Independent Assessment

of

The Untimely Death of AEAN Brandon Caserta

by

Wes Martin

Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army Military Police

July 21, 2021

INTRODUCTION:

1. At twenty-one years old, AEAN Brandon Caserta had a full life ahead of him. On the afternoon of June 25, 2018, he ended his own life.

2. Operating within the scope of its mission, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) focused primarily on the "who", "what", "where", "when", and "how". Primary effort of statements gathered by NCIS investigators were from witnesses of the event. The primary element of all death investigations is the autopsy. Combining all gathered evidence, NCIS determined the cause of death was suicide, manner of death was jumping into the rear rotor blade of a Seahawk helicopter.

3. For a variety of reasons, not thoroughly addressed in a criminal investigation report is "why". If done correctly, a proper command inquiry will fill the gap. The three keywords in the last sentence are "if done correctly." Command Investigation Officers (IO) are rarely professional investigators and are appointed by a senior commander who has a vested interest in the outcome of the investigation.

4. Provided to NCIS investigators were letters left behind by AEAN Caserta. These letters were addressed to his parents, a former girlfriend, and three friends he made while in the Navy. All the letters explain his emotional despair. Concerning the letter to his parents is the fact that the first two pages are disjointed in a logical flow from the last two. The four pages provided to NCIS constitute a shorter letter than left for friends. This leaves two unanswered probabilities: either AEAN Caserta wrote his parent's letter in two separate sessions or pages were removed before AEAN Caserta's supervisors turned the letters over to NCIS. The answer will likely never be known.

5. In this independent assessment are copies of three statements provided by AEAN Caserta's supervisors: AE1 Jared Brose, NC1 Remmy Spence, and CMC David Tokarski.

a. The statement from AE1 Brose was typewritten and provided to NCIS three days after the death of his immediate subordinate, AEAN Caserta. AE1 Brose was the principal source of problems in AEAN Caserta's life. AE1 Brose had a long history of extremely hostile behavior toward subordinates. Counseling statements and reassignments of AE1 Brose had no positive effect. It is obvious from AE1 Brose's five-page typewritten, single-spaced, statement that he spent those three days working hard to protect himself.

b. CN1 Remmy Spence does admit that he made a mistake, betrayed the trust, and possibly contributed to AEAN Caserta's final downward spiral that led to suicide. NC1 Spence portrays himself as a "big brother" of AEAN Caserta. He even states that he took AEAN Caserta to see the chaplain. AEAN Caserta did trust NC1 Spence until a few days prior to the suicide when NC1 Spence joined other NCO's in a hostile pile-up counselling on AEAN Caserta. This is the incident NC1 Spence acknowledges as

his betrayal of AEAN Caserta. This chaplain claim is proven to be wrong by Patrick Caserta.

c. Not as bad as AE1 Brose's statement, CMC Tokarski does take a defensive posture. It also needs to be pointed out that at the time of AEAN Caserta's suicide, CMC Tokarski was on the telephone arguing with AEAN Caserta's father. As both a father and retired senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO), Patrick Caserta recognized the negative impact a very unprofessional environment was having on his son. Had CMC Tokarski listened to Patrick Caserta (instead of arguing for forty minutes), AEAN Caserta should have been pulled from his workstation and counseled. The best-case scenario would have been for CMC Tokarski, AEAN Caserta, and Patrick Caserta to have been on the same telephonic conversation at the same time. AEAN Caserta would not have been near the helicopter blade that he used to take his life, and a strong possibility exists that the need for professional counseling could have been discovered. Unfortunately, as will be analyzed in the independent assessment, AEAN Caserta was not in a professional command environment.

6. For an unexplained reason, the Command Investigation was not ordered until July 10, 2018, fifteen days after the suicide of AEAN Caserta. It was important not to interfere with the NCIS investigation and contaminate the NCIS investigators' witness interview process, but that was completed before the end of June with the exception of AEAN Caserta's parents, friends deployed on the USS Iwo Jima, and two other individuals on July 2, 2018. Considering the volume of signed statements collected by NCIS in the first forty-eight hours after AEAN Caserta's death, the July 2, 2018 delay is justifiable, as is the delay of interviewing the parents and Sailors on deployment.

7. The Command Investigation should have been ordered much sooner. There are preliminary steps that the IO could have completed without contaminating the NCIS investigative process. As if the fifteen-day delay in the ordering of a Command Investigation was not bad enough, the investigation officer did not get around to completing the interviews until August of 2018. Unlike school-trained and certified NCIS investigators who gathered documented statements hand- or type-written by the witnesses, the Command Investigation officer did his own paraphrasing of witness comments. This defies yet another standard of professional investigations. As a result, these paraphrased statements made the IO look more like a choir conductor than an independent investigator.

8. The IO also worked to bring back to life two past issues in AEAN Caserta's life. AEAN Caserta did have to leave SEAL training when he broke his leg and had pneumonia. AEAN Caserta attempted to move on from that and still dedicated himself to doing good things in the Navy. AEAN Caserta did have a broken relationship with a high school girlfriend. As evidenced by his suicide letter to her and a statement from one of his friends on the USS Iwo Jima, AEAN Caserta had accepted it.

9. The IO did acknowledge the abusive work environment created by AE1 Brose. To his initial credit, the IO did not downplay this but documented how despicable the situation had become. Counseling statements from AE1 Brose's supervisors appear to have been mocked by AE1 Brose as if AE1 Brose was responding with Lou Costello's "I'm a bad boy" routine. Then AE1 Brose would immediately continue with the same abusive behavior.

10. After AEAN Caserta had dropped a letter of complaint about AE1 Brose in the Commander's Suggestion box (aka ANYMOUSE Box) on the Friday afternoon before AEAN Caserta's suicide, the remainder of the NCOs joined in on the abusive behavior. AEAN Caserta and 1NC Spence reference in their statements. The meeting was initiated by AE1 Brose.

11. Instead of standing up to AE1 Brose, the senior NCOs joined the pile-on. The main, and in all probably pre-text issue, was over the status of a driver's license. NC1 Spence acknowledges AEAN Caserta honestly believed he did not have a license. It had been granted to AEAN Caserta after he completed a private driver's education course, but he never applied for what he believed was the actual license. Illegally, during this meeting, Chief Dalessandro confiscated from AEAN Caserta a debit card and used it to pay for AEAN Caserta's Arizona driver's license (to be explained in detail in Attachment L). AEAN Caserta was further informed in this meeting that he was going to be recommended for a Captain's Mast (non-judicial punishment hearing).

12. The pile-on by seniors of the instigator brings back memories of the Abu Ghraib Prison abuses in October of 2003. Army Reserve Specialist (E-4) Charles Grainer was able to convince peers and seniors to join in on the abuses of Iraqi detainees. The old adage often rings true, "One bad apple will spoil the entire basket." The U.S. Army had Charles Grainer, the U.S. Navy had Jared Brose. The difference is Charles Grainer and many of his followers were held fully accountable for their behavior.

13. A subject that AEAN Caserta sustained continual attacks on was his plane captain qualification. When he sustained a collar bone break in a bicycle-accident and was temporarily assigned to work in the Geedunk, the six-month timeframe for completing the qualification should have been placed on hold while he was on limited duty. It wasn't, and a computer reset deleted the records of his 70% status. AEAN Caserta was back to 0% on records. Rather than help him recover the lost status, the 0% qualification became another avenue of torment.

14. Furthermore, AEAN Caserta's assigned mission was electronics inside the aircraft, not operations outside the aircraft. Added to this was the issue of AEAN Caserta's pending reassignment, which negated the need to become plane captain qualified. NC1 Spence had promised to reinstate the transfer process once AEAN Caserta's collar bone healed. After the healing was complete, AEAN Caserta realized nothing was reinstated, and was told by NC1 Spence he had to start that process all over again. This too, as verified by witness statements and his own suicide letters, added to his downward spiral.

15. Perhaps the most despicable comment in the IO report is the following statement: *Based on the witness statements and counseling records, there is sufficient evidence to take* AEI BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *for violation of UCMJ, Article 93 – Cruelty and Maltreatment. It is clear from the evidence that AEI BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED behavior towards his subordinates was verbally abusive and demeaning. However, I recommend that the command transfer the member with a declining evaluation in lieu of awarding Captain's Mast. I do not recommend Captain's Mast due to the fact that the member can refuse Captain's Mast enduring to a Special or General Courts Martial, further extending the timeline, and exacerbating the healing process for all effected personnel.*

16. As stated in Attachment M of this independent assessment:

> a. The harder right over the easier wrong would have been to hold AEI Brose fully accountable for his despicable behavior. He could have been the positive difference to help PO3 Caserta navigate his life through a very negative time. Instead, to satisfy his own ego and desire to demean everyone around him, AE1 Brose greatly contributed to the downward spiral of the section and, especially, PO3 Caserta.
>
> b. Instead of non-judicial or judicial punishment, the recommendation was to provide a "declining evaluation" on AE1 Brose, let him keep his undeserved rank, and send him on to another command where he can continue his abusive behavior as he had done before.
>
> c. Using the investigative officer logic of not taking aggressive action because it would contribute to *exacerbating the healing process for all effected personnel* then no trial against a felon should ever occur because of the continuing pain it would cause the victims provided they were still alive. Fortunately, this investigative officer's logic was NOT applied to those charged and subsequently convicted at the Nuremberg Trials.
>
> d. The reality this officer failed to understand was accountability of criminals and predators helps bring closure to the victims and the survivors of the deceased. It also sends a message to all others that such behavior will result in justice.

17. The Department of Defense Inspector General (IG) does not create a report any better than the Command's IO. In spite of previous investigations uncovering the letter AEAN Caserta placed in the Commander Suggestion (ANYMOUSE) Box, claims no evidence exists that CDR Whitmer was aware or was apprised of the abusive behavior of AE1 Brose.

18. In Attachment N of this independent assessment, Patrick Caserta takes apart every detail of the IO report. Patrick Caserta came through the enlisted Navy ranks and served his NCO years developing young Sailors. He also recognized good and bad

leadership. What he saw his son enduring, especially knowing what was happening, violated numerous U.S. Navy regulations and, especially, the Uniform Code of Military Justice which forced him to aggressively engage AEAN Caserta's senior supervisors.

19. No matter what adversity any servicemember of any branch faces, a professional command environment can make the difference in achievement of success or succumbing to defeat. AEAN Caserta had overcome being removed from SEAL training due to a broken leg and having contracted pneumonia. He even ran 20 miles a day in this condition until a medical doctor realized what AEAN Caserta was enduring. AEAN Caserta successfully worked hard to ensure his collar bone healed from an injury, allowing him to continue in his mission and the transfer process. AEAN Caserta had moved on from a broken personal relationship, as evidence by his own suicide statement and a witness statement.

20. What drove AEAN Caserta to defeat was the abusive environment he was required to endure. The problem was not just AE1 Brose. The problem was the senior NCOs and officers who allowed AE1 Brose's behavior to continue. The problem was these same senior NCOs jumping on the Brose bandwagon after AEAN Caserta had reported the problem to CDR Whitmer by means of the Suggestion (ANYMOUSE) Box. The problem was CRD Whitmer doing nothing about such a toxic environment. The problem was the Command IO writing a report trying to place as much blame for the suicide as possible on AEAN Caserta's mental state. What blame could not have been cast upon AEAN Caserta, the IO then placed on AE1 Brose, while protecting the rest of the command. The problem was the commander who did not have a standdown when a suicide occurred the day before in a Norfolk, Virginia sister squadron – and another just weeks prior to that. The problem was an IG who claimed CDR Whitmer had no knowledge, nor had reason to have knowledge of the abusive environment he commanded, despite written evidence to the contrary.

21. In a professional military command, NCOs and officers create positive environments and help subordinates "be all they can be." When service members are unable to achieve the goals and milestones, professional leadership helps them overcome difficulties and helps rebuild confidence. This independent assessment will leave no doubt in any reader's mind that HSC-28 was the most unprofessional environment in which blatant abuse was not controlled. Instead, abuse was condoned through weak-to-non-existent efforts to bring it to an end.

22. Even in death, AEAN Caserta left a suicide note for CDR Whitmer, recommending ways the US Navy could improve itself. Nothing was done, other than to attempt writing off AEAN Caserta's life as an unfortunate tragedy. These aforementioned, and still unresolved, problems confirm the U.S. Navy learned nothing from AEAN Brandon Caserta's death.

Wesley M. Martin
Colonel (Retired)
U.S. Army Military Police

Attachments:
A: Official Reports Concerning the Untimely Death of Brandon Caserta
B: U.S. Criminal Investigative Service Report
C: Patrick & Teri Caserta's Letter to NCIS
D: AEAN Caserta's Personal Chronology
E: Shoulder Injury
F: Letters from AEAN Caserta to the Commander
G: Suicide Letters
H: Facebook Message from Lauren LivMore Fletcher
I: Supervisor Statements Gathered by NCIS
J: Friends' Statements Gathered by NCIS
K: Summary Statements from AEAN Caserta's Father, Patrick
L: Line of Duty Investigation and Command Investigation Supporting Documents
M: Line of Duty Investigation and Command Investigation Report Summary
N: Rebuttal for the Command's Investigation Report
O: Family's Contact with NCIS Concerning AEAN Caserta's death and Property
P: Department of Defense Inspector General Preliminary Inquiry Report

Admin Note: Each attachment in this report should be read in its entirety. The opening narratives only serve as a guide to the massive volume of information provided by the historical documentation.

Attachment A: Official Reports Concerning the Untimely Death of AEAN Brandon Caserta

1. In order of date completed, the following documents are reviewed.

a. Initial Incident Report, dated Jun 25, 2018 (Attachment A-1). Required to be completed immediately after a serious incident has occurred, this report identifies the circumstances of Brandon Caserta's death as *...an E-3 maintainer at HSC-28 jumped into a spinning tail rotor of an MH-60s Helicopter. Sailor is suspected to be deceased. Currently awaiting confirmation from a physician. Sailor was taken by ambulance, in an unknown condition, to an unknown trauma center in the Norfolk, VA area.*

b. Statement of Disposition of Military Remains, dated Jun 26, 2018 (Attachment A-2). The day following Brandon's death, his parents in shock and suffering had to make the decisions for proceeding with the funeral arrangements. For both the parents and the Navy, there is no good way around the required determinations. Selected was a civilian service contracted by the Navy and near Brandon's home of record.

c. DD Form 1300, Report of Casualty, dated Jul 9, 2018 (Attachment A-3). This report is a formal announcement stating, *Airman Brandon Patrick Caserta was posthumously promoted to the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class, as of 25 June 2018, under provisions of Public Law 680. 77th Congress, as amended. Pay grade shown in item 3d is that of E-3 since additional pay is not involved.*

d. Medical Examiner's Autopsy Report provided to family, dated Aug 21, 2018 (Attachment A-4). The family has a right to a thorough autopsy report and in compliance with this right, the medical community did consider the family's emotions upon reviewing the report. The report's envelope was sealed for the family to determine where and when the contents would be opened.

(1) In the cover letter's second paragraph, Armed Forces Medical Examiner Colonel (COL) Louis N. Finelli, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) states, *The information contained within this report is graphically described to ensure complete accuracy of the physical details of the examination. This information can be potentially disturbing to review.*

(2) The autopsy was completed at Dover Air Force Base, Delaware, on June 27, 2018, two days after the death of Brandon Caserta. The delay in time from the completion of the autopsy to the finalization of the report was fifty-four days. This was not unreasonable, and in keeping with civilian standards, due to additional gathering of facts and evidence.

(3) Cause of death was identified as "blunt force trauma to the head." Manner of death was "suicide." In signing off on the autopsy report, Lieutenant Commander

(LCDR) Bryan Platt, Medical Doctor (MD) states, *This Sailor, Brandon Patrick Caserta, died of blunt force trauma to the head. The toxicology screen is negative. The manner of death, based upon investigative details present at the time of this report, is suicide*.

2. The professionalism and thoroughness of the medical officers involved in Brandon Caserta's autopsy is beyond reproach. Physical examination of the body reveals that prior to committing suicide Brandon Patrick Caserta was very physically sound and should have been expected to live a long life. The toxicology further validates that Brandon Caserta was not taking mind-altering drugs that would have contributed to an emotional breakdown that would have contributed to his act of suicide.

3. The revelations provided by the aforementioned autopsy confirm the need to examine further why a healthy young man would take his own life.

Field Report Type:	INIT
Field Report Number:	BPC20180625JJG
Casualty Type:	Nonhostile
Casualty Status:	Deceased
Casualty Category:	Self-Inflicted

☐ **Special Category** ☐ **Special Interest**

Multi Casualty:	
SSN:	[redacted]
Last Name:	Caserta
First Name:	Brandon
Middle Name:	Patrick
Suffix:	
Person Type:	Regular
Person Affiliation:	Active Duty
Person Category:	Obligated/Voluntary Service
Rank:	AN
Grade:	E-3
Service:	United States Navy
Unit:	HSC28
UIC:	55218
In Support of Other Service:	
Incident Dt:	25 Jun 2018 15:30
Circumstances:	At 1930Z, 25JUN18, an E-3 maintainer at HSC-28 jumped into a spinning tail rotor of an MH-60s Helicopter. Sailor is suspected to be deceased. Currently awaiting confirmation from a physician. Sailor was taken by ambulance, in an unknown condition, to an unknown trauma center in the Norfolk, VA area.
Inflicting Force:	
War Conflict:	
Ops Incident:	
Event:	
Investigation Required:	
Vehicle Group:	
Vehicle:	
Armor level:	
Vehicle Owner:	
Position in Vehicle:	
Incident City:	Norfolk
Incident State:	Virginia
Incident Country:	United States
Grid:	
Lat/Long:	
Location:	
Diagnosis:	Deceased
Cause:	Self inflicted injury to tail rotor of operating helicopter.

ATTACHMENT A-1; INDEPENENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AE3N BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Death Dt:	25 Jun 2018 15:30
Death City:	norfolk
Death State:	Virginia
Death Country:	United States
Died in Medical Facility:	Died Outside A Medical Treatment Facility
Continuously Hospitalized:	
Race:	White
Ethnicity:	None
Sex:	Male
Religion:	Roman Catholic Church
Birth Dt:	25 May 1997
Birth City:	
Birth State:	California
Birth Country:	
Citizenship:	United States
DMOS:	
PMOS:	
PEBD:	28 Sep 2015
BASD:	
Home of Record (City):	
Home of Record (State):	
Home of Record (Country):	United States
Civilian Employer Type:	
Civilian Pay Grade:	
Civilian Contract Agency:	
Civilian Organization:	
DD93/RED Completion Dt:	
DD93/RED Review Dt:	
SGLI Dt:	
Training/Duty Related:	
Training Type:	
Training Start Date:	
Training End Date:	
Duty Status:	Present For Duty
Start Dt:	25 Jun 2018
End Dt:	25 Jun 2018
Retired/Separation Dt:	
TDRL/PDRL:	
TDRL/PDRL %:	
TDRL/PDRL Dt:	
Posthumous Recommend ate:	
Posthumous Rank Recommended:	

Higher Rank Held:

Higher Rank Held From Dt:

Higher Rank Held To Dt:

DG Remarks:

Remarks:

Closed Dt:

User Registration Info:

Name:	Stambaugh, Michael Scot
Rank/Grade:	GS-07
Phone:	(901) 874-2876
Email:	michael.stambaugh@navy.mil
Service:	United States Navy
Unit:	Navy Casualty
UIC:	
Location:	NSA Mid-South
City:	Millington
State:	Tennessee
Country:	United States

STATEMENT OF DISPOSITION OF MILITARY REMAINS

(Read Agency Disclosure Notice, Privacy Advisory, and Instructions on Page 2 before completing this form.)

1. NAME OF DECEASED (Last, First, Middle Initial)	2. SERVICE/GRADE OF DECEASED	3. DCIPS CASE NUMBER
CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK	AEAN	

4. PERSON AUTHORIZED TO DIRECT DISPOSITION (PADD)

a. NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	b. RELATIONSHIP TO DECEASED	c. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)
Patrick & Teri Caserta	MOM & DAD	(602) 625 7581

d. CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS (Street, Apartment Number, City, State and ZIP Code)
10257 W White Feather Ln Peoria AZ 85383

5. SELECTION OF DISPOSITION OPTIONS

I, the undersigned Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD), have been provided a **MORTUARY BRIEFING** and I understand each of the options presented and have selected disposition of remains as indicated below. I understand that the embalming/preparation, restoration, and casketing of remains, under **Options 1 - 4**, may be provided by a civilian funeral home, under contract with the DoD, or a Mortuary operated by the Department of the Army, Navy, or Air Force.

OPTION 1 — (Initials) PC

I authorize the Military to assume custody of remains for embalming/preparation, restoration, dressing or wrapping, with placement in the casket selected in **Block 8**, and request transportation to be arranged, with escort, at government expense to the **FUNERAL HOME** listed in **Block 6**, with subsequent interment/entombment in the **CIVILIAN CEMETERY** listed in **Block 7**.
I understand the reimbursement for expenses incurred at the funeral home, cemetery and other authorized expenses cannot exceed **$9,000**. In addition to this maximum reimbursement, the Government will pay all remains transportation expenses.

OPTION 2 — (Initials) _____

I authorize the Military to assume custody of remains for embalming/preparation, restoration, dressing or wrapping, with placement in the casket selected in **Block 8**, and request transportation to be arranged, with escort, at government expense to the **FUNERAL HOME** listed in **Block 6**, with subsequent interment/entombment in the **GOVERNMENT CEMETERY (Federal/State)** listed in **Block 7**.
I understand that the reimbursement for expenses incurred at the funeral home, cemetery and other authorized expenses cannot exceed **$6,000**. In addition to this maximum reimbursement, the Military will pay all remains transportation expenses.

OPTION 3 — (Initials) _____

I authorize the Military to assume custody of remains for embalming/preparation, restoration, dressing or wrapping, with placement in the casket selected in **Block 8**, and request transportation to be arranged, with escort, at government expense with direct consignment for interment/entombment in the **GOVERNMENT CEMETERY (Federal/State)** listed in **Block 7**.
I understand that the reimbursement for expenses incurred at the funeral home, cemetery, for the transportation of remains, and other authorized expenses cannot exceed **$2,500**.

OPTION 4 — (Initials) PC

CREMATION: I understand the utilization of a **WOOD CREMATION CASKET** should be used when cremation is desired. I understand that the casketed remains will be escorted by MILITARY ESCORT to the receiving **FUNERAL HOME**, listed in **Block 6**, in accordance with all applicable statutory provisions. The cremation will take place as a primary expense, funded by the Military at the funeral home or cremation facility contracted by the PADD, and the Military will provide the urn selected in **Block 9**. This option to be used in conjuction with Option 1 or 2.

If cremated remains are retained, the reimbursement will not exceed that of Option 2 above.

OPTION 5 — (Initials) _____

I desire to **MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS** for the disposition of remains. If the remains are under the control of the DoD, I direct the remains be released to the funeral home listed in **Block 6**. Reimbursement for expenses associated with the disposition of the remains may not exceed the reimbursement entitlements listed in **(A)** or **(B)**, as applicable. If the remains are cremated and retained, the reimbursement will not exceed that of **(B)** below. Additionally, the Government will reimburse all remains transportation expenses. Refer to the instruction page of this form for support provided by the Military Service when choosing this option.

- ☐ **(A) $10,500** for interment/entombment in a **CIVILIAN CEMETERY** listed in **Block 7**.
- ☐ **(B) $9,000** for interment in a **GOVERNMENT CEMETERY (Federal/State)** listed in **Block 7**.

