# UNCLASSIFIED/FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE Public Availability to be Determined Under 5 U.S.C. §552



# Coast Guard Investigative Service



# Case Management Report

Case Management ID: CS2104000617

**Case Information** 

CGIS Office: CGIS NEW LONDON

Date/Time Logged: 4/20/21 12:22

Case Type: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

CGIS Region: CGIS NORTHEAST REGION

Transferred From CGIS Office:

Case Assignment

Lead Investigator: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)(2)

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

Date/Time Assigned: 4/20/21 12:26

Case Status

Investigation Status: CLOSED

Clearance Type: EXCEPTION - PROSECUTION DECLINED

Status Date/Time: 7/28/21 12:05

Date/Time Cleared: 7/28/21 8:41AM

Prosecution Status: OTHER ADMIN ACTION

Synopsis:

On 04/12/2021, RAO New London participated in a SAPR CIT regarding a third party allegation that (S) CMC Brett Verhulst, Command Master Chief, USCGA, hugged (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) USCGA, in his Hamilton Hall office following a presentation to in the USCGA board room before the USCGA Superintendent. Based on information provided, (V) (b) (6), disclosed what happened to (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCGA, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCGA, and (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). USCGA. Between 04/16/2021 - 04/21/2021, investigative interviews were completed in this matter. On 04/21/2021, USCGA Legal was provided a brief on the investigative findings. On 07/27/2021, investigative interviews were completed in this matter. USCGA Legal returned a CGIS Report of Adjudication indicating that on 04/26/2021, (S) VerHulst was relieved from his position as the USCGA Command Master Chief. On 06/09/2021, RADM William Kelly, Superintendent, USCGA, New London, CT, requested his permanent relief from the CG PSC EPM, and CG PSC approved that request on 07/09/2021. No punitive action was taken. Case Closed.

| Attorneys                           |            |  |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--|
| Name                                | Date       |  |
| (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) INDIVIDUAL | 04/21/2021 |  |
| (b) (6), (b) (7) ATTORNEY           | 04/21/2021 |  |

| Case Related Names                              |               |                    |        |         |
|---|---------------|--------------------|--------|---------|
| Name  | Inv           | olvement           |        |         |
| VERHULST, BRETT LAVERNE                         | SUBJECT       |                    |        |         |
| Related Action Reports                          |               | Market 1           |        |         |
| Action #  | Reported Date | Action Type        | Status | Primary |
| AR2104000656 Comments Initial CGIS Notification | 04/12/2021    | INITIAL CRIME REPO | DRT    | 1       |

# UNCLASSIFIED/FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE Public Availability to be Determined Under 5 U.S.C. §552



Action Report #

AR2104000656

# **Coast Guard Investigative Service**

# **Action Report**

**Action Type** 



04/12/2021

APPROVED

| Action Report Details  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Location: 15 MOHEGAN AVE, NEW LONDON, CT 06320                               |                                      |
| Reported Date: 04/12/2021 11:00  | Hate Crime: Domestic Violence:       |
| Reporting Agent: (b) (6), (b)  | Approving Official: (b) (6), (b) (7) |
| Related CG Unit: CT CG ACADEMY   | Op Name:                             |
| Related CG Type:   | Related FIR: NO                      |
| Related CG District: DISTRICT 01   |                                      |
| Related CG Area: HEADQUARTERS  | CGIS Office: CGIS NEW LONDON         |
| Related MISLE #:   | CGIS Region: CGIS NORTHEAST REGION   |
| CGIS Self Initiated: NO  | nsider Threat Incident: NO           |
| OIG Referral #:  | OIG Misc #:                          |
| Synopsis:<br>Initial CGIS notification - Unwanted touch by (S) MCPO Verhulst |                                      |
| Offense Codes  |                                      |
| Offense Information  |                                      |
| Offense Code: <art128-a> ASSAULT (ON OR AFTER 1/1/2019)</art128-a>           |                                      |
| Primary Offense:   | Severity: UCMJ                       |
| Attempt: COMPLETED   |                                      |
| Date Information   |                                      |
| Reported On: 04/12/2021 12:43  | Date of Entry: 04/20/2021 16:44      |
| Occured From: 04/01/2021 12:43   | Occured To: 04/02/2021 12:43         |
| Time of Entry:   |                                      |
| Drug Offense   |                                      |
| Drug Related: NO   | Drug origin:                         |
|  | Orug Precursors:                     |
| Offense Information  | •                                    |
| Offense Code: <art93> CRUELTY OR MALTREATMENT</art93>                        |                                      |
| Primary Offense:   | Severity: UCMJ                       |
| Attempt: COMPLETED   | Jersey, Sons                         |
| THE SOURCE LED   |                                      |
|  |                                      |
| Date Information   |                                      |

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| Action Report #<br>AR2104000656                              | Action Type INITIAL CRIME REPORT       | Action Dat                   |                   | Approval Status  |
|--|--|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Reported On: 04/12   |  | 04/12/2021<br>Date of Entry: | 04/20/2021        | APPROVED<br>16:54  |
| Occured From: 04/01  |  | Occured To:                  | 04/02/2021        |  |
| Time of Entry:   |  |                              | 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 |  |
| Drug Offense   |  |                              |                   |  |
| Drug Related: NO   |  | Drug origin:                 |                   |  |
| Drug Type:   |  | rug Precursors:              |                   |  |
| Associated Names   |  | wag i loodiio.               |                   |  |
| Action Report/Nam  | e Information                          |                              |                   | A STATE OF THE STA |
| Involvement: 9   |  |                              |                   |  |
|  | /ERHULST, BRETT LAVERNE, INDIVIDUAL    | Juvenile At Ti               | me:               |  |
|  |  |                              | _                 |  |
| Related Offenses   | MALTOEATHEAT                           |                              |                   |  |
| <art93> CRUELTY OR<br/><art128-a> ASSAULT</art128-a></art93> | (ON OR AFTER 1/1/2019)                 |                              |                   |  |
| Action Report/Nam  | e Information                          |                              |                   |  |
| Involvement: \   | /ICTIM                                 |                              |                   |  |
| Linked Name:   | b) (6). (b) , INDIVIDUAL               | Juvenile At Ti               | me:               |  |
| Victim Information   |  |                              |                   |  |
| Victim Injury: N   | NONE                                   | Victim Injury 2:             |                   |  |
| Victim Injury 3:   |  | Victim Injury 4:             |                   |  |
| Victim Injury 5:   |  |                              |                   |  |
| Related Offenses   |  |                              |                   |  |
| <art93> CRUELTY OR<br/><art128-a> ASSAULT</art128-a></art93> | MALTREATMENT<br>(ON OR AFTER 1/1/2019) |                              |                   |  |
| Relationship With Su   | spects                                 |                              |                   |  |
| VICTIM WAS ACQUAINT  | FANCE WITH VERHULST, BRETT LAVERNE     |                              |                   |  |
| Action Report/Nam  | e Information                          |                              |                   |  |
| Involvement: F   | REPORTING PERSON / PERSON WITH KNOW    | WLEDGE                       |                   |  |
| Linked Name:   | b) (6), (b) (7)(C), , INDIVIDUAL       | Juvenile At Ti               | me:               |  |
| Action Report/Nam  | e Information                          |                              |                   |  |
| Involvement: F   | PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE                  |                              |                   |  |
| Linked Name:   | b) (6), (b) (7) , INDIVIDUAL           | Juvenile At Ti               | me: 🗌             |  |
| Action Report/Nam  | e Information                          |                              |                   |  |
|  | PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE                  |                              |                   |  |
| Linked Name: [   | b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INDIVIDUAL         | Juvenile At Ti               | me:               |  |

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Print Date: 07/28/2021

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Action Report # Action Type **Action Date** Approval Status AR2104000656 INITIAL CRIME REPORT **APPROVED** 04/12/2021 Action Report/Name Information Involvement: PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE Juvenile At Time: Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7) INDIVIDUAL Action Report/Name Information involvement: PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) INDIVIDUAL Juvenile At Time: Action Report/Name Information Involvement: PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE Juvenile At Time: 🔲 Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INDIVIDUAL Action Report/Name Information Involvement: VICTIM Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INDIVIDUAL Juvenile At Time: Victim Information Victim Injury: NONE Victim Injury 2: Victim Injury 3: Victim Injury 4: Victim Injury 5: Related Offenses <ART93> CRUELTY OR MALTREATMENT <ART128-A> ASSAULT (ON OR AFTER 1/1/2019) Relationship With Suspects VICTIM WAS OTHERWISE KNOWN WITH VERHULST, BRETT LAVERNE Action Report/Name Information Involvement: VICTIM Juvenile At Time: Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INDIVIDUAL Victim Information Victim Injury: NONE Victim Injury 2: Victim Injury 3: Victim Injury 4: Victim Injury 5: Related Offenses <ART93> CRUELTY OR MALTREATMENT. <ART128-A> ASSAULT (ON OR AFTER 1/1/2019) Relationship With Suspects

