff
1930	<i>End Day 1</i>			

-----Wednesday 07 April-----

Time	Topic/Event	Speaker/POC	Location	Exec/Open
0800	Board of Trustees reconvenes at the Alumni Center			
0800-0810	BOT Photo Op at the Alumni Center			
0810-0930	Tour of Emlen Tunnell Center, Pine Hall, MCOE Site, and Jacob’s Rock			
0930-1100	Continental Breakfast*			
0930-1000	CG Foundation President	Susan Ludwig	Jacob’s Rock	Open
1000-1030	Alumni Association President	Andrea Marcille	Jacob’s Rock	Open
1030-1145	Executive Time & Committee Framing	BOT Chair	Jacob’s Rock	BOT
1145-1200	Travel to Consolidated Club for Lunch			
1200-1300	Faculty/Staff Engagement Lunch*	No Host	Consolidated Club	BOT, Faculty/Staff
1300-1315	Travel to Alumni Center for Committee Time			
	Committee Meetings, Group A			
1315-1515	Leadership & Professional Development	RDML Allan, Committee Chair	Alumni Center	Open
	Resources & Facilities	RDML Fedor, Committee Chair	Alumni Center	
	Admissions & Diversity	RADM Johnston, Committee Chair	Alumni Center	
1515-1545	Break			
1545-1745	Committee Meetings, Group B			
	Athletics	RADM Nunan, Committee Chair	Alumni Center	Open
	Academic Affairs	RADM Dermanelian, Committee Chair	Alumni Center	
	Strategy	RADM Fears, Committee Chair	Alumni Center	
1745-1800	Travel to Wardroom for Cadet Trustee Dinner			
1800-2000	Cadet Trustee Dinner*	CGA	TBD	BOT and Selected Invitees
2000	End Day 2			

-----Thursday 08 April-----

Time	Topic/Event	Speaker/POC	Location	Exec/Open
0745	<i>CGA Board of Trustees Reconvenes in TBD</i>			
0745-1000	Continental Breakfast*			
0800-0900	Group A Out-Briefs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership & ProDev (0800-0820) • Resources & Facilities (0820-0840) • Admissions & Diversity (0840-0900) 	Group A Committee Chairs	Alumni Center	Open
0900-1000	Group B Out-Briefs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Athletics (0900-0920) • Academic Affairs (0920-0940) • Strategy (0940-1000) 	Group B Committee Chairs	Alumni Center	Open
1000-1015	<i>Break</i>			
1015-1215	Executive Time/Faculty Outbrief Prep	BOT Chair	Alumni Center	BOT
1215-1230	<i>Executive Time/Travel to Consolidated Club for Lunch</i>			
1230-1330	Board of Trustees Lunch*	No Host	Consolidated Club	BOT
1330-1400	<i>Executive Time/Travel to Out-brief</i>			
1400-1500	All BOT Members Outbrief to CGA Faculty and Staff	BOT	Mac Hall Auditorium	Open
1500	<i>BOT Mission Complete</i>			
1730-1830	<i>Reception at Quarters One for those staying for Eclipse weekend</i>			
1945	<i>Eclipse Weekend activities begin</i>			

Logistics	
Uniform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform for all events unless otherwise noted: Military: Tropical Blue Long w/ garrison covers Civilian: Business Casual
Lodging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reservations at the Mystic Marriott Hotel & Spa or other local hotel offering the government rate (\$104.00 + tax) can be made by contacting ADTRAV (CG Military & Civilians) at 855-576-4781. The website for the Mystic Marriott is: http://www.mysticmarriott.com
Meals and Coffee Mess	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • *All meals denoted with an asterisk will be covered by the docking fee. The docking fee will be announced on Tuesday 06 April and will be due by close of BOT activities

	Thursday 08 Apr. We will have multiple forms of payment available, to include cash, check, Venmo, and Zelle. These costs include the coffee mess, breakfast, and other meals provided on-site.
Virtual Attendee Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microsoft Teams invites will be set to all members in the event that virtual participation is required.

Logistics Points of Contact	Responsibility	E-mail	Cell/Work Phone
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	DCMS-5	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	CGA, Planning Officer	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	CGA's Aide & BOT Project Officer	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	CGA's Admin Assistant	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	



1616
26 Apr 2021

MEMORANDUM

(b) (6)

From: W. G. Kelly, RADM
CG ACADEMY (s)

To: B. L. VerHulst, MC
CG ACADEMY (cmc)

Subj: TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR CAUSE

Ref: (a) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8

1. Effectively immediately, you are temporarily relieved for cause from your duties as Command Master Chief (CMC) of the Coast Guard Academy (CGA) and are temporarily assigned to the Coast Guard Research and Development Center (RDC).
2. I take this action because of the reports of misconduct that CGA has received and which are currently under investigation.
3. In accordance with reference (a), you are advised of your right to submit a written statement on your behalf within five (5) working days from the date of receipt of this letter. You have the right to assistance of military counsel in preparing any statement and throughout the relief for cause process. Should you desire assistance, please contact the Coast Guard's Defense Services (CG-LMA-D) at (202) 372-3830.
4. This matter is currently being reviewed to determine if a permanent relief for cause is appropriate. You will be advised of my decision once it is made. I will consider any timely input you provide before making that decision.
5. You are directed to acknowledge receipt of this letter by signing, dating, and returning the enclosed receipt. By copy hereof, the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center (PSC) is notified of this temporary relief for cause.

#

Enclosure: Acknowledgement of Receipt

Copy (1) CG PSC (EPM)
(2) CG ACADEMY (sja)



1616
26 Apr 2021

MEMORANDUM

(b) (6)

From: B. L. VerHulst, MC
CG ACADEMY (cmc)

To: W. G. Kelly, RADM
CG ACADEMY (s)

Subj: TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR CAUSE

Ref: (a) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8

1. I have received the letter directing my temporary relief for cause. I understand that I have the right to submit a statement regarding this matter. I further understand that I have five working days from this date to submit my statement. I recognize that if I elect to make a statement, the statement I submit should be confined to the facts and not impugn the motives of others or make countercharges. I (DO) / DO NOT) desire to make a written statement.

2. I understand my right to have the advice of military counsel during the temporary relief for cause process. I (DO) / DO NOT) desire to consult with an attorney.

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U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Superintendent
U. S. Coast Guard Academy

15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT
Staff Symbol: (scc)
Phone: (860) 444-8330
Fax: (860) 701-6710

1306
April 27, 2021

MEMORANDUM

From: B. L. VerHulst, CMC
CG ACADEMY (scc)

(b) (6)

To: W. G. Kelly, RADM
CG ACADEMY (s)

(b) (6)

Accepted 27 Apr 21

Subj: RESIGNATION AS COMMAND MASTER CHIEF (CMC)

Ref: (a) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8 (series)
(b) Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) Program, COMDTINST 1306.1 (series)

1. I respectfully request to resign my position as Command Master Chief at the United States Coast Guard Academy, effective immediately. Due to unforeseen circumstances and the mental health concerns this has created, I can no longer effectively perform the duties of CMC outlined in Ref (b) and feel obligated to make this request for the benefit of the entire Academy community.

2. My relief has been identified and anticipates being onboard in June 2021. I have an approved retirement date on file of 01 Sep 2021 and my scheduled departure date on terminal leave is 22 May 2021.

#

Copy: MCPO-CG (CG-00B)
CG-PSC-EPM



1616
03 May 2021

MEMORANDUM

(b) (6)

From: B. L. VerHulst, OSCM

To: CG Academy (s)

Thru: CG Academy (l)

Subj: TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR CAUSE STATEMENT

Ref: (a) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8(series)
(b) CG Academy 1616 memo dtd 26 Apr 2021

1. I respectfully request to be reinstated as Command Master Chief (CMC) at the United States Coast Guard Academy. The outpouring of support during this ordeal from cadets, faculty, staff, and crew (as well as many others who have known me at previous units) has been overwhelming and extremely validating for the type of leader and person I try to be every day. I believe that a reasonable review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the events outlined in the investigation will determine that I will be found innocent of any malicious wrongdoing and that I should be allowed to retire with my dignity and my designation as a Gold Badge CMC intact. As it is, I am departing CGA in ignominy with no retirement ceremony, no formal or informal recognition from anyone despite various entities asking to do so, not even a chance to say good bye or to personally thank the many people at CGA who have been so important to me over the past four years. I have put my heart and soul into this institution, and the investigation into this matter alone has branded me with shame. To assist you in making a final determination on my relief for cause and my request to retire, I will briefly outline below my history of professional conduct, offer comments on the investigation thus far, and provide evidence in mitigation that may assist you in your decision.

2. **History of Professional Conduct.** I have a 30-year documented record of outstanding performance. In my 11 years as a Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL), three different Admirals and two CAPT's (from my time at Sector Columbia River) have called me the best CMC they had ever worked with. Recently, the corps of cadets selected me as a Spirit of the Bear award recipient for "...extraordinary efforts in the personal and professional development of cadets and officer candidates across multiple domains...". I was guest of honor at the recent 1/c Dining-In event, a rarity for an enlisted member. I regularly mentor dozens of cadets and enlisted members on campus, who continually reach out to me via my .edu and .mil e-mail accounts, and I am regularly contacted by numerous junior officers in the operational Coast Guard for guidance and advice. When I was made aware that I was under investigation I had to cancel 10 different meetings with cadets, staff, and enlisted crew, which exemplifies the

frequency I'm sought out as a counselor and mentor, along with the magnitude of the impact I have on campus. I also had to cancel a dinner/recognition event that 20-30 2/c cadets had voluntarily arranged for me to say goodbye, as they would be on their summer assignments and would miss my scheduled retirement ceremony. I offer this to say that my intrusive and empathetic leadership style has served me, and those I support, very well over many decades without incident.

3. **Comments on CGIS Investigation.** I've given a lot of thought regarding my interview with CGIS. I was so shocked and flustered that I was under too much emotional duress to provide any context in answering their questions. Due to my confidence that I had not done anything inappropriate, I naively did not realize I should have had representation to assist me in responding to these allegations. Nonetheless, I tried to answer the questions to the best of my ability, but remained devastated and shell-shocked throughout the entire interview. I answered CGIS' questions because I felt I had nothing to hide, but in hindsight would have included additional facts and context. To be clear: I pride myself in building strong professional relationships based on trust and candor with those I serve, regardless of rank. If any of the cadets or staff that I've interacted with had any issue with anything I said or did, I truly believed that they would have immediately let me know because of that trust. If that wasn't the case, then I sincerely and truly apologize for any negative impacts I may have caused.

4. After reflecting about the question of my infrequent interactions with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) I recall always having pleasant and professional conversations with her throughout our time here. One instance sticks out in my mind, which was in the aftermath of a very emotional meeting with the Admiral, the cadet counseling center leadership, and other senior staff to discuss the recent suicide attempts of two other cadets, one of whom was still in the hospital. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was the president of Cadet Peer Support, a group of volunteer cadets trained by the counseling center to assist others who were suffering from mental health crises in order to facilitate getting them to appropriate resources or higher levels of care. It was obvious that she was upset at the meeting and I inquired if she was all right. She started to cry at that point, so after the meeting I asked her if she wanted to walk with me to my office just to talk about what had happened in the meeting and to make sure she was ok. Before she departed from my office I gave her a hug and told her how proud I was of her and to stay strong (or words to that effect), and to not hesitate to reach out if she ever wanted to talk. I also mentioned that suicide had impacted me at D17 when two members on staff had taken their own lives during my tour there. I then followed up with an e-mail checking on her the next morning, to which she replied she was ok and thanked me (or words to that effect). I believe that sometimes physical contact is helpful and appropriate when grieving or sympathizing with someone going through hardship, especially when suicide is being dealt with. It is a topic that hits close to home for me.

5. Regarding allegations stemming from a Quarters One event, I quite honestly have no recollection of touching the person in question. In fact, I wasn't sure that we even said more than "hello" or "nice to see you" throughout the entire evening. I was not inebriated at the event in

any way. As mentioned to CGIS, I had 2-3 glasses of wine over a two-hour period, but I retained all of my faculties and made a speech to the cadets at the end of the evening.

6. Regarding interactions with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who I have known since her swab summer in 2017, I always believed we had a healthy, mutually respectful mentor/mentee relationship. In fact, she even voluntarily contacted me to offer to coordinate a cadet honor guard for my retirement ceremony. Further, she recently came up to me after a meeting the SUPT and I had with a group of cadet Affinity Council leaders on a Saturday morning to say hello and engage in small talk. Similarly, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who apparently made allegations about me, volunteered to be a project officer for my retirement ceremony and I believe we've had an outstanding working relationship over the years, to include collaborating on Chiefs Call to Initiations and the pop-up food pantry during the partial government shutdown. In all these cases I had no idea that there was any level of discomfort with any of my actions. Without knowing the circumstances of which my alleged misconduct was reported, I would be surprised to learn that any of the aforementioned people would ever say I behaved in an inappropriate way towards them.

7. **Evidence in Mitigation:** The investigation and Temporary Relief process has already taken an enormous toll, both emotionally and physically, on me and my family. As you could imagine, it was (and is) tremendously upsetting and disappointing to see my name in several regional and national news outlets regarding these allegations. Exhibit (1). In addition to the public embarrassment, these articles have already impacted my post-retirement employment opportunity at Norwich University in Vermont, which is now uncertain at best. In addition, the existence of these articles will undoubtedly tarnish my reputation, negatively impacting employment opportunities, for the foreseeable future. I have also incurred significant financial expense planning for the move to Vermont, which now appears to be for naught. Further, over the past year (b) (6) The stress and strain of these allegations, and subsequent leaks to the media, has only exacerbated these pre-existing stressors.

8. I am willing to believe there was no malicious intent behind information pertaining to my temporary relief and these allegations going "outside the lifelines" of CGA, despite the harmful impact to my career and family. I respectfully ask to be afforded the same "benefit of the doubt" when it comes to my intentions giving the occasional hug during counseling sessions. I believe my long record of good conduct and appropriate behavior will lead you to this conclusion, as well as the numerous character letters I'm attaching to this memorandum in support of my request to retire as the Academy's Command Master Chief. Exhibits (2)-(9).

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10. If the decision is made to make the Temporary Relief permanent, I ask that I be allowed to retire without any further punitive or administrative action so my family and I can move on with our lives without the life-long negative impacts and stigma of a formal proceeding, regardless of the result. Please consider the information I have provided in mitigation, my 30-year record of professional conduct, the character letters submitted on my behalf, and your own personal knowledge of my character when making your decision on the way ahead in this matter. I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve my country, the Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard Academy community. Please do not negate my years of service, exemplary career, and reputation on my way into retirement by substantiating these allegations that are, at worst, misplaced efforts to display empathy and support for those in the Academy community.

11. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

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- Exhibits:
- (1) Excerpts from Regional and National News Outlets
 - (2) Character Statement from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
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Command master chief resigns from Coast Guard Academy

Published April 27, 2021 6:15PM | Updated April 27, 2021 6:18PM

By **Erica Moser** (/apps/pbcs.dll/personalia?ID=e.moser) Day staff writer

✉ e.moser@theday.com (mailto:e.moser@theday.com)  Erica_Faith13
(http://www.twitter.com/Erica_Faith13)

New London — Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst has resigned his duties at the Coast Guard Academy, effective immediately, Superintendent Rear Adm. Bill Kelly announced in an email to staff Tuesday afternoon.