OPTION 6 — (Initials) _____

I HEREBY RELINQUISH MY RIGHTS to all decisions regarding the disposition of the remains and understand that the right to direct disposition of the remains will pass to the next person in hierarchy by marriage, blood relation, or adoption and whose name is listed below. I also certify that I have the legal right to make this authorization and release the DoD, its officers, agents, and employees from any and all liability that may arise from this action. I further authorize the named individual to apply for reimbursement of the authorized reimbursable funeral expenses, up to the allowable limit, incurred in the disposition of these remains. By law, the new PADD to whom the authority to direct disposition passes is *(Name/relationship)*: _____

6. RECEIVING FUNERAL HOME (Name, Address (Include ZIP Code) and Telephone Number (Include Area Code))	7. CEMETERY (or where final disposition of remains is to be effected) (Name, Address (Include ZIP Code) and Telephone Number (Include Area Code))
WEST Resthaven Funeral Home 6450 W. NORTHERN Ave GLENDALE AZ 85301	

8. CASKET SELECTION (Not applicable to Options 4 or 5)	9. URN SELECTION (Applicable to Option 4)
☐ 18-GA Steel with Silver Tone Finish ☐ Solid Hardwood with Walnut Finish	☐ Solid Bronze ☒ Solid Walnut

11.a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF PADD	b. SIGNATURE OF PADD	c. DATE
Patrick Caserta Teri Caserta	Patrick Caserta Teri Caserta	26 JUN 18
12.a. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF WITNESS	**b. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS**	**c. DATE**
ROSEMARY WEHBE	Rosemary Wehbe	26 JUN 18

ATTACHMENT A-2; INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

REPORT OF CASUALTY

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
MILLINGTON, TN 38055-6210

REPORT CONTROL SYMBOL
DD-P&R(AR)1664

1. REPORT TYPE: Initial

2. DATE PREPARED: 09 Jul 2018

3. SERVICE IDENTIFICATION

a. NAME (Last, First, Middle and Suffix)	b. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	c. RANK	d. PAY GRADE	e. OCCUPATIONAL CODE/ RATING
Caserta, Brandon Patrick	[redacted]	PO3	E-3	AEAN

f. COMPONENT	g. BRANCH	h. ORGANIZATION
Regular	USN	HSC28

4. CASUALTY INFORMATION

a. TYPE	b. STATUS	c. CATEGORY	d. DATE OF CASUALTY	e. PLACE OF CASUALTY
Nonhostile	Deceased	Pending	25 Jun 2018	norfolk, VA

f. CIRCUMSTANCES
Determination pending.

g. DUTY STATUS	h. BODY RECOVERED
Active Duty/Off Duty	Yes

5. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

a. DATE OF BIRTH	b. PLACE OF BIRTH	c. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
25 May 1997	San Diego, CA	United States

d. RACE
White

e. ETHNICITY	f. SEX
None	Male

g. RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE
Roman Catholic Church

6. ACTIVE DUTY INFORMATION

a. PLACE OF ENTRY	b. DATE OF ENTRY	c. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY
Phoenix, AZ	28 Sep 2015	AZ, AZ

7. INTERESTED PERSONS/REMARKS *(Name, Address, and Relationship) (Continue on separate sheet, if necessary)*

Patrick Joseph Caserta, 10257 W. White Feather Lane, Peoria, AZ 85382-8891 (Father) 2,3
Teri Lynne Caserta, 10257 W. White Feather Lane, Peoria, AZ 85382-8891 (Mother) 2,3
**** End of Interested Persons ****

Airman Brandon Patrick Caserta was posthumously promoted to the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class, as of 25 June 2018, under provisions of Public Law 680, 77th Congress, as amended. Pay grade shown in item 3d is that of E-3 since additional pay is not involved.

FOOTNOTES: 1 Primary next-of-kin.
2 Beneficiary(ies) for death gratuity - as designated on record of emergency data.
3 Beneficiary for unpaid pay and allowances - as designated on record of emergency data.

8. REPORTING INFORMATION

a. COMMAND AGENCY	b. DATE RECEIVED
HSC28	25 Jun 2018

9. DISTRIBUTION

10. SIGNATURE ELEMENT
G. Moody
Director, Navy Casualty Office

NOTE: This form may be used to facilitate the cashing of bonds, the payment of commercial insurance, or in the settlement of any other claim in which proof of death is required.

DD FORM 1300, FEB 2011 PREVIOUS EDITION MAY BE USED. Adobe Professional 8.0

ATTACHMENT A-3: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
115 PURPLE HEART DRIVE
DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DELAWARE 19902

Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

August 21, 2018

Ms. Teri Caserta
10257 W. White Feather Ln.
Peoria, AZ 85385

Dear Ms. Caserta,

As requested, enclosed within this sealed envelope is a complete copy of the Autopsy Examination Report of your son, AN Brandon P. Caserta.

The information contained within this report is graphically described to ensure complete accuracy of the physical details of the examination. This information can be potentially disturbing to review.

If you have questions regarding any portion of the report provided, please do not hesitate to contact our office to discuss with the Forensic Pathologist of record at (302) 346-8648. You may also contact our office via email at the following address: usarmy.dover.medcom-afmes.mbx.operations@mail.mil.

If you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

LOUIS N. FINELLI, D.O.
COL, MC, USA
Armed Forces Medical Examiner

ATTACHMENT A-4: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Armed Forces Medical
Examiner System

DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY
115 PURPLE HEART DRIVE
DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, DELAWARE 19902

AUTOPSY REPORT

Autopsy Number: ME18-0157
Name: Caserta, Brandon Patrick
Grade: E-3, USN
Date of Birth: 25 MAY 1997
Date of Death: 25 JUN 2018
Place of Death: Naval Air Station Norfolk, VA
Date/Time of Autopsy: 27 JUN 2018 at 0730 hours
Place of Autopsy: OAFME, Dover Air Force Base, DE
Date Report Signed: 21 AUG 2018

Circumstances of Death: This Sailor was involved in an aviation ground mishap when his head struck the tail rotor of an MH-60 helicopter. Multiple suicide notes were identified in his living quarters.

Authorization for Autopsy: Armed Forces Medical Examiner, IAW 10 USC 1471.

Identification: Positive identification by ante-mortem and post-mortem fingerprint, dental, and DNA comparisons.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Blunt Force Trauma to the Head

MANNER OF DEATH: Suicide

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EXTERNAL EXAMINATION

The body is received wrapped in a white sheet within a white human remains pouch that is sealed with a blue plastic lock. Attached to the outermost pouch is a paper tag labeled with the decedent's demographics. The body is clad in the clothing listed below. A clear plastic bag and a paper bag accompany the body in the human remains pouch. A paper tag and a grey plastic identification band, both labeled with the decedent's demographics, are attached to the left ankle. A white tag labeled "ME18-0157" is attached to the left ankle at intake.

The body is that of a well-developed, well-nourished, young adult male, and appears compatible with the reported age. Injuries are described in the section "Evidence of Injury" and medical therapy is described in the section "Medical Intervention". The body is approximately 68-1/2" in length and weighs 147 pounds. Lividity is minimally blanching on the posterior surface of the body except in the areas exposed to pressure. Rigor is equally developed in all four extremities. There is faint marbling of the forearms.

The scalp hair is dark brown and up to 1" in length. The facial hair is clean shaven. The irides appear brown, the corneae are clear, and the sclerae are white. The conjunctivae are free of petechiae. There are no palpable fractures of the facial bones. The external nares, external auditory canals and mouth are free of abnormal secretions. The lips are without evident injury. The teeth are natural and in good condition. The chest and back are unremarkable. The genitalia are those of an adult circumcised male. The anus is non-traumatic. The extremities are symmetric. The fingernails are 1/8" – 3/16", trimmed, and intact. Multiple, well-healed, oval scars are present on the anterior and posterior right upper arm, the knees, and right anterior lower extremity. There are no tattoos.

CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

The body is clad in black socks, a blue blousing strap, black underwear, a blue T-shirt (previously cut), black boots, and blue Navy Working Uniform pants with a black web belt (cut halfway up the legs). The T-shirt is bloodstained/soaked, and the pants are bloodstained. Personal effects consists of a pen in the right pants pocket and a pink and yellow ear plug.

MEDICAL INTERVENTION

Electrocardiogram leads (four) are attached to the right and left upper chest and lower extremities. A dermal puncture is located on the left anterior forearm.

RADIOGRAPHS

A complete set of post-mortem radiographs is obtained and the results are incorporated into section "Evidence of Injury". Additional findings include a healed right clavicle fracture and a congenital anomaly of the C1 vertebra consisting of bilaterally open vertebral foramina.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY

There is a gaping, geographic shaped, full thickness, 13" x 2-1/2" laceration extending from the left posterior neck to the scalp posterior to the left ear, and

terminating on the right side of the top of the head. The inferior aspect of the wound features a 1/8" – ¼" wide abrasion collar. There is a resultant open cranium with comminuted fractures of the calvarial skull, and the brain and midbrain to the level of the pons is extruded from the skull through the wound. The pituitary stalk is transected. Portions of the skull from the left posterior fossa extending to the right calvarium are absent. There are eggshell fractures of the remaining calvarial and basilar skull, including the right petrous pyramid and foramen magnum. Radiological examination identifies separation and subluxation of the C1 and C2 vertebra, as well as widening of the C4-5 interspace and anterior wedging of C5. Examination of the contents of the clear plastic and brown paper bags (reassociated based on circumstances) reveal portions of scalp skin and left ear, fragments of calvarial skull, and pulpified portions of brain and midbrain with patchy subarachnoid, intraparenchymal, and focal subdural hemorrhage (approximately 10-15 ml of clotted blood).

On the posterior head, perpendicular to the open cranium and extending from the left superior to the right inferior aspect, are a series of three, parallel, oval abrasions that are oriented in an approximately 2 o'clock to 8 o'clock direction (1-1/2" x ½" with a central ¾" x 1/8" superficial laceration, 1-1/2" x ½", and 1-3/4" x ¾" with a central 1" x ¼" superficial laceration). Additional external injuries to the head include an oval, ¼" in greatest dimension abrasion on the inferior aspect of the right side of the posterior head, a ½" x ¼" oval abrasion on the left posterior neck, and a ½" x ¼" geographic abrasion on the left side of the head, anterior to the left ear.

The left elbow and posterior forearm feature a cluster of three oval abrasions (½" x ¼", ½" x ¼", and 1" x ¼"). There is a ½" x ¼" oval abrasion on the left posterior wrist, and a pair of linear, ½" in length abrasions on the left posterior 4th digit. There is a geographic shaped, ½" x ½" abrasion on the right posterior wrist, a 1/8" oval abrasion on the right posterior hand overlying the 4th metacarpophalangeal joint, and a 1/16" oval abrasion on the left posterior third digit. There is a ¾" x ½" oval contusion on the left knee.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

BODY CAVITIES:

There are no adhesions or excess fluid in any of the cavities. The organs occupy their usual anatomic positions.

HEAD (CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM) and NECK:

See also "Evidence of Injury." There is no epidural hemorrhage present. The leptomeninges are thin and delicate.

The brain present weighs 700 grams. The gyri and sulci, where uninjured, are unremarkable. Coronal sections through the cerebral hemispheres and sagittal sections through the cerebellum and brainstem reveal no non-traumatic lesions.

The anterior strap muscles of the neck are homogenous and red-brown, without hemorrhage by layer-wise dissection. The thyroid cartilage and hyoid bone are intact. The larynx is lined by intact white mucosa.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:

The upper airway is free of abnormal secretions. The mucosal surfaces are smooth, white-tan and unremarkable. The right and left lungs weigh 240 and 260 grams, respectively. The pulmonary parenchyma is pink to red-purple. The pulmonary arteries are normally developed and patent without thrombus or embolus.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:

The heart is contained in an intact pericardial sac, and weighs 280 grams. The coronary arteries are present in a normal distribution and are present in a right-dominant pattern. There is focal atherosclerosis in the left anterior descending coronary artery (25% occlusion). The myocardium is firm and homogenous. The walls of the left ventricle, interventricular septum, and right ventricle are 1.2, 1.3, and 0.3 centimeters thick, respectively. The aorta gives rise to three intact and patent arch vessels. The renal and mesenteric vessels are unremarkable. The vena cavae and its major tributaries return to the heart in the usual distribution and are free of thrombi.

HEPATOBILIARY SYSTEM:

The liver weighs 1160 grams and has an intact, smooth capsule and a sharp anterior border. The parenchyma is tan-brown with the usual lobular architecture. No mass lesions are identified. The gallbladder contains approximately 15 milliliters of bile. The extrahepatic biliary tree is patent.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:

The right and left kidneys weigh 100 and 120 grams, respectively. The external surfaces are intact, smooth and red-tan. The cut surfaces are red-tan and the cortices are delineated from the medullary pyramids. The pelves are unremarkable and the ureters are normal in course and caliber. The bladder contains approximately 23 milliliters of clear, yellow urine. The prostate is unremarkable; the testes are descended bilaterally.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:

The tongue is unremarkable. The esophagus is lined by smooth, grey-white mucosa. The stomach, small bowel, colon, and appendix are unremarkable. The stomach contains approximately 35 milliliters of tan, thin liquid with no partially digested food or pill fragments identified. The pancreas is pink-tan with a lobulated appearance. No mass lesions or other abnormalities are identified.

LYMPHORETICULAR SYSTEM:

The spleen weighs 120 grams and has a smooth, intact, red-purple capsule. The parenchyma is maroon with unremarkable lymphoid follicles. Lymph nodes in the hilar, peri-aortic and iliac regions are not enlarged.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:

See also "Evidence of Injury." Where uninjured, the pituitary gland is unremarkable. The thyroid gland is symmetric and red-brown, without cystic or nodular change. The right and left adrenal glands are symmetric, with bright yellow cortices and red-brown medullae. No masses or areas of hemorrhage are identified.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:
See also "Radiographs" and "Evidence of Injury." The ribs, sternum, and vertebral bodies are visibly and palpably intact. Muscle development is normal.

MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Selected portions of organs are retained in formalin without the preparation of slides.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

1. Assisting with the autopsy, and taking documentary photographs, are OAFME personnel.
2. Representatives from NCIS attended the autopsy.
3. A complete list of all individuals in attendance is on file.
4. Selected portions of organs and fluids are retained for toxicology, histology, and DNA identification. The dissected organs are released with the body.
5. Personal effects are released to personal effects personnel.
6. Recovered evidence: None.

FINAL AUTOPSY DIAGNOSES

I. **Blunt Force Trauma to the Head:**
   A. Lacerations and abrasions of the head.
   B. Eggshell fractures of the calvarial and basilar skull.
   C. Extrusion and pulpification of the brain.
   D. Subarachnoid, intraparenchymal, and subdural hemorrhage of the brain.
   E. Transection of the pituitary stalk.
   F. C1/C2 separation/subluxation.
   G. Widening of the C4/5 interspace with anterior wedging of C5.

II. **Additional findings** - Abrasions and contusion of the extremities.

III. **Natural pathology:**
   A. Mild, focal coronary atherosclerosis.
   B. Open vertebral artery foramina of the C1 vertebra.
   C. Healed right clavicle fracture.

IV. **Toxicology and Special Studies:**
   A. VOLATILES: No ethanol detected in the blood.
   B. DRUGS: No screened drugs of abuse/medications detected in the urine.

OPINION

This Sailor, Brandon Patrick Caserta, died of blunt force trauma to the head. The toxicology screen is negative. The manner of death, based on investigative details present at the time of this report, is suicide.

PLATT.BRYANJAMES.1277513435 Digitally signed by PLATT.BRYANJAMES.1277513435 Date: 2018.08.21 12:45:04 -04'00'

Bryan J. Platt, M.D.
LCDR, MC(FS/FMF) USN
Deputy Medical Examiner

Attachment B: U.S. Criminal Investigative Service Report

1. Immediately upon receipt of notification of Brandon Caserta's death, U.S. Criminal Investigative Service Resident Agency (NCISRA) Norfolk commenced an investigation. This investigation would include interviews of witnesses and other people involved in Brandon Caserta's life. In addition to the autopsy, an extensive review of Brandon Caserta's medical records were examined. Available electronic communications, both from Brandon Caserta's own devices and those provided by his contacts were included in the final report.

2. Despite the source agency(ies) of supporting documentation provided to the final report, the commencement of the consolidation of evidence has the same starting point: *On 25Jun18, at approximately 1530, NCISRA Norfolk received notification from Regional Dispatch of a death at the LF-59 hanger abroad Naval Station Norfolk. NCIS responded to the scene and learned that V/CASERTA reportedly walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopter on purpose. Several field interviews were conducted of first responders and other sailors who witnessed the incident. Reportedly, V/CASERTA apologized to the Plane Captain (PC) prior to walking towards the back of the helicopter, removed his protective helmet, and appeared to jump toward the spinning tail rotor of the SH-60 at least two (2) times before finally making contact with the blades* (Attachment B-1).

3. Further analysis of selected statements from the NCIS report helps to develop an understanding of what Brandon Caserta's thoughts and actions were prior to taking his own life:

3a. *It appears V/CASERTA prepared trinkets and letters, in advance, that were addressed to different individuals* (also Attachment B-1).

3b. *Additionally, a document was found, similar to a journal, and the texts for June 2018 were extracted, appearing to reveal a very negative outlook on his life up to that point* (Attachment B-2).

3c. *On 18OCT18, Reporting Agent (RA) reviewed the DVD-R containing the findings of the digital forensic examination pertaining to the captioned investigation* (Attachment B-3).

3c(1) The folder labeled "0691-18, Item A" contained (16) conversations wherein V/CASERTA discusses his distrust and hatred towards the USN, depression, and his ex-girlfriend….Also included in the folder was a Microsoft ExceL spreadsheet containing the hits for depression, BUDS, and suicide. Admin note: BUDS refers to Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training.

3c(2) The subfolder titled "conversations contains seven (7) conversations via iMessage where he also discusses his distrust and hatred towards the USN,

depression, and **NAME REMOVED**. Numbered *(2, 5, 6, 12, 16, 20, 22)* extracts of those conversations are:

3c(2)(a) Message 2: *I still love her…family turned on me, friends don't want to help me or can't but yet I still help them in their time of need, my command makes me feel like shit every day because I tried to be a seal, like I know im a fucking failure, u don't need to keep making my life worse and worse than it is…I feel like a waste of oxygen every day, idk why I keep living like this because the pain will never go away* Admin note "idk" is "I don't know".

3c(2)(b) Message 5: *Im not the same person I was and used to be before I left for bootcamp, my motivation, will to keep going, life goals, determination, etc is all gone…it's gone…im completely worthless…*

3c(2)(c) Message 6: *…with my career gone, I have nothing to look forward to in the future…and I have 2 and a half years left in the military so the short term doesn't look good either…*

3c(2)(d) Message 12: *I honestly believe she is the one for me but it was bad timing…*

3c(2)(e) Message 16: *Super bowl, yes I did fly off the handle….I can't imagine it being worse than broken up with. I literally thought we would make it…And it looked amazing. And finding out all of a sudden it's all gone. That crushed me. I was and still am devistated….I know you care about me even if it's just a little, so I know you feel bad for hurting me im not going to ask that*

3c(2)(f) Message 20 *I ran out of options…my parents won't listen to me, they want me to go back but if I go back and fail again, I will owe the navy another year because of the "schooling" I got. and if I make it, it's a 6 year contract…I remember how depressed I was after I failed the first time…I could only imagine how I would feel a second time. Like I already feel like a failure and im one of few that didn't quit. And then who knows…like 2 hours later after I was pulled, an instructor drowned a classmate at the pool. My body was already broken down that much, that easily could have been me.*

3c(2)(g) Message 22: *Im tired of being depressed all the time and legitimately it might not end until im out. But I want to feel better with at least myself. Right now I don't really care about myself. I'm not doing anything, I really think that the world would be better without me…*

4. Three documents provided in the NCIS report include interviews with several people concerning Brandon Caserta. Within these documents is a limited, but critical, insight into Brandon Caserta's interpersonal relationships with two females. Comments made

by the females are contradictory in nature. These contradictions may be attributed to the nature of the relationships, the expectations of Brandon Caserta, the maturity of all three people at the time of the relationships, and the differences in character of the two females.

4a. Report of Investigation (Interim) dated Aug 29, 2018 (Attachment B-4) included reviews of several interviews.

4a(1) NAME BLOCKED *mentioned he had an interaction with V/CASERTA approximately a week before he died, after his father, Patrick Caserta, CIV contacted* NAME BLOCKED *USN, NSC 28, regarding V/CASERTA's career path and performance.* NAME BLOCKED *reported V/Caserta received a counseling note from* NAME BLOCKED *because he was behind with qualifications.*

4a(2) …NAME BLOCKED, *Commanding Officer (CO), NSC 28,* NAME BLOCKED *mentioned the only interactions he had with V/CASERTA were at the Gedunk during lunch hours, in which V/CASERTA appeared to have a positive attitude and never showed indications, nor made any suggestions that there was anything wrong.* CO knew Brandon Caserta was going aircrewman because he signed off on the paperwork. He knew Brandon Caserta was leaving HSC-28. *Admin Note: Gedunk/Geedunk refers to a fast-food store.

4a(3) A female friend of Brandon Caserta provided a detailed statement which is included in this attachment. Comments from the female friend include:

4a(3)(a) *…I don't think that I met AEAN Brandon CASERTA until he started working in the Geedunk at HSC-28, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA. One day I went in to buy a drink or food and he was sitting there smiling, super happy go lucky kid….One day he found out that I initially joined the Navy to be a rescue swimmer and we got to talking about how he was in BUDS and had dropped out…But, he was still interested in pursuing a career saving people.*

4a(3)(b) *We didn't hangout outside of work until one of our mutual friends,* NAME BLOCKED, *went to rehab for a DUI. CASERTA didn't have a car so we planned a trip one weekend to drive up to Portsmouth, VA to see her. It was the end of January 2018 sometime because me and some of the other girls were about to leave on deployment. He didn't mind hanging out with a bunch of girls so it was a good time. We joled around and talked. That week he and I talked and I told him that I would email him while I was out on deployment and that he would email me as well.*

4a(3)(c) *Almost every day out here on deployment we would email back and forth. He would ask me questions about the ship, talk about our day (on the ship and at home guard), talk about my relationship and then breakup. He helped me get through a lot of stuff and I thought that I was helping him*

too. I was an outlet for him to just ask anything and everything no matter how off the wall it was. He had hurt his shoulder in a bike accident mid-summer 2017 and he had his rescue swimmer contract dropped. He was working on getting his physical therapy over with the first few months while I was out here. And I think it was about the end of May, beginning of June that he told me he got his contract renewed again so that he can apply. He was sitting in NCI's office emailing me about how they were not going to let him submit his application and just giving him the run around.

4a(3)(d) *I knew most of his friends were out here on deployment and I didn't want to bring negative into his life. I wanted him to better his naval career and I knew this was what he was passionate about.*

4a(3)(e) *He asked me one day what the purpose of life was…Another couple of weeks went by and I hadn't talked to him or heard from him and he sent me an email. The day before we found out someone had died on our flight line, at our command. He told me that I wouldn't see him when I got back, That he wouldn't be there but he would have something for me that would explain everything….I thought it was such a strange email until I found out someone had died and everything clicked. Two days after that email I found out that he had killed himself. Someone so happy and cheerful and only cared about other people.*

4a(3)(f) *We never had any kind of romantic relationship we were good friends.*

4b. Exact message sent by Brandon Caserta to his aforementioned USN friend deployed on the USS Iwo Jima is provided (Attachment B-5): *Hey…I'm not going to be here when u get back. No matter what you hear about me, and trust me theres going to be a lot, even if it doesn't sound possible, wait for me to explain everything to you.* NAME BLOCKED *has what you need from me. But I will leave you with this, thankyou for being a good friend to me and giving me a chance!!:)*

4c. Interviewed on Jan 9, 2019, the female who had twice dated Brandon Caserta (Attachment B-5). Critical comments in this statement include:

4c1: *…she met V/CASERTA when she was a Freshman in high school, which was during the 2013 timeframe…she dated V/CASERTA for approximately two (2) weeks prior to breaking up with him.* NAME BLOCKED *explained the reason she broke up with V/CASERTA was because "he did not like people and only cared about himself," or words to that effect.* NAME BLOCKED *mentioned V/CASERTA told her he at some points felt like hurting himself.*

4c2: *…she lost contact with him until 2016.* NAME BLOCKED *reported they bumped into one another while V/CASERTA was on leave and said they*

started dating again…but said only dated him for a short period of time…the reason she broke up with him the second time was the same as the first, he only cared about himself…after the breakup V/CASERTA became "stalkerish" and explained he would not stop calling her and would frequently send her gifts in the mail…she told him multiple times to leave her alone, but he did not, so she blocked him on social media as well as his cell phone number.

4c3: *When asked* NAME BLOCKED *stated V/CASERTA joined the USN because he wanted to be a Navy Seal…when he left BUDS he no longer wanted to pursue the USN, but felt pressured by his parents.* NAME BLOCKED *stated he constantly complained about the USN.*

5. The NCIS Report of Investigation (Closed) document includes three exhibits (Attachment B-7) that will be relevant in this independent assessment:

5a. Exhibit 46 – *Results of Review of V/Caserta's medical records: The medical records identified multiple appointments during 2017-2018 to NMCP for his fractured clavicle.*

5b. Exhibit 51 – *NCIC, DCII, CLEOC, and K-NET database checked yielded negative results for V/CASERTA. JPAS indicated V/CASERTA was eligible for a SECRET clearance.*

5c. Exhibit 54 – Results of Request for Psychological Records for V/Caserta: Upon review, no psychological records were available for V/CASERTA.

5d. Exhibit 55 – *Results of Attempt to Gather Surveillance Footage: on 25JUN18, Participating Agent (PA)* NAME BLOCKED *attempted to collect surveillance video footage from the vicinity of where the incident occurred, however,* NAME BLOCKED *Executive Officer (XO), advised the cameras were inoperable at the time.*

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 01OCT18

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF DIGITAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION

SUMMARY
1. Between 02Aug18 and 01Oct18, an examination of seized digital media was conducted, where no expectation of privacy exists based on the evidence belonging to V/CASERTA being seized at the death scene on 26Jun18. Examination of the media resulted in the discovery and extraction of several artifacts possibly related to the death of V/CASERTA.

REQUEST
1. On 31Jul18, Special Agent (SA) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCISRA Norfolk, VA, requested assistance in conducting a computer forensic examination of suspect's digital media, specifically looking for any information pertaining to the death of V/CASERTA.

AUTHORIZATION
1. Between 02Aug18 and 01Oct18, an examination of seized digital media was conducted, where no expectation of privacy exists based on the evidence belonging to V/CASERTA being seized at the death scene on 26Jun18.

EVIDENCE
1. On 02Aug18, Reporting Investigative Computer Specialist (RICS) obtained the following item for analysis from Norfolk Consolidated Evidence Facility (CEF).