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VICTIM WAS OTHERWISE KNOWN WITH VERHULST, BRETT LAVERNE

Public Availability to be Determined Under 5 U.S.C. §552

Action Report # Action Type **Action Date** Approval Status AR2104000656 INITIAL CRIME REPORT 04/12/2021 **APPROVED** Action Report/Name Information Involvement: PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE Juvenile At Time: Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INDIVIDUAL Action Report/Name Information Involvement: VICTIM Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7) INDIVIDUAL Juvenile At Time: Victim Information Victim Injury: NONE Victim Injury 2: Victim Injury 3: Victim Injury 4: Victim Injury 5: **Related Offenses** <ART93> CRUELTY OR MALTREATMENT <ART128-A> ASSAULT (ON OR AFTER 1/1/2019) Relationship With Suspects VICTIM WAS FRIEND WITH VERHULST, BRETT LAVERNE Action Report/Name Information Involvement: PERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE Juvenile At Time: Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INDIVIDUAL Action Report/Name Information Involvement: HEALTH, SAFETY & WORK-LIFE Juvenile At Time: Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)(2) INDIVIDUAL Action Report/Name Information Involvement: VICTIM Juvenile At Time: Linked Name: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)(2) INDIVIDUAL Victim Information Victim Injury: NONE Victim Injury 2: Victim Injury 3: Victim Injury 4: Victim Injury 5: Related Offenses <ART93> CRUELTY OR MALTREATMENT <ART128-A> ASSAULT (ON OR AFTER 1/1/2019)

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Relationship With Suspects

07/28/2021

Print Date:

RELATIONSHIP UNKNOWN WITH VERHULST BRETT LAVERNE

Public Availability to be Determined Under 5 U.S.C. §552

| Action Report #<br>AR2104000656  | Action Type INITIAL CRIME REPORT   | Action Date 04/12/2021   | Approval Status APPROVED   |
|--|--|--|--|
| Action Report/Nam  | e Information  |  |  |
|  | PERSON WITH KNC(b) (6).  |  |  |
|  | b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INDIVIDUAL   | Juvenile At Time:  |  |
| Action Report/Nam  | e Information  |  |  |
| Involvement: P   | ERSON WITH KNOWLEDGE   |  |  |
| Linked Name:   | b) (6), (b) (7) INDIVIDUAL   | Juvenile At Time:  |  |
| Action Report Narrati  | ves  | (170.11)   |  |
| Created On: 04/20/202  | 1 17:22 Title: INITIAL CGIS NOT  | IFICATION  |  |
| Reporting Agent: (b)   | (6), (b)   | Participating Agent:   |  |
| her that (PK) (b) (6), (b)   | a SAPR CIT, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) informed him that (S) MCPO Verhulst t, date unknown. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) s CGA, (PK) (b) (6). (b) (7)(C). following  | hugged (V) (b) (6), in his offic   | e following a presentation to the  |
| Agent:   |  | Inv  | olvement:  |
| (b) (6), (b)   |  |  | PORTING AGENT  |
| Action Report Supple   | ements   | WITH THE REAL PROPERTY.  |  |
| On 04/16/2021, I intervi   | 021 13:23 Agent<br>(6), (b) (7)(C), (k) INTERVIEW<br>(ewed (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCG<br>(arch/early April 2021, he was speaking   | t: (b) (6), (b)  (A, at CGIS, RAO New London. with (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).   | JSCGA, and (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)   |
| Verhulst, USCGA. (PK what he had been told. On 04/07/2021, (PK) (b) assisting (PK) (b) (6). informed her that (S) C presentation, (S) CMC asked (V) (b) (6). if he | nversation, one of the cadets stated that stated he commented (b) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he again was inform with the CGA Yearbook. During this MC Verhulst hugged her following a briverhulst invited (V) (b) (6), to his office could hug her. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stanted to meet with (V) (b) (6), regarding (S) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (c) USCGA and it  | that (S) CMC Verhulst's actions med that (S) CMC Verhulst hugg conversation, (PK) (b) (6). (b) a ef to the Superintendent on Cade and presented her with a chal ated he commented that (S) CM                                  | were "weird", but he did not report  ged (V) (b) (6). while he was  gain commented that (V) (b) (6).  et Peer Support matters. After the lenge coin. While in his office, he  IC Verhulst's actions were               |
| (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated in conversation, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated in conversation, (PK) (b) (b) (6), (b) (7) with the                                     | ted he briefly spoke to (b) (6), (b) (7) (C) and a mandated report, and she told him be observed (V) (b) (6). walking past he observed (V) (b) (6). walking past he observed (V) (b) (6). demeanor change and he asked details of what transpired. (V) (b) (6). It is officed to the object of the objec | ). (k)(2) USCGA, and inquire she did not believe it did. Conti is office and he requested to sp if (S) CMC Verhulst hugged hed her to tell him what happened told him that following a brief the to give her a challenge coin. | d whether she believed the inuing on the same day, (PK) eak to her. During their er. After a brief pause, (PK) b. (V) (b) (6), then provided (PK) that she provided to the USCGA While in the office, (S) CMC Verhulst |

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Action Report # Action Type Action Date Approval Status AR2104000656 INITIAL CRIME REPORT 04/12/2021 APPROVED thought about the incident after speaking to (V) (b) (6), (PK) (b) (6), (b) and bnefed her. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) and determined it would be best to report the incident so he contacted stated he believed that (PK) (b) (6), (b) notified the USCGA Assistant Commandant of Cadets because he was then asked to brief the Assistant Commandant of Cadets on 04/12/2021, (PK) stated he was contacted by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)(2) on 04/13/2021 and was asked for (V) (b) (6), cell phone6), number. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated (b) (6), came to his office on 04/14/2021 and was upset with him because he reported the incident to his chain of command. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he explained to (V) (b) (6). That he believed the incident met the came to his office on 04/14/2021 and was upset with him because he reported the threshold to be a mandatory report. During this conversation, (V) (b) (6), inquired if (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) knew what would happen to (S) CMC Verhulst, and if this incident would have an impact on his retirement. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he again met with (V) (b) (6), at her request on 04/16/2021. During this conversation, (V) (b) (6), asked (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) for his opinion if she should participate in an investigation, which he stated yes. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he informed (V) (b) (6) that CGIS requested to speak to him and that he would be meeting with them later in the day. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he asked (V) (b) (6), if she was comfortable in the presence of (S) CMC Verhulst since the incident, which si (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) also provided details of about concerning behavior during the dining in that took place if she was comfortable in the presence of (S) CMC Verhulst since the incident, which she replied no. on/about 04/15/2021, where (S) CMC Verhulst appeared to be intoxicated. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated at some point during the night, (S) CMC Verhulst was no where to be found. Due to the previous observations and rumors about (S) CMC Verhulst paying more attention to female cadets, he was told that a round was completed in Chase Hall to make sure he was not walking through the cadet living areas. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he also heard about another incident involving a female cadet who attended a Hotel Company event at the Superintendent's quarters, date unknown. During this event, (S) CMC Verhulst invited the female cadet to his residence at the USCGA to retrieve a book she had loaned him. As the two approached the entrance, the female cadel said she would wait outside while (S) CMC Verhulst retrieved the book. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he was informed that (S) CMC Verhulst exited his residence a short time later and informed the female cadet he could not locate the book and must have left it in his office. Following this interview, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) provided me with a voluntary typewritten statement regarding his recollection of event (Attachment - (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) statement). Supplement #: AR2104000656-0002 APPROVED Title: (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)(2) Date/Time: 04/19/2021 14:27 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) 04/20/2021 18:30 Narrative Title: (PK)(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (k)(2)On 04/19/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) and I interviewed (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) USCGA, New London CT, at CGIS RAO New London. During the interview, (PK) (b) (6), (b) described a conversation she had with (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) (C), USCGA, London, CT, and (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) USCGA, New London, CT, regarding a recent brief that (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) Admiral. (PK) (b) (6), (b) said (V) (b) (6), was emotional and crying when she entered their barracks room. (PK) (b) (6), attributed (V) (b) (6), emotional state to the brief not going how she intended. (V) (b) (6), disclosed that (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA Hamilton Hall, New London CT, had given her a hug following the brief and touched her face. (PK) recalled thinking "that's weird" but maybe (S) CMC Verhulst was trying to be comforting. During a conversation (6) between (PK) (b) (6), (b) and (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCGA, New London, CT. (PK) (b) (6), (b) told (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) about the incident between (V) (b) (6), and (S) CMC VerHulst. (V) (b) (6). was very upset with (PK) (b) (6), (b) for telling (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) about the incident. According to (PK) (b) (V) (b) (6), was upset an investigation had been initiated on her behalf. (PK) (b) (6), (b) said she felt extremely quilty for bringing up the topic in conversation with (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) and she felt like she betrayed (V) (b) (6). trust. APPROVED Supplement #: AR2104000656-0003 Title: (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) INTERVIEW Date/Time: 04/19/2021 14:30 Agent: (b) (6 04/20/2021 18:32 Narrative Title: (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). INTERVIEW On 04/19/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) (7) and I interviewed (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) (C), (k) USCGA, at CGIS RAO New London. During the interview, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) recently requested to speak to him about an incident that occurred between (S) CMC Verhulst and (b) (6), (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) briefly told him he was informed by another female cadet that (S) CMC Verhulst hugged (V) (b) (6), while the two were in his office. During this conversation, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) explained that he has heard that (S) CMC Verhulst payed more attention to female cadets and has observed similar incidents by him in the past. When asked to explain, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he observed (S) CMC Verhulst hug an unidentified female at the delayed USCGA graduation that took place in/about October 2020. (PK) (b) (b) (b) he reported what he had observed, but it caused him to comment at the time; "so much for social distancing" to a nearby coworker because it seemed strange (S) CMC Verhulst would hug a female cadet. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) described a second