Academy spokesperson Cmdr. David Milne said VerHulst didn't give a reason for his resignation, and that the Coast Guard Academy typically doesn't comment on personnel issues or investigations.

"The incident is under investigation, so we're looking at everything in a whole perspective, and looking at all the things that have come to light, and we'll wait and see what the investigation turns out," Milne said. He declined to comment on what he meant by "the incident" or what has come to light.

The Day has filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the academy seeking more information on VerHulst's resignation and the investigation.

Milne said VerHulst resigned his duties but not his rank as master chief; he is still in the Coast Guard and still a master chief.

VerHulst is being reassigned to the Coast Guard Research and Development Center in New London. Milne said he wasn't sure of VerHulst's report date or his duties there, and he doesn't know yet if VerHulst will be working with cadets but doubts it.

Kelly's email said Master Chief Anthony Schell will be the interim command master chief until the arrival of Master Chief Maria D'Angelo this summer.


According to VerHulst's biography on the U.S. Coast Guard website, he assumed the duties of command master chief in August 2017, with the primary responsibility of advising Kelly "on issues and initiatives pertaining to the entire Coast Guard Academy workforce."

Before that, he served as command master chief of the 17th Coast Guard District in Alaska.

e.moser@theday.com (mailto:e.moser@theday.com)

EXHIBIT (1)

ERICA MOSER

e.moser@theday.com (mailto:e.moser@theday.com)  (HTTP://WWW.TWITTER.COM/ERICA_FAITH13)



As a business reporter, I write about small businesses opening and closing, manufacturing, food and drink, labor issues and economic data. I particularly love writing about the impact of state and federal policy on local businesses. I also do some education reporting, covering colleges in southeastern Connecticut and regional K-12 issues.

What questions - or story ideas - do you have about workforce issues in New London County, small businesses, or business-related legislation and taxes?

0/200

Your contact info

I'll be in touch if I look into your question.

Name

Email address

Zip code

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Your Navy**Former Coast Guard Academy command master chief faces allegations of 'inappropriate conduct'**

Geoff Ziezulewicz

📅 4 days ago



Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst resigned his position as senior enlisted leader of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Tuesday. (Coast Guard)

The U.S. Coast Guard has launched an investigation into “alleged inappropriate conduct” by the former command master chief of the Coast Guard Academy, officials confirmed Wednesday.

Former Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst abruptly resigned as senior enlisted leader of the academy on Tuesday for reasons that remain unclear.

EXHIBIT (1)

Academy spokesman Cmdr. David Milne said Wednesday that while the school's superintendent accepted VerHulst's resignation Tuesday, "he was simultaneously temporarily removed from his position pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation."

Milne said he did not know when the Coast Guard Investigative Service's investigation began, and he declined to say what kind of alleged inappropriate conduct was being investigated.

"The Coast Guard cannot provide details at this time in order to preserve the integrity of the investigation and to protect the Coast Guard's ability to take appropriate final action," Milne said.



US Coast Guard Academy command master chief resigns

The reasons for former Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst's resignation remain unclear.

By: Geoff Ziezulewicz

VerHulst did not reply to messages and calls seeking comment.

VerHulst assumed the duties of command master chief at the academy in August 2017, according to his online bio, a job that involved advising the superintendent on issues pertaining to the academy's workforce.

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Before that, VerHulst served as CMC for the 17th Coast Guard District out of Juneau, Alaska, and served on several afloat assignments earlier in his career.

About [Geoff Ziezulewicz](#)



Command Master Chief Resigns at Coast Guard Academy; Investigation Underway



Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst resigned his duties at the Coast Guard Academy on April 27, 2021 (U.S. Coast Guard)

28 Apr 2021

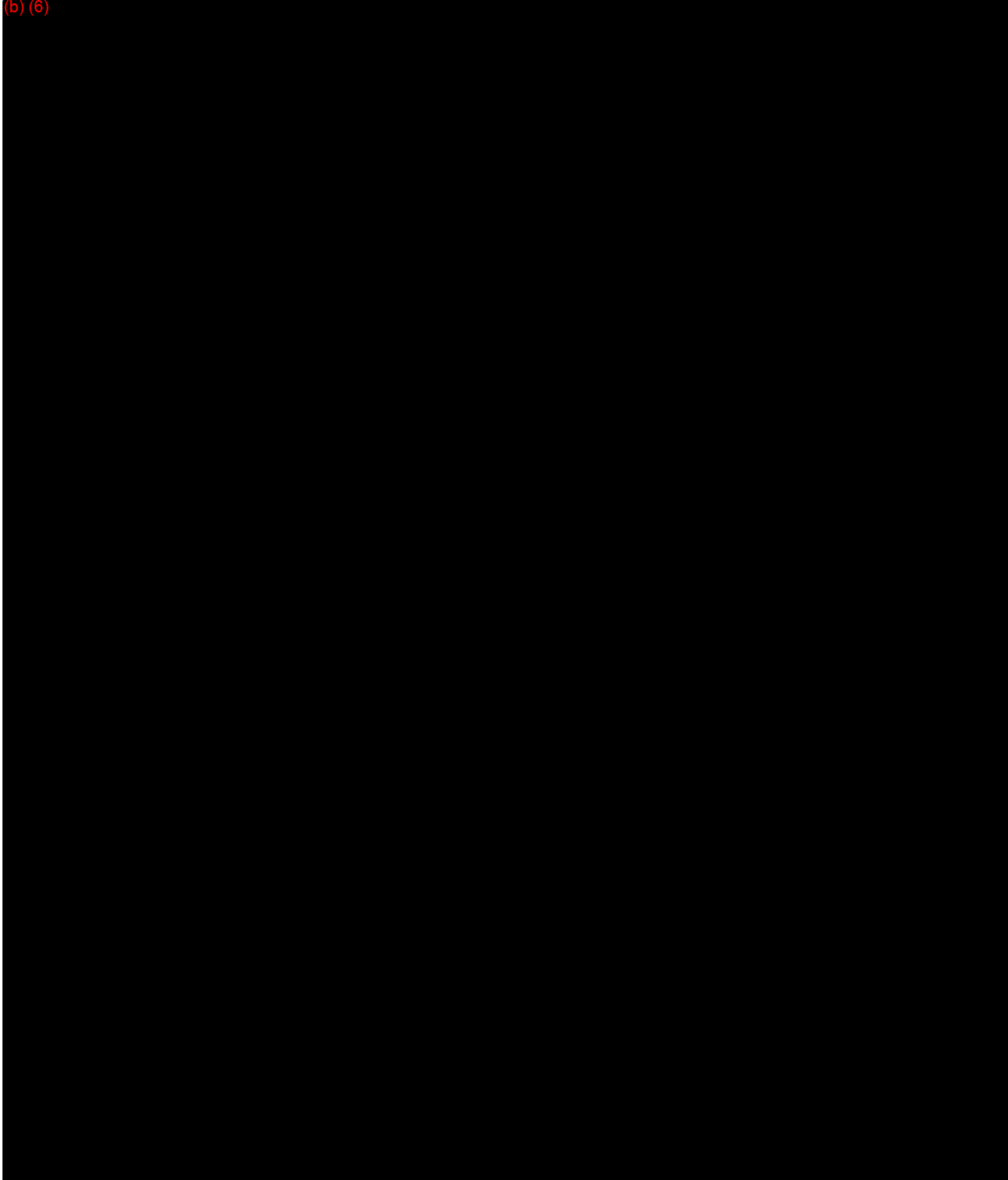
Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

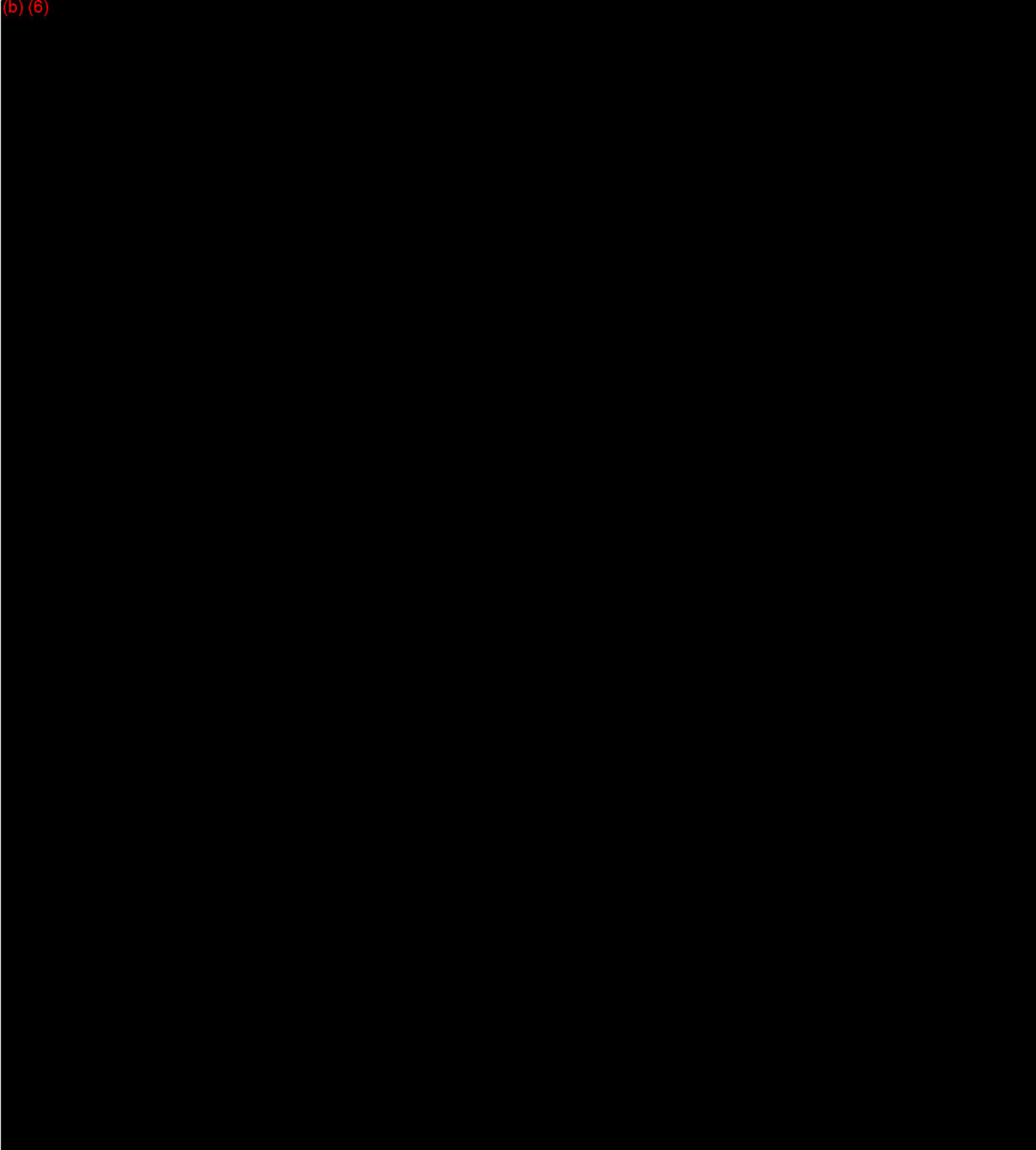
The [Coast Guard](#) Academy's senior enlisted leader, Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst, resigned his duties at the Coast Guard Academy on Tuesday and is being investigated over alleged inappropriate conduct.

EXHIBIT (1)

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EXHIBIT (3)





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EXHIBIT (6)

EXHIBIT (6)

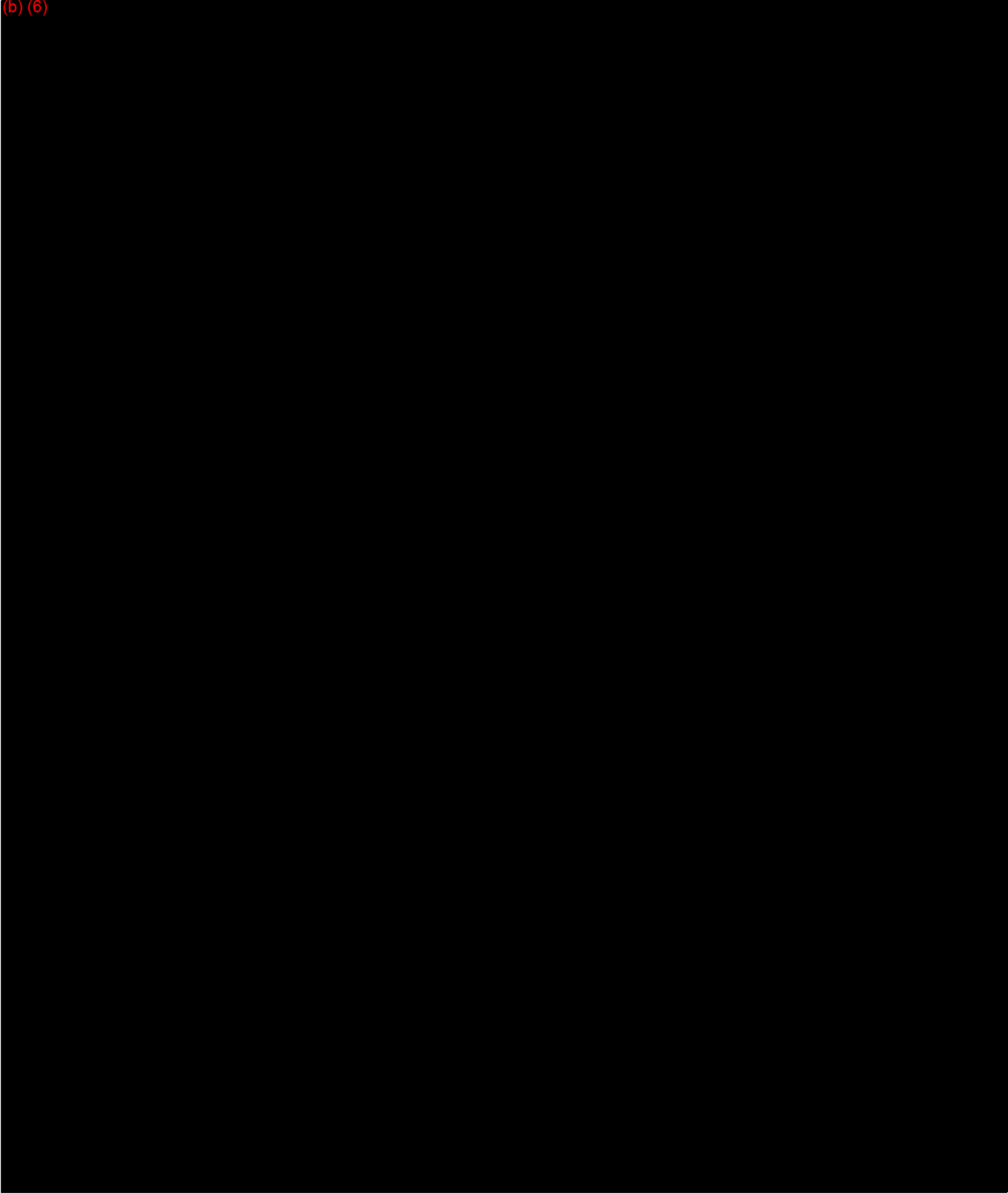


EXHIBIT (6)

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EXHIBIT (7)