ECD Log and Item Description
NFNF 0691-18
Item (A) Samsung Galaxy S9 Cellphone (Passcode 131607)
Item (B) Apple iPod Touch Model A1574 (Passcode 131607)

NFNF 0693-18
Item (B) Apple iPod, Model A1421
Item (C) HP Laptop Probook, Model 650 G1, SN 5CG422PKY2 w/HGST 500GB SATA HDD, Model HTS725050A7E630, SN 160224RC250ACB3V95GJ

FORENSIC ACQUISITION AND VERIFICATION
1. Between 02Aug18 and 12Sep18, the cellular phone listed as NFNF 0691-18 Item (A), and the iDevices listed as NFNF 0691-18 Item (B) and 0693-18 Item (B)) were acquired using Magnet Axiom ver 2.3.1.10621 to LD3 on WS6. These devices were not write-protected because cellular phones/iDevices must be turned on during the acquisition process to acquire the data from the device. The digital forensic acquisitions were verified through industry

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 ATTACHMENT B-2: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIRMAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021 EXHIBIT (47)

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (INTERIM) 18OCT18

DEATH (II) CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)/25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

COMMAND/HELICOPTER SEA SQUADRON TWENTY-EIGHT (HSC 28)/55218

MADE AT/NFNF/RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT

REFERENCE(S)
(A) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 1-32)/31JUL18
(B) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 33-43)/29AUG18
(C) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 44-46)/25OCT18

EXHIBIT(S)
(47) IA: RESULTS OF DIGITAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION/01OCT18
(48) DEATH CERTIFICATE/17JUL18
(49) IA: RESULTS OF REVIEW OF THE DIGITAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION FINDINGS OF V/CASERTA'S ELECTRONICS/18OCT18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On 25JUN18, at approximately 1530, NCISRA Norfolk received notification from Regional Dispatch of a death at the LF-59 hangar aboard Naval Station Norfolk. NCIS responded to the scene and learned that V/CASERTA reportedly walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopter on purpose. Several field interviews were conducted of first responders and other sailors who witnessed the incident. Reportedly, V/CASERTA apologized to the Plane Captain (PC) prior to walking towards the back of the helicopter, removed his protective helmet, and appeared to jump toward the spinning tail rotor of the SH-60 at least two (2) times before finally making contact with the blades. The NCIS Major Case Response Team processed the scene identifying several fragments of apparent skull, ear, and brain matter from the top half of V/CASERTA's severed skull. NCIS Agents were given two (2) boxes by command containing some of V/CASERTA's personal effects that were in the workspace. It appears V/CASERTA prepared trinkets and letters, in advance, that were addressed to different individuals. NCIS conducted a search of V/CASERTA's barracks room located at NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) located aboard Naval Station Norfolk, and his workspace locker located at 1348 Tow Way Drive, Norfolk, VA 23511 where several items of evidentiary value were seized. Interviews of NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) as well as interviews of multiple Sailors from HSC 28 were completed. On 27JUN18, an autopsy of V/CASERTA was conducted by FBI Physical Scientist/Forensic Examiner NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CIV. On 05JUL18, the parents of V/CASERTA, Patrick CASERTA (P. CASERTA) and Teri CASERTA (T. CASERTA), were interviewed by NCIS.

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000030 ATTACHMENT B-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIRMAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

V/CASERTA's medical records were reviewed, which did not provide any information relevant to the investigation. No medical statements provided by Sailors who witnessed the incident were available. On 20JUL18 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided NCIS the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Patient Report regarding EMS response to the death of V/CASERTA. Results of the Autopsy conducted and the death certificate both show the cause of V/CASERTA's death as blunt force trauma to the head and the manner of death as suicide. Several pieces of evidentiary value have been sent for forensic analysis. On 18OCT18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CO, HSC 28, and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) XO, HSC 28 were updated on the captioned investigation. The investigation is ongoing pending receipt of USACIL analysis.

NARRATIVE

1. This reactive investigation was on initiated on 25JUN18 subsequent to the reported death of AEAN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO-EIGHT (HSC 28). No statutes apply at this time.

2. Between 02AUG18 and 01OCT18, a digital forensic examination was completed on V/CASERTA's electronics. Exhibit (47) pertains.

3. On 02OCT18, V/CASERTA's death certificate was received, which showed the cause of V/CASERTA's death as blunt force trauma to the head and the manner of death as suicide. Exhibit (48) pertains.

4. On 18OCT18, a review of the findings from the digital forensic examination was completed. Exhibit (49) pertains.

5. On 18OCT18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CO, HSC 28, and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) XO, HSC 28 were updated on the captioned investigation.

6. The investigation is ongoing pending receipt of USACIL analysis.

DISTRIBUTION
NCISHQ:23B1
INFO :002A/NFFO/HSC 28 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (H)

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standard accepted practices.

2. Using LogiCube Falcon ver 3.2u1, RICS imaged 0693-18 Item (C) to LC105 - Seagate 1.5TB SATA HDD, Model ST31500341AS, SN 9VS3VQ27. All hashes matched.

EXAMINATION DETAILS
1. Cellphone/Mobile Device Processing

- 0691-18 Item (B). Magnet Axiom Processing. RICS used Magnet Axiom ver 2.3.1.10631 to image/examine 0691-18 Item (B) to LD3 on WS6. Searches were made for BUDS, depress, and suicide. No items of interest were found.

- 0693-18 Item (B). Magnet Axiom Processing. RICS used Magnet Axiom ver 2.3.1.10631 to image/examine 0693-18 Item (B) to LD3 on WS6. Searches were made for BUDS, depress, and suicide. The latest artifact was created on 3/28/2018. No items of interest were found.

- 0691-18 Item (A). Magnet Axiom Processing. RICS used Magnet Axiom ver 2.3.1.10631 to image/examine 0691-18 Item (A) to LD3 on WS6. Searches were made for BUDS, depress, and suicide with the following results:
  - BUDS (4)
  - Depress (15)
  - Suicide (4)

Additionally, SMS message texts, all dated June 2018, were extracted for case agent review. A MS Excel report was created as 0691-18 Item B AX Rpt and included as Artifact A atch (a).

2. Laptop Processing.

- 0693-18 Item (C). Magnet Axiom Processing. RICS used Magnet Axiom ver 2.3.1.10631 to image/examine 0693-18 Item (C) to LC105 on WS6. Searches were made for BUDS, depress, and suicide with the following results:
  - BUDS (3), items found were dated in 2017
  - Depress (15)
  - Suicide (7), including searches for military/Navy suicide stats (2016), as well as suicide ideation dated in 2016.

Additionally, a document was found, similar to a journal, and the texts for June 2018 were extracted, appearing to reveal a very negative outlook on his life up until that point.

An HTML report was created as 0693-18 Item C AX HTML Rpt and included as Artifact A atch (b).

DIGITAL MEDIA REPORT.
1. Findings DVD were created containing ARTIFACT A atchs (a)-(b) and will be provided to the case agent.

ARTIFACT A
- atch (a) - A MS Excel report containing search hits and text messages from 0691-18 Item (A).
- atch (b) - An HTML report containing search hits and document excerpts

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from 0693-18 Item (C).

DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE
1. On 01Oct18, evidence was stored in Temp Storage CEP-170, awaiting transfer to Norfolk Consolidated Evidence Facility

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Representative
OFFICE: CYBER OPERATIONS FIELD OFFICE

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U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 18OCT18

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF REVIEW OF THE DIGITAL FORENSIC EXAMINATION FINDINGS OF V/CASERTA'S ELECTRONICS

1. On 18OCT18, Reporting Agent (RA) reviewed the DVD-R containing the findings of the digital forensic examination pertaining to the captioned investigation. As background, on 25JUN18, NCIS received notification that SN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Eight (HSC 28) intentionally walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk Helicopter.

2. The folder labeled "0691-18, Item A" contained sixteen (16) conversations wherein V/CASERTA discusses his distrust and hatred towards the USN, depression, and his ex-girlfriend, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CIV. You can only see what V/CASERTA wrote and cannot see the responses from the individuals he was speaking to. Also included in the folder was a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet containing the hits for depression, BUDS, and suicide.

3. The folder labeled 0693-18 contains several subfolders. The "attachment" subfolder contains the command timeline, which was previously mentioned in the investigation and seven (7) messages of an unknown origin. The messages are attached as Enclosure (A).

4. The subfolder titled "conversations" contains seven (7) conversations via iMessage where he also discusses his distrust and hatred towards the USN, depression, an NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

5. The full DVD was entered into the Norfolk Consolidated Evidence Facility. A copy of the full DVD is attached as Enclosure (B).

ENCLOSURE(S)
(A) SEVEN (7) MESSAGES RECOVERED FROM V/CASERTA'S LAPTOP/UNDATED
(B) DVD: DIGITAL FORENSIC EXTRACTION OF V/CASERTA’S ELECTRONICS/18OCT18

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

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000036 ATTACHMENT B-3: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AB3AN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021 EXHIBIT (49)

view_more_2Message

I still love her... I have 2 friends in and out of the hospital, one could die soon, helping others with their depression/ suicidal thoughts, family turned on me, friends don't want to help me or can't but yet I still help them in their time of need, my command makes me feel like shit every day because I tried to be a seal, like I know im a fucking failure, u don't need to keep making my life worse and worse than it is... I just want everything to go back to normal... my life before I left where i was happy, where I didn't care, where i was motivated to take care of myself ect... I feel like a waste of oxygen every day, idk why I keep living like this because the pain will never go away

ENCLOSURE (4)

view_more_5Message

I have zero motivation to do anything, I have no reason to do anything, the things that made me happy and me just make me depressed now, im not the same person i was and used to be before I left for bootcamp, my motivation, will to keep going, life goals, determination, ect is all gone... it's gone... im completely worthless and like I said yesterday ill be lucky if that changes in 7 and a half years... that's a long time of not caring about myself... feeling empty and missing all the time...

view_more_6Message

Good luck... with my career gone, I have nothing to look forward to in the future... and I have 2 and a half years left in the military so the short term doesn't look good either... I haven't worked out since i got pulled from training because when i start i get to depressed and i HAVE to stop... so something that gave me great happiness (working out) is now one of my worst enemies...

view_more_12Message

Story time. We dated before, the first time she ended and we didn't talk or see eachother because things ended badly. After I got dropped from buds I got so depressed and Something told me to contact her. We talked for about 4 months, then we got together. Still without seeing eachother, only in snapchat or pictures. I finally got to go home for 2 weeks and it was amazing! I honestly believe she is the one for me but it was bad timing...

view_more_16Message

Super bowl, yes i did fly off the handle. I can easily say that. I was very immature that day. I'll be honest I don't remember what i did about the tag on your gift, I thought i got sad about it, and said something and asked you not to look at it. But again I don't remember how mad I got and or/ sad, I remember being really embarrassed though 😊 and I also do remember laughing about it though at some point. It could have been after we Skyped. about what you last said i was and still am really hurt, idk how you have been, I've never been the one to break up with someone so idk what that feeling is like. I can't imagine it's good unless something really bad was happening and it needed to happen but I can't imagine it being worse than broken up with. I literally thought we would make it. And I believed all the promises you made/ we made with eachother that we would make it. Even before we started. I was very happy that we would have a life together. To the point where I started to see us in the future. And it looked amazing. And finding out all of a sudden it's all gone. That crushed me. I was and still am devistated. With everything that's happened in the navy for me, the future was looking very bright for me with you. I didn't even care about what job or career i would have. Now thats all im looking at in the future, job/ career. And I can't see myself doing something I enjoy. Or at least not yet.. im getting off track with saying that. But I said why i was sad and depressed. I know you care about me even if it's just a little, so I know you feel bad for hurting me im not going to ask that

view_more_20Message

I ran out of options... my parents won't listen to me, they want me to go back but if i go back and fail again, i will owe the navy another year because of the "schooling" i got. and if I make it, its a 6 year contract. Don't get me wrong I would be doing something I would want to do in life though. If I failed again, it would be great to get over to San Diego but NOT at the cost of 5 years instead of 4. My parents thought it was a joke I even made it as far as i did... I would LOVE to go back but I remember how depressed i was after I failed the first time... I could only imagine how I would feel a second time. Like I already feel like a failure and im one of few that didn't quit. And then who knows... like 2 hours later after i was pulled, an instructor drowned a classmate at the pool. my body was already broken down that much, that easily could have been me.

view_more_22Message

Im tired of being depressed all the time and legitimately it might not end until im out. But I want to feel better with at least myself. Right now I don't really care about myself. I'm not doing anything, I really think that the world would be better without me...

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (INTERIM) 29AUG18

DEATH (II) CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

COMMAND/HELICOPTER SEA SQUADRON TWENTY-EIGHT (HSC 28)/55218

MADE AT/NFNF/RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT

REFERENCE(S)
(A) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 1-32)/31JUL18

EXHIBIT(S)
(33) SWORN STATEMENT OF NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/01AUG18
(34) IA: RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN AND V/CASERTA/01AUG18
(35) SWORN STATEMENT OF NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, USN/01AUG18
(36) IA: RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN AA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN AND V/CASERTA/01AUG18
(37) IA: RESULTS OF NEGATIVE FLEET AND FAMILY SERVICES/FAMILY ADVOCACY PROGRAM RECORDS FOR V/CASERTA/02AUG18
(38) IA: RESULTS OF EVIDENCE SENT TO USACIL/06AUG18
(39) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/07AUG18
(40) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/07AUG18
(41) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/10AUG18
(42) IA: RECEIPT OF AUTOPSY AND TOXICOLOGY REPORTS FOR V/CASERTA/21AUG18
(43) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /27AUG18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1. On 25JUN18, at approximately 1530, NCISRA Norfolk received notification from Regional Dispatch of a death at the LF-59 hangar aboard Naval Station Norfolk. NCIS responded to the scene and learned that V/CASERTA reportedly walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopter on purpose. Several field interviews were conducted of first responders and other sailors who witnessed the incident. Reportedly, V/CASERTA apologized to the Plane Captain (PC) prior to walking towards the back of the helicopter, removed his protective helmet, and appeared to jump toward the spinning tail rotor of the SH-60 at least two (2) times before finally making contact with the blades. The NCIS Major Case Response Team processed the scene identifying several fragments of apparent skull, ear, and brain matter from the top half of V/CASERTA's severed skull. NCIS Agents were given two (2) boxes by command containing some of V/CASERTA's personal

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 ATTACHMENT B-4 INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIRMAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED 30 JUNE 2021

effects that were in the workspace. It appears V/CASERTA prepared trinkets and letters, in advance, that were addressed to different individuals. NCIS conducted a search of V/CASERTA's barracks room located at NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) located aboard Naval Station Norfolk, and his workspace locker located at 1348 Tow Way Drive, Norfolk, VA 23511 where several items of evidentiary value were seized. Interviews of NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) were completed. On 26JUN18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CO, HSC 28, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) XO, HSC 28, and LCDR Benjamin GARCIA, JAGC, Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Mid-Atlantic were apprised of the captioned investigation. On 27JUN18, an autopsy of V/CASERTA was conducted by FBI Physical Scientist/Forensic Examiner NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CIV. On 05JUL18, the parents of V/CASERTA, Patrick CASERTA (P. CASERTA) and Teri CASERTA (T. CASERTA), were interviewed by NCIS. On 20JUL18 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided NCIS the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Patient Report regarding EMS response to the death of V/CASERTA. Several witness interviews have been completed. Results of the Autopsy conducted showed the cause of V/CASERTA's death as blunt force trauma to the head and the manner of death as suicide. Several pieces of evidentiary value have been sent for forensic analysis. The investigation is ongoing.

NARRATIVE

1. This reactive investigation was on initiated on 25JUN18 subsequent to the reported death of AEAN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO-EIGHT (HSC 28). No statutes apply at this time.

2. On 01AUG18, Participating Agent (PA) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) embarked on the USS IWO JIMA regarding her relationship with V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated she had communicated via email with V/CASERTA since she deployed in FEB18. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) utilized her unclassified government email address to communicate with him. V/CASERTA used his T-Mobile cellular telephone which was attached to his email address (+1606266255756@tmomail.com) to email NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided RA a copy of the emails she received from V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) received an email from V/CASERTA on 25Jun18, which stated "Hey...I'm not going to be here when u get back. No matter what you hear about me, and trust me theres going to be a lot even if it doesn't sound possible, wait for me to explain everything to you NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) s what you need from me. But I will leave u with this, thank you for being a good friend to me and giving me a chance!!:)". NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided a sworn written statement as well as a copy of the emails exchanged, Exhibits (33) and (34) pertain.

3. On 01AUG18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) erviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC-28 embarked on the USS IWO JIMA regarding her relationship with V/CASERTA. During the interview NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated she had communicated via email with V/CASERTA since she deployed in February 2018. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) utilized her Google email address to communicate with him. V/CASERTA used his T-Mobile cellular telephone which was attached to his email address (+1606266255756@tmomail.com) to email NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated she heard about V/CASERTA's death and several days later opened her email account and had received an email on 25Jun18, from V/CASERTA. RA conducted a review of the emails and observed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) received an email from V/CASERTA on 25Jun18, which stated "Hey...I'm not going to be here when u get back. No matter what you hear about me, and trust me theres going to be a lot even if

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it doesn't sound possible, wait for me to explain everything to you. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) s what you need from me. But I will leave u with this, thank you for being a good friend to me and giving me a chance!!:)". NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided a sworn written statement as well as a copy of the emails exchanged, Exhibits (35) and (36) pertain.

4. On 02AUG18, Reporting Agent (RA) spoke with NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CIV, Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), Fleet and Family Support Center Mid-Atlantic located at 7928 14th Street, Suite 102, Norfolk Virginia, 23505. RA requested the Family Advocacy Program (FAP) and Fleet and Family Services (FFS) records, if any, for V/CASERT NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ized the FFSMIS Database which yielded negative results for V/CASERTA in both FAP and FFS records, nationwide, Exhibit (37) pertains.

5. On 06AUG18, RA facilitated sending several items of evidentiary value to the United States Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) for handwriting analysis. Results are pending, Exhibit (38) pertains.

6. On 07AUG18, RA and PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, Executive Officer (XO), HSC 28 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) dvised he has been the XO for HSC 28 since APR18. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) dvised he had never had any semblance of interaction with V/CASERTA during his time at HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ontinued he also never had any instance of V/CASERTA, positive or negat NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) cribed his first interaction with V/CASERTA was when his father, Patrick CASERTA, Civ, contacted NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, an NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, regarding V/CASERTA's career path and his disdain for how the process was going. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) tated to the best of his knowledge, he had not heard of any specific instances of hazing or bullying within the command, Exhibit (39) pertains.

7. On 07AUG18, RA and PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) entioned he had an interaction with V/CASERTA approximately a week before he died, after his father, Patrick CASERTA, CIV contacted NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) , USN, HSC 28, regarding V/CASERTA's career path and performance. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) eported V/CASERTA received a counseling note from NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ecause he was behind with qualifications. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he had a conversation with V/CASERTA around Thursday or Friday the week prior to the incident, regarding his performance and to assure he was ready to perform Plane Captain (PC) duties. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided a sworn-written statement to account for his interactions with V/CASERTA, Exhibit (40) pertains.

8. On 07AUG18, RA and PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) N, Commanding Officer (CO), HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) entioned the only interactions he had with V/CASERTA were at the Gedunk during lunch hours, in which V/CASERTA appeared to have a positive attitude and never showed indications, nor made any suggestions that there was anything wrong. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) pined to the best of his knowledge, he had not heard of any heard of any specific instances of bullying, intimidation or hazing within the command, Exhibit (41) pertains.

9. On 21AUG18, RA received the Armed Forced Medical Examiners Autopsy and Toxicology reports for V/CASERTA from PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) The Autopsy and Toxicology reports were completed by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, Deputy

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STATEMENT

Place : LEGAL OFFICE USS IWO JIMA (LHD-7)
Date ~~31JUL18~~ 01AUG18
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) , make the following free and voluntary statement to SA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) whom I know to be a Representative of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service. I make this statement of my own free will and without any threats made to me or promises extended. I fully understand that this statement is given concerning my knowledge of death of Brandon CASERTA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) For identification I am a NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) years old I was born in NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) My SSN # NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) My contact number is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) my personal email address is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) . I am currently assigned to the HSC-28 which is embarked on the USS IWO JIMA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I got to HSC-28, August 2015; I don't think that I met AEAN Brandon CASERTA until he started working in the Geedunk at HSC-28, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA. One day I went in to buy a drink or food and he was sitting there smiling, super happy go lucky kid. I think that he checked into the command around the beginning of 2017. I would talk to him every time I would go into the geedunk to buy food or just to talk. One day he found out that I initially joined the Navy to be a rescue swimmer and we got to talking about how he was in BUDS and had dropped out. He wanted to try again or try for rescue swimmer. There were quite a few people at the command that had been trying or were in special programs. But, he was still interested in pursuing a career saving people. He would talk to the crewman at the command that would go into the geedunk as well. We didn't hangout outside of work until one of our mutual friends, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) went to rehab for a DUI. CASERTA didn't have a car so we planned a trip one weekend to drive up to Portsmouth, VA to see her. It was the end of January 2018 sometime because me and some of the other girls were about to leave on deployment. He didn't mind hanging out with a bunch of girls so it was a good time. We joked around and talked. That week he and I talked and I told him that I would email him while I was out on deployment and that he would email me as well. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Almost every day out here on deployment we would email back and forth. He would ask me questions about the ship, talk about our day (on the ship and at home guard), talk about my relationship and then breakup. He helped me get through a lot of stuff and I thought that I was helping him too. I was an outlet for him to just ask anything and everything no matter how off the wall it was. He had hurt his shoulder in a bike accident mid-summer 2017 and he had his rescue swimmer contract dropped. He was working on getting his physical therapy over with the first few months while I was out here. And I think it was about the end of May, beginning of June that he told me he got his contract renewed again so that he can apply. He was sitting in NC1's office emailing me about how they were not going to let him submit his application and just giving him the run around. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and his LPO, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) told him that they couldn't do that unless it was for a legitimate reason and that if anything he needs to talk to his Chief or even the CO if he thought he was being treated unfairly. I would try to give him the best advice that I could, because I knew most of his friends were out here on deployment and I didn't want to bring negative into his life. I wanted him to better his naval career and I knew this

was what he was passionate about. After this conversation we talked a few more times and then I hadn't heard or talked to him for a few weeks. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) He asked me one day what the purpose of life was. It was random and strange but I didn't think anything of it. I always told him he could ask me anything and it wouldn't matter. So I answered and told him that we all strive for happiness and everyone's idea of happiness is different. We all need to find what makes us happy. I think he understand, we talked a little more about it. Another couple weeks went by and I hadn't talked to him or heard from him and he sent me an email. The day before we found out someone had died on our flight line, at our command. He told me that I wouldn't see him when I got back. That he wouldn't be there but he would have something for me that would explain everything. He thanked me for being such a good friend to him. I couldn't email him back because we were in River City at the time and the internet and emailing was down. I thought it was such a strange email until I found out someone had died and everything clicked. Two days after that email I found out that he had killed himself. Someone so happy and cheerful and only cared about other people. I wasn't sure why he did it until I looked back on our conversations and had a thought that maybe it had to do with everything that was going on his career path. He wanted so much to be a spec-ops guy and trained every day for it and he couldn't, he wasn't allowed to do it. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) asked if I still had the emails he sent me but I believe I deleted because of the size of my mailbox. I will look and see if I still have any of them. I never thought he was thinking of suicide when he wrote those emails to me. We never had any kind of romantic relationship we were good friends. We had planned on doing things once I returned from the deployment. He never talked about his family or having a girlfriend or where he grew up. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

This statement, consisting of this page and 1 other page(s) was typed by me and by SA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) as we discussed its contents. I have read and understand the above statement. I have been given the opportunity to make any changes or corrections I desire to make and have placed my initials over the changes or corrections. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 01 day of AUGUST in the year 2018 at

1149 _____ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Witnessed: _____

Representative, Naval Criminal Investigative Service
AUTH: DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 136, UCMJ (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

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

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

Mechanical Examiner. The Autopsy reported the Cause of Death as "Blunt Force Trauma to the Head" and the Manner of Death as "Suicide". The Report of Toxicological Examination examined both V/CASERTA's blood and urine which yielded negative results for ethanol and/or drugs, Exhibit (42) pertains.

10. On 27AUG18, RA interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) documented his interactions with V/CASERTA and his father, Patrick CASERTA (P. CASERTA), in a sworn written statement, Exhibit (43) pertains.

11. On 21AUG18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CO, HSC 28, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), XO, HSC 28, and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) JAGC, STC, Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Mid-Atlantic were apprised of the captioned investigation.

12. The investigation continues pending forensic analysis of V/CASERTA's electronics, handwriting analysis from USACIL and any other logical investigative steps.