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07/28/2021

Public Availability to be Determined Under 5 U.S.C. §552

Action Report # Action Type Action Date Approval Status 04/12/2021 AR2104000656 APPROVED INITIAL CRIME REPORT incident at an event that took place at the USCGA Superintendent's residence on 04/13/2021. At this event, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he escorted a group of cadets (approximately 15) to the residence for a reception. Upon arrival, the cadets were greeted in the residence by those in the receiving line that consisted of RADM William Kelly, USCGA Superintendent, and (S) CMC Verhulst. As the cadets were being greeted, (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he observed (S) CMC Verhulst hug a female cadet, later identified as (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). USCGA. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) stated he believes the Kellys could have observed the hug because the receiving line was fairly close together in entrance/foyer to the residence. (PK) (b) (6). stated he did not observe (S) CMC Verhulst hug any other cadets. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) also stated during the dining in that took place on/about 04/15/2021, (S) CMC Verhulst appeared to be intoxicated. At some point during the night, the Assistant Commandant of Cadets commented to him that (S) CMC Verhulst was no where to be found. Due to the previous observations and rumors about (S) CMC Verhulst behavior toward female cadets, he made a round to look for him in Chase Hall to make sure he was not walking through the cadet living areas. (PK)(b) (6), (b) (7) stated he did not locate (S) CMC Verhulst in Chase Hall and did not see him for the remainder of the evening. Supplement #: AR2104000656-0004 APPROVED Title: (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INTERVIEW Date/Time: 04/20/2021 14:32 Agent: 04/20/2021 18:34 Narrative Title: (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) (C), INTERVIEW On 4/19/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) and I interviewed (PK) (b), (b), (7), (C), USCGA, New London, CT, at CGIS RAO New London. During the interview, (PK) (b) (6), (b) stated the following: (PK) (b) (6), (b) said is "best friends" with (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) USCGA, New London, CT. (PK) (b) (6), (b) recalled a conversation she had with (V) (b) (6), after a command brief in March 2021. Also present during the conversation was (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) USCGA, New London, CT. (PK) (b) (6), (b) ar their barracks room when (V) (b) (6), visited them following her command brief. (PK) (b) (6), (b) and (PK) (b) (6), (b) (b) said (V) (b) (6), stressed out and upset about the outcome of the briefing. This was due to the fact the person she was supposed to be giving the brief with was not present, "because something happened to him." (PK) (b) (6), (b) informed us that (V) (b) (6), deals with "a lot of heavy stuff" at the Academy relating to mental health. According to (PK) (b) (6), (b) after the briefing (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA Hamilton Hall, New London CT, touched (V) (b) (6). face, which she thought was "weird." (PK) (b) (6), (b) further described this incident as (S) CMC VerHulst using the palm of his hand to touch (V) (b) (6), cheek in a comforting manner. (PK) (b) (6), (b) also thought (S) CMC VerHulst gave (V) (b) (6), a challenge coin during the above mentioned incident. (PK) (b) (6), (b) described her relationship with (S) CMC VerHulst as professional. (PK) (b) (6), (b) has routine meetings with (S) CMC VerHulst due to her leadership positions within the Corps of Cadets. (PK) (b) (6), (b) has not witnessed any other inappropriate contact involving (S) CMC VerHulst. (PK) (b) (6). (b) described (S) CMC VerHulst as more personal with cadets than other members of the command. (PK) (b) (6), (b) thought this incident may have been due to a generational difference but stated it "seems kind of weird." (PK) (b) (6), (b) indicated (V) (b) (6), informed her that (PK) (b) (6), (b) told a member of their Command about (S) CMC VerHulst touching (V) (b) (6), face. (V) (b) (6), was upset about this and "wanted to have nothing to do with it." (PK) (b) saying the command may know about additional and similar incidents regarding (S) CMC(6) recalled (V) (b) VerHulst. (PK) (b) (6), (b) stated (V) (b) (6), is really upset that there was an official report made regarding this incident. (V) (b) (6), is a highly visible cadet and feels like she is leaving the academy in a negative light after making a report against (S) CMC VerHulst. Supplement #: AR2104000656-0005 APPROVED Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) (C), INTERVIEW Date/Time: 04/20/2021 14:34 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7) 04/20/2021 18:36 Narrative Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INTERVIEW On 04/20/2021, SA (b) (6), (b) (7) and I interviewed (V) (b) (6), (b) (6), USCGA, at RAO New London. We explained that her name was brought up during an investigation as someone who received a hug from (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA, during a recent dining in event at the USCGA. (V) (b) (6), described her relationship with (S) VerHulst as "pretty close" and stated he had been her mentor since her (b) (6).

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Public Availability to be Determined Under 5 U.S.C. §552