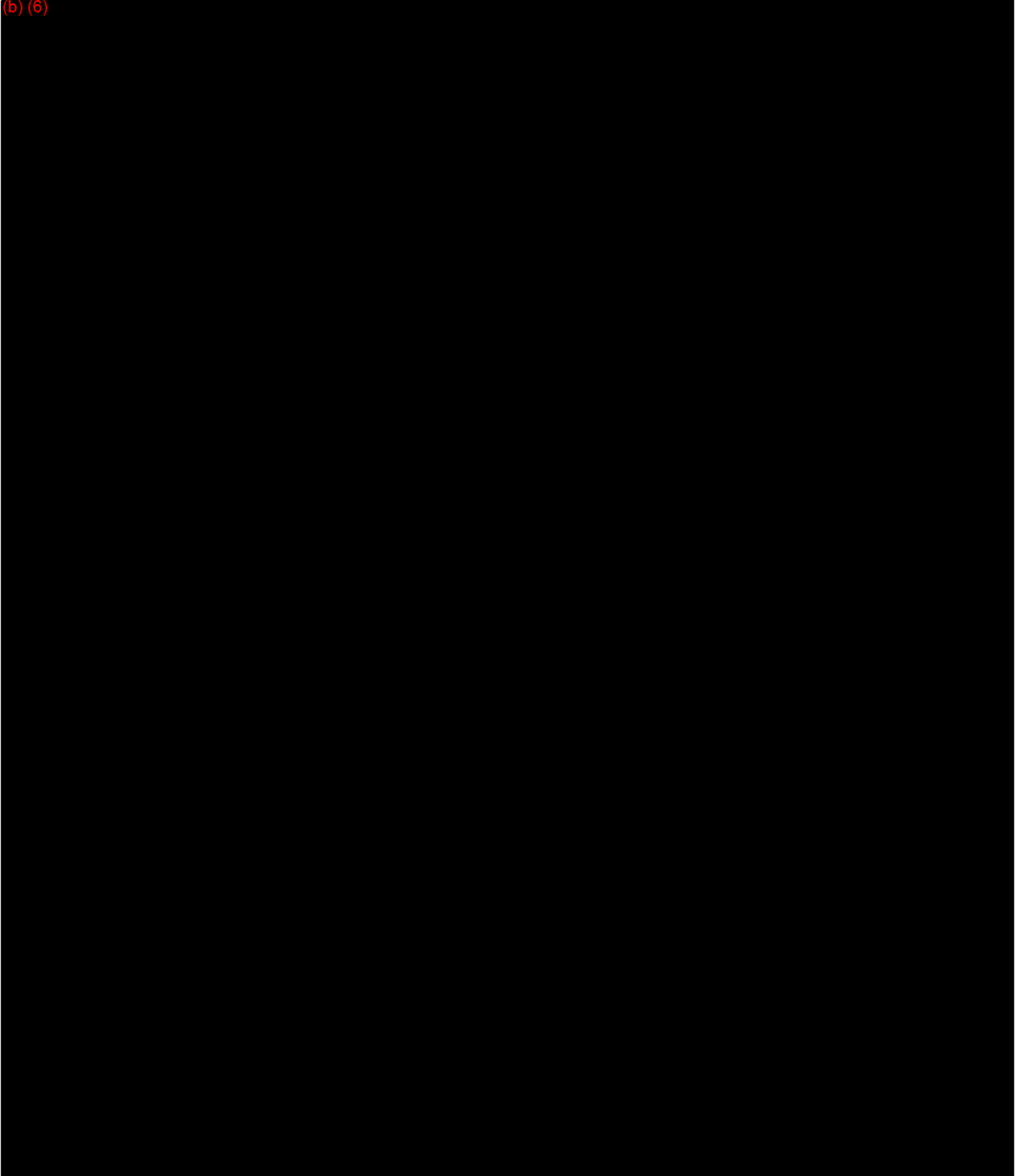


EXHIBIT (8)

EXHIBIT (8)

EXHIBIT (9)



1616

MAY 26 2021

MEMORANDUM

(b) (6)

From: W. G. Kelly, RADM
CG ACADEMY (s)

To: B. L. VerHulst, MC
CG ACADEMY (cmc)

Subj: NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK PERMANENT RELIEF FOR CAUSE FOR
COMMAND MASTER CHIEF, U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY

Ref: (a) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8
(b) Your memo 1616 of 3 May 2021
(c) CGIS Investigation AR2104000656

1. In accordance with the provisions contained in reference (a), I have decided to request your permanent relief for cause from the Command Master Chief position at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (CGA).
2. On 27 Apr 2021, I informed you in a meeting that I was temporarily relieving you for cause, enclosure (2).¹ During the same meeting, you also submitted your resignation, which I accepted, enclosure (3). Later that day, you also signed the temporary relief for cause acknowledgement memo, enclosure (4), indicating that you both desired to make a statement and consult with an attorney. On 3 May 2021, I received your statement, reference (b), and have given it careful consideration.
3. I am following guidelines outlined in reference (a) relating to a Command Master Chief's permanent relief for cause. Based on a thorough review of references (b) and (c), I have determined that your permanent relief for cause is warranted. I have lost confidence in your ability to serve as CGA's Command Master Chief due to unsatisfactory conduct and have decided to submit a request to Commander, CG PSC-EPM, requesting your permanent relief. It is my opinion that you failed to meet Coast Guard-wide expectations of professionalism regarding engagement with members of the opposite sex.
4. Reference (c) reveals that you engaged in a pattern of inappropriate physical contact with female cadets, female junior officers, and female enlisted members. In one instance, after an emotional briefing to CGA leadership, you gave a female cadet a firm side hug followed by touching the left side of her face. In another instance, you stood next to a female junior officer and rubbed her upper back in a circular motion for several seconds without her permission. A

¹ While the temporary relief for cause memorandum was dated 26 Apr 21, I delivered it to you on 27 Apr 21. Likewise, your acknowledgement memorandum was dated 26 Apr 21 but returned to me on 27 Apr 21.

Subj: NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK PERMANENT RELIEF
FOR CAUSE FOR COMMAND MASTER CHIEF, U.S.
COAST GUARD ACADEMY

1616
MAY 26 2021

female staff member also stated that you kissed her on the forehead during a meeting with her. This last individual said that she ensured she never "ended up in a room alone" with you and provided examples of your behavior that she had observed and considered to be inappropriate, including hugging, putting your arm around women, and squeezing their arms. None of the women interviewed in reference (c) believed that you intended anything sexual towards them during these interactions. In fact, they agree that you were trying to create a welcoming, family-type atmosphere.

5. I have read your statement and understand your explanation that you think physical contact is helpful and appropriate in certain circumstances, especially when individuals are under stress. However, your behavior demonstrates a lack of self-awareness of appropriate boundaries with military personnel of the opposite sex. You cannot assume consent to physical contact, and you should have realized that your actions had the potential to – and did – make some of these women uncomfortable. This is exacerbated by the fact that junior personnel often do not feel at liberty to object to the initiation of physical contact by a senior member of the command. Even asking for permission to initiate physical contact may not alleviate the confusion and resulting harm to the junior individual.

6. Upon receipt of this letter, you have the right to make a written statement via your chain of command within five (5) working days. If you do not submit a statement within the allowed time, you waive your right to make such statement. I understand that you are represented by military counsel (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and I encourage you to consult with him regarding your written statement. You shall execute the written acknowledgement of your rights in enclosure (1) and return to CGA administrative staff for processing.

7. You shall remain temporarily assigned to the Research and Development (R&D) Center until this matter is resolved.

#

Enclosures: (1) Acknowledgement of Rights Form
(2) My memo 1616 of 26 Apr 21, Temporary Relief for Cause
(3) Your memo 1306 of 27 Apr 21, Resignation as Command Master Chief
(4) Your memo 1616 of 26 Apr 21, Acknowledgement of Temporary Relief for Cause

Copy: (1) CG PSC (EPM)
(2) CG ACADEMY (sja)



1616
1 Jun 2021

MEMORANDUM

(b) (6)

From: B L. VerHulst, OSCM

To: CG PSC-EPM

Thru: CG ACADEMY (s)

Subj: NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK PERMANENT RELIEF FOR CAUSE STATEMENT

Ref: (a) CG Academy 1616 memo dtd 26 May 2021
(b) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8(series)
(c) Military Separations, COMDTINST M1000.4(series)

1. On 26 May 2021 I was notified via reference (a) of the Coast Guard Academy's (CGA) intent to seek my permanent relief for cause as Command Master Chief (CMC) pursuant to reference (b). This notification was extremely disappointing to receive, as having the honor and privilege of being a Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) at three different commands has been the most rewarding and transformative experience of my entire career. I love being a CMC. I have been honored by the opportunities this unique position has afforded me to positively impact the Academy workforce (including the cadets, faculty, staff, and enlisted crew). The thought of having the CMC designation taken away permanently is devastating. While I believe my overall performance of duty was consistent with the highest personal and professional standards expected of a CSEL, I readily understand and accept that there were members of the Academy community who have stated they were uncomfortable with some of my interactions with them – for that I have tremendous regret and I am deeply sorry. In the face of extremely challenging circumstances at CGA over the past four years, to include multiple high profile DHS OIG investigations, the partial government shutdown in early 2019, and the impacts from the ongoing global pandemic, my only intent was to create an atmosphere where we look out for each other, care about each other, and support each other – to successfully balance accomplishing the mission while still taking care of our people.

2. To assist you in making the most informed final determination in this matter, I respectfully request a review of my Temporary Relief for Cause statement and supporting documentation (Exhibit 1). Additionally, I have on file hundreds of unsolicited e-mails, texts, hand written letters and cards, etc. from the entire integrated workforce affirming my leadership style and positive impact on our people that I can provide if desired. I've included the most recent as an example (Exhibit 2). If your decision is to officially make the temporary relief permanent, then per section 1.C.12.f(2) of reference (c), I request to be retired as scheduled on 01 September 2021 as an E-9, and that my service be characterized as Honorable. Should you intend to characterize my service as General (under honorable conditions), I'd ask that you consider that in my current enlistment, I have been awarded a Coast Guard Commendation Medal in 2010 (as well as Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals in both 2015 and 2017), and such an award may warrant special consideration of an Honorable characterization of service under 1.B.2.f(1)(f) of reference (c). Moreover, I believe an objective review of my entire personal and professional record supports this request as well. I remain very grateful for the opportunity to have served in the world's best Coast Guard for the past 30 years.

Subj: NOTICE OF INTENT TO SEEK PERMANENT RELIEF
FOR CAUSE STATEMENT

1616
01 JUN 2021

3. Thank you for your attention in this matter. I can be reached at ((b) (6) or
(b) (6) with any questions or concerns.

#

Exhibits: (1) OSCM B. L. VerHulst 1616 memo dtd 03 May 2021
(2) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) email dtd 26 May 2021



1616
03 May 2021

MEMORANDUM

(b) (6)

From: B. L. VerHulst, OSCM

To: CG Academy (s)

Thru: CG Academy (l)

Subj: TEMPORARY RELIEF FOR CAUSE STATEMENT

Ref: (a) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8(series)
(b) CG Academy 1616 memo dtd 26 Apr 2021

1. I respectfully request to be reinstated as Command Master Chief (CMC) at the United States Coast Guard Academy. The outpouring of support during this ordeal from cadets, faculty, staff, and crew (as well as many others who have known me at previous units) has been overwhelming and extremely validating for the type of leader and person I try to be every day. I believe that a reasonable review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the events outlined in the investigation will determine that I will be found innocent of any malicious wrongdoing and that I should be allowed to retire with my dignity and my designation as a Gold Badge CMC intact. As it is, I am departing CGA in ignominy with no retirement ceremony, no formal or informal recognition from anyone despite various entities asking to do so, not even a chance to say good bye or to personally thank the many people at CGA who have been so important to me over the past four years. I have put my heart and soul into this institution, and the investigation into this matter alone has branded me with shame. To assist you in making a final determination on my relief for cause and my request to retire, I will briefly outline below my history of professional conduct, offer comments on the investigation thus far, and provide evidence in mitigation that may assist you in your decision.

2. **History of Professional Conduct.** I have a 30-year documented record of outstanding performance. In my 11 years as a Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL), three different Admirals and two CAPT's (from my time at Sector Columbia River) have called me the best CMC they had ever worked with. Recently, the corps of cadets selected me as a Spirit of the Bear award recipient for "...extraordinary efforts in the personal and professional development of cadets and officer candidates across multiple domains...". I was guest of honor at the recent 1/c Dining-In event, a rarity for an enlisted member. I regularly mentor dozens of cadets and enlisted members on campus, who continually reach out to me via my .edu and .mil e-mail accounts, and I am regularly contacted by numerous junior officers in the operational Coast Guard for guidance and advice. When I was made aware that I was under investigation I had to cancel 10 different meetings with cadets, staff, and enlisted crew, which exemplifies the

EXHIBIT (1)

frequency I'm sought out as a counselor and mentor, along with the magnitude of the impact I have on campus. I also had to cancel a dinner/recognition event that 20-30 2/c cadets had voluntarily arranged for me to say goodbye, as they would be on their summer assignments and would miss my scheduled retirement ceremony. I offer this to say that my intrusive and empathetic leadership style has served me, and those I support, very well over many decades without incident.

3. **Comments on CGIS Investigation.** I've given a lot of thought regarding my interview with CGIS. I was so shocked and flustered that I was under too much emotional duress to provide any context in answering their questions. Due to my confidence that I had not done anything inappropriate, I naively did not realize I should have had representation to assist me in responding to these allegations. Nonetheless, I tried to answer the questions to the best of my ability, but remained devastated and shell-shocked throughout the entire interview. I answered CGIS' questions because I felt I had nothing to hide, but in hindsight would have included additional facts and context. To be clear: I pride myself in building strong professional relationships based on trust and candor with those I serve, regardless of rank. If any of the cadets or staff that I've interacted with had any issue with anything I said or did, I truly believed that they would have immediately let me know because of that trust. If that wasn't the case, then I sincerely and truly apologize for any negative impacts I may have caused.

4. After reflecting about the question of my infrequent interactions with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) I recall always having pleasant and professional conversations with her throughout our time here. One instance sticks out in my mind, which was in the aftermath of a very emotional meeting with the Admiral, the cadet counseling center leadership, and other senior staff to discuss the recent suicide attempts of two other cadets, one of whom was still in the hospital. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was the president of Cadet Peer Support, a group of volunteer cadets trained by the counseling center to assist others who were suffering from mental health crises in order to facilitate getting them to appropriate resources or higher levels of care. It was obvious that she was upset at the meeting and I inquired if she was all right. She started to cry at that point, so after the meeting I asked her if she wanted to walk with me to my office just to talk about what had happened in the meeting and to make sure she was ok. Before she departed from my office I gave her a hug and told her how proud I was of her and to stay strong (or words to that effect), and to not hesitate to reach out if she ever wanted to talk. I also mentioned that suicide had impacted me at D17 when two members on staff had taken their own lives during my tour there. I then followed up with an e-mail checking on her the next morning, to which she replied she was ok and thanked me (or words to that effect). I believe that sometimes physical contact is helpful and appropriate when grieving or sympathizing with someone going through hardship, especially when suicide is being dealt with. It is a topic that hits close to home for me.

5. Regarding allegations stemming from a Quarters One event, I quite honestly have no recollection of touching the person in question. In fact, I wasn't sure that we even said more than "hello" or "nice to see you" throughout the entire evening. I was not inebriated at the event in

any way. As mentioned to CGIS, I had 2-3 glasses of wine over a two-hour period, but I retained all of my faculties and made a speech to the cadets at the end of the evening.