PARTICIPANTS
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, REPRESENTATIVE USS IWO JIMA (LHD-7)
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, FORENSIC SUPPORT WASHINGTON

DISTRIBUTION
NCISHQ:23B1
INFO :COMMAND NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) XO) (H)/RI NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /PIO NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (H)/002A/NFFO

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

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U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 01AUG18

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N[redacted]/25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN [redacted] USN AND V/CASERTA

1. On 01Aug18, Reporting Agent (RA) interviewed [redacted] USN, HSC-28 embarked on the USS IWO JIMA, regarding her relationship with V/CASERTA. During the interview [redacted] stated she had communicated via email with V/CASERTA since she deployed in February 2018. [redacted] utilized her unclassified government email address to communicate with him. V/CASERTA used his T-Mobile cellular telephone which was attached to his email address (+1606266255756@tmomail.com) to email [redacted] provided RA a copy of the emails she received from V/CASERTA, Enclosure (A). Due to the size of Enclosure (A) they were not uploaded into CLEOC.

2. RA conducted a review of the emails and observed [redacted] received an email from V/CASERTA on 25Jun18, which stated "Hey...I'm not going to be here when u get back. No matter what you hear about me, and trust me theres going to be a lot even if it doesn't sound possible, wait for me to explain everything to you[redacted]s what you need from me. But I will leave u with this, thank you for being a good friend to me and giving me a chance!!:).

ENCLOSURE(S)
(A) Copies of Emails between [redacted] and V/CASERTA/Numerous dates

REPORTED BY: [redacted] Special Agent
OFFICE: REPRESENTATIVE USS IWO JIMA (LHD-7)

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000059 ATTACHMENT B-5: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

EXHIBIT (24)

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

From: +16026255756@tmomail.net
Sent: Monday, June 25, 2018 3:23 AM
To: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source]

Hey... I'm not going to be here when u get back. No matter what you hear about me, and trust me theres going to be a lot, even if it doesn't sound possible, wait for me to explain everything to NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) what you need from me. But I will leave u with this, thankyou for being a good friend to me and giving me a chance!! :)

ENCLOSURE (A)

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 09JAN19

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NBE3/N/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF INTERVIEW OF NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CIV

1. On 09JAN19, Reporting Agent (RA) telephonically interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) V. As background, SN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Eight (HSC 28) intentionally walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk Helicopte NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) mentioned several times during the investigation as being in a relationship with V/CASERTA during the 2016 timeframe.

2. During the intervie NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) plained she met V/CASERTA when she was a Freshman in high school, which was during the 2013 timefram NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ted she dated V/CASERTA for approximately two (2) weeks prior to breaking up with hi NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) plained the reason she broke up with V/CASERTA was because "he did not like people and only cared about himself," or words to that effec NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) plained shortly after the breakup, V/CASERTA constantly tried speaking to her, but she told him she was not interested. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) tioned V/CASERTA told her he at some points felt like hurting himself, but when asked NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) d he never went into detail about it.

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) orted she lost contact with him until 201 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) orted they bumped into one another while V/CASERTA was on leave and said they started dating agai NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ted she could not recall the exact month she started dating V/CASERTA, but said she only dated him for a short period of time (NFI NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) d the reason she broke up with him the second time was the same as the first, he only cared about himsel NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) d after the breakup, V/CASERTA became "stalkerish" and explained he would not stop calling her and would frequently send her gifts in the mai NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) d she told him multiple times to leave her alone, but he did not, so she blocked him on social medial as well as his cell phone number.

4. When aske NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ted V/CASERTA joined the USN because he wanted to be a Navy Sea NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) d when he left BUDS he no longer wanted to pursue the USN, but felt pressured by his parent NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ated he constantly complained about the USN.

5. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) orted she has not spoken to or heard from V/CASERTA since 201 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) d she heard about the incident involving V/CASERTA from other people she knew from high school (NFI).

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PAGE 1

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000018 ATTACHMENT B-6: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIRMAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

EXHIBIT (53)

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

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U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (CLOSED) 14MAR19

DEATH (II) CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA/C

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)/MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

COMMAND/HELICOPTER SEA SQUADRON TWENTY-EIGHT (HSC 28)/55218

MADE AT/NFNF/RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT

REFERENCE(S)
(A) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 1-32)/31JUL18
(B) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 33-43)/29AUG18
(C) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 44-46)/25SEP18
(D) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 47-49)/18OCT18
(E) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBIT 50)/15NOV18
(F) NCISRA NORFOLK, VA ROI (INTERIM)(CONTAINS EXHIBITS 51-54)/24JAN19

EXHIBIT(S)
(55) IA: RESULTS OF ATTEMPT TO GATHER SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE/04MAR19

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1. On 25JUN18, at approximately 1530, NCISRA Norfolk received notification from Regional Dispatch of a death at the LF-59 hangar aboard Naval Station Norfolk. NCIS responded to the scene and learned that V/CASERTA reportedly walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopter on purpose. Several field interviews were conducted of first responders and other sailors who witnessed the incident. Reportedly, V/CASERTA apologized to the Plane Captain (PC) prior to walking towards the back of the helicopter, removed his protective helmet, and appeared to jump toward the spinning tail rotor of the SH-60 at least two (2) times before finally making contact with the blades. The NCIS Major Case Response Team processed the scene identifying several fragments of apparent skull, ear, and brain matter from the top half of V/CASERTA's severed skull. NCIS Agents were given two (2) boxes by command containing some of V/CASERTA's personal effects that were in the workspace. It appears V/CASERTA prepared trinkets and letters, in advance, that were addressed to different individuals. NCIS conducted a search of V/CASERTA's barracks room located at NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) located aboard Naval Station Norfolk, and his workspace locker located at 1348 Tow Way Drive, Norfolk, VA 23511 where several items of evidentiary value were seized. Interviews of NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) as well as interviews of multiple Sailors from HSC 28 were completed. On 27JUN18, an autopsy of V/CASERTA was

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ATTACHMENT B-7: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AE3 BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

conducted by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, Deputy Medical Examiner, Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES). On 05JUL18, the parents of V/CASERTA, Patrick CASERTA (P. CASERTA) and Teri CASERTA (T. CASERTA), were interviewed by NCIS. V/CASERTA's medical records were reviewed, which did not provide any information relevant to the investigation. No medical statements provided by Sailors who witnessed the incident were available. On 20JUL18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided NCIS the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Patient Report regarding EMS response to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) sed there was no direct 911 call regarding the incident. Results of the Autopsy conducted and the death certificate both show the cause of V/CASERTA's death as blunt force trauma to the head and the manner of death as suicide. The United States Army Criminal Investigations Laboratory (USACIL) analysis of V/CASERTA's journal and letters left behind indicated significant characteristics to the known writings of V/CASERTA. On 15FEB19, a Death Review Board (DRB) was convened at NCIS Headquarters. The DRB authorized closure of this investigation.

NARRATIVE

1. This reactive investigation was on initiated on 25JUN18 subsequent to the reported death of AEAN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO-EIGHT (HSC 28). No statutes apply at this time.

2. On 15FEB19, a Death Review Board (DRB) was convened at NCIS Headquarters. The DRB authorized closure of the investigation after documenting the following Exhibit.

3. On 25JUN18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Executive Officer (XO), HSC 28, advised the surveillance cameras in the vicinity of the incident were inoperable at the time of the incident. Exhibit (55) pertains.

4. On 04MAR19, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CO, HSC 28, and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) XO, HSC 28 were updated on closure of this investigation.

5. This investigation is hereby closed.

PARTICIPANTS

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA

DISTRIBUTION

NCISHQ:23B1
INFO :002A/NFFO/HSC 28 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (M)

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FAXED/SCANNED: N/A PUBLISHED: 3/18/19
INITIALS: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 24SEP18

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF REVIEW OF V/CASERTA'S MEDICAL RECORDS

1. On 24SEP18, Reporting Agent (RA) reviewed the medical files provided by Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) pertaining to Sn Brandon Patrick CASTERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Eight (HSC 28). As background, on 25JUN18, NCIS received notification that V/CASERTA intentionally walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopter.

2. The medical records identified multiple appointments during 2017- 2018 to NMCP for his fractured clavicle. The records prior to 2017 involved routine appointments to several medical institutions due to V/CASERTA being a dependent of SCPO Patrick Joseph CASERTA, USN (RET). No records relevant to the investigation were discovered.

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

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EXHIBIT (46)

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 08JAN19

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/[redacted]/25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

RESULTS OF CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS FOR V/CASERTA

1. On 26JUN18, Records checks of V/CASERTA were conducted utilizing National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Consolidated Law Enforcement Operations Center (CLEOC), NCIS Knowledge Network (K-NET), Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX), Defense Central Index of Investigations (DCII), and Joint Personnel Adjudication System (JPAS) databases. NCIC, DCII, CLEOC, and K-NET database checks yielded negative results for V/CASERTA. JPAS indicated V/CASERTA was eligible for a SECRET clearance.

REPORTED BY: [redacted] NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

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EXHIBIT (51)

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 10JAN19

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)/25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF REQUEST FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL RECORDS FOR V/CASERTA

1. On 18JUL18, a request was sent to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) to obtain and psychological records for SN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Eight (HSC 28). As background, V/CASERTA intentionally walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk Helicopter.

2. Upon review, no psychological records were available for V/CASERTA.

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

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EXHIBIT (64)

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 04MAR19

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA/C

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/A (25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF ATTEMPT TO GATHER SURVEILLANCE FOOTAGE

1. As background, on 25JUN18, NCIS was notified that SN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Eight (HSC 28) intentionally walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk Helicopter.

2. On 25JUN18, Participating Agent (PA) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) attempted to collect surveillance video footage from the vicinity of where the incident occurred, however, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Executive Officer (XO), advised the cameras were inoperable at the time.

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

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Exhibit (55)

Attachment C: Patrick & Teri Caserta's Letter to NCIS

1. On July 23, 2018, while NCIS was still conducting the investigation into the death of AEAN Brandon Caserta, his parents reached out with a letter (Attachment C-1). Their hope was to bring awareness to the factors behind AEAN Caserta's suicide which were certain to be covered up by the command.

2. The two-page letter to NCIS should be read in its entirety. The following are the highlighted excerpts to be analyzed in paragraph 3 below.

a. *In early May NC1 Spence and AE1 Jared Brose told Brandon he had to run a new request chit to go Aircrewman. That turns out was a flat out lie.*

b. *During the week of June 18th AE1 Brose and NC1 Spence told AEAN Caserta that he could not go aircrewman until he completed his Plane Captain Qualifications. AEAN Caserta did not need these qualifications to go aircrewman nor are they required.*

c. *My wife and I talked to AEAN Caserta every night that week for hours at a time and it is verifiable just like the texts that we have.*

d. *The new CO, Duane Whitmer, was the XO so he had signed off on it initially. No chit or package was needed, just a medical clearance put in the system to the community manager.*

e. *I do not think there is a single person Brandon ever texted or talked to that didn't know how AE1 Brose treated him from day one and how NC1 Spence turned on him.*

f. *The old CO, CDR Thomas, repeatedly asked AEAN Caserta when he would be going Aircrewman. Brandon would smile at him and told him as soon as I'm cleared for duty. CDR Thomas attended AEAN Brandon's memorial at the command that shows you he had his best interest at heart.*

g. *No matter how hard the command tries they can not cover all this up, I have the information like you do. AEAN Caserta felt trapped, hopeless, worthless (was verbally told he was worthless by AE1 Brose), and felt he had no way out other than making a death statement in front of the people who hated him.*

3. Analysis:

a. CDR Thomas is the one leader in the chain of command who took time to visit his subordinates and find out what was going on. After CDR Thomas' departure, any hope of AEAN Caserta having a means to express, with hopes of positive resolution, what was happening in his life were gone.

b. Having been a career counsellor during his naval career, Patrick Caserta knew what was and was not required for transfer. Patrick recognized his son Brandon was being wrongfully constrained in the command.

c. It becomes apparent the section to which AEAN Caserta was assigned was keeping his ability to transfer just out of reach while he endured the abuse of AE1 Brose.

d. In their nightly conversations with AEAN Caserta, Patrick and Teri Caserta recognized their son was unraveling. A parent's love, combined with his own extensive military experience, compelled Patrick Caserta to reach out and try to rescue his own from a downward spiral.

e. This letter to NCIS was a justifiable attempt to encourage the investigators to look beyond the self-protecting rhetoric that was certain to be provided by the chain-of-command.

Patrick & Teri Caserta
10257 W. White Feather Lane
Peoria, AZ 85383
Phone: (602) 625-7216
E-mail: Patrick.97@cox.net

July 23, 2018

NCIS

AEAN Brandon Caserta was deliberately manipulated, blackmailed, and lied to about the Aircrewmen Package he had pending that was approved on 30 October with him leaving February 18, 2018. He broke his collarbone sometime in November of 2017. The command career counselor NC1 Jeremy Spence told him to wait and see how fast he could recover from the collarbone injury. On January 23 Brandon was told by NC1 Spence that his orders have been canceled and that once he is cleared by a doctor the whole process would be streamlined and approved by the community manager at BUPER's right away with a class convening date about one and a half months out.

AEAN Caserta agreed to this and continued to rehab his collarbone. He went to physical therapy for several months and in April of 2018 was cleared by a doctor and found fit for duty. He told NC1 Spence and NC1 Spence told Brandon he would take care of it ASAP. NC1 Spence the next day said he talked to the Community Manager and he said AEAN Caserta needed to do the entire package over again. AEAN started the process over again and went to medical a few times and completed everything that they wanted him too. AE1 Jared Brose had denied AEAN Caserta access to medical several times from April 2018 to the day he died. In spite of that, AEAN Caserta managed to complete his physical. In early May NC1 Jeremy Spence and AE1 Jared Brose told Brandon he had to run a new request chit to go Aircrewmen. That turns out was a flat out lie.

I spoke to Community Manager Senior Chief Bryant on 23 July 2108 and he said word for word he does not recall talking to anyone from AEAN Caserta's command and if by chance he did all that was needed was a clearance for flight, I.E. his shoulder is fine and fit for duty entered in the system by medical. AEAN Caserta had been working on the flight line since being cleared for duty and had no issues what so ever with his shoulder or collarbone. On May 21, 2018, NC1 Spence told AEAN Caserta he needed to do everything all over again to get qualified to go Aircrewman.

AEAN Caserta went on leave in late May and returned June 1, 2018. He was still getting everything that was required by NC1 Spence. During the week of June 18th AE1 Brose and NC1 Spence told AESN Caserta that he could not go aircrewman until he completed his Plane Captain Qualifications. AEAN Caserta did not need these qualifications to go aircrewman nor are they required. His Plane Captain Qualifications had been restarted because 6 months had expired, and he was 70% done when the system reset itself. Now he was at zero and they made him start all over and put him on an Extra Military Instruction or EMI every day in spite of the fact that even when he restarted the qualification he was on track for the new date of September completion.

Master Chief Lerette called me on June 18th and told me AEAN Caserta was useless to him if he was not Plane Captain Qualified. He said I can't deploy him. He said a lot of other things along with saying AEAN Caserta was the hardest worker in the command. He also said he was the CMC. That turned out to be a

ATTACHMENT C-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

lie. AEAN Caserta found that out after Master Chief Lerette called him into a mini board with Chief Hennard and chewed him out for not being Plane Captain Qualified. He ordered AEAN Caserta to get qualified in two weeks and to be board ready by July 15th. All of this is in text messages. My wife and I talked to AEAN Caserta every night that week for hours at a time and it is verifiable just like the texts that we have.

Here is my point. AEAN Caserta would be alive right now if AE1 Jared Brose, NC1 Jeremy Spence, Chief Hennard, and Master Chief Lerette had not lied to him. He did not need to do anything other than get a clearance put in the system and the Community Manager Senior Chief Bryant would have sent him orders immediately. So the said individuals lied to AEAN Caserta for their own greed and to advance their own careers to make their job easier. AEAN Caserta was leaving in less than two months and certainly he did not need the plane captain qualification and he could not be deployed because he would be leaving.

You will hear an excuse that it would benefit the Navy if AEAN Caserta got the qualification. That is just a "cover your butt" excuse. If everyone in the Navy furthered their education and got in better shape, the Navy would benefit along with doing anything to better themselves. Community Manager Senior Chief Bryant's number is 901-874-2074. He will tell you exactly what I just did. The Aircrewman rating is always in need and a high priority for the NAVY and all commands are to help recruit for that program. Your best worker would be the best person for this program, in my opinion.

AEAN Caserta made it to week 3 of Navy Seal Training and was the fittest person in the entire command since the day he arrived. This still was the case up to his death. AEAN Caserta never needed to run a new package or redo his. He didn't need to run any request chit to go Aircrewman, because he was already approved. The new CO, Duane Whitmer, was the XO so he had signed off on it initially. No chit or package was needed, just a medical clearance put in the system to the community manager. NC1 Spence and the said others lied, bullied, cheated, abused, threatened, blackmailed, and many other verifiable things to him. I have more information from my conversations with Master Chief Lerette, CMC David Tokarski, NC1 Jeremy Spence and the Aircrewman Community Manager Senior Chief Bryant. I do not think there is a single person Brandon ever texted or talked to that didn't know how AE1 Brose treated him from day one and how NC1 Spence turned on him. Reread AEAN Caserta letter to us again, and then read the other 3 and I'm sure they make more sense now that I have provided you with what the command didn't want anyone to know. The old CO, CDR Thomas, repeatedly asked AEAN Caserta when he would be going Aircrewman. Brandon would smile at him and told him as soon as I'm cleared for duty. CDR Thomas attended AEAN Brandon's memorial at the command that shows you he had his best interest at heart.

There is more documentation on this than anything I have ever seen. You, NCIS, have it all because you have his phone and computer. Actually, they both belong to me. My son would still be alive today had his command not deliberately lie, cheat, steal, bully, cover up, use abusive power, manipulate, blackmail, and many other things. No matter how hard the command tries they can not cover all this up. I have the information like you do. AEAN Caserta felt trapped, hopeless, worthless (was verbally told he was worthless by AE1 Brose), and felt he had no way out other than making a death statement in front of the people who hated him. These same people where suppose to be looking out for him. Please ask anyone who the hardest worker in the command was they all will tell you AESN Caserta. This HSC-28 murdered their best worker, a future leader, and aircrewman. How did that benefit the Navy?

Sincerely,

Patrick Caserta
Navy Senior Chief Retired

Attachment D: AEAN Caserta's Personal Chronology

1. Discovered after his death, AEAN Caserta developed a chronology of major events in his life (Attachment D-1). Due to the thoroughness of June 2018 events as opposed to earlier key events, and use of past tense in all entries, this document appears to have been generated after the June 22, 2018 counselling. It was also this counselling event that AEAN Caserta identified as the final casting of the course he was now taking, which resulted in his suicide.

2. Key chronological events in identifying AEAN Caserta's downward spiral are as follows:

a. *February 1st 2017 – started sea tour officially and was sent to the Geedunk*

b. *November 9th 2017 – broke my right collarbone for the 3rd time in my life and was in a sling. At this time, I was 72% complete on my plane captain PQS.*

c. November 13th *2017 – went back to the Geedunk on Light Limited Duty due to injury. While I was in the Geedunk, ASM reset itself and I was back to 0% on my PCS again.*

d. *March 28th 2018 – I went back to the line shack and was told I had 6 months to complete my PC again because the system indicated I was at 0% again.*

e. *May 17th 2018 – received counseling chit for not having Plane Captain Qual and was told I had until June 15th to be completely board ready.*

f. *June 18th 2018 - …Later I went by and they both clear the shop so it's just me, NC1 and AE1. They both tell me I can't go to medical to complete my physical. That's when I text my dad and he tried to get a hold of NC1. Towards the end of the day, Chief Hennard the LCPO said, "no one can stop me putting in a package or keep me from medical."*

g. June 19th, 2018 – *…The Maintenance Master Chief also said the command can deny me medical and that they were being nice letting me go to complete the lab work. While he was screaming at me for all this, he was spitting on me that's how mad he was at me...*

h. June 21st, 2018 – *…Later in the day Chief Hennard and Chief Delasandro pulled me into Maintenance Control and had the Arizona DMV website pulled up. Chief Delasandro starts typing in my information…He takes my debit card and starts typing in my information. And charges my account the $12 and prints off the receipt for me. He gives me my card back and says "Looks like you have a driver's license it will be here in less than 15 days."*

i. June 22nd, 2018 – *…right when work is over, I received a counseling chit and a recommendation for DRB because I haven't stood watch and I apparently have a driver's license.*

3. The toxic environment created by the NCO supervisors, and allowed to thrive under ineffective officers, had hit a breaking point for AEAN Caserta.

a. June 22, 2020 was a Friday. At the end of this day and the end of the work week AEAN Caserta received a counselling and was informed that he was being recommended for a Discipline Review Board (DRB). Then he was sent to spend the weekend to think about what was going to happen to him the following week. He truly believed he did not have a driver's license.

b. Chief Delasandro was in total violation of the law to demand custody of AEAN Caserta's personal debit card and subsequently used it for an expense that was not approved by its rightful owner. Even if the card was to pay for AEAN Caserta's Arizona driver's license, the act of another person using the card is illegal. It should be noted that the chain of command took no action against Chief Delasandro for his illegal action.

c. When the Maintenance Master Chief Larrete found himself spitting on AEAN Caserta during his emotional outburst either he or another NCO should have called for a time out. Emotional outbursts such as this never constitute effective counselling.

d. This is the same operation that allowed AE1 Jared Brose to create havoc in his abuse of subordinates and open disrespect toward supervisors.

e. The join-up of NCO's Hennard and Spence with AE1 Brose over the driver's license issue must have brought great satisfaction to Brose. It also contributed to the point of no return for AEAN Caserta.

f. Rather than condemnation of AEAN Caserta for the plane captain qualifications being reset from 72% completed to 0% completed, he should have had an NCO fighting for him to get the correct numbers reinstated. Time working in the Geedunk was not supposed to be part of the six-month suspense mandate. AEAN Caserta did not have this champion, and after the June 22, 2018 counselling and threats he realized he had no NCO champion. All were on the Brose bandwagon.

g. From SEAL qualification training to stocking shelves at the Geedunk creates a major drop in personal prestige for someone who enlisted to be a SEAL. Meanwhile, instead of morale-building during this time, AEAN Caserta was enduring being publicly and continually referred to as a Buds Dud by his immediate supervisor, AE1 Brose and others.

4. It must be noted that being removed from SEAL training for a broken leg and pneumonia were not identified in this chronology by AEAN Caserta as a major issue

that led to his suicide. Neither was the break-up with his girlfriend. As evidenced by this chronology, these were issues AEAN Caserta had already moved on from, despite claims made in the command investigation report.

October 19th 2016 - I arrive to the HSC-28 Command on TAD orders. On my orders I received in A school, I went TAD then C school, then ultimate duty station.

November 28th 2016 - started C school

January 31st 2017- graduated C school

February 1st 2017 - started sea tour officially and was sent to the Geedunk

June 30th 2017 - started in the line shack and PQS for plane captain

November 9th 2017 - broke my right collarbone for the 3rd time in my life and was in a sling. At this time, I was 72% complete on my plane captain PQS.

November 13th 2017 - went back into the Geedunk on Light Limited Duty due to injury. While I was in the Geedunk, ASM reset itself and I was back to 0% on my PQS again.

March 28th 2018 - I went back to the line shack and was told I had 6 months to complete my PC again because the system indicated I was at 0% again .

May 17th 2018 - receive counseling chit for not having Plane Captain Qual and was told I had until June 15th to be completely board ready.

June 15th 2018 - not board ready

June 18th 2018 - started EMI for not having my PC. I asked the LPO if I could go to medical for labs for my flight physical. He said "No, call and reschedule. I'm not going to let you complete your fucking crossrate when you haven't done shit for me and never got your PC!" I went up stairs to try to talk with NC1. I opened the door and all he said was "get me your LPO". I came back down, told AE1 Brose NC1 wants to see him. Eventually, I went back up stairs and asked NC1 if he talked with AE1 yet. He said "no and I don't like waiting." Later I went by and they both clear the shop so it's just me, NC1 and AE1. They both tell me I can't go to medical to complete my physical. That's when I text dad and he tried to get a hold of NC1. Towards the end of the day, Chief Hennard the LCPO said "no one can stop me from putting in a package or keep me from medical."

June 19th 2018 - when line shack work died down, I was able to go to medical and get the labs done. Shortly after coming back, the Maintenance Master Chief pulled me and Chief Hennard into the chief's mess. He was angry I didn't have my PC when I got injured the first time I was in the line shack, and the PQS reset to 0%. AND he was mad that dad "called the command". The Maintenance Master Chief also said the command can deny me medical and that they were being nice letting me go to complete the lab work. While he was screaming at me for all this, he was spitting on me as that's how mad he was at me. He had a timeline of my time at the command, saying that the treatment I have received at HSC-28 was overly nice and more than fair. We agreed to be completely bored ready at July 20th 2018.

June 20th 2018 - nothing happened

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June 21st 2018 - my LPO asked to see my I.D. I start getting out my military I.D. he said no, your state i.d. I said "I don't have that" he said in the system it says I have a driver's license. So to call the DMV/family and get the information. I told him my father is looking for it. He said okay, write down your address, full name, last, first, and middle and date of birth. So I did. Later in the day Chief Hennard and Chief Delasandro pulled me into Maintenance Control and had the Arizona DMV website pulled up. Chief Delasandro starts typing in my information. Nothing came up at first. Then they use the i.d. number that's in the system to search, all in front of 5 or so other Chiefs. They start asking for more and more information, I said it all even the last 4 of my social in front of everybody with no hesitation. Then it comes time to pay for an I.D. he asks me if I have $12 I said in my wallet? No, in my account. I said yes. He said go get your card. I complied again without hesitation. I come back he asks "do you need these $12?" I said no. He takes my debit card and starts typing in my information. And charges my account the $12 and prints off the receipt for me. He gives me my card back and says "looks like you have a driver's license it will be here in less than 15 days"

June 22nd 2018 - right when work is over, I received a counseling chit and a recommendation for DRB because I haven't stood watch and I apparently have a driver's license.