Action Report # Action Type Action Date Approval Status AR2104000656 INITIAL CRIME REPORT 04/12/2021 APPROVED She said they typically met approximately once per month at the coffee shop on board the USCGA. She said she felt like she could trust him, and they talked about both Coast Guard and personal issues. characterized (S) VerHulst as well-liked among the cadets and described a recent occasion on which he made a speech, and all the cadets stood up to applaud him. advised she remembered the incident we were referring to who (S) VerHulst hugged her at the dining in event. She stated (S) VerHulst had hugged her in the past, but the hug at the dining in event was "a little longer than normal." She described the hug as lasting approximately four or five seconds. (V) said she thought (S) VerHulst may have had "a little to drink" that night because he was "rowdy" and she thought he was excited all the cadets were there. In reference to her interaction with him at the event, (V) (b) (6), said she was "happy to see him" and during the hug she "tried to back up but he was still holding on." (V) (b) (6), stated (S) VerHulst did not touch or grab her anywhere that made her feel uncomfortable on that occasion or at any other time. When asked if she had any unusual interactions involving (S) VerHulst, she stated she attended last year's "Firstie Formal" when her fiancé, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCGC TYBEE, was a (b) (6), ... (V) (b) described the dress she wore as low cut in the back and stated that when (S) VerHulst hugged her at that event, he touched her on her lower back. (V) (b) (6) said that after the interaction with (S) VerHulst, (b) (6), (b) told (V) (b) he was uncomfortable with the way (S) VerHulst touched her ar looked at her "up and down." (V) (b) (6), (b) understood the environment at the USCGA, and he was not he was uncomfortable with the way (S) VerHulst touched her and uncomfortable with (V) (b) (6). interactions with men in general, but (b) (6). (b) a specifically did not like the way (S) VerHulst interacted with (V) (b) (6) (V) (b) was subsequently provided the CGIS Initial Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime pamphlet. Supplement #: AR2104000656-0006 APPROVED Titie: (V)(b) (6), (b) (7) INTERVIEW Date/Time: 04/20/2021 14:39 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) Narrative Title: (V) LINDSAY (b) INTERVIEW 04/20/2021 18:41 On 4/20/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) and I interviewed (V) (b) (6), (b) (USCGA Cadet Division, New London, CT, at RAO New London, CT. (V) b came to CGIS voluntarily to provide information about an incident that involved (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA Hamilton Hall, New London CT. During the interview, (V) (b) (6). stated she heard there was an ongoing investigation regarding (S) CMC VerHulst. (V) (b) (6), said on 4/23/2021, during the "Quarters 1" reception, she entered the Admiral's quarters with approximately 15 Cadets. (V) (b) (6). described the receiving line as Admiral William Kelly, Superintendent, USCGA, New London, CT, (b) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)(2), New London, CT and (S) CMC Verhulst. (V) (b) (6), said when she greeted (S) CMC Verhulst he placed his hand on her upper arm, (V) (b) (6), classified the incident as "weird," No one else at the event touched her. (V) (b) (6), recalled feeling like she should have said something at the time but she did not. (V) (b) (6), further stated later that evening during the second session of the "Quarters 1" event, (S) CMC VerHulst stood next to her and rubbed her upper back without permission in a circular motion with his left hand. (V) (b) estimated this went on for approximately 4 -5 seconds. (V) (b) (6). stated she felt very uncomfortable while (S) CMC VerHulst touched her back, (V) (b) (6), said she was wearing a sleeved dress during the event that covered her back, (V) (b) (6), said she regrets not saying something sooner and described a feeling of remorse by not saying something directly to (S) CMC VerHulst during the incident. (V) (b) (6). clarified this statement by saying she is supposed to be a role model for the cadets and she shouldn't have tolerated the unwanted touching incase a cadet observed it and then thought that it was ok. (V) (b) (6), did not see (S) CMC Verhulst touching anyone else. (V) (b) (6), believes that (S) CMC Verhulst crossed the professional boundaries and that he was extra friendly and oddly casual with her and other women. (V) (b) (6), opined that (S) CMC VerHulst always chooses female cadets for mentorships and acts differently toward males. APPROVED Supplement #: AR2104000656-0007 Title: (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) INTERVIEW

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Action Report # Action Type Action Date Approval Status INITIAL CRIME REPORT AR2104000656 04/12/2021 APPROVED Date/Time: 04/20/2021 09:50 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7) Narrative Title: (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) INTERVIEW 04/21/2021 13:13 On 04/20/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) (7) and I interviewed (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). Leadership Development Center (LDC), at RAO New London. (PK) (b) advised he first met (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA, in approximately 2013. He described their relationship as peers, and he stated they did not spend time together socially outside of Coast Guard related events. (PK) to offered he had no malice toward (S) VerHulst and no reason to "sink his career." (PK) b stated he saw (S) VerHulst occasionally at the Dry Dock Café on board the CGA, and (S) VerHulst was always with female cadets. (PK) (b) said he had never seen (S) VerHulst with any male cadets. (PK) (b) said he did not think (S) VerHulst was doing a very good job at his assignment at the CGA because he was focused on cadets instead of the enlisted work force, and there were complaints in the Chiefs' Mess about his performance. He stated he had also heard comments from some chiefs who said (S) VerHulst made them uncomfortable. (NFI) (PK) (b) said that around October 2021, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k), LDC, approached him and asked him to speak to (S) VerHulst about the appearance of his inappropriate behavior toward female Coast Guard members. (PK) (b) said he and (S) VerHulst met at the student center at the USCGA, and he told (S) VerHulst there was a perception that he was behaving inappropriately toward female Coast Guard members. He gave the example of (S) VerHulst touching women on their lower backs. (PK) (b) said (S) VerHulst appeared to be surprised, and his main concern was about who knew about the perception, and not why the perception existed. (PK) said (S) VerHulst was specifically worried about if RADM William Kelly, Superintendent, USCGA, knew about this issue. (PK) said (S) VerHulst "jumped on the buzzwords about diversity and inclusion" to defend his behavior toward women. (PK) said he advised (S) VerHulst his mentoring sessions with female petty officers and cadets were too much, and he should "back off" from always being with only women. (PK) said he was disappointed that (S) VerHulst "didn't do the right thing" after their October 2020 discussion. He stated (S) VerHulst's behavior was clearly a choice as opposed to a mistake, and he opined (S) VerHulst's behavior toward females represented a "core values issue." (PK) (b) stated he recently found out through (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) USCGA, that several years earlier, when (V) (b) (6), USCGA, arrived at the USCGA, she asked (b) (6), (b) about (S) VerHulst because (S) VerHulst had hugged her and kissed her to welcome her to the CGA. (PK) (b) said he also recently heard there was an incident when (S) VerHulst invited a female cadet back to his office alone to give her a coin. When asked if he had any unusual interactions with (S) VerHulst, (PK) to stated he knew (S) VerHulst was married with children. He said that for years, he assumed (S) VerHulst was single because he never mentioned his wife and children. In addition, he gave the example of seeing (S) VerHulst with a female Coast Guard member at another command, and (PK) assumed they were dating because they spent so much time together. (PK) (b) said he was really surprised to recently learn that (S) VerHulst was married. (PK) (b) also advised that several years earlier, when (b) (6), (b) was going to the Chiefs' Academy, (S) VerHulst emailed (b) (6), (b) to ask if he was inviting the Command to the training center. (b) (6), (b) said he didn't know that was the protocol, so he invited the Command. (PK) said (b) (6), (b) told him (S) VerHulst traveled to the training center for an entire week while (b) (6), (b) was in training, but he only met (b) (6), (b) for coffee briefly and attended one dinner. (PK) (b) said (b) told him that (S) VerHulst was with a (b) (6), (b) at the coffee meeting, and (S) VerHulst told (b) (6), (b) that the SK1 was his escort. (PK) that stated he had traveled to the training center on official business many times, and he had never had an escort. (PK) opined (S) VerHulst traveled to the training center "on the Coast Guard's dime" and spent the week hanging out with the (b) Supplement #: AR2104000656-0008 APPROVED Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INTERVIEW Date/Time: 04/20/2021 13:15 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7 Narrative Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INTERVIEW 04/21/2021 14:20 On 04/20/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) (7) and I interviewed (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) USCGA, in her office at the Coast Guard Academy APPROVED COPY

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Public Availability to be Determined Under 5 U.S.C. §552

Action Report # AR2104000656

Action Type INITIAL CRIME REPORT **Action Date** 04/12/2021

Approval Status APPROVED

Clinic

When we informed (V) (b) we wanted to talk to her about her interactions with (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA, she laughed.

said she was a volunteer on the committee to plan for (S) VerHulst's upcoming retirement, and she had no desire to "ruin his career." She described him as "a huggy kind of person" and said he was "more huggy with females." She said she felt that more from him during her first two years assigned to the USCGA and less during this past year. She later explained she had worked from home for a lot of the last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She described herself as "proactive" and said she does not stand next to people who are too "touchy" for her comfort level. She prided herself on not putting herself in the position of having people touch her when she's not comfortable with it.

When specifically asked about the interaction she had with (S) VerHulst soon after her arrival at the CGA, she said (S) VerHulst did give her an unwanted hug. She said the hug made her uncomfortable, but not uncomfortable enough to report it. She said she mentioned the uncomfortable interaction to a coworker, and there was an ongoing loke at the clinic about (S) VerHulst's interactions with women. She said coworkers said things like she needed to close her door when (S) VerHutst came to the clinic and when people saw (S) VerHulst with female cadets, they said things like, "there's another one."

We then told her we knew the interaction with (S) VerHulst was more than just a hug, and (V) (b) admitted (S) VerHulst also kissed her on the forehead during that interaction.