6. Regarding interactions with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who I have known since her swab summer in 2017, I always believed we had a healthy, mutually respectful mentor/mentee relationship. In fact, she even voluntarily contacted me to offer to coordinate a cadet honor guard for my retirement ceremony. Further, she recently came up to me after a meeting the SUPT and I had with a group of cadet Affinity Council leaders on a Saturday morning to say hello and engage in small talk. Similarly, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who apparently made allegations about me, volunteered to be a project officer for my retirement ceremony and I believe we've had an outstanding working relationship over the years, to include collaborating on Chiefs Call to Initiations and the pop-up food pantry during the partial government shutdown. In all these cases I had no idea that there was any level of discomfort with any of my actions. Without knowing the circumstances of which my alleged misconduct was reported, I would be surprised to learn that any of the aforementioned people would ever say I behaved in an inappropriate way towards them.

7. **Evidence in Mitigation:** The investigation and Temporary Relief process has already taken an enormous toll, both emotionally and physically, on me and my family. As you could imagine, it was (and is) tremendously upsetting and disappointing to see my name in several regional and national news outlets regarding these allegations. Exhibit (1). In addition to the public embarrassment, these articles have already impacted my post-retirement employment opportunity at Norwich University in Vermont, which is now uncertain at best. In addition, the existence of these articles will undoubtedly tarnish my reputation, negatively impacting employment opportunities, for the foreseeable future. I have also incurred significant financial expense planning for the move to Vermont, which now appears to be for naught. Further, over the past year (b) (6) The stress and strain of these allegations, and subsequent leaks to the media, has only exacerbated these pre-existing stressors.

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 - (8) Character Statement from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
 - (9) Character Statement from (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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Command master chief resigns from Coast Guard Academy

Published April 27, 2021 6:15PM | Updated April 27, 2021 6:18PM

By **Erica Moser** (/apps/pbcs.dll/personalia?ID=e.moser) Day staff writer

✉ e.moser@theday.com (mailto:e.moser@theday.com)  Erica_Faith13
(http://www.twitter.com/Erica_Faith13)

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ERICA MOSER

e.moser@theday.com (mailto:e.moser@theday.com)  (HTTP://WWW.TWITTER.COM/ERICA_FAITH13)



As a business reporter, I write about small businesses opening and closing, manufacturing, food and drink, labor issues and economic data. I particularly love writing about the impact of state and federal policy on local businesses. I also do some education reporting, covering colleges in southeastern Connecticut and regional K-12 issues.

What questions - or story ideas - do you have about workforce issues in New London County, small businesses, or business-related legislation and taxes?

0/200

Your contact info

I'll be in touch if I look into your question.

Name

Email address

Zip code

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Your Navy**Former Coast Guard Academy command master chief faces allegations of 'inappropriate conduct'**

Geoff Ziezulewicz

📅 4 days ago



Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst resigned his position as senior enlisted leader of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Tuesday. (Coast Guard)

The U.S. Coast Guard has launched an investigation into "alleged inappropriate conduct" by the former command master chief of the Coast Guard Academy, officials confirmed Wednesday.

Former Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst abruptly resigned as senior enlisted leader of the academy on Tuesday for reasons that remain unclear.

EXHIBIT (1)

Academy spokesman Cmdr. David Milne said Wednesday that while the school's superintendent accepted VerHulst's resignation Tuesday, "he was simultaneously temporarily removed from his position pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation."

Milne said he did not know when the Coast Guard Investigative Service's investigation began, and he declined to say what kind of alleged inappropriate conduct was being investigated.

"The Coast Guard cannot provide details at this time in order to preserve the integrity of the investigation and to protect the Coast Guard's ability to take appropriate final action," Milne said.



US Coast Guard Academy command master chief resigns

The reasons for former Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst's resignation remain unclear.

By: Geoff Ziezulewicz

VerHulst did not reply to messages and calls seeking comment.

VerHulst assumed the duties of command master chief at the academy in August 2017, according to his online bio, a job that involved advising the superintendent on issues pertaining to the academy's workforce.

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Before that, VerHulst served as CMC for the 17th Coast Guard District out of Juneau, Alaska, and served on several afloat assignments earlier in his career.

About [Geoff Ziezulewicz](#)

EXHIBIT (1)



Command Master Chief Resigns at Coast Guard Academy; Investigation Underway



Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst resigned his duties at the Coast Guard Academy on April 27, 2021 (U.S. Coast Guard)

28 Apr 2021

Military.com | By [Patricia Kime](#)

The [Coast Guard](#) Academy's senior enlisted leader, Command Master Chief Brett VerHulst, resigned his duties at the Coast Guard Academy on Tuesday and is being investigated over alleged inappropriate conduct.

EXHIBIT (1)

Blank

EXHIBIT (1)

(b) (6)



(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)




EXHIBIT (1.)

(b) (6)



EXHIBIT (1)

(b) (6)



EXHIBIT (J)

(b) (6)



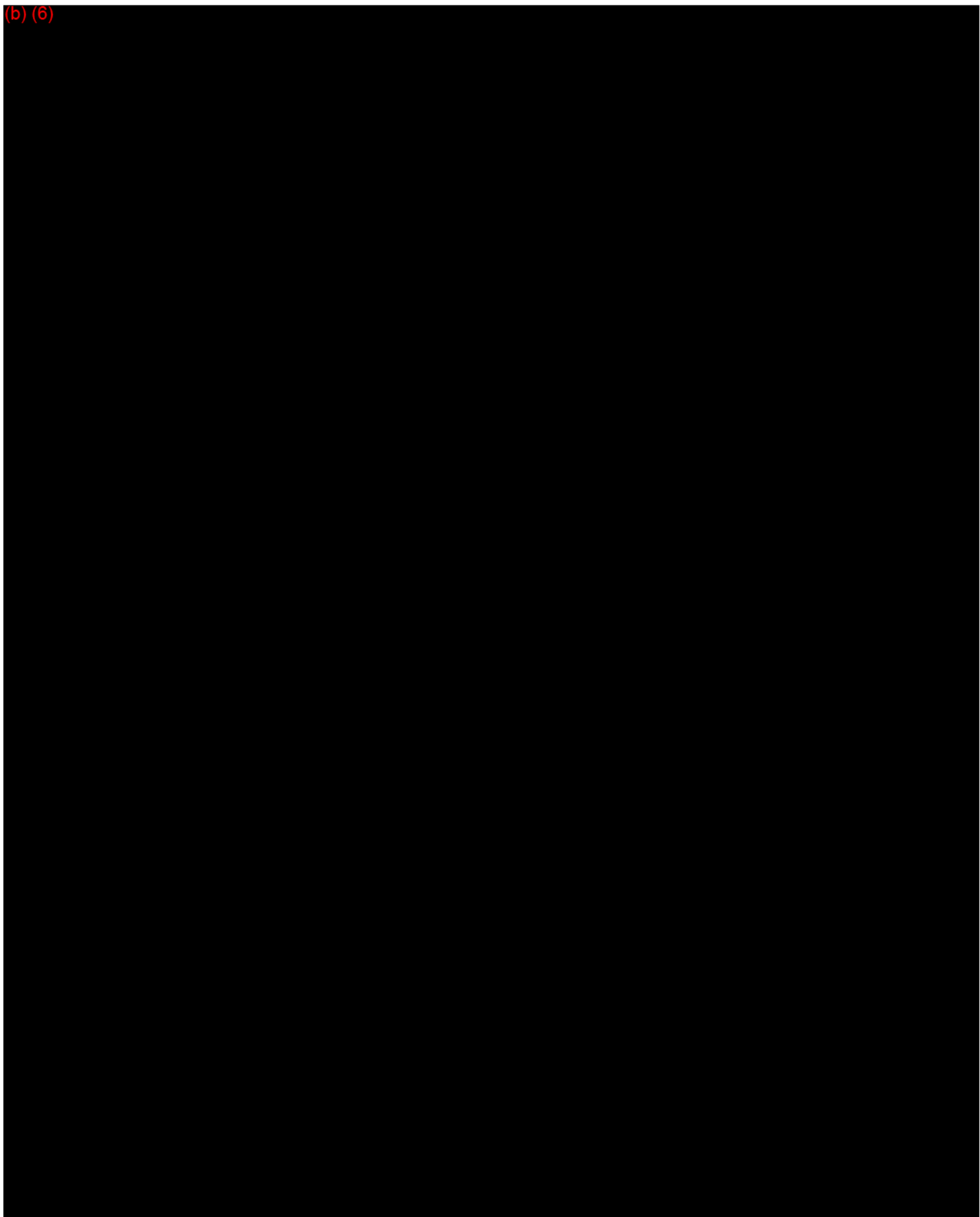
(b) (6)



Exhibit (1)

(b) (6)





BLANK

EXHIBIT (1)

(b) (6)



EXHIBIT (1)

(b) (6)



(b) (6)



Blank

EXHIBIT (1)

(b) (6)



EXHIBIT (A)

(b) (6)



EXHIBIT (1)

(b) (6)



EXHIBIT (1)

(b) (6)

EXHIBIT (I)

(b) (6)



EXHIBIT (1)

(b) (6)



(b) (6)



(b) (6)



EXHIBIT (2)



1616

JUN 09 2021

MEMORANDUM

From: (b) (6)
W. G. Kelly, RADM
CG ACADEMY (s)

To: CG PSC-EPM

Subj: REQUEST FOR PERMANENT RELIEF FOR CAUSE OF OSCM BRETT L.
VERHULST, COAST GUARD ACADEMY

Ref: (a) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8
(b) CGIS Investigation AR2104000656

1. In accordance with paragraph 1.F.1. of reference (a), I request that OSCM B. L. VerHulst be permanently relieved as the Command Master Chief for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (CGA) based on a loss of confidence due to unsatisfactory conduct.
2. My request is based on my thorough review of reference (b), which was initiated after CGA received a report that OSCM VerHulst initiated inappropriate physical contact with a female cadet. The specific reasons for permanent relief for cause (PRFC) are detailed in my notice of intent to seek PRFC to OSCM VerHulst, attached as enclosure (4). The facts informing my request for PRFC are well-documented in that same enclosure, without supplement.
3. I have lost confidence in OSCM VerHulst's ability to serve as CGA's Command Master Chief. It is my opinion that he failed to meet Coast Guard-wide expectations of professionalism regarding engagement with members of the opposite sex.
4. OSCM VerHulst submitted a statement in response to my notice of intent to seek permanent relief, and I have carefully considered its contents. As of the date of this correspondence, I am in the process of determining the appropriate disposition for this matter under both Coast Guard policy and the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).
5. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (CG-LMA) was the assigned counsel to OSCM VerHulst during both the temporary and permanent relief process.
6. As required by reference (a), all required temporary and permanent relief documents are enclosed. As the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) is the custodian of reference (b), the report of investigation is not included as an enclosure.
7. CAPT Richard Wester, CG ACADEMY (scs), is my point of contact for this matter.

Subj: REQUEST FOR PERMANENT RELIEF FOR CAUSE OF
OSCM BRETT L. VERHULST, COAST GUARD
ACADEMY

1616

JUN 09.2021

Enclosures: (1) My memo 1616 of 26 Apr 21, Temporary Relief for Cause
(2) OSCM B. L. VerHulst memo 1306 of 27 Apr 21, Resignation as Command
Master Chief
(3) OSCM B. L. VerHulst memo 1616 of 26 Apr 21, Acknowledgement of
Temporary Relief for Cause
(4) My memo 1616 of 26 May 21, Notice of Intent to Seek Permanent Relief for
Cause
(5) OSCM B. L. VerHulst memo 1616 of 1 Jun 21, Member's Statement

Copy: (1) CG ACADEMY (sia)
(2) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



5810

JUL 09 2021

MEMORANDUM

(b) (6)

From: W.G. Kelly
CG ACADEMY (s)

To: FILE

Subj: INITIAL DISPOSITION AUTHORITY ACTION IMO OSCM B. L. VERHULST,
USCG

Ref: (a) R.C.M. 306, Manual for Courts-Martial (2019 ed.)
(b) Article 120(g)(2), Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)
(c) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8
(d) CGIS Investigation AR2104000656

1. I have carefully reviewed references (a) through (d) in the matter of OSCM B. L. VerHulst, USCG.
2. Based on the recommendation of my Staff Judge Advocate (SJA), I am taking no military justice action – either by the initiation of a court-martial or the imposition of non-judicial punishment (NJP)¹ – in this matter.
3. Reference (d) describes a pattern of inappropriate physical contact with female cadets, female junior officers, and female enlisted members during OSCM VerHulst's assignment as the Coast Guard Academy (CGA) Command Master Chief (CMC). This physical contact included hugs, side hugs, touching faces, rubbing upper backs above the waistline, putting arms around women's shoulders, squeezing arms, and kissing foreheads and cheeks. Notably, the physical contact described in reference (d) occurred in non-intimate places on the body and is not considered "sexual contact" under reference (b). Additionally, the women interviewed in reference (d) did not believe that OSCM VerHulst intended anything sexual towards them during the physical contact. They were also consistent in their desire that OSCM VerHulst not get in trouble due to the shared belief that he was trying to create a "welcoming, family-type atmosphere" at CGA. Given these considerations, I do not intend to dispose of this misconduct at either court-martial or by imposing NJP.
4. The Coast Guard considers an RFC to be one of the most severe administrative measures that can be taken against a member in command because it can have significant adverse impacts on the member's future Coast Guard career, particularly on matters of promotion, advancement,

¹ Given that the member was offered and retained counsel as part of the administrative relief for cause process, it is my expectation that OSCM VerHulst will refuse NJP – as is his right – due to the fact that he is not assigned to or embarked in a vessel. While this was not my main consideration, it is certainly a factor in my determination of the appropriate disposition.

Subj: INITIAL DISPOSITION AUTHORITY ACTION IMO OSCM B. L.
VERHULST, USCG

5810

JUL 09 2021

duty and special assignments, and selection for schools. While most of these adverse impacts are mitigated in the present case due to his approved retirement, it is my opinion that the RFC process has been a significant, negative event for OSCM VerHulst, and I am taking that into account in my decision.

5. Finally, taking no action other than the RFC process detailed in reference (c) is consistent with the Coast Guard's handling of recent, similar misconduct.

6. This matter is closed and no further action is warranted.

#

Copy: CG ACADEMY (sjj)
CG LSC
CG PSC-EPM



1616
09 Jul 2021

MEMORANDUM

From: S. N. Gilreath
CG PSC

Reply to: (b) (6), (b) (7)
Attn of: (C)

To: W. G. Kelly
CG ACADEMY (s)

Subj: PERMANENT RELIEF FOR CAUSE

Ref: (a) CG Academy Memo 1616 dtd 09 Jun 2021
(b) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8
(c) Administrative Investigation Manual, COMDTINST M5830.1A
(d) Enlistments, Evaluations, and Advancements, COMDTINST M1000.2B
(e) CG Academy Memo 1616 dtd 09 Jul 2021

1. Per reference (a), your request to permanently relieve for cause OSCM VerHulst, USCG, 1044271, as Command Master Chief (CMC) of CG Academy, pursuant to the provisions of reference (b), is approved.

2. OSCM VerHulst's permanent relief for cause shall be documented on an Administrative Remarks (CG-3307) using the Performance and Discipline (P&D-7) entry. Please ensure that a RFC Employee Review is completed in Direct Access per reference (d), Chapter 4.C.2.C (9), specifically for the permanent relief for cause. Forward a signed copy of the Employee Review counseling report and the Administrative Remarks entry to CG PSC-EPM-2 within 60 days of this letter.