Attachment E: Shoulder Injury

1. On Nov 1, 2017, AEAN Caserta sustained a shoulder injury while riding a bicycle. This resulted in his transfer being pulled. NC1 Remmy Spence had assured AEAN Caserta that once the shoulder was healed the transfer action would immediately pick up at the administrative point of temporary hold.

2. Of all the medical reports concerning his treatment, the following reports provided an understanding of AEAN Caserta's recovery progress (without being repetitious):

a. Nov 22, 2017 (Attachment E-1): *20 yo active duty male. 13 days s/p fall from bicycle onto right shoulder. Plain films show minimally displaced mid shaft clavicular fracture. Patient wearing sling and using Percocet, Tylenol, and motrin for pain control. He is also taking robaxin for symptomatic relief. Patient reports no significant improvement in pain, and pain located over distal aspect of clavicle. Denies numbness, weakness, or tingling of the RUE.*

b. Jan 25, 2018 (Attachment E-2): *Pt is a 20 yo RHD M presenting s/p minimally displaced R midshaft clavicular fracture. Pt was initially treated in sling for comfort, but seen and followed squadron medical unit. Today pt endorses some continued discomfort, max pain 4/10 worse with activity of the RUE. Pt states he has full ROM, no repeat trauma. No recent f/c/ns. Pt denies numbness/tingling to RUE. Pt was placed on LLD, however no LIMDU status at the time. Pt is considered FFD/WWD by his command.*

c. Feb 6, 2018 (Attachment E-3): *Pain in right shoulder. Ptn had slight increase in pain following therapy session mainly due to prone Y's. Ptn declined ice for today. Will continue treatment w/ plan of care.*

d. Feb 13, 2018 (Attachment E-4): *Pain at shoulder 0/10 to end range post PT. Progressing to goals, added Graston and pain at end range abolished, right upper trap activation (slight) in overhead position.*

e. Mar 1, 2018 (Attachment E-5): *Right shoulder pain minimal, over all doing well, pays attention to posture but difficult to correct 100% of the time.*

f. Apr 19, 2018 (Attachment E-6): RHD. *Doing well. PT going great, can do pull ups. Does have some lingering stiffness, cracking and pain with certain movements but overall doing well…Xrays show well healing clavicle fx with callus formation.*

g. May 17, 2018 (Attachment E -7): *On his last visit he received a RT ACJ CSI for shoulder pain which resulted in lasting resolution of his pain. Denies ongoing shoulder pain or limitations with activity. Denies numbness and tingling in hand. No additional orthopaedic complaints…General: WN WD, no acute distress…No shoulder instability…No ongoing RT shoulder/clavicle pain or disability.*

3. In the aforementioned medical reports, two points stand out:

a. The same Sailor who ran twenty miles a day on a broken leg followed all medical requirements and did the necessary therapy to mend the shoulder injured in the bicycle accident.

b. Per the May 17, 2018 medical report, AEAN Caserta was fully recovered and ready for transfer. Had the command placed the same urgency in the transfer as it did in pulling the transfer when AEAN Caserta was injured, that Sailor would have been long gone and never felt his only way out of a toxic environment was to commit suicide.

22 Nov 2017 at NMC Portsmouth, Flt Med BHC Norfolk by MULLINIX, PATRICK C

Encounter ID:	TWVA-20925148	Primary Dx:	Nondisplaced fracture of shaft of right clavicle, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing

Patient: **CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK** Date: **22 Nov 2017 1100 EST** Appt Type: **SPEC**
Treatment Facility: **NBHC NAVSTA SEWELLS** Clinic: **FLT MED SEWELLS** Provider: **MULLINIX,PATRICK CHARLES**
Patient Status: **Outpatient**

Reason for Appointment:
HSC28// shoulder injury after bike incident
Appointment Comments:
smm

Vitals
Vitals Written by KILPATRICKHARRIS,SHEILA M @ 22 Nov 2017 1032 EST
BP: 116/78, HR: 83, RR: 16, T: 97.9 °F, HT: 68 in, WT: 160 lbs, BMI: 24.33, BSA: 1.859 square meters,
Tobacco Use: No, Alcohol Use: No,
Pain Scale: 8/10 Severe, Pain Scale Comments: R SHOULDER
Comments: SKH

S/O Note Written by MULLINIX,PATRICK CHARLES @ 22 Nov 2017 1233 EST
Chief complaint
The Chief Complaint is: R SHOULDER PAIN.
History of present illness
The Patient is a 20 year old male.

<<Note accomplished in TSWF-CORE>>

20 yo active duty male 13 days s/p fall from bicycle onto right shoulder. Plain films show minimally displaced mid shaft clavicular fracture. Patient wearing sling and using percocet, tylenol, and motrin for pain control. He is also taking robaxin for symptomatic relief. Patient reports no significant improvement in pain, and pain located over distal aspect of clavicle. Denies numbness, weakness, or tingling of the RUE.

Pain assessment
Location: R SHOULDER
Duration: 2 WEEKS
Quality: SHARP
Factors that correlate with onset: MOTION
Frequency: CONSTANT
Average level: 8
Worst level: 8
Least level: 2
What makes it better: IMMOBILIZATION
What makes it worse: MOVEMENT
.....
Allergies
Allergies Verified and Updated
NICKEL.
Current medication
Including OTCs, vitamins, herbals, supplements, etc.
METHOCARBAMOL, IBUPROFEN, TYLENOL, HYDROCODONE.
Personal history
Behavioral: No tobacco use history.
Alcohol: Not using alcohol AUDIT-C Date:
History ANNUAL QUESTIONS
Preferred language (written or spoken): [X] English [ ] Other:
Preferred method of learning? [ ] Verbal [ ] Written [X] Visual [ ] Other (Specify):
Learning disability, language barrier, hearing/vision deficit? [ ] Yes [X] No (Specify):
(SILS) How often do you need to have someone help you when you read instructions, pamphlets, or other written material from your doctor or pharmacy? [X] Never [ ] Rarely [ ] Sometimes [ ] Often [ ] Always
Advance directives completed? [ ] Yes [X] No
Is a copy of the Advance directive in the record? [ ] Yes [X] No

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ATTACHMENT E-1; INDEPENENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Do you have any cultural or religious beliefs that may affect your care? [ ] Yes [X] No
Are you enrolled in EFMP? [ ] Yes X] No
Are you registered for Relay Health/Secure Messaging? [ ] Yes [X] No
Contact preference: PHONE 602-625-5756
PCM:
.....

Physical findings

Musculoskeletal System:

Hands (Motion):
Right Hand: ° No limitation of motion was seen. ° No weakness.
Elbow (Motion):
Right Elbow: ° Motion was normal.
Shoulder:
Right Shoulder: • Shoulder was tender on palpation TTP over middle and distal thirds of clavicle. • Pain was elicited on motion. ° No swelling. ° No erythema. ° No warmth. ° No misalignment.

Neurological:

Motor (Strength): ° No weakness of the right elbow was observed. ° No weakness of the right forearm was observed.

Practice Management

Patient engages in 150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week AND muscle strengthening activities 2 or more days per week.

Rad Result Cited by MULLINIX,PATRICK C @ 22 Nov 2017 1239 EST

CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK 20/4681 DoD ID: 1157452785 20yo 25 May 1997 M
********** SHOULDER, RT ORTHO 3V(AP NEUTRAL ROTATION, TRANS Y, AXIL) **********
POC Enc: #E8107910 POC Fac: NMC Portsmouth
Status: Complete

Procedure:
SHOULDER, RT ORTHO 3V(AP NEUTRAL ROTATION, TRANS Y, AXIL)
Order Date: 15-Nov-2017 11:45:00
Order Comment: NO BRIEF COMMENT
Reason for Order:
20 yo male, recent injury to right shoulder after mountian bike incident.
repeating plain films. please evaluate, thank you.
Exam #: 17358346
Exam Date/Time: 20-Nov-2017 11:28:00
Transcription Date/Time: 20-Nov-2017 12:10:00
Provider: KING, NEIL M
Requesting Location:
FLT MED BHC NORFOLK NBHC NAVAL STATION NORFOLK
Status: COMPLETE
Result Code: SEE RADIOLOGIST'S REPORT
Interpreted By: RABER, SCOTT A
Approved By: RABER, SCOTT A
Approved Date: 20-Nov-2017 12:08:00
Report Text:
SHOULDER, RT ORTHO 3V(AP NEUTRAL ROTATION, TRANS Y, AXIL), CLAVICLE, RT COMPLETE

HISTORY: Clavicle fracture follow-up.

COMPARISON: Shoulder and clavicle series 11/12/2017.

FINDINGS: 4 views of the shoulder and clavicle show normal glenohumeral articulation. There is an oblique mid clavicular fracture with early

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perifracture callus formation but no secondary arthritic process, radiopaque foreign body, or focal soft tissue swelling.

The visualized scapula, remaining clavicle, and hemithorax are all unremarkable.

IMPRESSION: Early healing of the mid clavicular fracture without shortening or angulation deformity.

A/P Last Updated by MULLINIX,PATRICK C @ 22 Nov 2017 1137 EST
1. Nondisplaced fracture of shaft of right clavicle, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing: 13 days s/p mid clavicular fracture with early callous formation. Patient to wear sling when active, and several times daily perform 30 degrees flexion, extension, and abduction of shoulder, flexion and extension of the elbow, and supination/pronation of forearm. Patient to finish remaining percocet and supplement with tylenol for pain control. Patient to follow-up in 4 weeks for x-rays to assess healing. Patient voiced understanding and is ok with plan.

Disposition Written by MULLINIX,PATRICK C @ 22 Nov 2017 1239 EST
Released w/o Limitations
Follow up: as needed with PCM.
Discussed: Diagnosis, Medication(s)/Treatment(s), Alternatives, Potential Side Effects with Patient who indicated understanding.

Signed By MULLINIX, PATRICK C (Physician) @ 22 Nov 2017 1240

CHANGE HISTORY
***The following S/O Note Was Overwritten** by MULLINIX,PATRICK C @ 22 Nov 2017 1235 EST:*
S/O Note Written by KILPATRICKHARRIS,SHEILA M @ 22 Nov 2017 1035 EST
Chief complaint
The Chief Complaint is: R SHOULDER PAIN.
History of present illness
The Patient is a 20 year old male.

Pain assessment
Location: R SHOULDER
Duration: 2 WEEKS
Quality: SHARP
Factors that correlate with onset: MOTION
Frequency: CONSTANT
Average level: 8
Worst level: 8
Least level: 2
What makes it better: IMMOBILIZATION
What makes it worse: MOVEMENT
.....
Allergies
Allergies Verified and Updated
NICKEL.
Current medication
Including OTCs, vitamins, herbals, supplements, etc.
METHOCARBAMOL, IBUPROFEN, TYLENOL, HYDROCODONE.
Personal history
Behavioral: No tobacco use history.
Alcohol: Not using alcohol AUDIT-C Date:
History ANNUAL QUESTIONS
Preferred language (written or spoken): [X] English [ ] Other:
Preferred method of learning? [ ] Verbal [ ] Written [X] Visual [ ] Other (Specify):
Learning disability, language barrier, hearing/vision deficit? [ ] Yes [X] No (Specify):
(SILS) How often do you need to have someone help you when you read instructions, pamphlets, or other written material from your doctor or pharmacy? [X] Never [ ] Rarely [ ] Sometimes [ ] Often [ ] Always
Advance directives completed? [ ] Yes [X] No
Is a copy of the Advance directive in the record? [ ] Yes [X] No
Do you have any cultural or religious beliefs that may affect your care? [ ] Yes [X] No
Are you enrolled in EFMP? [ ] Yes X] No
Are you registered for Relay Health/Secure Messaging? [ ] Yes [X] No
Contact preference: PHONE 602-625-5756
PCM:
.....
Practice Management
Patient engages in 150 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week AND muscle strengthening activities 2 or more days per week.

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25 Jan 2018 at NMC Portsmouth, Fracture/Trauma Clinic NMC Portsmouth by CRICKARD, COLIN V

Encounter ID:	TWVA-21340260	Primary Dx:	Nondisplaced fracture of shaft of right clavicle, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing

Patient: **CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK** Date: **25 Jan 2018 0800 EST** Appt Type: **SPEC**
Treatment Facility: **NMC PORTSMOUTH** Clinic: **FRACTURE/TRAUMA CLINIC NMCP** Provider: **CRICKARD,COLIN VICTOR**

Patient Status: **Outpatient**

Reason for Appointment:
aircrew applicant with persistant pain right clavicular fx
Appointment Comments:
JSM

Vitals
Vitals Written by HASKETT,TIFFANY N @ 25 Jan 2018 0744 EST
HT: 68 in, WT: 160 lbs, BMI: 24.33, BSA: 1.859 square meters, Pain Scale: 4/10 Moderate
Comments: Medications reviewed with patient and sf508 verified. Learning assessment reviewed and current

Allergies: yes

S/O Note Written by OLSEN,AARON ARTHUR @ 25 Jan 2018 0812 EST
Chief complaint
The Chief Complaint is: S/p R clavicular fracture.
History of present illness
The Patient is a 20 year old male.
Pt is a 20 yo RHD M presenting s/p minimally displaced R midshaft clavicular fracture. Pt was initially treated in sling for comfort, but seen and followed by squadron medical unit. Today pt endorses some continued discomfort, max pain 4/10 worse with activity of the RUE. Pt states he has full ROM, no repeat trauma. No recent f/c/ns. Pt denies numbness/tingling to RUE. Pt was placed on LLD, however no LIMDU status at this time. Pt is considered FFD/WWD by his command.

.
Past medical/surgical history
Reported:
Medical: Reported medical history
None.
Surgical / Procedural: Surgical / procedural history None.
Personal history
Social history reviewed Pt denies Tob, EtOH.
Physical findings
General:
- Physical examination RUE: Pt with mild TTP to lateral aspect of clavicle: ROM full and equal to contralateral to ABD/FF. Pt able to fire AIN/PIN/U. SILT M/U/R. 2+ Radial pulse. Skin intact without ecchymosis or swelling.

Images: No new Xrays today, Recent xrays reviewed demonstrate healing minimally displaced midshaft clavicular fracture without evidence of malunion/nonunion.

Vital Signs:
- Temperature: Reviewed. - RR: Reviewed. - PR: Reviewed. - Blood pressure: Reviewed.

General Appearance:
° Well-appearing. ° Well developed. ° Well nourished. ° In no acute distress.

A/P Last Updated by OLSEN,AARON A @ 25 Jan 2018 0836 EST
1. Nondisplaced fracture of shaft of right clavicle, subsequent encounter for fracture with routine healing S42.024D: 20yo RHD M with R Midshaft clavicle fx, minimally displaced DOI 12 NOV 2017. Closed, DNVI. Pt still with minimal pain with full activity. Evidence of prior malunion on Imaging. Clinically more AC pathology.
- Recommend PT at this time for Rotator cuff strengthening, ROM WBAT
- Encourage <10 lb limit with activity.
- F/u 6 weeks

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ATTACHMENT E-2; INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AERN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Consult(s): -Referred To: PHYSICAL THERAPY NAVAL STATION (Routine) Specialty: THERAPY, PHYSICAL Clinic: PHYS THER NAVAL STATION Provisional Diagnosis: Nondisplaced fracture of shaft of right clavicle, subsequent encounter for fra Ordered By: OLSEN,AARON A Ordering Provider: OLSEN,AARON ARTHUR

Disposition Last Updated by OLSEN,AARON A @ 25 Jan 2018 0836 EST
Released w/o Limitations
Follow up: 6 week(s) in the FRACTURE/TRAUMA CLINIC NMCP clinic or sooner if there are problems.
Discussed: Diagnosis, Medication(s)/Treatment(s), Alternatives, Potential Side Effects with Patient who indicated understanding.
Administrative Options: Consultation requested

Note Written by COBBS,TAMARA L @ 25 Jan 2018 0728 EST
Consult Order
Referring Provider: KING, NEIL M
Date of Request: 09 Jan 2018
Priority: Routine

Provisional Diagnosis:

Reason for Request:

20 yo ad male, aircrew applicant with persistant pain following rightclavicular fx. please evaluate and treat. thank you.
Note Written by CRICKARD,COLIN V @ 25 Jan 2018 1323 EST
Patient seen and examined, agree with above plan.

Signed By CRICKARD, COLIN V (Physician, NMC Portsmouth) @ 25 Jan 2018 1323

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06 Feb 2018 at NMC Portsmouth, Phys Ther Naval Station by BARFIELD, BRYCE S

Encounter ID: TWVA-21432063 Primary Dx: Pain in right shoulder

Patient: **CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK** Date: **06 Feb 2018 0730 EST** Appt Type: **PROC**
Treatment Facility: **NBHC NAVSTA SEWELLS** Clinic: **PT NAVAL STATION** Provider: **BARFIELD,BRYCE S**
Patient Status: **Outpatient**

AutoCites Refreshed by BARFIELD,BRYCE S @ 06 Feb 2018 0748 EST

Allergies
•NICKEL Class: Rash

Appointment Comments:
jcb

Vitals
Vitals Written by BARFIELD,BRYCE S @ 06 Feb 2018 0748 EST
Pain Scale: 2/10 Mild, Pain Scale Comments: Right Shoulder

Questionnaire AutoCites Refreshed by BARFIELD,BRYCE S @ 06 Feb 2018 0748 EST
Questionnaires

S/O Note Written by BARFIELD,BRYCE S @ 06 Feb 2018 0748 EST
History of present illness
The Patient is a 20 year old male.
Ptn reported to clinic w/ mild 2/10 pain in his R shoulder. No other complaints.
Objective
UBE x6 mins
Serratus punches w/ RTB 2x10
Dynamic hug w/ GTB 2x10
Wall ABC's x2
Prone I,Y, T's x10 w/ 5SH
T-Band 6 way 2x10 ea.

A/P Written by BARFIELD,BRYCE S @ 06 Feb 2018 0940 EST
1. Pain in right shoulder M25.511: Ptn had slight increase in pain following therapy session mainly due to prone Y's. Ptn declined ice for today. Will continue treatment w/ in plan of care.
Procedure(s): -(97110) Physical Therapy: ___ Session Segments, 15 Minutes Each x 2 ADDITIONAL PROVIDER(S): LASHBAUGH,MICHAEL S

Disposition Written by BARFIELD,BRYCE S @ 06 Feb 2018 0942 EST
Released w/o Limitations
Follow up: as needed with PCM.
Discussed: Diagnosis, Medication(s)/Treatment(s), Alternatives, Potential Side Effects with Patient who indicated understanding.

Signed By BARFIELD, BRYCE S (HN, BHC Albany) @ 06 Feb 2018 0942

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ATTACHMENT E-3: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

13 Feb 2018 at NMC Portsmouth, Phys Ther McCormick by ANDERSON, BRANDI S

Encounter ID: TWVA-21495589 Primary Dx: Pain in right shoulder

Patient: **CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK** Date: **13 Feb 2018 1015 EST** Appt Type: **PROC$**
Treatment Facility: **NBHC NAVSTA SEWELLS** Clinic: **PHYS THER MCCORMICK** Provider: **ANDERSON,BRANDI S**
Patient Status: **Outpatient**

Appointment Comments:
bsa

S/O Note Written by ANDERSON,BRANDI S @ 13 Feb 2018 1359 EST
History of present illness
The Patient is a 20 year old male.
Right shoulder pain at end range remains 2-3/10- sometimes a sharp pain or feels clavicle is somewhere is shouldn't be.
Objective
Dx: Right clavicular fx 12NOV17
****
UBE x6 mins
Graston- pec, upper trap and infra- 10min
open can 5# 3 x 10
Cable dynamic hug 10# 3x10
row 35# 3 x 10
alt high row blue 2 x 20*
Prone I w/ ER 2# 3 x 15*
Prone T 2# 3x10*5
wall snow angles 20x
wall walk red 10x*
wall push up 3 x 10
quadruped I.T.Y. 3 x 5
feed the dragon 2.2# 20x, 3.3# 20x.

A/P Written by ANDERSON,BRANDI S @ 13 Feb 2018 1409 EST
1. Pain in right shoulder: Tolerated visit well, reviewed HEP
Pain at shoulder 0 /10 to end range post PT
Progressing to goals, added Graston and pain at end range abolished, right upper trap activation (slight) in overhead position
NV- seated depression, incline push up, increase reps

Procedure(s): -Physical Therapy: ___ Session Segments, 15 Minutes Each x 4 ADDITIONAL PROVIDER(S): KENNY,JOSEPH T - 65`
-Mobilization Soft Tissue x 1
-Modalities Vasopneumatic Device x 1

Disposition Written by ANDERSON,BRANDI S @ 13 Feb 2018 1409 EST
Released w/o Limitations
Follow up: in the PHYS THER MCCORMICK clinic.

Signed By ANDERSON, BRANDI S (Certified Athletic Trainer) @ 13 Feb 2018 1409

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ATTACHMENT E-4: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30 2021

01 Mar 2018 at NMC Portsmouth, Phys Ther McCormick by ANDERSON, BRANDI S

Encounter ID: TWVA-21619891 Primary Dx: Pain in right shoulder

Patient: **CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK** Date: **01 Mar 2018 1015 EST** Appt Type: **PROC$**
Treatment Facility: **NBHC NAVSTA SEWELLS** Clinic: **PHYS THER MCCORMICK** Provider: **ANDERSON,BRANDI S**
Patient Status: **Outpatient**

Appointment Comments:
bsa

S/O Note Written by ANDERSON,BRANDI S @ 01 Mar 2018 1156 EST
History of present illness
The Patient is a 20 year old male.
Right shoulder pain minimal, over all doing well, pays attention to posture but difficult to correct 100% of the time.
Objective
Dx: Right clavicular fx 12NOV17
****
UBE x6 mins
seated depression 5 x 15s
DNF 2 x 4*-NT
pull ups TG L 19 3 x 10
open can 8# 3 x 15
Cable dynamic hug 15# 3x10-NT
row 35# 3 x 10
alt high row blue 2 x 20*
advanced T over ball 3 cycles of 10
tball walk out 10s
tball hip ext 3 x 5 (B)
wall snow angles 20x
wall walk red 10x*
incline push up 2 x 6
regular push up 6x
quadruped I.T.Y. 3 x 5
feed the dragon 3.3# 20x2
GR 15 min.

A/P Written by ANDERSON,BRANDI S @ 01 Mar 2018 1201 EST
1. Pain in right shoulder: Tolerated visit well, reviewed HEP- issued FR pec opening for HEP
Pain at shoulder 0 /10 post PT
Progressing to goals
NV- rolling T

Procedure(s): -Physical Therapy: ___ Session Segments, 15 Minutes Each x 4 ADDITIONAL PROVIDER(S): KENNY,JOSEPH T - 65`
-Modalities Vasopneumatic Device x 1

Disposition Written by ANDERSON,BRANDI S @ 01 Mar 2018 1201 EST
Released w/o Limitations
Follow up: in the PHYS THER MCCORMICK clinic.

Signed By ANDERSON, BRANDI S (Certified Athletic Trainer) @ 01 Mar 2018 1201

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ATTACHMENT E-5: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

19 Apr 2018 at NMC Portsmouth, Fracture/Trauma Clinic NMC Portsmouth by CRICKARD, COLIN V

Encounter ID: TWVA-22004316 Primary Dx: Encounter for other specified aftercare

Patient: **CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK** Date: **19 Apr 2018 0830 EDT** Appt Type: **FTR$**
Treatment Facility: **NMC PORTSMOUTH** Clinic: **FRACTURE/TRAUMA CLINIC NMCP** Provider: **CRICKARD,COLIN VICTOR**
Patient Status: **Outpatient**

Reason for Appointment:
6 wk f/u right clavicle
Appointment Comments:
tnh

Vitals
Vitals Written by YOUNG,SHAMEIKA S @ 19 Apr 2018 0844 EDT
HT: 5' 8", WT: 160 lbs, BMI: 24.33, BSA: 1.859 square meters, Pain Scale: 0 Pain Free
Comments: NKDA

S/O Note Written by MATTOX,BENJAMIN KEITH @ 19 Apr 2018 0855 EDT
History of present illness
The Patient is a 20 year old male.
20 yom s/p R midshaft clavicle fx.
DOI: 10NOV 2017.

RHD. Doing well. PT going great, can do pull ups. Does have some lingering stiffness, cracking and pain with certain movements but overall doing well.

RUE: DNVI - non TTP at midshaft clavicle. FROM at R shoulder. 5/5 strength RC, Does have some crackling with movements, particularly ER at 90 Abduction.

Xrays show well healing clavicle fx with callus formation.

.