She said the incident took place in either 2018 or 2019. She said they may have been in the Chiefs' Mess at the time or somewhere else on campus, but she knew they were not in her office. She said when he hugged and kissed her, she stepped away. She said it was unclear if (S) VerHulst was trying to be "fatherly" or if it was something else.

(S) VerHulst said she was uncomfortable to be alone with (S) VerHulst, and she made sure she never ended up in a room alone with him. She said she purposely did not stand next to him when she saw him because he is "too touchy for my comfort level."

She also described an incident in which (S) VerHulst came into her office, and instead of staying in front of her desk where other visitors stand/sit, he came around the natural barrier of her desk to talk to her.

- said she never saw (S) VerHulst with men, and he was often with female cadets. She said his conduct with women appears inappropriate, especially considering his position as the CMC. She gave examples of his inappropriate conduct as hugging, putting an arm around a woman, and/or squeezing the arm(s) of women. She stated she did not typically go to the cadet lounge, but the one time she went there, she saw (\$) VerHulst with his arm around a female cadet.
- said (S) VerHulst was a "nice guy" and if she had seen him kiss anyone else, she felt like she would have spoken up. She said she dealt with him kissing her by avoiding additional circumstances that could put her in that position.
- (V)(b) was subsequently provided with the CGIS Initial Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime pamphlet.

Supplement #: AR2104000656-0012

APPROVED

Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) INTERVIEW

Date/Time: 04/21/2021 11:00

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

Narrative Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) INTERVIEW

04/22/2021 21:11

On 04/21/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) and I interviewed (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) USCGA, New London, CT, at CGIS RAO New London, CT. (V) declined to have an SVC or VA present with her during the interview. The interview was audio-video recorded with the Axon Capture application and then uploaded to the CGIS Digital Evidence Management System under Case ID #: CS2104000617. The associated URL is linked below.

The following is an interview summary; it is not intended to be a verbatim account and does not memorialize all statements made during the interview. Communication by all parties in the interview was electronically recorded, and the recording captured the actual words spoken. The following was noted:

(V) (b) (6). described her role as leader of the Cadet Peer Support Group. (V) (b) (6). recalled giving a brief in late February 2021 to RADM William Kelly, Superintendent USCGA, New London, CT, (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA Hamilton Hall, New London, CT, and (b) (6), (b) (7) , civilian, USCGA Counseling, New London, CT, regarding a recent suicide attempt. (V) (b) (6) said she was not in her typical state of mind. She was emotional due to the fact that her partner on the Cadet Peer Support Group attempted suicide during the overnight hours.

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Public Availability to be Determined Under 5 U.S.C. §552

Action Report # Action Type Action Date Approval Status AR2104000656 INITIAL CRIME REPORT 04/12/2021 APPROVED (V) (b) (6), said after the brief concluded, (S) CMC VerHulst told her that he would walk her out, (V) (6), recalled RADM Kelly asking (S) CMC VerHulst where he was going. (S) CMC VerHulst responded that he was going to walk (V) (6). out. (V) (b) (6). described walking with (S) CMC VerHulst to his office. (V) (b) (6). indicated that she was emotional and "teary eyed" as a result of the subject discussed during the briefing. (V) (b) (6). said (S) CMC VerHulst entered the office first and she followed. The door was left open. (V) (b). (6). stated (S) CMC VerHulst gave her a challenge coin and then gave her a hug. (V) (b) (6), described the hug as a "very firm, side hug." (V) (b) (6), remembered pulling away from (S) CMC VerHulst, at which time he placed his hand on the left side of (V) (b) (6), face/head, saying something similar to, "if you ever need anything." (V) (b) (6). did not recall the exact words spoken. (V) (b) (6). said it may not have registered with (S) CMC VerHulst that she was uncomfortable. (V) (b) (6). thought the interaction was strange and that it would not have happened if she was a male cadet. (V) (b) (6). did not think the interaction would have went any further but she separated from him anyway. (V) (b) (6). said she felt strange and the interaction was unprofessional. (V) (b) (6). stated that (S) CMC VerHulst said he had to go to a meeting. (V) recalled waiting in the office as (S) CMC VerHulst exited because "I didn't want to walk out with him." (V) (b) (6). later told (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k) and (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). USCGA, New London, CT, about the incident involving (S) CMC VerHulst while discussing the results of her brief with RADM Kelly. Approximately one week later, (V) (b) (6), was approached by (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCGA, New London, CT. (PK) (b) (6), (b) (7) inquired about the incident involving (S) CMC VerHulst and asked if (V) (b) (6), was okay. (V) (b) (6), told

- (V) (b) (6). stated she did not want to make an issue out of the unwanted touching by (S) CMC VerHulst because she did not want to hurt his retirement. (V) (b) (6). detailed a difficult time in her family's life when her father lost his job and she believed that (S) CMC VerHulst was supporting a family. (V) (b) (6). also stated she did not think that (S) CMC VerHulst would not have taken the action any further and cited the generational differences between herself and (S) CMC VerHulst.
- (V) (b) (6). Ultimately made the decision to speak with CGIS after learning there may have been other instances where (S) CMC VerHulst was "touchy" towards both cadets and staff at the USCGA.
- (V) (b) (6). stated she believes that a warning would be an appropriate reaction to (S) CMC VerHulst's behavior. (V) (b) (6). also noted (S) CMC VerHulst should treat men and women in the same manner.
- (V) (b) (6). was subsequently provided with the CGIS Initial Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime pamphlet.

Interview of (V) b - https://uscgis.us.evidence.com/axon/evidence? evidence id=9bd935c96181401e872282489db1d9d1&partner id=4f81ab7a38784866b553866172d24239

Supplement #: AR2104000656-0009 APPROVED Title: (S) CMC BRETT VERHULST INTERVIEW

Date/Time: 04/21/2021 13:30 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Print Date :

07/28/2021

Narrative Title: (S) CMC BRETT VERHULST INTERVIEW 04/22/2021 14:30

On 04/21/2021, S/A (b) (6), and I interviewed (S) CMC Brett VerHulst at RAO New London.

Prior to the interview, S/A (b) (6), advised (S) VerHulst of his rights under Article 31b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and that he was suspected of cruelty/maltreatment, assault, and sexual harassment. (S) VerHulst acknowledged his rights, both verbally and in writing, and agreed to make statement without talking to a lawyer first and without having a lawyer present (CGIS Rights Warning/Waiver Certificate).

The interview was audio-video recorded with the Axon Capture application and then uploaded to the CGIS Digital Evidence Management System under Case ID# CS2104000617. The associated URL is linked below. Subsequent to the download, it was discovered that only approximately 52 minutes of the approximately two hour interview was captured due to the cell phone being used to record running out of storage space. The following is an interview summary; it is not intended to be a verbatim account and does not memorialize all statements made during the interview. Communication by all parties in the interview was electronically recorded, and the recording captured the actual words spoken. The following information was noted.

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Action Report # Action Type Action Date Approval Status
AR2104000656 INITIAL CRIME REPORT 04/12/2021 APPROVED

- (S) VerHulst advised he came into the Coast Guard in August 1991, and he was preparing to retire with 30 years of service. After discussing his various Coast Guard assignments, he advised he planned to work at the Admissions Department at Norwich University in Vermont upon his planned retirement in May 2021.
- (S) VerHulst stated he arrived for his assignment at the USCGA in August 2017. He described USCGA assignment as a "great tour." He said it was "depressing" to be called into the CGIS office, and he was "devastated."
- (S) VerHulst advised when he arrived at USCGA, his predecessor had already retired, so he received minimal guidance about his duties. He said he was "sort of on my own to figure it out." He commented that he was currently trying to lay the ground work for his replacement to be better than what he had.
- (S) VerHulst described his role at the USCGA as an advisor to the Superintendent and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) about issues like resources, climate, and good order and discipline, based on his perspective as an enlisted member of 30 years. (S) VerHulst said he also did a lot of one on one and group mentoring with both cadets and enlisted members. He estimated he spent about 30 percent of his time with enlisted members and the other 70 percent with cadets and junior officers. (S) VerHulst stated the difference in time spent was because there were approximately 1,000 cadets and only about 200 enlisted members at the USCGA. (S) VerHulst said he tries to make himself available to everyone and had met with grounds crew and others on campus. He said he usually met with a "handful" of cadets each week, some of whom were "regulars" and others who only met with him once or occasionally. (S) VerHulst said some mentoring sessions took place in his office, but most were held in the student center in Leamy Hall.