#

Copy: CG ACADEMY
PDR

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
U.S. COAST GUARD

ADMINISTRATIVE REMARKS

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552a(e)(3), this Privacy Act Statement serves to inform you of why DHS is requesting the information on this form.

AUTHORITY: 14 U.S.C. § 505

PURPOSE: To document a USCG service member's achievements, accomplishments, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) infraction(s), or any other USCG military pay or personnel activity.

ROUTINE USES: Authorized USCG officials will use this information to validate a USCG service member's achievements, accomplishments, UCMJ infraction(s) or any other USCG military pay or personnel activity. Any external disclosures of information within this record will be made in accordance with DHS/USCG-014, Military Pay and Personnel, 76 Federal Register 66933 (October 28, 2011).

CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION: Providing this information is voluntary. However, failure to provide this information may result in a delay in administrating this form.

Entry Type: Performance and Discipline (P&D-7)

Reference: None

Responsible Level: Unit

Entry:

(General - Negative)

20Jul2021: In reference to CG PSC (epm) memo 1616 of 09 July 2021, you are hereby notified that you have been permanently relieved for cause as Command Master Chief (CMC) of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. This action was in accordance with Article 1.F of the Military Assignments and Authorized Absences Manual, COMDTINST M1000.8 (series).

(b) (6)

W. G. Kelly, RADM, USCG
CG ACADEMY

(b) (6)

20Jul2021: I acknowledge the above entry.

B. VerHulst, OSCM, USCG

1. NAME OF PERMANENT UNIT

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

2. NAME OF UNIT PREPARING THIS FORM

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

3. NAME OF MEMBER (Last, First, MI)

VerHulst, Brett L.

4. EMPLOYEE ID NUMBER

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

5. GRADE/RATE

OSCM

File original in SPO PDR, Email copy to CG PSC-BOPS-C-MR

Member Counseling Receipt

Emplid:
Eff Date:
From:
Next Review
Date:

(b) (6)
04/26/2021

Verhulst, Brett Laverne
Review Type: RFC
To: 04/26/2021

Approving Official: (b) (6) Kelly, William G.

RADM

I am counseling this member on behalf of the Approving Official listed above. I have verified that this evaluation was properly routed through the rating chain and that this report correctly reflects the member's marks and administrative remarks, as appropriate.

Counselor Emplid: (b) (6) Counselor Name W. G. Kelly, RADM
Signature (b) (6)
Date 7/20/21

I acknowledge having been counseled on and have viewed my employee review for this period. I understand that this review will be available through Direct Access Self Service once it is processed by PSC ADV. I have been briefed on and fully understand the significance that the assigned marks have on my good conduct eligibility. I understand that I have 15 calendar days (45 calendar days for reservists) in which to submit an appeal. I have been briefed on and fully understand the action taken on my advancement potential.

Member: (b) (6) Verhulst, Brett Laverne

OSCM

Signature (b) (6) Date 20 July 2021

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

3:08 PM

To:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject:

CRSP Notification of FAM

Attachments:

20210721 - Final Action Memo (AHHI).pdf

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C),
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Good afternoon. Attached to this email please find a final action memo (FAM) for an investigation completed by CGIS that looked into a third-party report of potential misconduct by the CGA's prior CMC, OSCM Brett VerHulst.

In summary, a female 1/c cadet—now ENS—reported to two classmates and then her Company Chief that CMC had initiated unduly personal, physical contact (i.e. an unconsented to hug). CGIS investigated the allegations and the scope of the investigation was expanded to include other members of the CGA. Ultimately, CMC was permanently relieved from his position for cause due to the conduct.

Following the permanent relief for cause, the command analyzed the entirety of the CGIS ROI under AHHI policy and determined that certain conduct described in the ROI meets the definition of prohibited harassment, but not sexual harassment. The reasoning is set forth in the attached FAM. Since CMC has already been relieved, no further action is being taken by the command.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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5354

21 Jul 2021

MEMORANDUM

(b) (6)

From: R. J. Wester, CAPT
CG ACADEMY (scs)

To: W. G. Kelly, RADM
CG ACADEMY (s)

Subj: FINAL ACTION IMO OSCM B. L. VERHULST, USCG

Ref: (a) Coast Guard Civil Rights Manual, COMDTINST M5350.4
(b) Military Assignments and Authorized Absences, COMDTINST M1000.8
(c) CGIS Investigation AR2104000656
(d) CG ACADEMY (s) Memo 1616 dtd 09 Jun 2021
(e) CG ACADEMY (s) Memo 5810 dtd 09 Jul 2021
(f) CG PSC Memo 1610 dtd 09 Jul 2021
(g) Equal Opportunity Policy Statement
(h) Anti-Discrimination / Anti-Harassment Policy Statement

1. On 26 Apr 2021, you temporarily relieved OSCM B. L. VerHulst from his position as the Command Master Chief (CMC) of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (CGA) and assigned him to the Coast Guard Research and Development Center (RDC). This action was based on reports received by Cadet Division earlier that month that the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) investigated in reference (c). On 09 Jun 2021, you requested his permanent relief from the Coast Guard's Personnel Services Command – Enlisted Personnel Management (CG PSC EPM), and CG PSC approved that request. On 09 Jul 2021, you determined to take no military justice action – either by the initiation of a court-martial or the imposition of non-judicial punishment (NJP) – in this matter.

2. Pursuant to your direction, I have reviewed reference (c) for potential violations of the Coast Guard's Anti-Harassment and Hate Incident (AHHI) Policy – including sexual harassment and prohibited harassment – as defined in reference (a). Because CGIS initiated an investigation upon receipt of the allegations of OSCM VerHulst's overly personal physical interactions with female cadets, junior officers, and enlisted members, CGA did not convene a separate, independent administrative investigation into those same allegations, which is permissible under reference (a). Rather, CGIS provided CGA with the report of investigation (ROI), which I am evaluating pursuant to reference (a).

3. Paragraph 3.I.3. of reference (a) defines sexual harassment as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other conduct of a sexual nature, when: a. Submission to such conduct is made either implicitly or explicitly a term or condition of employment[;] b. Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as a basis for employment decisions[;] c. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work

performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. This definition also includes unwelcome display or communication of sexually offensive materials.”

4. Paragraph 3.D.2 of reference (a) defines prohibited harassment as “[u]nwelcome conduct that unreasonably interferes with work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment is prohibited by this policy, even if not based on a protected status.”

5. Reference (c) contains interviews of female cadets, junior officers, and enlisted members and reveals that OSCM VerHulst engaged in a pattern of overly personal physical interactions with those individuals. Notably, none of the women interviewed believed that he intended anything sexual towards them during these interactions, and they agree that OSCM VerHulst was trying to create a welcoming, family-type atmosphere at CGA.

6. After reviewing reference (c) and applicable Coast Guard policy, I find that the allegations of sexual harassment are **unsubstantiated**. Specifically, reference (a) describes sexual harassment as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other conduct of a sexual nature,” and none of the women in reference (c) regarded OSCM VerHulst’s interactions with them as sexual in nature. As such, I find that these individuals were not sexually harassed by OSCM VerHulst.

7. In contrast, I find that certain circumstances described in reference (c) meet the Coast Guard’s definition of prohibited harassment and are therefore **substantiated** as such. Specifically, the complained of conduct unreasonably interfered with several of the female service members’ work performance.

8. Due to the fact that OSCM VerHulst has already been permanently relieved for cause in accordance with reference (b) and pursuant to reference (f), I am taking no additional administrative action in this case.

9. In accordance with reference (a), all Coast Guard personnel shall be treated with respect. References (g) and (h) reinforce the Coast Guard’s commitment to the core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. I am personally committed to maintaining a work environment that does not compromise those core values or any other Coast Guard policy.

#

Copy: (1) COMDT (CG-00H-2-DET-1/ZONE 2)
(2) CG ACADEMY (sja)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Kelly, William G RADM
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 5:17 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Para. 3.E.8.e.3 Notification of FAM
Attachments: 20210721 - Final Action Memo (AHHI).pdf

I acknowledge receipt of the attached FAM.
Thank you for the work on this.

v/r
RADM Bill Kelly
Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy
(w) 860-444-8285
(c) 703-340-7904
mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

Developing Leaders of Character for Service to our Nation



From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:20 PM
To: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>
Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Para. 3.E.8.e.3 Notification of FAM

Admiral,

Good afternoon, sir. Attached to this email please find a final action memo (FAM) for an investigation completed by CGIS. As you know, the investigation looked into CGA's former CMC's unduly personal, physical contact with multiple members assigned to the CGA.

Para. 3.E.8.e.3 of COMDTINST M5350.4(series) requires that a copy of the FAM and the underlying investigation be forwarded to you; however, since you have already reviewed the investigation I am not attaching same to this email.

Per your direction, CAPT Wester has analyzed the entirety of the CGIS ROI under AHHI policy and determined that certain conduct described in the ROI meets the definition of prohibited harassment, but not sexual harassment. The reasoning is set forth in the attached FAM. Since CMC has already been relieved, no further action is being taken by the command.

At this time, I respectfully request that you acknowledge receipt and indicate that you have considered the investigation and final action pursuant to para. 3.E.8.e.3 of COMDTINST M5350.4(series). Thank you, sir.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Assistant Staff Judge Advocate
U.S. Coast Guard Academy

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: [Wester, Richard J CAPT USCG CG ACADEMY \(USA\)](#)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); [Kelly, William G RADM USCG CG ACADEMY \(USA\)](#)
Subject: RE: Action (USCGA) Q&A#14554 "Command Master Chief Investigation" | CST (maj)
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 7:57:17 AM

Sir:

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and I anticipated that CST would also request the CGIS investigation, which CG-LGL is prepared to provide.

I'll make sure to coordinate with LGL on the response to this inquiry; I expect that this will be a coordinated effort.

v/r,

SJA

From: Wester, Richard J CAPT USCG CG ACADEMY (USA) <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>

Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 7:30 AM

To: Kelly, William G RADM USCG CG ACADEMY (USA) <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: Action (USCGA) Q&A#14554 "Command Master Chief Investigation" | CST (maj)

Admiral: below fysa. Of note, "staff is incredulous as to how this could not be sexual harassment and will want to compare the conduct against the Coast Guard's definition."

SJA: thoughts on how we comply with this being a CGIS investigation?

Thx

v/r,

rjw

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 8:28 PM

To: HQS-DG-LST-CG-1-USCGA-SP <HQS-DG-LST-CG-1-USCGA-SP@uscg.mil>

Cc: HQS-DG-Lst-CG-823-CA <HQS-DG-Lst-CG-823-CA@uscg.mil>

Subject: Action (USCGA) Q&A#14554 "Command Master Chief Investigation" | CST (maj)

Good Afternoon ,

(please use HTML)

Informal Inquiries (or Q&As) are questions primarily posed by Congressional Members or their staffs (but may also come from other sources). The established "Q&A-Process" enables the Coast Guard to respond in a timely manner to a wide range of pressing questions, ensuring information provided to the requestor is consistent w/Coast Guard policies/previous responses. The process enables Congress to obtain information (often on very specific issues) w/out having to convene Congressional Hearings or initiate Formal Inquires. It also ensures widespread Coast Guard-visibility on Congressional concerns, and enables the Service to maintain a historical database of previous Q&A-responses provided to Congress and other outside inquirers.

REQUESTOR: CST (maj)

TIMELINE: Response is due by **1200, 29 July 2021**

BACKGROUND: Upon making notifications regarding the permanent relief of primary duties of the CGA Command Master Chief, CST(maj) requested the investigation and associated documents related to the relief. They are particularly interested in knowing more about the underlying conduct. Based on the information they have previously received regarding this case

from unknown sources, staff is incredulous as to how this could not be sexual harassment and will want to compare the conduct against the Coast Guard's definition. The staff also wants to understand for how long this conduct took place and whether it was an ongoing problem.

ASSIGNMENT:

(USCGA) Q&A#14554: [\[Link\]](#)

- 1) Provide the investigation and associated documents related to this relief.
 - 2) Provide a follow-up brief to discuss the documents.
-

If there are any questions regarding this inquiry, please contact the External Coordination Division (CG-823) at [HQS-DG-LST-CG-823-CA@uscg.mil].

Thank you!

(b) (6),
(b) (7)(C)

Chief, External Coordination Division

COMDT CG-823

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: [Thomas, Paul F RADM](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#); [Nunan, Joanna M RADM](#)
Subject: RE: Bystander Intervention Training for S-Division personnel
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 7:26:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks Bill,

This is a tough one. Subtle signs that are clear in retrospect, but are really only apparent when you add up many little things.

From: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 5:18 AM
To: Thomas, Paul F RADM <Paul.F.Thomas@uscg.mil>; Nunan, Joanna M RADM <Joanna.M.Nunan@uscg.mil>
Subject: FW: Bystander Intervention Training for S-Division personnel

Paul, Jo

Good morning

FYI – as an by-product of the CMC issue we will be holding Bystander Intervention training today for our Front Office and S division staff. We all own a piece of this and I'm confident we'll have a productive session this morning.

Thanks

Bill

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

Developing Leaders of Character for Service to our Nation

USCGA_logo_mini



From: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>

Sent: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 11:58 PM

To: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
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(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Bystander Intervention Training for S-Division personnel

Admiral/Team: Reminder that our BIT training will be 1030-1200 today in Upper Lounge of Leamy.

Pls pass the work to your respective folks.

See you then,

Thx

rjw

From: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7) [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)
Subject: RE: CG-3307 - CMC RFC
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:10:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks (b) (6)

We will ensure alignment and I'll ask the SJA to join me when I present the PG7 to the member.

Thanks

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 10:39 AM

To: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>; Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: CG-3307 - CMC RFC

Admiral and CAPT,

Good morning. I spoke with legal counsel for PSC yesterday evening WRT documenting the RFC in the 3307 as required by CG PSC Memo 161 dtd 09 Jul 2021. The 3307 simply needs to inform the member of the RFC and does not need to include any additional details. As such, I have prepared the attached 3307 for your review and consideration based on a template provided by PSC. (Please note that the dates need to be adjusted and OSCM's EMPLID needs to be inputted.)

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns, sir.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Office: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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From: [Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: RE: CGA - CMC
Date: Thursday, May 27, 2021 10:24:37 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Good Evening Admiral,
Thank you for the update, I suspected he would be hurt. Hopefully he can reflect on both the good he achieved and perhaps areas of improvement and move on to his next life journey in a pragmatic way.
V/r
Jason

From: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>
Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 8:47 PM
To: Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG <Jason.M.Vanderhaden@uscg.mil>
Subject: RE: CGA - CMC

We chatted with him today.
He's taking it very hard, but he appears to be ok.
Surrounded by family.
Thanks again
v/r
RADM Bill Kelly
Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy
(w) 860-444-8285
(c) 703-340-7904
mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG <Jason.M.Vanderhaden@uscg.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>; Thomas, Paul F RADM <Paul.F.Thomas@uscg.mil>
Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Subject: RE: CGA - CMC

Good Morning Admiral,
I appreciate the heads up and no questions from me.
V/r
Jmv

From: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>

Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 3:38 AM

To: Thomas, Paul F RADM <Paul.F.Thomas@uscg.mil>, Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG
<Jason.M.Vanderhaden@uscg.mil>

Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>

Subject: CGA - CMC

Paul, MCPOCG

Good morning

I spoke with PSC yesterday and I plan to meet with CMC VerHulst today to inform him of my intention to refer a recommendation to PSC for PRFC.