A/P Last Updated by MATTOX,BENJAMIN K @ 19 Apr 2018 0951 EDT
1. Encounter for other specified aftercare Z51.89: 20 yom with R clavicle fx - healing great. Non TTP at the clavicle.
- Will obtain MRI to investigate shoulder popping symptoms
- AC joint CSI
- f/u PRN

Procedure(s): -(20610) Corticosteroids Injection Intraarticular Right Shoulder x 1
Consult(s): -Referred To: MRI NMCP (Routine) Specialty: RADIOLOGY Clinic: MRI NMCP Provisional Diagnosis: Encounter for other specified aftercare Ordered By: MATTOX,BENJAMIN K Ordering Provider: MATTOX,BENJAMIN KEITH

Disposition Last Updated by MATTOX,BENJAMIN K @ 19 Apr 2018 0951 EDT
Released w/o Limitations
Follow up: in the FRACTURE/TRAUMA CLINIC NMCP clinic.
Discussed: Diagnosis, Medication(s)/Treatment(s), Alternatives, Potential Side Effects with Patient who indicated understanding.
Administrative Options: Consultation requested

Note Written by CRICKARD,COLIN V @ 23 Apr 2018 0856 EDT
Patient seen and examined. Chart and X-rays reviewed. Agree with above plan.

Signed By CRICKARD, COLIN V (Physician, NMC Portsmouth) @ 23 Apr 2018 0856

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ATTACHMENT E-6: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIRMAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

17 May 2018 at NMC Portsmouth, Fracture/Trauma Clinic NMC Portsmouth by CRICKARD, COLIN V

Encounter ID: TWVA-22228173 Primary Dx: Encounter for other specified aftercare

Patient: **CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK** Date: **17 May 2018 1130 EDT** Appt Type: **FTR**
Treatment Facility: **NMC PORTSMOUTH** Clinic: **FRACTURE/TRAUMA CLINIC NMCP** Provider: **CRICKARD,COLIN VICTOR**

Patient Status: **Outpatient**

Reason for Appointment:
4 wk f/u right clavicle
Appointment Comments:
tnh

Vitals
Vitals Written by YOUNG,SHAMEIKA S @ 17 May 2018 1055 EDT
HT: 68 in
Vitals Written by YOUNG,SHAMEIKA S @ 17 May 2018 1053 EDT
WT: 160 lbs, Pain Scale: 0 Pain Free
Comments: NKDA

S/O Note Written by GUNDLACH,TIMOTHY A @ 18 May 2018 0547 EDT
History of present illness
The Patient is a 20 year old male.

<<Note accomplished in TSWF-CORE>>
S) 20 y/o male f/u for MRI results of RT shoulder for frequent popping sensation with shoulder ROM. Pain free popping of the RT shoulder is present. On his last visit in April 2018 he received a RT ACJ CSI for shoulder pain which resulted in lasting resolution of his pain. Denies ongoing shoulder pain or limitations with activity. Denies numbness and tingling in hand. No additional orthopaedic complaints

O) General: WN WD, no acute distress
RT shoulder/clavicle:
No TTP about the shoulder or clavicle
Painfree FAROM of the shoulder
NTTP over AC joint
No impingment signs with hawkins
No shoulder instability
Neg obriens
Neg crossarm
Neg subscap liftoff
SILT m/u/r
Fires AIN/PIN/U

MRI RT shoulder: No acute osseous abnormality. Healed RT mid-clavicular fracture
.

A/P Last Updated by GUNDLACH,TIMOTHY A @ 17 May 2018 1158 EDT
1. **Encounter for other specified aftercare** Z51.89: No ongoing RT shoulder/clavicle pain or disability.

1. Reviewed MRI results
2. F/u PRN

Disposition Last Updated by GUNDLACH,TIMOTHY A @ 18 May 2018 0548 EDT
Released w/o Limitations
Follow up: as needed in the FRACTURE/TRAUMA CLINIC NMCP clinic.
Discussed: Diagnosis, Medication(s)/Treatment(s), Alternatives, Potential Side Effects with Patient who indicated understanding.

Note Written by CRICKARD,COLIN V @ 18 May 2018 0629 EDT

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ATTACHMENT E-7: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30 2021

Patient seen and examined, chart and x-rays reviewed. Agree with above plan.

Signed By CRICKARD, COLIN V (Physician, NMC Portsmouth) @ 18 May 2018 0629

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Attachment F: Letters from AEAN Caserta to the Commander

1. In any command environment, outstanding supervisors serve as positive influences in the lives of subordinates. On the opposite end of the leadership spectrum are unprofessional supervisors who create toxic environments. Witness reports, counselling statements, and the Command's Investigation Report concerning AEAN Caserta's death make clear the fact that AE1 Jared Brose created that toxic environment. Officers and NCOs of the command had plenty of indications and warnings about the abusive behavior of AE1 Brose. Two counselling statements, to which AE1 Brose played the "I'm a bad boy" skit, solved nothing. Moving AE1 Brose between positions, and ultimately back into the supervision of AEAN Caserta, while not cleaning up the Brose problem only added to it.

2. Concerning AE1 Brose, AEAN Caserta reached out to his commander on June 18, 2018 (seven days before his suicide). AEAN Caserta made the following points in his letter (Attachment F-1), dropped into the commander's communication box, subject: "AE1 Brose":

a. *I've been keeping quiet and debating about doing this for a long time. But it has to be done. This LPO treats his workers under him worse than garbage.*

b. *He has an unpredictable temper that the slightest occurrence of things not going his way, he just goes off instead of deescalating the situation and finding a more proper calm way of doing things.*

c. *Referring to everyone as his "bitch" or other derogatory/degrading terms.*

d. *He acts more childish and immature than the junior sailors he is in charge of. Example. He talks about a LOT of Chiefs/higher rank behind their back… Hes EXTREMELY unprofessional. "I don't give a fuck what chief says he/she isn't here im telling you what to do right fucking now. You listen to me, I don't care! Chief is a dumbass, don't listen to them!" A chief walks in, tells Brose something, said chief walks out. He will just blatantly yell out "DUCHBAG!" or "DUMBASS!" just two small examples.*

e. *…someone had a good idea to let him be "the example" of the most impressionable shop at the command. They definitely learned and are learning what not to be.*

f. *He is the reason moral is down in the line shack. Its hard to respect someone who doesn't respect others and abuses his position.*

g. *This is my last attempt at hope for a change either in him or preferably a different LPO. Personally I suggest NAME BLOCKED. Its also certain that they need a strong second class for night check supervisor. NAME BLOCKED has said on occasion she would like to be night check supervisor.*

3. Analysis of information presented in the previous paragraph:

a. Three key points should have been recognized by the commander upon receiving this statement:

(1) The author of this document, and it was no secret that was AEAN Caserta, cared about the work environment. He was not hostile to all supervisors. He recommended two supervisors for positions of authority who could have cleaned up the toxic environment.

(2) The toxic environment created by AE1 Brose is thoroughly documented. The commander should not have sat idle while a toxic supervisor was continually abusing junior enlisted personnel, and that same supervisor was publicly slandering his supervisors.

(3) The comment *This is my last attempt at hope for a change either in him or preferably a different LPO* clearly identified the desperate situation AEAN Caserta was in. This was an indication and warning that was ignored by the commander. A week later, AEAN Caserta's failed *last attempt at hope* was followed by his suicide.

b. No action was taken by the commander to resolve the issues identified in this letter. Instead, word was passed on to the NCOs about the letter's existence, which certainly would have infuriated AE1 Brose even more. It was after this letter was dropped by AEAN Caserta that AE1 Brose led the attack, which was attended by several other NCOs, on the issue of AEAN Caserta's driver's license status.

4. One of the suicide letters AEAN Caserta left behind was one to his commanding officer (Attachment F-2). Key points in the letter are:

a. *The reason I'm writing this is because I feel you are the only person that can make the changes necessary for others to not suffer the same fate I did.*

b. *If you can successfully take action and make the changes, you will prevent more suicides within the navy.*

c. *When some one fails out, drops out or pulled from a special program, they go through a re-rate process. That's where this stems back from. It's a process that someone has 30 minutes to "pick" a rate.*

d. *Since then I've been labled a failure ESPECIALLY by the navy.*

e. *You are able to make the change for the greater good to prevent and possibly stop this from happening in the future. That's my advice to the Navy. Maybe I'll just be a number like everyone else, BUT at least I tried!*

5. Analysis of information presented in the previous paragraph:

a. Just as he tried in life with the first letter to the commander, AEAN Caserta tried in death to create reform of the reclassification process.

b. AEAN Caserta realized there was no hope for reform within the work section, as nothing positive was to be accomplished concerning AE1 Brose. Instead, the NCOs were made aware of the first letter placed in the commander's information drop-box.

c. In his final hours of life, AEAN Caserta hoped to change the system that resulted in his being cast into a hostile and unprofessional environment. His trust in his commander was misplaced. Being that AEAN Caserta's commander failed to clean up a problem under his control (specifically AE1 Brose), then there should have been no expectation for the commander to follow up with the Department of the Navy to address the re-rate process.

d. The informal-but-widely-accepted name of commander's information drop-box testifies to the section's toxic leadership climate. The name applied was the "ANYMOUSE BOX," implying that anyone who drops information in the box is a squeaking mouse who lacks courage to speak openly about a problem.

f. Furthermore, the Inspector General (IG) would later claim that CDR Whitmer had no knowledge of AE1 Brose's despicable behavior (Attachment F-3). The fact that AEAN Caserta alerted CDR Whitmer to the Brose problem totally negates the IG's claim and, in turn, negates the integrity of the IG's report.

10 | 2

Subject: [redacted] AE-1 Brose

i've been keeping quiet and debating about doing this for a long time. But it has to be done. This LPO treats his workers under him worse than garbage. I cant think of a better way to put this than how the recent article was written about the MCPON. He fosters a hostile work environment inside his small shop. He has an unpredictable temper that the slightest occurrence of things not going his way, he just goes off instead of deescalating the situation and finding a more proper calm way of doing things. He can be verbally abusive towards his coworkers. Referring to everyone as his "bitch" or other derogatory/ degrading terms. As a first class who has been in 12 years, he 1. doesn't act like it and 2. doesn't hold himself to the standard of a first class. He acts more childish and immature than the junior sailors he is in charge of. Example. He talks about a LOT of Chiefs/ higher rank behind their back. Being realistic, everyone does it to a certain degree, but NOT in front of the whole shop to hear. Hes EXTREAMLY unprofessional. "i don't give a fuck what chief says he/she isnt here im telling you what to do right fucking now! You listen to me, I dont care! Chief is a dumbass, don't listen to them!" another example. A chief walks in, tells [redacted] something, said chief walks out. He will just blatantly yell out "DUCHBAG!" or "DUMBASS!" just 2 small examples. For someone trying to make chief, he sure shows a LOT of disrespect to the rank as a whole. This man is too incompetent and most certainly NOT the right fit to "lead" some of the newest personnel at the command. He not to long ago got kicked off a DET for behavioral reasons and somewhere along the lines someone had a good idea to let him be "the example" of the most impressionable shop at the command. They definitely learned and are learning what not to be. IF anyone stays in the navy because of him. They get treated like dogs and he rules over them. He believes that when he does things that he is supposed to do, that that means they need to work harder and 'give him more" I might add that he puts them off until the very VERY last possible second and if that involves marriage and/or BAH, that really could mess up someones personal life. He is the reason moral is down in the line shack. Its hard to respect someone who doesn't respect others and abuses his position. The workload is fine, very fast pace and can be exhausting at times but its manageable. The hardest part of the line shack work day is surviving the shift with him. This is my last attempt at hope for a change either in him or preferably a different LPO. Personally I suggest [redacted] Its also certain that they need a strong second class for night check supervisor [redacted] has said on occasion she would like to be night check supervisor.

Brose

ATTACHMENT F-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

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CO,

The reason I'm writing this is because I feel you are the only person that can make the changes necessary for others to not suffer the same fate I did. If you can sucessfuly take action and make the changes, you will prevent more suicides within the navy. When some one fails out, drops out or pulled from a special program, they go through a re-rate process. Thats where this stems back from. [redacted] Its a process that someone has 30 minuets to "pick" a rate. Well if you're even the slightest bit luckey, you get more than just undesignated. This is what the navy does with special program failures... me? I was in seal training when I had a broken tibia, Pneumonia and Sipe, denied

medical attention and was pulled from the class... since then I've been labled a failure ESPECIALLY by the navy. The command didn't help by me trying to move on but everyone holds it against me. EVERYTHING I ever worked for was wrongfully taken away from me MAY 6th 2016 I got tired of living a failures life. I hope you can help the future and do this, somehow get the rerate process changed to pick any rate someone qualifies for without a waiver based on ASVAB score. I know I am not the only one who has suffered and I KNOW I am not the only one who has came to this [redacted] conclusion. I know it might sound small but its also something you will never understand if you weren't there. I put this in your box so you had to listen and I hope

You are able to make the change for the greater good to prevent and possibly stop this from happening in the future. Thats my advice to the Navy. Maybe I'll just be a number like everyone else, BUT at least I tried!

Attachment G: Suicide Letters

1. After AEAN Caserta's death a set of suicide letters were discovered. Two of the letters, one to his parents and one to his former girlfriend were placed inside mailing envelopes with three postage stamps already emplaced.

a. The Caserta Family (Attachment G-1): Four pages, appears to be either a set of two-page documents written independent of each other, or pages to AEAN Caserta's suicide letter to his parents had pages removed before delivery to his parents. The first two and the last two pages do not line up with each other. It is strange that AEAN Caserta would write seven, nine, and six page letters to friends, but only four pages to his parents.

(1) Document 1 - *I'm just so tired of living like this.*

(2) Document 1 - *I want to see as many people as possible fired, kicked out and or at the VERY LEAST lose rank.*

(3) Document 2 - *I love you but I just hated where I was going. I was done. I was tired of just everything.*

(4) Document 2 - *IT WAS THE NAVY'S FAULT NOT I REPEAT NOT YOURS!!*

b. Taylor Cousins (Attachment G-2): Four pages

(1) *…you are NOT the reason I did this to myself though. I did this because things kept getting worse and worse for me. At one point, I managed to pick myself up to a certain degree, even you would have been proud of how I got things changed for myself.*

(2) *Sadly, my last attempt was taken away from me and I'm not letting these people at my command ruin the rest of my life over dumb stuff.*

c. Miki (Attachment G-3): Seven pages

(1) *I stalled this for a LONG time. Its some thing I should have done when I was pulled from Seal training. But I wanted to give life one last chance.*

(2) *I can't help but think how everything would be or have gone differently if I went to college instead of join…*

(3) *My life was pretty much done before I got to VA, the command made it that much worse.*

(4) *The future was already ruined for me, HOPEFULLY the rerate process changed(es) for the better.*

d. Katrenia (Attachment G-4): Nine pages

(1) *I never wanted to go crewmen, I just wanted 1. Out of the command, and 2. A chance to get my head straight possibly but that wasn't even a guarantee considering the job was going to be retarded like this one is. BUT! It would have been better though.*

(2) *The day you saw me punch the wall, was pretty much the day I decided to do this…That's why I couldn't tell you everything. Shortly after I went home on leave, and as unfair as it was, that was the final determination of if I should ultimately do this or not.*

(3) *This command letterally has ruined the rest of my life.*

(4) *I had to go anyways, I was just going to be a sad sack the rest of my life anyways.*

(5) *I've been at these dark crossroad for a while now. When I'm walking a dark road I am a man who walks alone, because I don't want to bring down others in the process.*

e. Kristen (Attachment G-5): Six pages

(1) *I was so done living like a failure when it wasn't even my fault…*

(2) *I was tired of living a failures life when it wasn't my fault.*

(3) *When I got in hot water with the higher ups is when the final straw happened.*

(4) *There was no point for me anymore as if I got in some real deep trouble, The rest of my life would have been fucked even more badly than it already was going to be.*

(5) *The only reason I wanted to go crewman was to get out of this command, and hopefully get my mind straight…over all I didn't want to, it was just the quickest way out and off to a what was hopefully going to be a better life. But that was taken away from me along with my hope or at least what was left of it. My biggest downfall was I didn't believe in myself, that could have been a game changer for me but I never had confidence ever since I got injured in seal training…It was just my downfall and everything that followed didn't let me get over it, and fully heal…ultimetly that is where this decision seems back from.*

(6) *I wish it didn't have to come to this but it got to a point where I didn't have a choice…*

2. Analysis:

a. Final revelations in the letters:
(1) In each of the letters, AEAN Caserta wants the people to know how much he values them and wishes the best for their lives. He wants each to know that they were not at fault for his suicide. Bottom line is Brandon Caserta cared about people.

(2) It must be noted that AEAN Caserta did not write a single letter to his principle tormenter in his life (AE1 Brose) nor to the other NCOs who in the end (and after the letter to the commander was revealed) sided with AE1 Brose over the driver's license.

(3) To Taylor Cousins he addressed his life getting continually worse and the last chance taken away from him.

(4) To Miki he made two keys points: Stalling the suicide for a long time, the Virginia command making his life worse.

(5) To Katrenia it was about being the "Sad Sack" who did not want to bring down others with his depression.

(6) The letter to Kristen hits on several key points. AEAN Caserta addressed having been kicked down several times. However, up until the NCO pile-up over the driver's license issue and being threatened with captain's mast sent him over the edge, to wit: *There was no point for me anymore as is I got in some real deep trouble, The rest of my life would have been fucked even more badly than it already was going to be.*

b. From these suicide letters the following conclusions are very evident.

(1) AEAN Caserta was a very caring young man, as proven by thanking people for being positive influences in his life.

(2) Wishing to ensure every recipient of his letters understood his suicide was not their fault.

(3) Tired of being degraded and beaten down in a military service in which he had hoped to excel.

(4) After being released from SEAL training because of a broken leg (and pneumonia) AEAN Caserta continued to attempt full recovery and return to training.

(5) After injuring his shoulder, AEAN Caserta continued to believe that once healed he could succeed.

(6) AEAN Caserta had accepted losing his girlfriend who once he believed was his future.

(7) The hostile environment created by AE1 Brose and the constant verbal beating AEAN Caserta endured from this abusive junior NCO took its toll.

(8) AE1 Brose's bringing other NCOs into a successful attack on AEAN Caserta, in the wake of the letter placed in the commander's suggestion box, was the final straw. The driver's license issue was a pretext for AE1 Brose. Other NCOs joining in the attack, to include illegally using AEAN Caserta's debit card to pay for the license, plus threatening a "Captain's Mast" set the stage for suicide. AEAN Caserta felt there was no way out.

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(4) To Miki ~~hits~~ he made two keys points: Stalling the suicide for a long time, the Virginia command making his life worse.

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(4) After being released from SEAL training because of a broken leg (and pneumonia) AEAN Caserta continued to attempt full recovery and return to training.

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(6) AEAN Caserta had accepted losing his girlfriend who once he believed was his future.

(7) The hostile environment created by AE1 Brose and the constant verbal beating AEAN Caserta endured from this abusive junior NCO took its toll.

(8) AE1 Brose's bringing other NCOs into a successful attack on AEAN Caserta, in the wake of the letter placed in the commander's suggestion box, was the final straw. The driver's license issue was a pretext for AE1 Brose. Other NCOs joining in the attack, to include illegally using AEAN Caserta's debit card to pay for the license, plus threatening a "Captain's Mast" set the stage for suicide. AEAN Caserta felt there was no way out.

ATTACHMENT G-1: UNOFFICIAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY OBJECTION TO ANNEXATION CASE 17, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

10257 W. Whitefeather LN.
Peoria AZ 85383
-Brandon

The Caserta family
10257 W. White Feather LN.
Peoria AZ 85383

Dear mom and dad,

I'm sorry for putting you through all this... I Love! you BOTH SOOO MUCH!! Words can not express how much I love you. Thank you for everything you have done for me. You guys were THE GREATEST!!! I'm just so tired of living like this. We have to do so much for the smallest detail to be right and have a CHANCE at a good future for me... no... I'm done. Everything I worked for was gone in a moments glance... When I was home last time you 2 said I was acting strange. heres Why, I was trying to see myself at home going to College or with the police or ect... I couldn't... Meaning I didn't have the motivation or drive for anything I just Felt empty and useless to myself. Theres no way I would have finished School.

I want to be creamated and have my ashes spread on top of our mountain. I want to watch over you 2 and see you officially retired in your house! I want to see as many people as possible fired, kicked out and or at the VERY LEAST lose rank. I do NOT want a military funeral. I've suffered enough, and I have done NOTHING in the military to be proud of. Ruin these peoples lives as much as they ruined mine!! While you're at it, attack the rerate process because if that changed to any rate someone qualifies for based on ASVAB, not as many people ~~would have suffered~~ in the future will suffer the fate I have... I couldn't ask for better parents! I LOVE you both equally, Thank you for EVERYTHING

I LOVE YOU!!!

- with Love Brandon

In here is $300, give $100 to Destiny Gray-(541) 633-5073 just text her that your my parents. Same for Destini Mohn- 623-695-8654 They are both great people and they [redacted] both are my friends. I trust them. OH! the reason I asked for all my money that one time, I wanted to give it all away and ~~take~~ ~~care~~ of my friends when I did this. BUT my new plan is to let you both be rich!! (!) if you want to send money to people, when you get my phone, my pass code is 13 16 07, find Kaleb, destiny, destini, Taylor, Emily Butcher, Miki, Katrenia, Kristen, Meagan Demarest, Tyler and [redacted] skylar.

Thankyou for everything you tought me, it was just my time. I want this depression to be over [redacted] and lets be honest it was never

going to go away... It's NOT your fault, there's NOTHING you could have said or done to talk me out of doing this. I love you but I just hated where I was going. I was done. I was tired of just everything. Never forget I LOVED you BOTH!!!

IT WAS THE NAVY'S ~~FAULT~~ NOT I REPEAT NOT YOURS!!

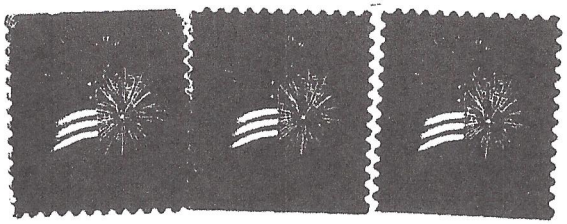
I guess this is goodbye.

I LOVE YOU!!!

- your son
Brandon

-I wish there was more time...

10818 W. Sands Dr.
Sun City AZ 85373



Taylor Cousins
10818 W. Sands Dr.
Sun City AZ 85373

ATTACHMENT G-2: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF ASHAN CASENTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Dear Taylor,

I know you never wanted to hear from me again but I had to tell you the truth. By the time you get this I will be gone. I felt I had to send you this for one reason. God had 2 different plans for us. Every day for over a year I prayed for you to be happy. And it hurt seeing you get with some one else, and shortly after getting engaged. BUT!!! no matter how much it hurt me, I knew it was for the best. Shortly after you graduated TOP of your class!!! Shortly after that is when I stopped praying for you because I knew you were set for life ☺
In my life, I've experienced 2 things. 1. True happiness in life, what its like to go for a goal or dream and fighting to make it reality. And 2. What its like to see and experience true, real beauty and love in life. That is what

19-0519-5

I have to thank you for. You to this day are still the most beautiful woman I have ever met. There is truely NO ONE like you. And you know what? I STILL love you. Not a day has passed where I haven't thought about you. When you broke up with me, that was the most I ever cried before in my life, and I still feel the heartache to this day.... you are NOT the reason I [redacted] did this to myself though. I did this because things kept getting worse and worse for me. At one point, I managed to pick myself up to a certain degree, even you would have been proud of how I got things changed for myself (!!) Sadly, my last attempt was taken away from me and I'm not letting these people at my command ruin the rest of my life over dumb stuff. I would do ANYTHING to get [redacted] just a hug

from you right now... you are the most amazing person in the world. I'm sorry things ended the way they did between us. I love you with all my heart, Thankyou for EVERYTHING!

I love you Tay Tay!!!

- Love,
Brandon

P.S. - I think we can both agree this is goodby forever. You ultimetly did get what you wanted, just not how you wanted it tobe... I just ask you for one thing, if its not to much of a problem, can you please say a prayer for me? I don't know what will happen after this, I am scared and I would like you to help me in the slightest way possible. Thankyou!

over →

P.S.S.- no matter what you do, no matter what happens, no matter what you think of me, I will not only always be there for you, I will always love you!!! ♡

MIKI

ATTACHMENT G-3: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Dear Miki,

Life is a sick twisted game... It's all about the game, and how you play it, it's all about control and if you can take it, it's all about your dept [redacted] (if you have any) and if you can pay it, it's all about pain and whos gunna make it... One moment you think you have absolute control and the next you lost everything... I have been at these cross roads for a while... It wasn't until recently that I was pushed over the edge... Looking back, it was something that was inevitable. I wish I could have seen you one last time before but time ran out for me quickly. I'm sure you have heard a LOT but im telling you the truth here. I stalled this for a LONG time. Its something I should have done when I was pulled from Seal training. But I wanted to give life [redacted]

but Ultimetly I lost the [redacted] game... BUT!! In chess, you sacrifice pawns to save your major Pieces. I had to go any ways. I have lost so much of myself I doubt any part of me [redacted] was still Whole... As unfair as this was, the last time I went home, Was [redacted] what was going to determin if I did this or not... Back to the Chess thing, I had to go anyways, I hope me doing this makes yours, Katrenia, and Kristens lives easier at the command. When you're taking a walk through the garden of life, What do you think you'd expect you would see? I was hoping to find answers that were actually good, not a dead end at every corner... I shouldn't say that... There were a few ways out, but I was so tired and exhausted and

mentally drained to the point where it wasn't worth it and more importantly I wasn't willing to go through or do the other options... Everything was such a drag and I was done. For me, ~~the~~ cost ~~of~~ to keep playing the game wasn't what it was actually worth. One dark mistake led to a never ending road. I can't help but think how everything would be or have gone differently if I went to college instead of join... The biggest mystery you will face in life is figuring out who you are yourself, forever growing, forever changing, and lastly forever learning. Noone knows the meaning of life but the key to life is to live happily. You face a tough ~~decision~~ decision coming back to UA. Let me help you for a second. You and Katrenia were very cute together. BUT! If she doesn't make you truely happy, keep her as a friend.