In reference to how he developed relationships with mentees, he said there was a formal program through the Institute for Leadership that typically matched him with one or two cadets each year. He said sometimes his mentees brought friends to meetings, and he developed relationships with them, and other times, he met cadets or enlisted members at events and offered to meet for mentoring sessions.

- (S) VerHulst said he used his Outlook calendar to schedule mentoring appointments, and 99.9% of the time, all mentoring appointments would be in that calendar.
- (S) VerHulst said he felt like he had "pretty good relationships with people" and described himself as an "affectionate leader." He said he was not aware of any problems or conflicts anyone had with him. He said no one had ever complained to him about how much time he devoted toward cadets versus enlisted members.
- (S) VerHulst said no one had ever directly told him he did something to make them feel uncomfortable, but he said (PK) be Leadership Development Center, pulled him aside about six months earlier and told him it could be perceived that he was being "too friendly" or "a little casual with interactions." (S) VerHulst said he was surprised by the conversation with (PK) (S) VerHulst said he always went out of his way to be supportive of junior members because that was something he didn't have when he was a junior member. (S) VerHulst said it was "devastating" to hear he could have made someone uncomfortable. (S) VerHulst said it was hard to hear, but he thanked (PK) (b) for bringing it to his attention. (S) VerHulst said he told (PK) to tell whoever was uncomfortable that he was sorry, and his intent was never to make anyone uncomfortable.
- (S) VerHulst said after the conversation with (PK) (b) he withdrew to self-reflect.
- (S) VerHulst described himself as an "affectionate leader" and said he sometimes put his hand on the side of people's shoulder or gave "side hugs" to cadets.

When asked if he ever saw any other members of the senior leadership team hug cadets, (S) VerHulst initially said "I have" and said that was a normal interaction between senior leadership team members and cadets. When asked to provide an example of a time when he saw a member of the senior leadership team hug a cadet, (S) VerHulst was unable to do so. He ultimately admitted he had not seen any other member of the senior leadership team hug a cadet.

(S) VerHulst said he understood the perception of his physical contact was that it was inappropriate. He said none of his physical contact was suggestive or sexual in nature. He said he tried to "lead in a way where people feel valued and respected" and tried to treat people like family. He said he was "devastated" that he hurt someone.

Action Type

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Print Date :

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Approval Status

AR2104000656 INITIAL CRIME REPORT 04/12/2021 **APPROVED** alright Master Chief, we can just shake hands." (S) VerHulst said he told her he was sorry and that he didn't mean anything by it. (S) VerHulst said after that, he "knew the boundary, and it was never broached again," (S) VerHulst said he continues to meet and there have been no additional incidents with (V) (b) In reference to his interaction with (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) USCGA, in late February 2021, (S) VerHulst said that after a briefing given by (V) be he walked her to his office because she was upset. He said (V) was "in tears" because the topic of the brief was emotional, and he wanted to make sure she was ok. He said, "I think I did give her a hug." (S) VerHulst said the hug he gave (V) (b) was different than the typical "side hug" that we had already discussed and described. He described it as a "family hug" and when I demonstrated a frontal tight hug, he agreed that was the type of hug he gave (V) (b) When asked if he remembered touching her face, he said he didn't remember touching her face but said he may have touched her face over her mask. He said he told (V) (b) if she needed anything, he was there to support her. In reference to his interaction with (V) (b) (6), (b) (7), USCGA, at the Quarters One event on or about 04/13/2021, (S) VerHulst said he remembered (V) (b) coming through the receiving line, but he did not remember touching her, and he adamantly denied rubbing her back. He said while he routinely hugs people or touches their shoulder, he did not rub people's backs. He said he had approximately three glasses of wine during the event, which made him "buzzed" but he said he was in control of his actions, particularly because he knew he was going to be speaking at the end of the event. In reference to his interaction with (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCGA, (S) VerHulst said he had been mentoring (V) (b) 4/c year, and they had a good relationship. He said he had hugged (V) (b) (6), and he remembered her and her boyfriend, (b) USCGC TYBEE, coming through the receiving line at last year's "Firstie Formal" but he did not remember any. unusual interaction with her. When asked why someone would have reported that he looked at her "up and down" (S) VerHulst stated he had never looked at (V) (b) in a sexual manner, and if he looked at her that night, it would have been because the cadets were all dressed up in civilian formalwear. In reference to his interaction with (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) USCGA, in either 2018 or 2019, he said he remembered hugging (V) but he did not remember kissing her. He said he thought he had a good relationship with (V) (b) (6), and he was surprised to hear someone reported their interaction. When asked if he ever kissed anyone at the USCGA, (S) VerHulst admitted he had hugged and "pecked" various people on the cheek. He said he remembered hugging and "pecking" (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) (C), USCGA, on her cheek on various occasions. He described their relationship as friendly, and he said he did not think (V) (b) (6), had any problem with their interactions. (S) VerHulst acknowledged that his physical contact with Coast Guard members was perceived as inappropriate, and he understood why there was third party reporting in this investigation. When asked how he thought his behaviors, including hugging, kissing, and touching junior members, aligned with Coast Guard policy, he stated he understood they did not. (S) VerHulst stated he thought he sometimes asked people if it was okay to give them a hug before making physical contact. After discussion, he acknowledged that due to the difference in rank and power, it is likely that not all cadets would feel like they could say no to that request from (S) VerHulst. (S) VerHulst repeatedly stated throughout the interview that he never intended to make anyone feel uncomfortable, he never touched anyone in a sexual manner, and he was trying to b an environment where everyone felt like they were supported. (S) VerHulst expressed remorse throughout the interview and said he wanted to applicate to anyone he hurt as a result of his behavior. (S) VerHulst was photographed and fingerprinted. In addition, he was reminded of the Coast Guard Support services available to him. At the conclusion of the interview, I briefed CAPT Richard Wester, USCGA, regarding my concern for (S) VerHulst's emotional well-being. (S) VerHulst was then released to CAPT Wester. Interview of (S) VerHulst - https://uscgis.us.evidence.com/axon/evidence? evidence\_id=06d31bfaabdb4d97b8759f0f378bd5df&partner\_id=4f81ab7a38784866b553866172d24239 APPROVED Supplement #: AR2104000656-0010 Title: RECORDS CHECKS - (S) VERHULST Date/Time: 04/22/2021 10:35 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7) Namative Title: RECORDS CHECKS - (S) VERHULST 04/22/2021 14:35

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 AR2104000656
 INITIAL CRIME REPORT
 04/12/2021
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On 04/22/2021, I conducted the following records checks identifiable with (S) OSCM Brett VerHulst, CMC, USCGA, New London, CT, and noted the following:

#### Direct Access (EIPDR):

- No unfavorable military information

#### FACTS:

- No prior subject records

#### Law Enforcement Database checks:

- No relevant offense reports

#### TECS:

Print Date:

07/28/2021

- No wants/warrants
- No identifiable record in the NCIC Interstate Identification Index (III)

#### State of Connecticut Judicial Branch:

- No records found

Supplement #: AR2104000656-0011 APPROVED Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). (k) INTERVIEW

Date/Time: 04/22/2021 12:00 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Narrative Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) (C), (k) INTERVIEW 04/22/2021 21:03

On 04/22/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) (7) and I interviewed (V) (b) (6), (b) (7) (C). USCGA, at RAO New London.

(V) (b) (6), said she loved (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA, as a person. She said he was the first CMC to ever sit down and talk to her, and he was her biggest advocate. (V) (b) (6), described (S) VerHulst as a great mentor, and she said he gave a voice to junior enlisted members. She said she saw (S) VerHulst on her duty days and during Coast Guard events, but she had never spent time with him outside of work.

In reference to physical contact between her and (S) VerHulst, (V) (b) (6). said they were both affectionate people, and they frequently hugged. She stated (S) VerHulst never made her uncomfortable with his physical contact, but she noticed other people sometimes took note when they hugged. She described an occasion which took place approximately a year earlier at a Quarters One event when (S) VerHulst hugged her and kissed her on the top of her head in front of a group of cadets. She said she saw other people witness the interaction, and she knew she had to talk to him about that. She stated she was comfortable with that physical contact with him, but she did not want him to get into trouble. She said she had good rapport with (S) VerHulst, and she felt like she could talk to him if something he did made her feel uncomfortable.