Available to discuss if needed.

V/r

Bill

V/R

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7) (C); (b) (6), (b) (7) (C)
Subject: FW: CGA CMC Holding Statement
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:15:18 PM

Admiral: Per below, looks like that is the RTQ statement they want us to make if asked – looks similar to the statement you made to the SLT/Chiefs Mess. (b) (6) can correct me if I'm wrong, but sounded like military.com reporter stated that he'd call back in a couple days – so below would be our response.

Assuming that happens, we may get some folks accusing us as not being fully transparent – with the campus finding out these additional details via the media vice via us. But if we push this out to the campus, it would get leaked – certainly not RTQ as intended....

v/r,
Rick

From: (b) (6), (b) (7) (C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Hickey, Jon P RDML <Jon.P.Hickey@uscg.mil>; Thomas, Paul F RADM <Paul.F.Thomas@uscg.mil>; Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>; Fedor, Mark J RDML <Mark.J.Fedor@uscg.mil>; Barata, David C CAPT <David.C.Barata@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7) (C); (b) (6), (b) (7) (C); Moorlag, Matthew J CAPT <Matthew.J.Moorlag@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7) (C); Raymond, Joe W CAPT <Michael.W.Raymond@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7) (C); Rothrock, Gregory C CAPT <Gregory.C.Rothrock@uscg.mil>; Day, Michael H CAPT <Michael.H.Day@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7) (C); ; Platt, Michael E CAPT <Michael.E.Platt@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7) (C); Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7) (C); ; Lederer, Calvin M SES <Calvin.M.Lederer@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7) (C);
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7) (C)

Subject: CGA CMC Holding Statement

Good day Admirals,

The following is the CCG approved holding statement for RTQ only.

The Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) is conducting an investigation into alleged inappropriate conduct by Master Chief Brett VerHulst, assigned as the Command Master Chief (CMC) at the Coast Guard Academy.

The Coast Guard cannot provide details at this time in order to preserve the integrity of the investigation and to protect the Coast Guard's ability to take appropriate final action.

Pending the outcome of the investigation, CMC VerHulst has been temporarily

removed from his position.

For the committee:

The Coast Guard will notify the Committee upon completion of the Convening Authority's final action on the case.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

ATL Program Reviewer

Office of Budget & Programs (CG-821)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
To: [Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG](#); [Thomas, Paul F RADM](#); [Gilreath, Shannon N RDML](#)
Cc: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: CGA CMC Resignation / TRFC
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 5:14:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
Importance: High

Good morning

At 0830 this morning CMC VerHulst will submit his resignation to me due to an ongoing investigation at CGA. I will also present him a TRFC memo at the same time.

PSC-epm advised us to submit the TRFC even though the mbr plans to resign, I concur fully with that advice.

We will backfill internally as we await the outcome of the investigation and the arrival of MCPO

(b) (6), this June.

I will send a brief note to our community and will ask (b) (6), to send the same note to our BOT.

Standing by for any questions or concerns.

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM USCG CG ACADEMY \(USA\)](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: CMC
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Admiral: SJA will pass the case on to CGIS for their consideration, and we don't want to tip off CMC that something is afoot until either they don't take the case or until they interview him.

SJA: concur?

V r
Rjw

From: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>
Date: Monday, Apr 12, 2021, 8:25 PM
To: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>, (b) (6), (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: CMC

Folks

Appreciate the opportunity to chat tomorrow on next steps.
CMC is scheduled to speak at Dining In – any concerns with him carrying out those duties?

Thanks

v/r
RADM Bill Kelly
Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy
(w) 860-444-8285
(c) 703-340-7904
mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)
To: Kelly, William G RADM
Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Carter, Jonathan A CAPT; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: CMC PRFC Authorization OSCM B. VerHulst, CGA
Date: Friday, July 9, 2021 3:48:16 PM
Attachments: [CMC Authorization \(003\).pdf](#)

RADM Kelly,

Attached is the signed CMC PRFC authorization for OSCM B. VerHulst. Respectfully request the appropriate departments ensure compliance with paragraph 2 of the attached. EPM-3 should be contacted to assist with the RFC Employee Review. If there are any questions feel free to contact us here at EPM. Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CG PSC-EPM-2

W: (b) (6), (b) (7)

C: (b) (6), (b) (7)

From: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
To: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: CMC
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 8:47:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Folks

Just thinking about this all weekend. We probably need to think through the following ... at a minimum:

- How we communicate to CMC
- How we communicate to the Chief's Mess
- Comms with SLT
- Comms with community/cadets
- Engage with EPM on potential to temporary relief of primary duties.

Do we need to communicate at this point? Victim is not going to provide a statement?

Is there something there, do we need to take action before we get the investigation from CGIS?

How do we ensure victim is safe?

Just a couple of thoughts – I'm sure you guys have thought through a bunch more...

Let's find a moment to discuss on Monday.

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: DPR call
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 5:21:21 PM

Admiral: Greetings. I'm in the office and just took a call from DPR – he asked if you were in, and I stated you were away from the office but I could put him in touch with you. He said nothing urgent, just that he was calling to let you know he has the packages for the 2 provost candidates and will look them over tonight. He was wondering if there was any rush – I mentioned that we aren't sure where else they are applying for positions, but they could potentially be sitting on other offers, so we want to minimize any delay...

I also gave him a brief update on CMC, and that we will most likely both receive his resignation and also present him with the TRFC tomorrow AM.

(b) (6) 3)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

v/r,

Rick

CAPT Rick Wester

Assistant Superintendent

U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(860) 444-8286

From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7) ; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: draft statement
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:55:19 PM
Importance: High

Admiral: Congressional staffs are getting incorrect word that we are covering up a sexual assault. At the urging of CG-092 (CAPT Moorlag), we drafted the following for your consideration – CG-092 will then forward to CAPT Raymond. CCG may be slated to testify on something else tomorrow....

“This is an ongoing investigation, but at this time, the investigated behavior does not appear to be criminal, including sexual assault. He has been temporarily reassigned to the Coast Guard Research and Development Center. Once the investigation is complete and appropriate actions are taken, we’d be happy to brief interested staffs.”

V/r,

CAPT Rick Wester

Assistant Superintendent

U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(860) 444-8286

From: [Defense News Early Bird Brief](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] EBB: Biden says US withdrawal from Afghanistan shows 'American leadership'
Date: Thursday, April 29, 2021 6:37:00 AM



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Early Bird Brief - Defense News

Apr 29, 2021

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Good morning and welcome to the Early Bird Brief. Please email news tips and suggestions to earlybird@militarytimes.com.

Today's Top 5

1. Biden says US withdrawal from Afghanistan shows 'American leadership'

(Military Times) Removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan won't endanger national security but will demonstrate "American leadership" by halting the cycle of endless armed conflict, President Joe Biden argued in his address to Congress on Wednesday night.

2. Spike in Russian aircraft intercepts straining Air Force crews in Alaska, three-star says

(Air Force Times) Intercepting record numbers of Russian aircraft off of North America's west coast has stretched Air Force units thin, a top service official in Alaska said Wednesday.

3. Sweeping health and benefits changes could come soon for vets suffering toxic exposure ills

(Military Times) Lawmakers on Wednesday launched their latest effort to piece together comprehensive legislation on veterans' toxic exposure illnesses with the goal of providing a clear path forward by the start of the summer.

4. Former Coast Guard Academy command master chief faces allegations of 'inappropriate conduct'

(Navy Times) The U.S. Coast Guard has launched an investigation into "alleged inappropriate conduct" by the former command master chief of the Coast Guard Academy, officials confirmed Wednesday.

5. Navy at 'unacceptable risk' from missiles, Pentagon tester warns

(Bloomberg) The U.S. Navy "currently does not have a well-defined strategy or funding" for testing to determine whether radar and self-defense systems on board many of its vessels can stop anti-ship cruise missiles, according to the Pentagon's acting director of combat testing.

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Legion Pod®: Versatile, Transportable, and Affordable

(Lockheed Martin) Legion Pod is a long-range, multi-function infrared sensor system supporting collaborative detection and targeting operations in radar-denied situations. It has growth capacity to connect the battlefield and support Multi-Domain Operations.

Job Board

Transitioning out of the military and looking for a job?

(Military Times) We have listings from companies looking for vets.

Overseas Operations

Submarine USS Jefferson City deploys as Indo-Pacific tensions rise

(UPI) The fast-attack submarine USS Jefferson City departed Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, to the Indo-Pacific area, the U.S. Navy announced.

US contractor sentenced for stealing truck from American base in Afghanistan

(The Associated Press) An American military contractor has been sentenced to prison for her role in a theft ring on a military installation in Afghanistan, according to federal prosecutors.

Advertisement

National Security

Milley: Afghanistan's future after U.S. withdrawal difficult to predict

(Air Force Magazine) The military's top uniformed officer said April 28 it's difficult to predict what will play out in Afghanistan as Afghan forces prepare to take sole responsibility for the country's security following the U.S. withdrawal.

Biden flexes US muscles to Putin: 'He understands we will respond'

(Washington Examiner) President Joe Biden told a joint session of Congress on Wednesday that he will be tough on Russian President Vladimir Putin and prevent Moscow from threatening national security by responding to aggressive acts with proportionate moves — and cooperating when possible.

Biden ditches Trump's 'fire and fury' for 'stern deterrence' of Iran and North Korea

(Washington Examiner) President Joe Biden promised to confront Iran and North Korea with “stern deterrence” in support of diplomatic efforts to manage the rogue states' nuclear programs, using a major address to make a clear break with former President Donald Trump's more hawkish rhetoric.

Top Biden officials plan Mideast trip over Iran, F-35 concerns

(Bloomberg) The Biden administration is sending a team of senior officials to the Middle East this week as the president seeks to ease allies' concerns over Iranian nuclear talks and address issues involving the United Arab Emirates' planned purchase of the F-35 joint strike fighter.

U.S. and Israel have a policy of 'no surprises,' says Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan

(NBC News) When asked about alleged Israeli sabotage of Iran's nuclear program, NSA Jake Sullivan referred to "certain kinds of activities that are unhelpful."

Pentagon

The unexpected Pentagon chief

(Politico) A media-shy Lloyd Austin works behind the scenes to carry out the president's plans.

A civilian cybersecurity reserve corps is needed for the Pentagon and DHS, lawmakers from both parties say

(Air Force Times) A bipartisan group of lawmakers is pushing to create a civilian reserve corps of cybersecurity experts to help defend national security interests, amid concerns about growing digital threats to public and private networks and infrastructure.

Congress & Politics

Sea power backers propose \$25 billion to fix US shipyards

(Defense News) As the U.S. Navy grapples with outdated maintenance facilities and a fleet stretched by maintenance backlogs, a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers are proposing a \$25 billion cash infusion for public and private shipyards timed for Congress' debate on a massive infrastructure package.

Advertisement



The F-35 program is mature, having delivered over 620 F-35s and the global F-35 fleet has surpassed more than 365,000 flight hours.

Hawley bill would spotlight Chinese electronics in defense systems

(Defense News) Defense contractors would be required to tell the Pentagon if China, Russia, Iran and North Korea made any of the printed circuit boards in systems they were supplying, under legislation Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., introduced on Wednesday.

President invokes Beau Biden's war service to sell Afghanistan withdrawal to reluctant GOP

(Washington Examiner) Just days before the 10th anniversary of U.S. special operations forces killing al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, President Joe Biden told a joint session of Congress it is time to leave Afghanistan.

Biden nominee for Pentagon weapons buyer under investigation

(Defense One) Inspector General complaint alleges DIU Director Michael Brown's agency used federal hiring tools to hire friends, but office says it's competing for talent.

Pelosi: Milley 'doesn't know the full picture' of Jan. 6 Capitol attack

(Defense One) House speaker says Trump administration delayed military assistance to lawmakers.

Army

Army reservist found dead in Kuwait 'had passion for life and his mission overseas'

(Army Times) The Defense Department on Wednesday released the name of an Army Reserve soldier

who died Monday in Kuwait while supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Army platoon leader creates app to help grunts earn the expert infantryman badge

(Military.com) An Army infantry officer out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, has designed a smartphone training app that nearly doubled his battalion's success rate at earning the coveted Expert Infantryman Badge, or EIB, last year.

Court orders Army to review thousands of 'bad paper' discharges

(Stars & Stripes) A federal court approved a lawsuit settlement this week requiring the U.S. Army to review and potentially upgrade thousands of other-than-honorable discharges dating back 10 years.

Navy

Navy SEALs to shift from counterterrorism to global threats

(The Associated Press) Ten years after they found and killed Osama bin Laden, U.S. Navy SEALs are undergoing a major transition to improve leadership and expand their commando capabilities to better battle threats from global powers like China and Russia.

EMALS, AAG hit 8,000 aircraft recoveries, launches on Ford

(Seapower) The Advanced Arresting Gear (AAG) and Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) achieved 8,000 aircraft recoveries and launches aboard USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) on April 19, during the final independent steaming event of her 18-month Post Delivery Test & Trials (PDT&T) period, the Naval Air Systems Command said in an April 26 release.

Carlos Del Toro leads Biden's Navy secretary list

(Breaking Defense) Carlos Del Toro, a Naval Academy graduate and CEO of a tech consultancy, is the Biden administration's likely nominee for Navy Secretary.

Navy to transfer 13 satellites to Space Force

(Military.com) The Navy plans to transfer operations of its 13 satellites to U.S. Space Force but will retain the portions of its research labs that focus on space, Chief of Naval Operations Michael Gilday said Tuesday.

CNO: Hypersonic weapons at sea to premiere on Zumwalt destroyers in 2025

(USNI News) The Navy is set to debut its first at-sea hypersonic missiles aboard one of the service's three Zumwalt-class destroyers in four years, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday said on Tuesday.

Marine Corps

Tragic drowning of San Diego Marine leads to lawsuit for benefits

(Marine Corps Times) The tragic 2019 drowning death of Marine Master Sgt. Jeff Briar off the San Diego coast has sparked a legal battle.

First female west coast Marines graduate at Camp Pendleton – in pictures

(The Guardian) After Congress ordered the US Marine Corps to fully integrate women into its west coast training battalions, the first 53 female recruits have become Marines

Marines' F-35Bs arrive in Britain for HMS Queen Elizabeth deployment

(UPI) The "Wake Island Avengers" squadron of U.S. Marines F-35B fighter planes arrived in Britain on Wednesday to deploy with a British carrier strike force.

The Marine Corps is known as a force of young warriors. That's about to change

(Military.com) The Marine Corps' junior enlisted ranks make up nearly half of the force, with most leaving the service after just one four-year term. Now, leaders say, they need to change the service's personnel models to build up more senior ranks as Marines face new threats.

Air Force

CV-22 Osprey destroys English hospital's helipad during Air Force training

(Air Force Times) An English hospital's helipad has temporarily closed after being badly damaged by a departing U.S. Air Force CV-22 Osprey.

Astronaut Michael Collins, Apollo 11 pilot, dies at 90

(The Associated Press) Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins, who piloted the ship from which Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin left to make their historic first steps on the moon in 1969, died Wednesday of cancer, his family said. He was 90.

Arizona governor calls for US action on water contamination near military bases

(The Associated Press) Gov. Doug Ducey is calling on the federal government to identify and treat groundwater contamination near four current and former military air bases in metro Phoenix and Tucson.