I can tell you that, this is a BIG hope but, dede to the last thing I told her, she probably has opened up more and is better with herself now. I can't promise you anything, all I can do is trust in her that she took it to heart and sought after what she needed. And thats all I can say about that. You are so easy to talk to about anything. I hope I didn't hurt you at all for making the choice I did... I was a complicated mind in a simple society. Overall I didn't belong or fit in anyway lol (=U) I didn't tell you I was thinking this because 1. It was my choice to make 2. There was truely nothing you could have done or said to make me change my mind. My life was pretty much done before I got to VA, the command made it that much worse.

again I wish I could have seen you one last time, welcome you [redacted] home, got a hug and leave it at that. Time ran out. If theres one thing I'm good at, its steamrolling my name through the mud for a better cause. I hope it worked [redacted] So others don't have to go through what I had to in the Navy. There was a bigger reason behind it. The future was already ruined for me, HOPEFULLY the rerate process changed(es) for the better. I know Im all over the place with this, lol ☺ you are one of the greatest people I have ever met. NEVER forget that. honestly I didn't even want to go aircrewmen I just wanted out of the command and to get in a hopefully better environment. [redacted] and that wasn't a gaurentee in itself because the crewmen I was going for was just a

radar person in the sky. That wasn't entertaining to me... I hope you don't think you could have done something because you really couldn't, even if you were here and not on the ship. I'm going to make you look like an idiot for a second, hug? -(^.^)- Yes I hugged the paper, your turn LOL!! (!) We have had some intresting conversations about life. If I was able to help you through something, or better yet even teach you something, then I did what I was supposed to do. My "job" was to make others look good, keep others safe, help others do what they were put here to do. [redacted] Which reminds me... GET YOUR WRIST LOOKED AT!!! (:) Well... I don't know what else to say other than thankyou for giving me

a chance and being an actual real friend!! [redacted] you are truely the best !!!

- With friendly love ♡ (!!)

-Brandon (!!)
A.K.A. ~~Caserta~~

navy slave name, please don't remember me like that...

P.S.- Its so weird... I guess this is [redacted] my last goodby to the rest of the world... I just hope you and the others can remember me in a good way (!!)

P.S.S.- Looks like our game of chess is going to have to wait. DONT be in a rush to play it! I do hope you and Katrenia can Play each other at least once

ATTACHMENT G-4: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF KEVIN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Katrenia

Dear Katrenia,

I don't even know where to begin... I'll start with the negative... This is honestly something I've should have done a LONG time ago, When I failed out of BUD/s... I've never been the same since that day. I honestly never gotten over my depression and I never got motivation to do anything again... I never wanted to go crewmen, I just wanted 1. out of the command, and 2. a [redacted] chance to get my head straight possibly but that wasn't even a guarentee considering the job was going to be retarded like this one is. BUT! It would have been better though. Any future plan I had for my self, I never had the actual motivation to do it. The day you saw me punch the wall, was pretty much the day I

decided to do this... Thats why I couldn't tell you everything. Shortly after I went home on leave, and as unfair as it was, that was the final determination of if I should [redacted] ultimately do this or not. I lost the game of life a LONG time ago. The cost of Playing got to the point where its officially not worth it anymore... This Command litterally has ruined the rest of my life. I know/ can see the big picture that the others can't even BEGIN to understand. But oh well... I've been done for a while, I've been under so much stress and pressure that I have been losing vision in my right eye anyways. I [redacted] barely passed the vision test on my flight physical to go aircrewmen. That alone would have been a disaster to my

future plans any way. I am extreamly sorry I am putting you through this... But [redacted] follow me on [redacted] this please, as much as you won't agree... In the game of Chess, you sacrifice your pawns to protect your major pieces.. I had to go anyways, I was just going to be a sad sack the rest of my life anyways. So in doing this, I hope [redacted] This makes life at the Command easier for you, Miki and Cummings in the process. Yeah, It cost a lot, and not only will [redacted] Some of my secrets get out, everyone will think its because of that, you know the [redacted] truth, it stems back from long ago... I will just roll my name through the mud one last time. Its not that hard for me to do LOL!! While I'm being honest, I will admit this ONE time that I'm not dumb, being [redacted] Smart and acting dumb definetly has

its perks but its very hard to do!! okay, time for the positives !!! ● ☺ you are a GREAT friend!!! Friends like you, Miki and Cummings don't come around very often!! YOU 3 are the absolute greatest! About you, I I hope I was able to teach you one thing, at least about life. yes you had a messed up past. A VERY messed up past. BUT THAT DOES NOT DEFINE YOU!!! YOU DID NOT HAVE A CHOICE TO GROW UP THAT WAY!!!!! YOU and I BOTH know that that not only isn't you but we also know that you deserve WAY better than what you had back then!!! you've said it yourself you have worked HARD to be who you are today! AND I can bet all my money that you were a great person back then as well!! you do

deserve a LOT more than you think!! you deserve all the great people that you have surrounded yourself with INCLUDING Miki or/ any person you get with. I love you as a friend, NOTHING will ever change that! no matter what happens, no matter what you do, I will be helping [redacted] you in a different way now! NEVER EVER forget who you are! And I know I will always be in that big heart of yours!!! ☺ I hope I havn't hurt you too badly. (101 I messed up spacing 😊)
I emailed Miki and cummings that I'll be gone but didn't say why, Theres not enough time to send them letters, I'm giving theirs to you, they know you have them because I told them that too... They deserve the actual truth as well from me. NOT the Pathetic excuses the command will say. I do ask 2 things from you...
1. Like I said earlier, I will

Steam roll my name through the mud One last time... The first thing I ask from you is don't tell anyone about this letter. I have a plan and I fully trust my family and friends to fufill it successfully. and the 2nd thing I ask from you is just please Say a prayer for me. You have a very ~~powerful~~ mind. you doubt yourself but you have the confidence you need to make it trough anything. I want to add this in here even though you already know it because you have admited it slightly to me before (😊), I think well... know you are very beautiful!! (☺) I'm sorry I got all secretive towards the end but I didn't want to say anything because I didn't want you wasteing your time with me to try to prevent the inevitable... Theres nothing you could have said or done so don't blame yourself for all this! I've been

at these dark crossroads for a while now. When I'm walking a dark road I am a man who walks alone, because I don't want to bring down others in the process. This was my decision to make and mine alone. Thank you for being an actual friend, and thankyou for being here for me!! Don't force yourself to be a rainbow in the dark, you have others around you to help show you the light and what it feels like. you are NOT alone in life, it starts by healing your past and actually opening up [redacted] breaking down your shells and walls to be able to cope and [redacted] offically move on. Whether that be with your friends or a therapist. Thats my last advice I can give you. I wish you well in life. You are one of the best friends I ever had, and I can't thank you enough for actually giving me a chance and being a real friend! well... I guess this is good bye!! (:)

#8

THANK YOU
SO SO SOO
MUCH FOR
EVERYTHING!!!
- With friendly love ♥
-Brandon

P.S.— God was never on my side from the beginning. BUT he was ALWAYS watching over me very closely. I was born to lose, but I lived to win... I couldn't escape my fate, I always knew sadly that one day it might come to this. you are a great friend, again theres nothing you could have done. I hope the advice in this letter will help you in life. Even if it was just the surface of the surface, you have opened up to me a little bit, I never changed how I thought about you and we both know it's possible for you to open up (:) The biggest mystery you will face in life is figuring out who you are yourself. because you yourself are constantly growing, forever learning, and will always be changing. Don't fear self change when its for the better, courage is to be brave and face your fears, not without the absence of fear.

Kristen

12-0 [illegible]

ATTACHMENT G-5: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Dear Kristen Michelangelo ~~xxx~~,

I wish I could have seen you one last time!! It got to a point where it wasn't worth it anymore. I was so done living like a failure when it wasn't even my fault... I'm sure you have heard so much by now, so I'll start from the real begining. This is something I should have done when I was dropped from seal training. I was tired of living a failures life when it wasn't my fault. I ~~was~~ was debating about this for a LONG time, ~~sat~~ stalling the inevitable. When I got in hot water with the higher ups. is when the final straw happened. The navy has put me through enough as it was, I wasn't going to stretch my neck even more for them. There was no point for me anymore as if I got in some real deep trouble, The rest of

my life would have been fucked even more badly than it already was going to be. Don't think you could have done anything, there was nothing anyone could have said to change my mind. You are an extreamly great person and friend. I can't thank you enough for actually being there for me. And since it wont hurt anything, you were right about 1 thing about me. I will admit I did have a small crush on you 😊 but I fully respected that you are gay, and I think its awesome that you are who you are. I have no room to judge because I like girls too 😊😊 but I do think you need to finally tell your whole family. I know its something you dont want to do but you can't live a lie forever. and if they turn their backs on you, you have the greatest friends in the

WHOLE WORLD right next to you!!! ones who appreciate you and love you for who you are! At that point it doesn't matter what the rest of the world thinks. you Pick your friends NOT your family!!! I'm glad we got to be friends!! Again I wish I could have seen you one last time before I did what I had to do.. There was so little time that I [redacted] didn't have enough time to write letters to every one I wanted to... I wish I had more time... you hate compliments but, you KNOW I have to one last time :-) you are an extreamly beautiful woman :) you have been through a lot making you a wise person for someone to go [redacted] to!! Thank you for being a friend to me! The only reason I wanted to go crewmen was to get out of this Command, and hopefully get my mind straight.. Over all I didn't want to, It was just the quickest

way out and off to a
What was hopefully going to
be a better life. But that was
taken away from me along with
my hope or at least what
was left of it. My biggest
downfall was I didn't
believe in myself, that could
have been a game changer
for me but I never had
confidence ever since I got
injured in seal training... It
was just my [redacted] downfall
and everything that followed
didnt let me get over it and
fully heal... ultimetly that is
where this decision stems back
from. I've been at these dark
crossroads for a LONG time.
the choice was made and I
am sorry for any pain I caused
you... especially with you being
on the ship.. I'm sorry... You're
a great person! I am proud that
I have gotten to help everyone
I have in my life, some people
all over the U.S. some in

Other countries as well. I've done a lot! (!!) so I do have that to be proud of. I wish [redacted] it didn't have to come to this but it got to a point where I didn't have a choice... The BIGGEST mystery in life is figuring out Who you are yourself because you yourself are constantly changing!! you might have a different mind every step of the line but in the end they are all yours forever growing, forever learning, forever changing. They say that life's a carousel, spinning fast you've got to ride it well, the world is full of kings and queens who'll blind your eyes and steal your dreams, it's heaven and hell. Be careful, fight for what you want, don't let ANYone take what you worked for away from you! Thankyou for being my friend till the end!!

- with friendly love ♡ (!!)

P.S. - I ask 2 things from you.
1. Keep this letter secret as I have a plan and I fully trust the People I have to carry it out if it ~~hasn't~~ happened already and 2. [redacted] more importantly, when you get this, all I ask is for you to say a prayer for me... I don't know where I'm going, and only I know where I have been...
Thankyou for being a great friend to me!!! And lastly thankyou for giving me a chance!! That alone shows what kind of person you are! (!) ☺

Attachment H: Facebook Message from Lauren LivMore Fletcher

1. Following the death of AEAN Brandon Caserta, Facebook participant identified as Laureen LivMore Fletcher sent the following message (Attachment H-1):

> *Found out that this is the same LPO I had at my last duty station before separating. He was so bad even our civilian tech reps went to the chain of command. Completely toxic and unnecessarily cruel We all took turns talking to our chief and NOTHING was done about this guy. I feel so sick finding out this guy carried out the same abusive behavior with no repercussions.*

2. Bottom line: AE1 Jared Brose had been passed on to another command after having escaped accountability for his demeaning and abusive behavior toward everyone around him. Lacking courage and commitment to do what is right and protect subordinates from abuse, at least two commands in a row rendered no substantial discipline and enforcement on AE1 Brose.

avoidable if leadership actually leads.

He killed himself to make a point and it shouldn't have gone this far.

1h Like Reply 1

Lauren LivMor Fletcher

Found out that this is the same LPO I had at my last duty station before separating. He was so bad even our civilian tech reps went to the chain of command. Completely toxic and unnecessarily cruel. We all took turns talking to our chief and NOTHING was done about this guy. I feel so sick finding out this guy carried out the same abusive behavior with no repercussions.

1h Angry Reply 5

Jumoke Akinkugbe

This is so sad and a horrible way to die. This story is giving me chills.

1h Like Reply

ATTACHMENT H-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAU CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Attachment I: Supervisor Statements Gathered by NCIS

1. NCIS completed a series of statements which were included at exhibits to the NCIS report dated 31 July 2018 (Attachment I-1). For this independent assessment into the death of AEAN Brandon Caserta the three most significant are reviewed. Most of the remaining statements reflect the manner of AEAN Caserta's death and are repetitious without adding any new revelations.

a. These three chain-of-command statements administered into NCIS evidence several days after AEAN Caserta's suicide are problematic both in timing of submission and content.

(1) The most blatant of these is the lengthy statement provided by AE1 Jared Brose (Attachment I-2).

(a) The paragraph 18 of the NCIS investigation cover document AE1 Brose's written statement was summarized as, *...described V/CASERTA as hard working and willing to complete tasks when asked. AE1 Brose's NAME BLOCKED documented several instances where V/CASERTA willingly or unwillingly did not disclose information which appeared to make him look as if he was trying to get out of duty. AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED pined V/CASERTA did not make much of an effort to attain his qualifications so that he could complete the duties as PC for the squadron. AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED continued several efforts were made to help him and eventually he felt the need to formerly counsel V/CASERTA, Exhibit (17) pertains.*

(b) The five-page type written statement submitted AE1 Brose took three days to be sworn into evidence. AE1 Brose never mentions in his statement his continually and publicly calling AEAN Caserta a "Buds Dud," never mentions his never-ending abusive behavior toward all subordinates, his drop-of-the-hat temper tantrums over the slightest problems, and continual disrespect of seniors in their absence. AE1 Brose did not mention the real reason he was temporarily removed from position of authority. His comment of needing to formerly counsel AEAN Caserta was not placed into context of this determination being made after AEAN Caserta placed a complaint letter about AE1 Brose into the commander's communication (AKA: ANYMOUSE) drop box. AE1 Brose also did not mention in this statement that he was counselled on his hostile comments about AEAN Caserta following the suicide.

(c) AE1 Brose's statement possesses zero credibility. It is clearly written to protect himself and make himself into a progressive leader, of which he clearly was not. The statement also is AE1 Brose's effort to shift attention away from himself for the environment he created which greatly contributed to the depression suffered by AEAN Caserta.

(2) Chief Remmy Spence was one supervisor AEAN Caserta trusted up until NC1 Spence became part of the Brose pile-on.

(a) In his statement (Attachment I-3) following AEAN Caserta's death, NC1 Spence's comments included: *...So I asked him to go the wing chaplain to talk and he agreed to do so...Around Mar – Apr timeframe the doctors said that his shoulder was 100% and we began to start working on his package...I went downstairs and sat with Caserta and AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED and found out Caserta was behind on his quals.*

(b) AEAN Caserta's father, Patrick, states his son went to the chaplain on his own, not escorted by NC1 Spence. It is true that AEAN Caserta's shoulder had mended, and all effort should have been made to support the transfer packet, not work on qualifications for a position he would be leaving when the transfer was approved. Finally, as already pointed out, AEAN Caserta's qualification records were reset to zero. Efforts should have been made by his supervisors to correct the computer records, especially considering the Geedunk time was not to be part of the suspense period.

(3) CMC Tokarski's statement has its own problems:

(a) Paragraph 3 of NCIS cover report to CMC Tokarski's statement includes the words: *At the telephone, arguing with Patrick Caserta approximately 1530, P. Caserta contacted COMMAND MASTER CHIEF TOKARSKI'S NAME BLOCKED and reportedly was yelling in the phone regarding V/CASERTA and how he was not being treated fairly. COMMAND MASTER CHIEF TOKARSKI'S NAME BLOCKED stated the phone conversation lasted forty (40) minutes before NAME BLOCKED slid a note to him that something happened on the flight line.*

(b) The statement "slid a note" does not align with any other statement made by anyone which is that the message was relayed verbally. Furthermore, it is inconceivable that when a death by rotor blade had just occurred that the emergency messenger carrier would stop to write a note.

(c) The statement does acknowledge that CMC Tokarski had been in an argument with Patrick Caserta for forty minutes. Instead of arguing and denying the problems that were going on in his operation, CMC Tokarski should have listened to career Navy veteran Patrick Caserta's concerns. This conversation was the ultimate indication and warning that bad things were happening in AEAN Brandon Caserta's life and his mental state needed attention.

(d) If CMC Tokarski had not dedicated himself to argumentative denial that problems existed within his operation and had gone out of his office to attend to AEAN Caserta, the death by suicide at that moment would not have occurred. Further pursuit of information would likely have led CMC Tokarski to the boxes

left in the work area by AEAN Caserta, and the suicide letters would have been discovered. That would have allowed proper mental care to be rendered on AEAN Caserta.

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION (INTERIM) 31JUL18

DEATH (II) CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

COMMAND/HELICOPTER SEA SQUADRON TWENTY-EIGHT (HSC 28)/55218

MADE AT/NFNF/RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT

EXHIBIT(S)
(1) IA: RESULTS OF THE DEATH SCENE SEARCH/25JUN18....(LESS COMMAND)
(2) IA: RESULTS OF SEARCH OF V/CASERTA'S PERSONAL EFFECTS AT HSC 28/25JUN18
(3) IA: RESULTS OF SEARCH OF V/CASERTA'S BARRACKS ROOM/25JUN18
(4) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/25JUN18
(5) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW OF NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/25JUN18
(6) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/25JUN18
(7) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/25JUN18
(8) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW FOR NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/25JUN18
(9) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/26JUN18
(10) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/26JUN18
(11) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/26JUN18
(12) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/26JUN18
(13) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18
(14) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18
(15) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18
(16) IA: RESULTS OF AUTOPSY ATTENDANCE/27JUN18(LESS COMMAND)
(17) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18
(18) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18
(19) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18
(20) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/28JUN18
(21) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/28JUN18

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ATTACHMENT I-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

(22) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/28JUN18
(23) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/29JUN18
(24) IA: REVIEW OF OFFICIAL MILITARY PERSONNEL FILE (OMPF) RECORDS FOR V/CASERTA/29JUN18....(LESS COMMAND)
(25) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/29JUN18
(26) IA: RESULTS OF PERMISSIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR SEARCH AND SEIZURE FOR NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 9JUN18
(27) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/02JUL18
(28) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/03JUL18
(29) IA: INTERVIEW OF PATRICK AND TERI CASERTA, CIV/03JUL18
(30) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/13JUL18
(31) IA: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/13JUL18
(32) IA: RESULTS OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) PATIENT CARE REPORT FOR V/CASERTA/20JUL18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. On 25JUN18, at approximately 1530, NCISRA Norfolk received notification from Regional Dispatch of a death at the LF-59 hangar aboard Naval Station Norfolk. NCIS responded to the scene and learned that V/CASERTA reportedly walked into the spinning tail rotor of a Sikorsky SH-60 Seahawk helicopter on purpose. Several field interviews were conducted of first responders and other sailors who witnessed the incident. Reportedly, V/CASERTA apologized to the Plane Captain (PC) prior to walking towards the back of the helicopter, removed his protective helmet, and appeared to jump toward the spinning tail rotor of the SH-60 at least two (2) times before finally making contact with the blades. The NCIS Major Case Response Team processed the scene identifying several fragments of apparent skull, ear, and brain matter from the top half of V/CASERTA's severed skull. NCIS Agents were given two (2) boxes by command containing some of V/CASERTA's personal effects that were in the workspace. It appears V/CASERTA prepared trinkets and letters, in advance, that were addressed to different individuals. NCIS conducted a search of V/CASERTA's barracks room located at NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) located aboard Naval Station Norfolk, and his workspace locker located at 1348 Tow Way Drive, Norfolk, VA 23511 where several items of evidentiary value were seized. Interviews of NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) were completed. On 26JUN18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CO, HSC 28, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) XO, HSC 28, and LCDR Benjamin GARCIA, JAGC, Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Mid-Atlantic were apprised of the captioned investigation. On 27JUN18, an autopsy of V/CASERTA was conducted by FBI Physical Scientist/Forensic Examiner NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CIV. On 05JUL18, the parents of V/CASERTA, Patrick CASERTA (P.CASERTA) and Teri CASERTA (T. CASERTA), were interviewed by NCIS. On 20JUL18 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided NCIS the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Patient Report regarding EMS response to the death of V/CASERTA. The investigation is ongoing.

NARRATIVE

1. This reactive investigation was on initiated on 25JUN18 subsequent to the reported death of AEAN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, HELICOPTER

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U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 27AUG18

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

1. On 27AUG18, Reporting Agent (RA) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUARDRON TWO EIGHT (HSC 28), regarding the death of AEAN Brandon CASERTA, (V/CASERTA), USN, HSC 28. The interview took place at 1348 Tow Way Drive, Norfolk Virginia, 23511 aboard Naval Station Norfolk. RA identified himself verbally and physically via display of credentials. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided his Department of Defense (DoD) Common Access Card (CAC) for identification purposes.

2. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated during APR18, he and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, conducted a Career Development Board (CDB) with V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) expounded on a CDB and described it where he sits down with sailors and finds their short and long term goals with the Navy and their career. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised he spent approximately thirty-five (35) minutes with V/CASERTA and described him as an impressive sailor and appeared that nothing was wrong. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) continued V/CASERTA was cleared from a shoulder injury around MAY18. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he heard V/CASERTA was not getting his qualifications in his shop and there were several members in his chain of command who were upset with him.

3. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised the week prior to 25JUN18, he took approximately a week of leave and returned on the 25JUN18. At approximately 1330 hours, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised V/CASERTA's father, Patrick CASERTA (P. CASERTA), Civ, contacted him while he was conducting a CDB with another sailor. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) took his name and number down and told him he would call him back. At approximately 1530, P. CASERTA contacted NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and reportedly was yelling in the phone regarding V/CASERTA and how he was not being treated fairly. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated the phone conversation with P. CASERTA lasted approximately forty (40) minutes before NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) slid a note to him that something had happened on the flight line. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) quickly got off the phone with P. CASERTA and me with NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CO, USN, HSC 28 and walked out to the flight like where he discovered V/CASERTA laying on the ground behind one of the helicopters. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised that was his last interaction with P. CASERTA.

4. When asked, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he did not know of any bullying or intimidation directed at V/CASERTA as well as the command in general.

5. On 29AUG18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided RA a sworn-written statement to account for his interactions with V/CASERTA, Enclosure (A) pertains.

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ATTACHMENT I-4: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

EXHIBIT (43)

6. This report should not be treated as verbatim, or a comprehensive representation of the interview. The above paragraphs serve as a synopsis of the interview conducted with NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

ENCLOSURE(S)
(A) SWORN-WRITTEN STATMENT FROM NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 29AUG18

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

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STATEMENT

Place : HSC 28

Date : 29 AUG 18

I, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), make the following free and voluntary statement to SA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) whom I know to be a Representative of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service. I make this statement of my own free will and without any threats made to me or promises extended. I fully understand that this statement is given concerning my knowledge of,

THE DEATH OF AEAN CABERTA

For the purposes of identification, I am a NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). I am approximately NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) tall, and weigh approximately NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). I have NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) hair and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) eyes. My birthday is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). I was born in (city) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (state) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). My current residence barracks building/room number is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). My phone number is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). I am currently assigned to HSC 28, I currently maintain a TS security clearance.