(V) (b) (6), said that shortly after that incident, she had a conversation with (S) VerHulst, explaining to him that she was not offended by the hug or the kiss, but she saw other people witness the interaction, and she told (S) VerHulst that other people may have been offended by it. She said she couldn't remember if it was during the same conversation or during a different conversation, but (V) (b) (6), also talked to (S) VerHulst about the length of his hugs. She said even though she considered herself a "hugger" and (S) VerHulst's hugs did not make her uncomfortable, (S) VerHulst's hugs lingered, and she felt like they were sometimes too long.

(V) (b) (6), said she had never witnessed any physical contact between (S) VerHulst and someone who did not appear to reciprocate. She said, "I one hundred percent understand where this is coming from" because of the nature of (S) VerHulst's physical contact.

She offered she had "nothing but respect" for (S) VerHulst, and she thought he did a great job.

(V) (b) (6), was subsequently provided with the CGIS Initial Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crimes pamphlet.

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Action Report # Action Type Action Date Approval Status
AR2104000656 INITIAL CRIME REPORT 04/12/2021 APPROVED

Supplement #: AR2104000656-0013 APPROVED Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INTERVIEW

Date/Time: 04/23/2021 08:00 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)

Narrative Title: (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), INTERVIEW 04/26/2021 14:54

On 4/23/2021, S/A (b) (6), (b) and I interviewed (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCGA, New London, CT, at RAO New London, CT, regarding this investigation. The following was noted:

(V) (b) (6). said (S) CMC Brett VerHulst, USCGA Hamilton Hall, New London CT, arrived at the USCGA during her 3/c year and she was unsure of how she "got to know him."

(V) (b) (6), recalled numerous meetings with (S) CMC VerHulst during mentoring sessions and at various briefings in her role as CASA president.

(V) (b) (6). Is stated that she did not feel like (S) CMC VerHulst violated her personal space and never made her feel uncomfortable.

(V) (b) (6). Indicated she can see why these allegations were coming forward. (V) (b) (6). In said (S) CMC VerHulst is a "huggy" person and a "close talker." (V) (b) (6). In further described this as (S) CMC VerHulst would be having a conversation with her and would take a step towards her. (V) (b) (6). In would then take a step back and (S) CMC VerHulst would then take another step closer. (V) (b) (6). In said these conversations were usually pretty short.

(V) (b) (6). detailed an event during the 2020 (b) (6), (b) (7) where (S) CMC VerHulst gave her a hug while in the receiving line. (V) (b) (6). stated no one else in the receiving line gave her a hug. (V) (b) (6). recalled it being "weird" but stated it wasn't a problem and she "just figured that's how he is."

(V) (b) (6). was subsequently provided with the CGIS Initial Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime pamphlet.

Supplement #: AR2104000656-0014 APPROVED Title: CGONE DATA SEIZURE

Date/Time: 05/03/2021 14:03 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Narrative Title: CGONE DATA SEIZURE \_\_\_\_\_ 07/19/2021 15:31

On 04/13/21, I started a CGONE data seizure at the request of S/A (b) (6), (b) . I seized the following data:

EV2105000371

Microsoft Exchange data for Brett.L.VerHulst@uscg.mil

Skype data for Brett.L.VerHulst@uscg.mil

User folder for from \CGA-FP-M-002\users1\BLVerhulst\Home

Historical Comms Logs for Brett.L.VerHulst@uscg.mil

I created an Axiom Portable Case and provided the data to S/A b via file transfer.

Supplement #: AR2104000656-0015 APPROVED Title: (PK) (b) (c). INTERVIEW

Date/Time: 05/14/2021 08:00 Agent: (b) (6), (b) (7)

Narrative Title: (PK) (b) (6). INTERVIEW 05/14/2021 18:31

On 05/14/2021, S/A (b) (6), and I interviewed (PK) (b) (6), (b) (b) USCGA, New London, CT, at CGIS RAO New London, CT,

regarding this investigation.

The interview was audio-video recorded with the Axon Capture application and then uploaded to the CGIS Digital Evidence Management System under Case ID #: CS2104000617. The associated URL is linked below. The following is an interview summary; it is not intended to be a verbatim account and does not memorialize all statements made during the interview.

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| Action Report #   | Action Type   | Action Date  | Approval Status   |
|---|---|--|---|
| AR2104000656  | INITIAL CRIME REPORT  | 04/12/2021   | APPROVED  |
| Communication by all particular than the following was note |   | ically recorded, and the recording ca  | otured the actual words spoken.                         |
|   | assigned to the USCGA for approx flicers and a civilian employee.   | imately two years as the GSK super   | risor. As part of his duties he                         |
| 9, USCGA, New Londo<br>with (S) VerHulst, he ki             | on, CT, (V) (b) (6), (b) (7(b) US(  | t, USCGA, New London, CT, with (PRCGA, New London, CT, reportedly tole) also told (PK) (b) that during the content of the cont | d (PK) b that during a meeting                          |
|   |   | 7/2021, because he felt (S) VerHuist<br>C), SARC, USCGA, New London  |   |
| (V) (b) indicated she trouble. (PK) (b) red                 | e felt guilty and regretted mentioning  | er. (V) <b>(b)</b> felt the interactions were these interactions to (PK) <b>(b)</b> become told him about her interactions with "Brett" during their meetings.   | ause they could get (S) VerHulst in                     |
|   |   | was planning (S) VerHulst's ret<br>denied observing any inappropriate o  |   |
|   | 5). https://uscgis.us.evidence.com/<br>98b24180ada77233a41a133b∂  | axon/evidence?<br>ner_id=4f81ab7a38784866b5538661  | 72d24239  |
| Supplement #: AR210<br>Date/Time: 05/17/3                   |   | Title: INTERVIEW OF (V) (b) (6), (b) gent: (b) (6), (b) (7)  | (7)(C), (k)   |
| Narrative Title: INTER                                      | VIEW OF (V) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)  |  | 05/17/2021 16:52  |
| On 05/17/2021, S/A (b)<br>London, CT.                       | (6), (b) (7) and I interviewed (V)  | (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), USCGA, New L  | ondon, CT, at CGIS RAO New                              |
| Management System u<br>summary; it is not inter             | inder Case ID #: CS2104000617. T<br>ided to be a verbatim account and co<br>parties in the interview was electronic | oture application and then uploaded the associated URL is linked below. The does not memorialize all statements recording calls.   | he following is an interview made during the interview. |
| - (V)(b) has been a   | ssigned to the USCGA shipping an  | d receiving office (GSK) for approxim  | ately two years.  |
| - (V)(b) characterized involvement in the invest            |   | w London, CT, as a friend and she indic  | ated she wasn't happy with her                          |
| - (V) (b) advised she                                       | first met (S) VerHulst in June, 2019, sh  | nortly after reporting aboard.   |   |
|   | (S) VerHuist generally invited people to could also be included on the calendar                                     | o coffee through Microsoft Outlook caler invitation.   | ndar invitations. (V) (b) indicated                     |
| - (V) (b) recalled goin<br>Consolidated Club on bo          |   | occasions. They had coffee together at e   | either the Dry Dock Café or the                         |
| - (V)(b) said she thou<br>people.                           | ight highly of (S) VerHulst. She explai   | ned that (S) VerHulst was easy to talk to  | and he genuinely cared about                            |
| - (V) denied havin<br>never saw each other ou               |   | (V) (b) explained that she considere   | d (S) VerHulst a work friend, but they                  |
| she saw him. (V) (b)  | explained that she was a driver for a pa  | n one occasion he kissed her on the che<br>anel of Junior Officers associated with a<br>er with a coin. When (S) VerHulst opene  | recent USCG Commandant visit.                           |
|   |   |  |   |