Lt Gen Slife to Senate: AFSOC at an 'inflection point' requiring transformation in personnel, acquisition

(Air Force Magazine) Air Force Special Operations Command has gone through two major changes throughout its history brought on by real-world incidents, and the command's boss told lawmakers on April 28 that it is now undergoing its third.

Brand-new F-15EX to participate in Northern Edge Exercise, JADC2 experiments

(Air Force Magazine) Both of the Air Force's new F-15EX Eagle II fighters will fly in the Northern Edge exercise in Alaska next week to participate in broader joint all-domain command and control experiments, 11th Air Force Commander Lt. Gen. David A. Krumm said April 28. The jets will also employ their new electronic warfare suites in the wargame.

F-15E Strike Eagle smart-bomb transports are hauling munitions around the Middle East

(The Drive) For the first time, the Air Force's F-15Es have worked as weapons transports, delivering guided bombs to forward operating locations.

The Air Force is testing ways to use the MQ-9 drone in island-hopping missions

(Military.com) The U.S. Air Force's principal hunter-killer drone, used for counterterrorism operations for more than a decade, is expanding its sea legs.

This Air Force PJ heroically treated 7 teammates wounded by a massive explosion in Afghanistan

(Task & Purpose) Staff Sgt. Michael Rogers was watching a soldier through his night vision goggles when all of a sudden the world blew up.

Coast Guard

US Coast Guard decommissions storied cutter in Alaska

(The Associated Press) The U.S. Coast Guard has decommissioned a ship whose home port was in Alaska after almost 50 years in service.

Veterans

Air Force veteran pleads guilty in scams to fleece other veterans

(Military Times) An Air Force veteran in Portsmouth, Va., has pleaded guilty in federal court to charges of wire fraud and aggravated identity theft in connection with various schemes to scam veterans, according to Department of Justice officials.

VA secretary wants more vets sickened by burn pits to file claims, but many are still being turned away

(Military.com) Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough wants more veterans who believe they were sickened by exposure to burn pits overseas to seek help from the department, despite many being turned away.

Podcasts & Events

The Spouse Angle Podcast — Up this week: An Army Spouse's Journey from Homelessness and Incarceration to Running a Nonprofit

(Military Times) Army spouse Marla Bautista shares her personal story of abuse, incarceration and homelessness as a young adult and how those experiences inspired her family's nonprofit helping the homeless community wherever the military takes them.

Defense Industry

Point Blank throws hat in ring to design US Army's Bradley replacement

(Defense News) Point Blank Enterprises is the most recent nontraditional business to come out of the woodwork as a competitor for the U.S. Army's concept vehicle design phase to replace the Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicle.

South Korea chooses locally built marine helicopter over foreign offers

(Defense News) South Korea's defense procurement agency has announced a plan to introduce locally built marine attack helicopters designed for amphibious assault and close-air support.

Boeing CEO points to defense and space biz as financial stabilizer

(Defense News) Boeing reported a wider-than-expected first-quarter loss on Wednesday, although revenue met Wall Street forecasts as the company generated cash by delivering more new airliners than it did a year ago.

Former NGA director joins satellite imagery company

(C4ISRNET) The former leader of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency has joined Planet Federal, a commercial satellite imagery provider that works closely with the intelligence community.

Cyber, Unmanned and Space

Launch of experimental military navigation satellite pushed back to 2023

(C4ISRNET) A rideshare delay has pushed back the launch of the U.S. military's new experimental navigation satellite to 2023, but the Air Force Research Laboratory says it can use the extra time to reduce risks and conduct more ground testing.

Latest court ruling leaves future of the Pentagon's JEDI cloud unclear

(C4ISRNET) A federal judge on Wednesday declined the Pentagon's request to toss out Amazon Web Services' political interference allegations against former President Donald Trump in its controversial enterprise cloud contract, leaving the future of the program uncertain.

International

See France test-fire an M51 strategic missile into the Atlantic

(Defense News) The French DGA military procurement agency successfully test-fired the M51.2 strategic ballistic missile on Wednesday morning from its Biscarosse test site on France's Atlantic coast.

Australia to upgrade military bases, expand war games with US

(Al Jazeera) Australia will spend \$580m to build new training facilities and upgrade military bases in its north to accommodate larger aircraft.

Blinken warns Turkey, US allies against purchasing Russian weapons

(The Hill) Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday warned Turkey and other U.S. allies against buying weapons systems from Russia, saying such purchases could be subject to sanctions and strain ties with Washington.

Commentary & Analysis

What focus areas are key to America's future space capabilities?

(Defense News) It has been an active start to 2021 for the Department of Defense's space activities as the Pentagon seeks to build agility, capability and resilience in this increasingly important domain.

Increased concentration on space is welcome.

In search of leadership at the National Personnel Records Center

(Military Times) Last March, like many other government office buildings, the National Personnel Records Center closed in response to the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Book excerpt: 'Master Negotiator: The Role of James A. Baker, III at the End of the Cold War'

(Military Times) A comprehensive examination of U.S. diplomacy at the end of the Cold War through the lens of Secretary of State James A. Baker III.

The right way to fight a maritime war against China

(19FortyFive) More firepower furnishes no ironclad guarantee of victory. In fact, there are no such guarantees. But it does bias the odds toward the better-armed gunslinger.

Cyber security begins abroad

(War On The Rocks) The Russian Foreign Intelligence Service's compromise of U.S. company SolarWinds and a variety of other information technology infrastructures has been described as "the greatest cyber intrusion, perhaps, in the history of the world."

Give the U.S. Navy the Army's money

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Washington is avoiding the tough questions on Taiwan and China

(Foreign Affairs) The case for reconsidering U.S. commitments in East Asia.

The U.S. can't betray its best friends in Afghanistan

(Bloomberg) Afghans who supported the U.S. military now find themselves at risk. America shouldn't leave them behind.

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901 N Glebe Road, 5th Floor, Arlington, VA 22203

From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: FW: Request for Permanent Relief For Cause
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 9:43:52 PM

Admiral: FYSA

v/r,

Rick

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 1:40 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; Carter, Jonathan A CAPT

<Jonathan.A.Carter@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6),

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Request for Permanent Relief For Cause

CDR,

Received and will go in to processing. Please allow 15 business days for a response.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

PSC epm-2 Enlisted Assignments

Central Assignment Coordinator (CAC I) BM, ME & GM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 1:26 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; Carter, Jonathan A CAPT

<Jonathan.A.Carter@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6),

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (7)(C)

Subject: Request for Permanent Relief For Cause

(b) (6),

Good afternoon. Please find RADM Kelly's request to PSC-EPM to permanently relieve OSCM Brett VerHulst as the Command Master Chief (CMC) for the Coast Guard Academy (CGA) attached to this email. I have also attached the enclosures referenced in the request memo as well as copied (b) (6),

(b) (6), OSCM VerHulst's defense counsel.

Thank you.

v/r,

(b) (6), (b) (7)

Staff Judge Advocate

United States Coast Guard Academy

15 Mohegan Ave

New London, CT 06320

Desk Phone: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Cell Phone: (b) (6), (b) (7)

From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: FW: Statement re: PRFC
Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 3:03:40 PM
Attachments: [SKonica_Ora21060113060.pdf](#)

Admiral: MCPO VerHulst's response is attached. Just over one page – reiterates his prior response and requests reconsideration.

v/r,
Rick

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Subject: FW: Statement re: PRFC

FYI

From: VerHulst, Brett L CMC <Brett.L.VerHulst@uscg.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 2:25 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Statement re: PRFC

CDR, good afternoon. Per my meeting with the SUPT/ASUPT last week I am sending my statement and supporting documentation to you, with the request that it be forwarded to appropriate entities at CG-PSC-EPM.

I apologize in advance for any errors – I was have trouble logging into DA and the CG Portal to derive more accurate guidance. I wanted to get this to you ahead of Thursday's deadline to hopefully expedite things and allow my family and I to fully start the next chapter of our lives as soon as is practicable.

Thank you, and thanks again to you, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) – you have been so helpful during this process.

I will be heading back to Boston in the morning unless anyone tells me otherwise; either way I'll have my cell phone (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) if there are any questions or concerns.

v/r,

From: [Google Alerts](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Google Alert - Coast guard academy
Date: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 12:02:46 PM



Coast guard academy

Daily update · June 15, 2021

NEWS

[Investigation into former **Coast Guard Academy** command master chief ongoing](#)

theday.com

The Coast Guard Investigative Service has denied a Freedom of Information Act request from The Day seeking documents pertaining to the ...



Flag as irrelevant

[USCGC Eagle arrives in Iceland, hosts US-Iceland meeting](#)

DVIDS

Eagle is currently conducting summer **U.S. Coast Guard Academy** cadet training in at-sea leadership and professional development. Their first port call ...



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SEAPOWER Magazine Online

These dive operations honor the **Coast Guard's** heritage and provide valuable training opportunities to enhance mission readiness. **The Coast Guard** ...



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From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Rasicot, Gary; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Fears, Douglas
Subject: FW: Important Message from the Superintendent
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:05:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Distinguished Members of the CGA Board of Trustees,
Forwarding the below on behalf of the Superintendent.

v/r

(b) (6)

CGA Community:

Good afternoon. For your awareness, Master Chief Brett VerHulst has resigned his duties as the CGA CMC this morning, effective immediately. CSCM (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) will be the Interim CMC until the arrival of Master Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) this summer. He is copied on this email, and he can be reached 24/7 at the following number: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).

Appreciate your continued support of each other and our mission.

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Important Message from the Superintendent
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Master Chief: rgr – many thanks – I will pass that along.
v/r,
Rjw

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 4:39 PM
To: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Subject: RE: Important Message from the Superintendent

Captain,
If (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) needs any assistance, I'm happy to help him during his interim.
(b) (6)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Command Master Chief
Leadership Development Center
School Chief
Senior Enlisted Leadership Course
☎: (b) (6), (b) (7)
Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)

From: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 4:37 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Waters, Aaron E CAPT <Aaron.E.Waters@uscg.mil>
Subject: RE: Important Message from the Superintendent

Master Chief: rgr – thanks
v/r,
rjw

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: Waters, Aaron E CAPT <Aaron.E.Waters@uscg.mil>
Subject: RE: Important Message from the Superintendent

Good Afternoon Captain Wester,

The SUPT's message to the Chief's mess was exactly the same. He did not mention the TRFC aspect, only the resignation piece which was suitable for that audience.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Command Master Chief
Leadership Development Center
School Chief
Senior Enlisted Leadership Course

☎: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(C)

From: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:34 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Waters, Aaron E CAPT <Aaron.E.Waters@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Important Message from the Superintendent

(b) (6) : CMC submitted his resignation at the same time the SUPT imposed the TRFC. EPM did not object to this course of action (i.e., CMC's submission of his resignation) so long as it was accompanied by the TRFC documentation in order to enable EPM to maintain awareness regarding the temporary relief of a gold badge. I believe what the Supt stated at SLT was that CMC had submitted his resignation and was involved in an ongoing investigation and that an email would be going out to the campus with more general info around noon. Neither the email nor the SLT notification mentioned the TRFC, but that package will be routed to EPM after CGA receipt of CMC's TRFC acknowledgement memo. CGA has also adopted an RTQ approach for this matter and will simply indicate that the Coast Guard does not comment on ongoing personnel matters, if asked.

(b) (6) (b) (6) : Supt intended to say the same thing to the chiefs mess as he did to the SLT – is the above what he passed at the mess?

Thx
v/r,
rjw

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 12:44 PM

To: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: Waters, Aaron E CAPT <Aaron.E.Waters@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: FW: Important Message from the Superintendent

Good afternoon Gentlemen:

Unfortunately, the LDC CO was not able attend this morning's SLT due to OCS panels. To ensure messaging is standardized and to dispel false narratives...

Our personnel heard that CMC's resignation coincided with a RFC. I understand that this information may have come from outside/higher up? There is no need for LDC to be any more engaged than necessary (mostly a consolidated mess issue) and we will endeavor to move forward from this unfortunate chapter post haste. To counter/shutdown false information and rumors, please let CO, me, or (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) know so that we can correct the record/rumors as appropriate.

Good luck and best wishes.

Very respectfully,
XO

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Executive Officer
U.S. Coast Guard Leadership Development Center
37 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320
Desk: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 12:16 PM
To: CGA-DG-CGAcademy <CGA-DG-CGAcademy@uscg.mil>
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Important Message from the Superintendent

FORWARDED on behalf of the Superintendent

CGA Community:

Good afternoon. For your awareness, Master Chief Brett VerHulst has resigned his duties as the CGA CMC this morning, effective immediately. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) will be the Interim CMC until the arrival of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) this summer. He is copied on this email, and he can be reached 24/7 at the following number: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Appreciate your continued support of each other and our mission.

v/r
RADM Bill Kelly
Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy
(w) 860-444-8285
(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM USCG CG ACADEMY \(USA\)](#)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Important Message regarding the CGA CMC

Admiral: Draft email is below....

v/r,
Rick

CGA Community:

Good afternoon. For your awareness, Master Chief Brett VerHulst has resigned his duties as the CGA CMC this morning, effective immediately. (b) (6), (b) (7) (C) will be the Interim CMC until the arrival of (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) later this summer. (C) He is copied on this email, and he can be reached 24/7 at the following number: (b) (6), (b) (7) (C)

Thank you.

v/r,

[Signature block]

From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: MCPO Verhulst
Date: Monday, July 19, 2021 5:30:24 PM
Attachments: [MCPOVerhulst EER draft.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Admiral: Draft marks are attached. I drafted them per EPM and the Enlistments, Evaluations and Advancements Manual guidance and I just ran the draft by EPM as well – they concurred. (b) (6)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Pending any changes or questions, I will print the final version for your signature and his. And will also send the EER to you via the system for electronic approval.

Verhulst is confirmed for tomorrow at 1430 – tropes (he does not have ODUs readily available). He will park in my parking spot.

v/r,

Rick

From: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
To: [Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG](#)
Cc: [\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)\(C\); Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
Subject: MCPO VerHulst
Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:17:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Master Chief

Hope all is well and safe travels to the west coast.

Rcvd word back from EPM earlier this week regarding the Permanent Relief for Cause for MCPO VerHulst.

Working with the SJA and EPM to finalize the marks and appropriate Page 7 and we will plan to invite him in, hopefully next week to finish this up and allow him to move forward with his plans.

Please let me or [\(b\) \(6\), \(b\) \(7\)](#) know if you have any questions or concerns.

(P.S. CMC is moved in on the Hill and we are thrilled to have her and her family with us!)

Take care

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
To: [Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG](#)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: MCPO VerHulst
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 3:29:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Just wrapped up our meeting.

He is doing much better and is in the process of wrapping up all of his retirement work and he's in the job search mode.

We chatted for a while after the business was done and I plan to support him as much as I can going fwd.

Thanks again

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

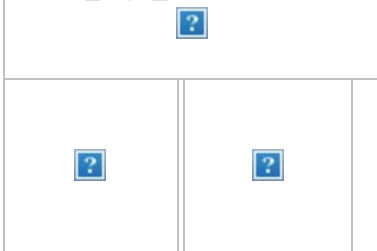
(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG <Jason.M.Vanderhaden@uscg.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 10:27 AM

To: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#) <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: MCPO VerHulst

Good Morning Admiral,

Thank you for the heads up and I appreciate you keeping me in the loop. I have no issues with the way ahead although I know CCG feels a little differently. I'll work to bring him around to the reasons why we have to go this route.

v/r

jmv

From: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>

Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 8:44 PM

To: Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG <Jason.M.Vanderhaden@uscg.mil>

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#) <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: MCPO VerHulst

Master Chief

Good evening

Wanted to let you know that MCPO VerHulst will be coming in Tuesday at 1430 to discuss the final disposition by EPM regarding his relief for cause.

I plan to address the situation with him, provide him his Pg7, and marks and officially close out this unfortunate situation.

He is scheduled to officially retire on 31 Aug.

We have taken steps internally to address the need for by-stander intervention at all levels of the command and we held by-stander intervention training with the entire Superintendent's Division in June.

I will be working with (b) (6), (b) (7) on the best way to engage with the Mess here on board CGA. Appreciate your support and counsel throughout.

Have a good evening.

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: Navy Times inquiry
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:38:59 AM
Importance: High

Admiral: FYSA, Navy Times/Military.com just reached out to (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for an update, so per below, he is responding with the below holding statement. I gave Master Chief a heads up. SJA is aware. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) is reaching out to CG-092.

v/r,
Rick

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Hickey, Jon P RDML <Jon.P.Hickey@uscg.mil>; Thomas, Paul F RADM <Paul.F.Thomas@uscg.mil>; Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>; Fedor, Mark J RDML <Mark.J.Fedor@uscg.mil>; Barata, David C CAPT <David.C.Barata@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Moorlag, Matthew J CAPT <Matthew.J.Moorlag@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Raymond, Joe W CAPT <Michael.W.Raymond@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Rothrock, Gregory C CAPT <Gregory.C.Rothrock@uscg.mil>; Day, Michael H CAPT <Michael.H.Day@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Platt, Michael E CAPT <Michael.E.Platt@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Vanderhaden, Jason M MCPOCG <Jason.M.Vanderhaden@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Lederer, Calvin M SES <Calvin.M.Lederer@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: CGA CMC Holding Statement

Good day Admirals,
The following is the CCG approved holding statement for RTQ only.

The Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) is conducting an investigation into alleged inappropriate conduct by Master Chief Brett VerHulst, assigned as the Command Master Chief (CMC) at the Coast Guard Academy.

The Coast Guard cannot provide details at this time in order to preserve the integrity of the investigation and to protect the Coast Guard's ability to take appropriate final action.

Pending the outcome of the investigation, CMC VerHulst has been temporarily removed from his position.

For the committee:

The Coast Guard will notify the Committee upon completion of the Convening Authority's final action on the case.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

ATL Program Reviewer

Office of Budget & Programs (CG-821)

Office: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: [Kelly, William G RADM USCG CG ACADEMY \(USA\)](#)
To: [Wester, Richard J CAPT USCG CG ACADEMY \(USA\)](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Note to CGA Crew
Date: Saturday, July 24, 2021 11:53:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Rick

As I think about this, the email below is good, I added a couple of personalized edits – please take a look.

Let's not send it out on the weekend, sensitive to the feedback we have received from members of our community about invading their personal time on the weekends with CG email.

I ask that on Monday AM we send out on .mil and .edu on behalf of the Superintendent.

Thanks

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

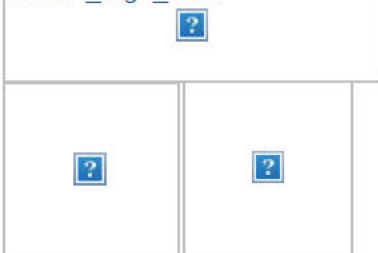
(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: Wester, Richard J CAPT USCG CG ACADEMY (USA) <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Kelly, William G RADM USCG CG ACADEMY (USA) <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>
Subject: Note to CGA Crew

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 8:56 AM
To: Wester, Richard J CAPT USCG CG ACADEMY (USA) <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Subject: RE: Note to CGA Crew

Sir:

Admiral: updated draft with edits:

Good morning CGA Community

I hope you had a good weekend. The Mystic Flag Ceremony for the Class of 2025 went exceptionally well and I appreciate the support of all involved. 1/3 of the Class is now underway in EAGLE as of this morning.

Late Friday and then in Saturday's hard copy of the New London Day there was an article regarding

MCPO Ver Hulst.

Here are the details I can share with you:

Recently, the Personnel Services Center informed me of their determination to permanently relieve Master Chief VerHulst of his duties as CMC. I informed Master Chief of the determination and CGA re-engaged with The Day and provided a “response to query” regarding the permanent relief. Their article is linked for your visibility. I recognize that many of you may continue to have questions about this matter. However, CGA must protect the privacy interests of everyone involved, and I thank you for your professionalism and understanding.

<https://www.theday.com/military-news/20210723/coast-guard-academy-master-chief-permanently-relieved-of-duties-investigation-finds-no-evidence-of-sexual-misconduct>

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [Nunan, Joanna M RADM USCG BASE NCR \(USA\)](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM USCG CG ACADEMY \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Notifications: CGA Command Master Chief Relief of Duties | CST(maj)
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 10:34:13 AM

Bill,

FYSA. More to follow for sure.

V/r,
Jo

From: Lake, Matthew W CAPT USCG COMDT (USA) <Matthew.W.Lake@uscg.mil>
Date: Friday, Jul 23, 2021, 10:27 AM
To: Nunan, Joanna M RADM USCG BASE NCR (USA) <Joanna.M.Nunan@uscg.mil>, Thomas, Paul F VADM USCG (USA) <Paul.F.Thomas@uscg.mil>
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Notifications: CGA Command Master Chief Relief of Duties | CST(maj)

Admirals,

FYI,

ML

From: Warren, Robert W CAPT USCG (USA) <Robert.W.Warren@uscg.mil>
Sent: Friday, July 23, 2021 7:03 AM
To: Raymond, Michael W. (Joe) RDML USCG COMDT (USA) <Michael.W.Raymond@uscg.mil>; Lederer, Calvin M SES USCG HQS (USA) <Calvin.M.Lederer@uscg.mil>; Platt, Michael E CAPT USCG BASE NCR (USA) <Michael.E.Platt@uscg.mil>; Little, Ralph R CAPT USCG CGC STRATTON (USA) <Ralph.R.Little@uscg.mil>
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Barata, David C CAPT USCG COMDT (USA) <David.C.Barata@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Notifications: CGA Command Master Chief Relief of Duties | CST(maj)

Sirs,

I wanted to circle back with you as I said I would following notifications. We were able to complete most of the notifications yesterday concerning the CGA CMC, and as we anticipated, we did get a strong/frustrated response from CST majority.

According to (b) (6), upon making notifications CST(maj) requested the investigation and associated documents related to the relief. She is particularly interested in knowing specifics about the underlying conduct. Based on the information they had previously received regarding this case from unknown sources, staff is incredulous as to how this behavior could not be classified as sexual harassment and will want to compare his conduct against the Coast Guard's definition. The staff also wants to understand for how long this conduct took place and whether it was an ongoing problem. She requested a follow-on in person brief once she has had a chance to review the materials.

Not inconsistent with what we anticipated, but from a risk perspective we open ourselves up here a bit... and the brief will be pretty critical as we try to lay out the CG's response posture here against what she perceives to be the actual behavior.

Happy Friday.

Very Respectfully,

Rob
CAPT Robert Warren
Chief, Congressional and Governmental Affairs
U.S. Coast Guard
(202) 245-0521

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)
To: Kelly, William G RADM
Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)
Subject: Para. 3.E.8.e.3 Notification of FAM
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:20:18 PM
Attachments: 20210721 - Final Action Memo (AHHI).pdf

Admiral,

Good afternoon, sir. Attached to this email please find a final action memo (FAM) for an investigation completed by CGIS. As you know, the investigation looked into CGA's former CMC's unduly personal, physical contact with multiple members assigned to the CGA.

Para. 3.E.8.e.3 of COMDTINST M5350.4(series) requires that a copy of the FAM and the underlying investigation be forwarded to you; however, since you have already reviewed the investigation I am not attaching same to this email.

Per your direction, CAPT Wester has analyzed the entirety of the CGIS ROI under AHHI policy and determined that certain conduct described in the ROI meets the definition of prohibited harassment, but not sexual harassment. The reasoning is set forth in the attached FAM. Since CMC has already been relieved, no further action is being taken by the command.

At this time, I respectfully request that you acknowledge receipt and indicate that you have considered the investigation and final action pursuant to para. 3.E.8.e.3 of COMDTINST M5350.4(series). Thank you, sir.

Very Respectfully,

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Assistant Staff Judge Advocate

U.S. Coast Guard Academy

Office: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)

(C) (b) (6)

NOTICE: This e-mail may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or Privacy Act sensitive. Any such information should be considered to be FOUO. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete this e-mail without forwarding or copying and notify me immediately.

From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: per text
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:22:51 PM

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CAPT Rick Wester

Assistant Superintendent

U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(860) 444-8286

From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Moorlag, Matthew J CAPT USCG \(USA\)](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Draft holding statement
Importance: High

(b) (6): I'd shift "his intent to permanently relieve CMC for cause" to "his intent to seek permanent relieve for cause for CMC VerHulst" – the Supt can't complete the relief by his own authority, he can only make a recommendation to PSC...

rjw

From: Moorlag, Matthew J CAPT <Matthew.J.Moorlag@uscg.mil>
Sent: Thursday, May 27, 2021 5:41 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Wester,
Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Subject: RE: Draft holding statement

Rgr. Thanks (b) (6)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Date: Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 7:43 PM
To: Moorlag, Matthew J CAPT <Matthew.J.Moorlag@uscg.mil>
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Wester, Richard
J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Subject: Draft holding statement

(b) (5)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

V/R

(b)

(6)

From: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#)
To: [Verhulst, Brett L MCPO USCG CG ACADEMY \(USA\)](#)
Subject: RE: Request Feedback/Approval
Attachments: [image002.gif](#)

Master Chief: rgr – on the not attending events – we will miss you at them. For retirement ceremony, roger concur. I'll let CDiv know that you won't be at drill or ring dance and will just cite personal matters if that sounds good.

How are you doing? If you want to chat anytime, let me know – schedule isn't too busy today.

v/r,
rjw

From: VerHulst, Brett L CMC <Brett.L.VerHulst@uscg.mil>
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>
Subject: Request Feedback/Approval

CAPT, good morning. Request your concurrence with the below– I was going to send this in an e-mail today to anyone who has RSVP'd for my ceremony:

“To all, good morning.

Unfortunately, due to personal matters I will not be having a retirement ceremony on the 14th of May. If something can be rescheduled, I will keep you posted.

To those who have RSVP'd I am truly sorry for the inconvenience, particularly for those who had planned to travel from out of state – I hope it's still early enough where tickets haven't been purchased or at least can be refunded or re-routed.

As I said before, your support has been so important to me over the years and that won't change, ceremony or not.

Thank you!”

I also have a meeting with my project officers today that was already on the calendar...I'll let them know at that meeting.

Finally, I respectfully request not to attend events/meetings until things are adjudicated – I think that was probably the plan anyway? As I said, next week is supposed to be my last full week in the office for all intents and purposes anyway.

Thanks sir.

v/r,

MC

CMC Brett VerHulst
USCG Academy
15 Mohegan Avenue
New London, CT 06320

Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Work: (b) (6), (b) (7)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
To: Kelly, William G RADM
Subject: RE: Request for info from The Day - CMC Case
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 4:07:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Sir:

(b) (5)

v/r,

SJA

From: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Raymond, Michael W RDML <Michael.W.Raymond@uscg.mil>; Nunan, Joanna M RADM <Joanna.M.Nunan@uscg.mil>
Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Request for info from The Day - CMC Case

Joe, Jo

Greetings

We rcvd an inquiry from The Day today regarding the CMC case.

The reporter had filed a FOIA rqst and rcvd the results today. In the FOIA rqst from CGIS it states something to the effect "criminal investigation is ongoing..." Reporter is asking around and trying to ascertain the facts and she is trying to roll out a story tomorrow (deadline 1700 this evening).

My staff is working with HQ and trying to ID the right person in 092 (looks like O6 is out on leave/TDY).

Status of the case:

CGIS investigation is closed, but not final.

CGA sent final determination ltr to PSC late last week.

PSC in receipt and working final determination on Permanent Relief for Cause (anticipate response over the next 30 days).

Final UCMJ action by me pends determination from PSC.

Our staff is reaching out to 092 with a proposed approach for engaging the reporter.

I'm available to discuss as needed.

Thanks

Bill

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [Raymond, Michael W RDML](#)
To: [Nunan, Joanna M RADM](#); [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Cc: [Wester, Richard J CAPT](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); [Warren, Robert W CAPT](#); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); [Bert, Melissa RADM](#); [Lederer, Calvin M SES](#); [Moorlag, Matthew J CAPT](#)
Subject: RE: Request for info from The Day - CMC Case
Date: Monday, June 14, 2021 2:51:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Bill,

Thank you for your e-mail and we are happy to work with you and your time on this response. Our team is in today and they should be talking with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) this afternoon. While not ideal to be responding to the Day right now, this might give us the opportunity to help clarify what this investigation is and is not about.

v/r,

Joe

RDML Joe Raymond

Acting Director, Governmental and Public Affairs

U.S. Coast Guard

(202) 372-4605

From: Nunan, Joanna M RADM <Joanna.M.Nunan@uscg.mil>

Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 2:34 PM

To: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>; Raymond, Michael W RDML <Michael.W.Raymond@uscg.mil>

Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C);
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Warren, Robert W CAPT <Robert.W.Warren@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C);
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); (b) (6), (b) (7)(C);
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); Bert, Melissa RADM <Melissa.Bert@uscg.mil>; Lederer, Calvin M SES <Calvin.M.Lederer@uscg.mil>

Subject: RE: Request for info from The Day - CMC Case

Importance: High

+CGA Pgm Mgr, CG-094/D, CG-0921, CG-0922, CG-8, CG-821 for awareness.

Hello, Bill,

I appreciate CG-092 working with you on the messaging. I don't think we should use the words 'criminal investigation' if we are not planning to press criminal charges.

V/r,

Jo

From: Kelly, William G RADM <William.G.Kelly@uscg.mil>

Date: Monday, Jun 14, 2021, 1:59 PM

To: Raymond, Michael W RDML <Michael.W.Raymond@uscg.mil>, Nunan, Joanna M RADM <Joanna.M.Nunan@uscg.mil>

Cc: Wester, Richard J CAPT <Richard.J.Wester@uscg.mil>; (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Request for info from The Day - CMC Case

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I'm available to discuss as needed.

Thanks

Bill

v/r

RADM Bill Kelly

Superintendent, U. S. Coast Guard Academy

(w) 860-444-8285

(c) 703-340-7904

mail: william.g.kelly@uscg.mil

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From: [William Kelly](#)
To: [Kelly, William G RADM](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Coast Guard Academy command master chief resigns
Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:16:43 PM

https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.navytimes.com_news_your-2Dnavy_2021_04_27_us-2Dcoast-2Dguard-2Dacademy-2Dcommand-2Dmaster-2Dchief-2Dresigns_&d=DwlFag&c=tnPw9yRHa20_HV5YVoVFig&r=3jd9DMTSnuaStfEJQqwuEaJSXPABeZESgvOqwKXAtVQ&m=J8fmQrUFVW7_IT3c9iHVtjKF2bzkdOYXbnagou-uQs&s=wIwGyBuUlmBTfcbp-VVYemg_gf6GEtag_7tq0DfGevA&e=

Sent from my iPhone