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| AR2104000656  |   | RIME REPORT  |  | 12/2021  | APPROVED  |
|   | family. (V) (b) det   | nied any other contact   | aside from the kis   | ss. (V) (b) did no   | pe of kiss was socially acceptable<br>it think (S) VerHulst was trying to<br>tionate way.   |
| - (V) said she re explained she had experiencestigated by CGIS.   | erienced inappropriat   | e behavior from (b) (6   | at a prev  | ate and someone white white white was used unit. (V  | ho was just saying hi. (V) (b) said that matter was also  |
|   | lew London, CT, Who   | en they met, (S) VerHi   | ulst appeared dow  | n, so she asked hir  | cuss an issue at the USCG Child<br>n if he was okay. (S) VerHulst then  |
| - (V) denied that   | (S) VerHulst ever as  | sked her to call him Bre   | ett.   |  |   |
| - (V) b said there  | were no interactions v  | with (S) VerHulst that r   | made her feel unc  | omfortable.  |   |
| worked at Quarters On (b) (6), (b) (7)(C), ci (b) (6), was sad ab person." (PK) (b) sa advised, "everyone sho told (PK) (b) (6), (b)  | e, told her of a discus-<br>vilian, New London, Cout the investigation<br>id she was going to sould be supportive of<br>USCGA, New          | ssion (PK) by had well had well had been said she thought send (S) VerHulst an embedding the Master Chief" and, "the London, CT, about he  | with Admiral Willian<br>dulst and interaction<br>(S) VerHulst was a<br>mail "and tell him<br>ey genuinely belie<br>er experiences with | m Kelly's, Superinterns he had with other a good guy, and that we support him eve he's a good guy h (S) VerHulst and | USCGA, New London, CT, who endent, USCGA, New London, CT, er people. (PK) by relayed that at he was "just more of a touchy fee a." (PK) by also said Admiral Kel." When (PK) by left, (V) by how he kissed her on the cheek. (Pk) of (PK) by (Sk) (Sk) (PK) by (Sk) (Sk) (PK) (Sk) (Sk) (PK) (Sk) |
|   |   |  |  |  |   |
| pamphlet.   |   |  |  | ormation for Victim  | ns and Witnesses of Crime   |
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Print Date:

07/28/2021

| -  | FORENSIC LABORATOR  | Y EXAMINATION REQUEST   |                     |  |
|--|---|---|---------------------|--|
| 1. TO:   | 2. FROM:  | 4. EXAM PRIORITY  | 5. LAB USE ONLY     |  |
| Director USACIL 4930 N. 31st Street Forest Park, GA 30297  | S/A (b) (6).<br>CGIS RAO New London, CT                     | ROUTINE     EXPEDITE  | a. LAB CASE #       |  |
| Other (Specify): CGIS ECS  | 3. RETURN EVIDENCE TO: S/A (b) (6). CGIS RAO New London, CT | ☐ Trial/Article 32/39A (*)  ☐ Subject in pre-trial confinement ☐ Subject pending PCS/ Separation/Reenlist (*) ☐ Other (Specify in Block 13) | c. RECEIVED BY/DATE |  |
|  |   | *Date   |                     |  |
| 6. SUBMITTING AGENCY   | CASE NUMBER   | 7. TYPE OF OFFENSE  | <del></del>         |  |
| CS2104000617   |   | Assault, Cruelty & Maltreatment, and  | l Sexual Harassment |  |
| 8. PREVIOUS EVIDENCE   | SUBMITTED   |   |                     |  |
| DATE:  | MAIL METHOD:  | LAB CASE #:   | SUSPECT(S):         |  |
|  | N/A   |   |                     |  |
| 9. SUSPECT(S) [Last, firs  | t and middle name(s)]                                       | 10. VICTIM(S) [Last, first and mid  | ddle name(s)]       |  |
| VerHulst, Brett, Laverne   |   |   |                     |  |
| 11. BRIEF DESCRIPTION (SYNOPSIS) OF CASE FACTS THAT MIGHT ASSIST THE LABORATORY IN EXAMINING OR EVALUATING THE EVIDENCE OR ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION ATTACHED (e.g., Summary of investigation, crime scene sketches/photographs, statements)  On 04/12/2021, RAO New London participated in a SAPR CIT regarding an allegation that (S) OSCM Brett Verhulst, Command Master Chief, USCGA, inappropriately hugged (V) (b) (6), (b), USCGA, in his Hamilton Hall office. Investigative efforts to date revealed several other alleged incidents of inappropriate physical contact involving (S) VerHulst and USCGA Cadets, CG Enlisted personnel and CG Officers. |   |   |                     |  |
| a. EXHIBIT   |   | CE SUBMITTED<br>DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBIT  |                     |  |
|  |   |   |                     |  |

|               | 12, EVID   | ENCE SUBMITTED (Continued)                  |   |
|---------------|--|---|---|
| a. EXHIBI     | Т  | b. DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBIT                   |   |
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| 13. EXAMIN    | ATION(S) REQUESTED (Briefly furnish any inform   | nation or instructions that might assis     | t the laboratory in examining the evidence)     |
|               |  |   |   |
| 1) Request se | izure of any/all Outlook email, Skype communicator lo  | gs, browser history and Internet search his | story associated with CGOne user: (S) CMC Brett |
| L. VerHulst ( | Brett.L. VerHulst@uscg.mil) from 01 August 2017 to p   | resent. No further analysis requested.      |   |
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|               | TIGATOR AND ALTERNATE POC<br>or Printed) (Mandatory Information)   | b. TELEPHONE (Primary/Alt): (b) (6          | 6), (b) (7)(C), (k)                             |
| S/A (b) (6).  |  | c. DSN (Primary/Alt):                       |   |
| RAC (b) (6)   |  | d. Fax:                                     |   |
|               |  | e. E-Mail: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C),             |   |
|               | 15. I CERTIFY EVIDENCE HAS NOT BEEN SUBN   | 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T 1 T     | FOR THE SAME EVAMINATION                        |
| a. DATE       | b. TYPED/PRINTED NAME OF REQUESTOR   |   |   |
| a. DATE       | The state of the s | d. TELEPHONE (Primary/Alt): (6)             | ) <u>, (b) (7)(C), (k)</u>                      |
|               | (b) (6),   | e. DSN (Primary/Ait):                       |   |
| 2021-04-22    | c. SIGNATURE<br>(b) (6), (b) (7)(C), (k)(2)  | f. Fax:                                     |   |
|               | $(0)$ $(0)$ , $(0)$ $(1)$ ( $0$ ), $(\Delta)(\Delta)$  | g. E-Mail: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C),             |   |
|               |  | 1-  | 16. LAB USE ONLY                                |
|               |  |   | LAB CASE #                                      |
|               |  |   | LAB CASE #                                      |
|               |  |   |   |

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY U.S. Coast Guard COAST GUARD INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE REPORT OF ADJUDICATION 2. CGIS Case Control Number 3. Date ROI Forwarded for Review 1. CGIS Use Only - Region NER 04/29/2021 CS2104000617 4. Full Name of Accused 5. Duty Station/Residence of Accused MCPO Brett Verhulst CG Academy 6. USCG: Active Duty Reserve Auxiliary Civilian Employee or Other Civilian 7. Criminal Proceeding 8. Uniform Code of Military Justice Proceeding GCM Referral: Federal State Local ☐ SPCM ☐ SCM NJP Tribal Not Referred ☐ Other \_ No Punitive Action Taken 9. Details of the Offense (Recite Article of UCMJ or Federal Statute; Generally describe actions of accused or allegations) Art. 128-Assault Art. 93-Cruelty or maltreatment. 10. Disposition On 09 Jul 2021, RADM Kelly determined to take no military justice action in this matter. a. Confinement (days/months) b. Fines (dollars) c. Forfeitures N/A N/A f. Extra Duty (days) N/A e. Restriction (days) N/A d. Rate/Rank Reduction Ň/A g. Discharge h. Admin Sep i. Characterization □BCD OFFICER DISMISSAL N/A □отн □GEN HON 11. Other Administrative Action (i.e. Reassignment, EAPC Referral, MPO, CG-3307, Letters of Reprimand/Censure) On 26 Apr 2021, RADM Kelly temporarily relieved OSCM B. L. VerHulst from his position as the Command Master Chief (CMC) of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (CGA). On 09 Jun 2021, RADM Kelly requested his permanent relief from the CG PSC EPM, and CG PSC approved that request on 09 Jul 2021. 12. Reporting Command Use (To be completed by the Command; or Special Agent-in-Charge for all Non-UCMJ Investigations) Rank Printed Name of Reporting Official Unit ACADEMY (sja) Date of Adjudication/Action Date ROI/Report of Adjudication Returned to CGIS 09 Jul 2021 Remarks None Attachments: (Report of Results of Trial, CG-4910, Additional Documentation)

CG-6030 (01/19)