I AGREE KEEP INTENTIONALLY BLANK

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

ENCLOSURE (A)

(1)

To whom this may concern,

I reported to HSC 28 appx 22MAR2018, I was told that AFAN Caerta was a seal drop out and fractured his legs and came to HSC 28. ~~FACT~~

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

~~CASE~~

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

~~FACT~~

Than, he came there and put in for the AW program and got picked up for it and than he got in a motorcycle accident and broke his shoulder so he could not go

On approx 17 April 2018, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) told me we had to do a CDB for AFAN Caerta and told me the story above, which I said lets do it. Me, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and AFAN Caerta sat in my office and NCI told him the ECM would approve his AW package as soon as his shoulder is good. Next we started the Career Development board were AFAN Caerta was

)(6), (b)(7)(C) motivated, & directed and sharp and seemed really happy. Then he was dismissed from my office. Ms Mary NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) told me that he talked to ECM again and ECM said he is good to go & that he passed his physical and told him lets get the package submitted. On June 25, I returned from leave and found the was a big meeting with ABEM b)(6), (b)(7)(C) cause about him not wanting to get his license to drive or get his gun S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to stand watch. Well ABEM Carter told his parents the story and his father called, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) took offense due to he should have called a CPO. Then ABEM called the Dad and it started off rough and evidently he died down to earth and the dad worked with MMCPO and the Sailor. ICIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(2)

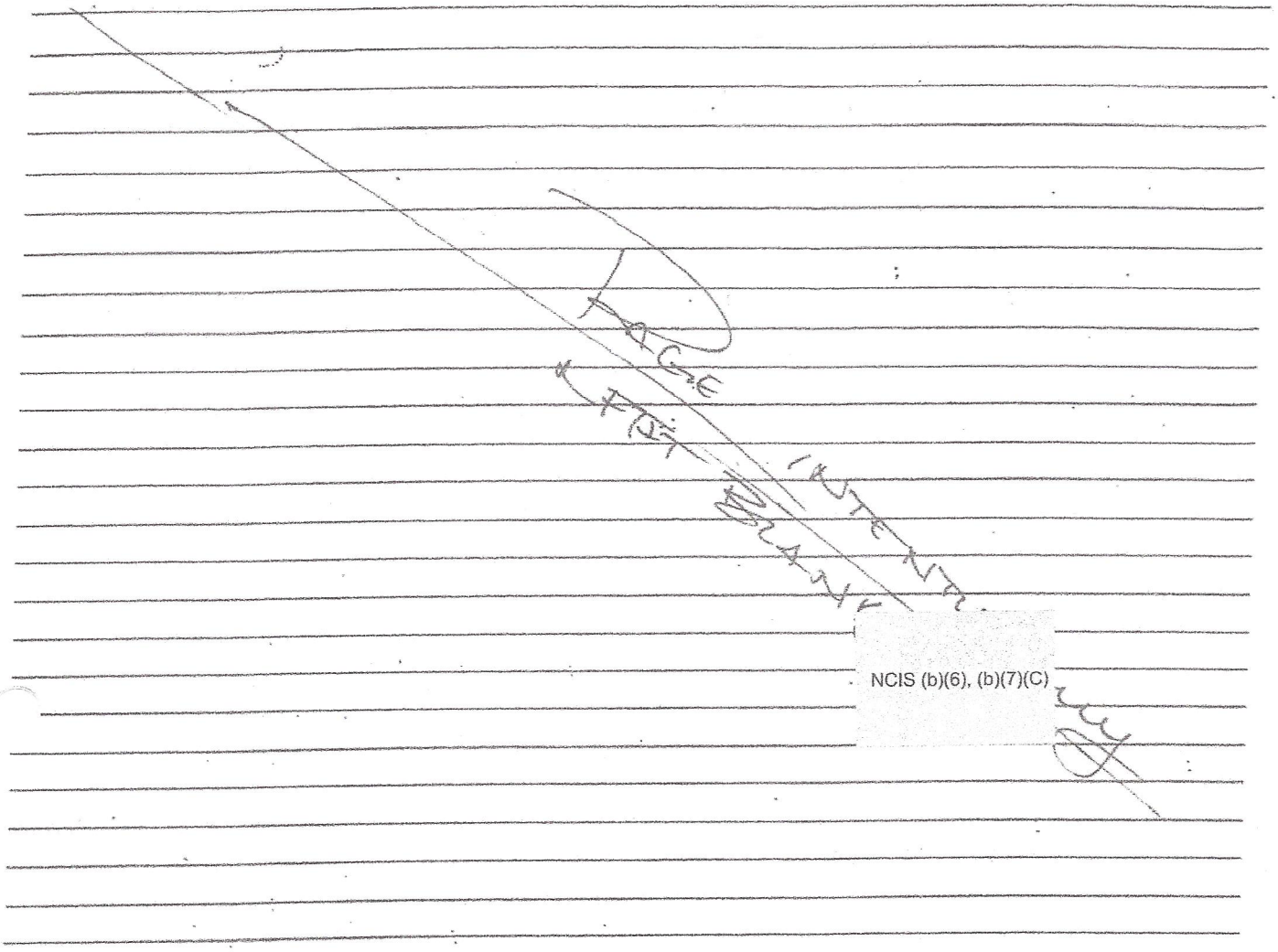
000355

3 of 4 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) than on 25 June received a call and
it was AEAN Carter's dad and he had someone
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in my office so I had to call him back.
So I finished the CDB with NCI and
the Sailor and I dismissed Sailor.
Then I called AEAN Carter's dad and
he was mad and said he/son was
getting treated unfairly, and yelled at me
on several occasions. Evidently he common
down and we talked. Then NCI told
me I had to go and
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) walked in
and NCI said I got to go and then
I told AEAN Carter's dad we will take
care of him and I got to go. I left office
and saw everybody walking around and I did
not know what was going on and the police
had me and CO go to Gayhead Line. Then
I still did not know what was going on
and AOC Ivory told me it was AEAN
Carter that had committed suicide.

(3)

Continuation page



This statement, consisting of this page and 3 other page(s) were handwritten by me after I discussed its contents with SA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) : read and understand the above statement. I have been given the opportunity to make any changes or corrections I desire to make and have placed my initials over the changes or corrections. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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

Signature:

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 29 day of AUGUST in the year 2018 at 1312 Lewis

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

Witnessed: _____

Representative, Naval Criminal Investigative Service
AUTH: DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 136,
UCMJ (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

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

000357

SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO-EIGHT (HSC 28). No statutes apply at this time.

2. On 25JUN18, subsequent to the initial report of the death of V/CASERTA, the NCIS Major Case Response Team (MCRT) was contacted to respond to the scene located at hangar LF-59, 1348 Tow Way Drive Norfolk, VA 23511. MCRT members Participanting Investigator (PI) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Participating Agents (PAs) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) along with PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) responded to assist. The scene was released at approximately 2100 hours. Several items of evidentiary value were seized, Exhibit (1) pertains.

3. On 25JUN18, Reporting Agent (RA) and PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) were advised by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, to V/CASERTA had personal effects in locker number 74 located in the HSC 28 first floor men's locker room NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, Executive Officer, HSC 28, notified PA the Command discovered a hand written note in the Commanding Officer's suggestion box at HSC 28, apparently written by V/CASERTA and addressed to "CO,". RA and PA took possession of two (2) cardboard boxes from NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with his verbal consent. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) then escorted RA and PA to the HSC 28 first floor male locker room and verbally gave consent for RA and PA to search locker 74, labeled "AEAN CASERTA." RA and PA discovered two cellular phones in the locker; one Samsung Galaxy S9 cellular phone, serial number R28K33MLD3X, passcode 131607, and one Apple iPhone model A1574 cellular phone, serial number CCQSV0UUGM1C, passcode 131607, Exhibit (2) pertains.

4. On 25JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) conducted a search of V/CASERTA's barracks room at NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) for items of evidentiary value. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Resident Advisor, X-2 Barracks, Commander Navy Reserve Forces Command (COMNAVRESFOR) provided a verbal authorization for a permissive search of the premises. During the search, RA and PA discovered a hard cover black journal with writing throughout, located in the keyboard tray of V/CASERTA's desk. RA and PA also discovered additional hand written notes seemingly referring to a recent trip home and V/CASERTA's plans to commit suicide. RA discovered torn pieces of an envelope, similar to those discovered at HSC 28, and apparently addressed, but discarded. RA further found a white iPhone, in a hard plastic blue case, further cased in black rubber, in V/CASERTA's desk. The phone was not on and did not respond when the power button was depressed. PA located a Hewlett Packard Laptop, model number ProBook 650 G1, serial number 5CG422FKY2, and power cord in the barracks room. Photographs were collected during the search and depict items seized as well as items deemed not to have evidentiary value at the time of the search, Exhibit (3) pertains.

5. On 25JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) witnessed V/CASERTA walk around the front of the helicopter and made his way around to the rear of the helicopter facing the spinning rear tail rotor. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated at this point he witnessed V/CASERTA place both of his hands over his mouth with for what appeared to be ten (10) seconds before he removed his protective helmet and threw it underneath the helicopter. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he saw V/CASERTA walk towards the spinning rear rotor, stop and take a few steps back. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised V/CASERTA then took what appeared to be a jump into the

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spinning rear rotor. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) admittedly turned so that he would not see what happened and when he turned back to look, he witnessed V/CASERTA stand up from the ground and proceed to jump head first into the spinning rear rotor, Exhibit (4) pertains.

6. On 25JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) witnessed V/CASERTA walk around the front of the helicopter and approach NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, speak to her briefly, and continue around to the rear of the helicopter. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) lost sight of V/CASERTA as he neared the rear of the aircraft, but witnessed V/CASERTA "chuck" his cranial (a protective helmet) underneath the helicopter. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he then witnessed V/CASERTA jump towards the rotating blades of the aircraft tail rotor, missing the spinning blades, and falling to the ground. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) opined this was a practice jump. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he watched V/CASERTA then get up and jump again, this time successfully impacting the spinning tail rotor, Exhibit (5) pertains.

7. On 25JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he was provided two (2) boxes by sailors in his command which appeared to belong to V/CASERTA and to contain letters addressed to several sailors in the command. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided the two (2) boxes to NCIS for seizure, Exhibit (6) pertains.

8. On 25JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, Navy Station Norfolk Security. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was interested in children's cartoons, building model kits and heavy rock music. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) described V/CASERTA as smart and socially awkward, although, they got along. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said V/CASERTA told him he went to Basic Underwater Demolition School (BUDS) for SEAL training and was washed out due to injury. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) continued V/CASERTA never spoke to him about any personal problems he may have had, Exhibit (7) pertains.

9. On 25JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, Navy Station Norfolk Security. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) pertinent to this investigation as he NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) described V/CASERTA as easy going, socially awkward and always willing to help others. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised V/CASERTA complained a few times about being in the Navy. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) continued V/CASERTA did not care for the political nature of the Navy and was not pleased with his command, Exhibit (8) pertains.

10. On 25JUN18, RA interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, Navy Station Norfolk Security. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) described V/CASERTA as an "awesome dude" who was interested in building metal puzzles. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) continued they worked the same shift hours and would occasionally watch movies together. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised V/CASERTA spoke about missing his family although, was usually upbeat and happy, Exhibit (9) pertains.

11. On 26JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he was one of the pilots during the

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flight. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he felt the jolt of the aircraft then debris flying up the right side of the aircraft. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) recalled someone say "oh shit, someone jumped into the tail rotor." NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) observed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) putting her hands up to her face and collapse. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated after shut down of the aircraft, he got out and saw the remains, grabbed his gear, and walked to the hangar, Exhibit (10) pertains.

12. On 26JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) confirmed he was a member of the aircrew and was onboard the helicopter during the incident. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he saw V/CASERTA walk out during pre-flight checks, then go inside the hangar prior to walking out on the flight line a second time. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he greeted V/CASERTA and shortly after, observed V/CASERTA walking toward the rear of the aircraft. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he then saw line personnel running back toward the aircraft. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said he jumped out of the helicopter to see what everyone was running towards when he observed V/CASERTA standing approximately three (3) steps behind the tail rotor and jump. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated after he observed V/CASERTA jump into the tail rotor, he told the pilots to shut down. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he yelled at the crew to go inside, Exhibit (11) pertains.

13. On 26JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as she was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) described V/CASERTA walked from the hangar to the front of the helicopter where he appeared to say something with NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28 who was the Plane Captain (PC) and then walk to the rear of the helicopter. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) described V/CASERTA appeared as if he was looking at or for something when he appeared to remove his cranial (protective helmet) and threw it in an unknown direction. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated V/CASERTA then proceeded toward the rotor arch and appeared to jump head first towards the spinning rear rotor. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) continued V/CASERTA stood up and appeared angry by his facial expressions when he jumped again and made direct contact with the spinning rear rotor. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated after V/CASERTA jumped into the spinning rear rotor, she began to run inside the hangar, Exhibit (12) pertains.

14. On 27JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated V/CASERTA was on the flight line as well. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) recalled seeing V/CASERTA say something. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, then walk from the front of the helicopter to the back. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he heard a noise, which was V/CASERTA's cranial helmet rolling on the ground. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said he then looked back and saw V/CASERTA mid-jump, then land on the ground. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he began to run toward and yell "no" at V/CASERTA, but did not get to V/CASERTA in time before V/CASERTA jumped a second time into the tail rotor. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated immediately after the incident, he directed another sailor, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, to help NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) off the flight line, Exhibit (13) pertains.

15. On 27JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as she was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated she was facing the flight line

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when she was conducting maintenance on top of a helicopter in the hangar when she heard NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28 (NFI) yell "Oh my God." NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said she looked up and saw V/CASERTA jump into the tail rotor of the helicopter that was out on the flight line, Exhibit (14) pertains.

16. On 27JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he was in the line shack shop when he heard NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28 yell over the radio. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said he looked outside and saw a body on the ground near the tail rotor. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he grabbed his cranial helmet and ran out to the flight line where he was directed by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28 to escort NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) off the flight line, Exhibit (15) pertains.

17. On 27JUN18, PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) attended the autopsy of V/CASERTA. The autopsy was conducted at the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs, Dover Air Force Base, Dover, DE. The autopsy of V/CASERTA was assigned Medical Examiner (ME) Case Number 18-0157, and was conducted by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, Deputy Medical Examiner, Armed Forces Medical Examiner System (AFMES). Photographic coverage of the autopsy was conducted and provided by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) US Army, AFMES, Exhibit (16) pertains.

18. On 27JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is V/CASERTA's Lead Petty Officer in his chain of command. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) described V/CASERTA as hard working and willing to complete tasks when asked. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) documented several instances where V/CASERTA willingly or unwillingly did not disclose information which appeared to make him look as if he was trying to get out of duty. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) opined V/CASERTA did not make much of an effort to attain his qualifications so that he could complete the duties as PC for the squadron. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) continued several efforts were made to help him and eventually he felt the need to formally counsel V/CASERTA, Exhibit (17) pertains.

19. On 27JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was a mentor to V/CASERTA and reportedly had communication with Patrick CASERTA (P. CASERTA), the father of V/CASERTA subsequent to his death. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported having several conversations with P. CASERTA regarding V/CASERTA before and after his death on 25JUN18. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised he received a text message from P. CASERTA approximately 26JUN18 which stated to the best of his knowledge "So much for taking care of my son. Careers are going to suffer. I'm going to contact NCIS" or words to that affect. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) vocalized he deleted the text message and blocked P. CASERTA subsequent to receiving the text message, Exhibit (18) pertains.

20. On 27JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he had a telephonic conversation with V/CASERTA's father, Patrick CASERTA (P. CASERTA), CIV (USN Ret.) at approximately 1309 hrs. on 26Jun18, subsequent to V/CASERTA's death on 25JUN18. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated P. CASERTA questioned him about V/CASERTA and V/CASERTA's relationship with others in the workplace, Exhibit (19)

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pertains.

21. On 28JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as she was V/CASERTA's Lead Chief Petty Officer in his direct chain of command, Exhibit (20) pertains.

22. On 28JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as she was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated once the helicopter's rotors were spinning, V/CASERTA came back out to the flight line. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated V/CASERTA walked up to her and yelled to her "I'm sorry," then walked to the rear of the aircraft, where he looked at as though he had left something behind. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said V/CASERTA looked at the tail rotor blades of the helicopter, made eye contact with her and smiled, then threw his cranial helmet down. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated V/CASERTA then jumped into the tail rotor, missing the blades but repositioning and jumping a second time. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated she saw V/CASERTA's head hit the rotor, then afterwards saw his feet sticking out from behind the aircraft, Exhibit (21) pertains.

23. On 28JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as he was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated that he was PC for the first flight. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he was going to keep PC for the second flight, however, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, instructed him to go inside because she would stand PC. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he went to take a smoke break, then was relaxing inside the shop when he heard NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) scream over the radio. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he then looked out the door of the shop and observed a body below the tail rotor, Exhibit (22) pertains.

24. On 29JUN18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT WEAPONS SCHOOL, ATLANTIC (HELSEACOMBATWEPSCOLAT NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) pertinent to this investigation as he was a witness to the death of V/CASERTA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ated he was the flight commander for the fli NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ted he goes to other squadrons to fly aircraft NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ated that during pre-flight checks, he was about to do a hydraulic leak test which causes a bump in the aircraft NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ated prior to initiating the hydraulic leak, he felt a bump in the aircraft prematurely and observed the Plane Commander, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28, leaning to the side looking toward the aft of the helicopter NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ated he obser NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) owly give the shutdown hand signal, then squat down and stumble. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) called hearing a crew member say "a kid just jumped into the tail rotor. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ated he shut down the aircraft as quickly as possible per procedure NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ated after the helicopter was shut down, he exited the aircraft, saw the body and saw damage to the tail rotor, Exhibit (23) pertains.

25. On 29JUN18, RA conducted a review of the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) records available on the Defense Personnel Records Information Retrieval System (DPRIS) for V/CASERTA. Performance evaluations for V/CASERTA showed he performed at or above USN standards. A signed NAVPERS 1070 from Naval Special Warfare School by V/CASPERTA advised "Member was voluntary disenrolled from Special Warfare Operator/SEAL or Special Warfare

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survey had been conducted approximately two months ago. T.CASERTA advised V/CASERTA provided them a timeline containing more detail about the aforementioned incidents, Exhibit (29) pertains.

31. On 13JUL18, RA and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was provided two (2) boxes by V/CASERTA and asked to maintain custody of them and not to let anyone look inside them. Subsequent to the death of V/CASERTA, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) opened the boxes and saw what appeared to be letters addressed to people. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided a sworn-written statement to account for his actions, Exhibit (30) pertains.

32. On 13JUL18, RA and PA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised subsequent to the death of V/CASERTA, he opened the boxes provided to NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and immediately provided the boxes to NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided a sworn-written statement to account for his actions, Exhibit (31) pertains.

33. On 20JUL18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CIV, Norfolk Fire and Emergency Services provided RA with a copy of the Patient Care Report which documented the steps Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided subsequent to the death of V/CASERTA, Exhibit (32) pertains.

34. On 30JUL18, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CO, HSC 28, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) XO, HSC 28, and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) JAGC, STC, Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Mid-Atlantic were apprised of the captioned investigation.

35. The investigation continues.

PARTICIPANTS
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) INVESTIGATOR, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY YUMA
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY WASHINGTON DC
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY YUMA
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY OCEANA
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, FORENSIC SUPPORT WASHINGTON
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SPECIAL AGENT, RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

ACTION
R.SEX5: Utilizing Exhibit (6), please locate, identify, and interview the following sailors who are currently deployed with the USS IWO JIMA (LHD-7), regarding their relationship with V/CASERTA:

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

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574085267)
R.CBFO: (ATTNCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) utilizing Exhibits (2) and (3), please conduct a forensic examination of the evidence seized in search for any information pertaining to the death of V/CASERTA. ECD: 0691-18, Items (A) and (B). ECD: 0693-18, Item (C).

DISTRIBUTION
NCISHQ:23B1
ACTION:SEX5/CBFO
INFO :RLSO NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) STC) (H)/COMMAND NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (H)/NFFO/COMMAND NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PIO) (H)/002A

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U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 03JUL18

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18

1. On 27JUN18, Reporting Agent (RA) and Participating Agent NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO EIGHT (HSC 28) regarding the death of AEAN Brandon CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, HSC 28. The interview took place in the Maintenance Officer's Office located at hangar LF-59, 1348 Tow Way Drive, Norfolk, VA 23511. RA and PA identified themselves verbally and physically via display of credentials.

2. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was V/CASERTA's Lead Petty Officer in his chain of command. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) described V/CASERTA as hard working and willing to complete tasks when asked. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) documented several instances where V/CASERTA willingly or unwillingly did not disclose information, which appeared to make him look as if he was trying to get out of duty. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) opined V/CASERTA did not make much of an effort to attain his qualifications so that he could complete the duties as Plane Captain (PC) for the squadron. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) continued several efforts were made to help V/CASERTA and eventually he felt the need to formally counsel V/CASERTA. On 28JUN18 NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided a sworn-written statement in order to accurately depict his relationship with V/CASERTA, Enclosure (A) pertains.

3. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) has provided a Victim/Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) pamphlet.

ENCLOSURE(S)
(A) SWORN-STATEMENT PROVIDED BY NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) SN/28JUN18

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

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ATTACHMENT I-2: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021 EXHIBIT (F)

STATEMENT

Place : NUSRA NFNF

Date : 28JUN18

I, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), make the following free and voluntary statement to SA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) whom I know to be a Representative of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service. I make this statement of my own free will and without any threats made to me or promises extended. I fully understand that this statement is given concerning my knowledge of,

DEATH OF ADAM RAHMOON CASEKTA

For the purposes of identification, I am a NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). I am approximately NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) tall, and weigh approximately NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). I have NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) eyes. My birthday is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). I was born in (city) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (state) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). My current residence barracks building/room number is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). My phone number is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). I am currently assigned to HSC 28, I currently maintain a SECRET security clearance.

DUE TO INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT

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

ENCLOSURE (A)

I checked in to HSC-28 on March 27, 2017. Airman Caserta was assigned to the ARO (command store) at the time. I was new in the command and was assigned to the be the Line Division LPO. The newest sailors normally always rotate through the Line division first to learn the aircraft and obtain their basic qualifications such as Brake Rider, Wing Walker, Fuel Surveillance, Support Equipment, and Plane Captain. Knowing that Airman Caserta would eventually be moved to the Line division after his 90-day period in the ARO was complete, I would frequently stop in and ask him and the other three sailors in there about their qualifications and whether they were trying to learn about the aircraft and study. He was always professional and respectful of military rank and our structure but it was evident that he didn't want to be here. He stated that he was putting in a package to cross-rate to Aircrewman to leave the helicopter community. He was later assigned to the Line division in July of 2017, at which time I reviewed his ASM (electronic qualification and training database) to assess where he was at and what he needed to get done. Normally, sailors that are doing TAD time in the command do not have anyone pushing them to get qualifications and meet deadlines. I noticed that he did not have his duty driver qualification, which I questioned him about. He stated that he was claustrophobic and felt uncomfortable driving a car. I questioned his career intentions and asked how he could be able to do the job of an aviation flying technician aircrewman if he was afraid of small spaces and operating a car. Still, I didn't push him or press the issue. I trusted him and took him for his word. Shortly after moving to the Line division, he stated that he need to get his Second Class swim qualification which required him to leave work and perform a swim test during working hours on a Friday. I spoke with the chain of command to figure out how we could let him do this. We cut him TAD orders to the Q-80 pool with the information he provided to us with one of the pamphlets. As I was doing this for him, I reiterated the fact that I was doing this for him and his career, so he needed to do his part and keep working on his qualifications even though he didn't intend on staying at HSC-28 and as an AE. He agreed to continue to make progress.

I was later promoted to Detachment LPO during the first week of August, and was underway onboard the USS Iwo Jima several times from that point until the end of the year. Each time we returned, I would inquire about the qualifications and progress of all the junior sailors in the Line Division, as well as Caserta. Around November of 2017, He was finished with his Aviator package, and was done with the requests to cross-rate to AW. He had his orders to transfer from HSC-28 and report to A school to continue his next chapter of his career. He then wrecked his bicycle and broke a bone in his shoulder or upper arm which cancelled his orders and placed him on LIMDU here at HSC-28. He was moved back into the ARO since he was injured and could not climb on top of the helicopter or perform maintenance on the flight line.

Around mid-January, I was back in charge on the Line Division, with a bunch of new faces, while Caserta was still in the ARO healing up. Around the end of February, he was moved back into the Line Division once he was done with his LLD time and was fit for full duty. I didn't push him too hard to get his qualifications, as I knew he didn't want to be there. He had a strong work ethic and would volunteer to do any menial task or physical task that didn't require and

leadership or qualifications such as washing the helicopter, cleaning the shop, cleaning the hangar bay, manning the fire bottle during flight operations. That is the reason I didn't push him at this time, because there were other motivated airmen who actually wanted to be there. I was fine with allowing Caserta to fly under the radar. At no point did he speak to me about any career intentions or plans to put in his request to cross-rate again. I didn't inquire because of the new sailors that were assigned. New people require a lot of follow-up and guidance. In May, I was writing the evaluations for all the E4 and below in the division (roughly 25) and while assessing his traits on the evaluation, I couldn't justify giving him an above average eval due to his reluctance to obtain his qualifications. I counselled him on the delinquency of his qualifications on May 18, 2018 stating how long he had been in the command and in the Line Division during both periods before and after his injury (7 months). The wing requires that sailors obtain this basic qual in 180 days. I gave him one month to finish he Plane Captain syllabus and on June 15th if he wasn't complete that I would recommend two hours of Extra Military Instruction (EMI) during normal work days in order to allow him the time to study and gain knowledge to obtain his quals. Throughout the weeks, I would casually bring up our deadline and goal of June 15th and him getting his syllabus finished. He always acknowledged what I was saying but never actually stated that he was going to make good on my requirement.

On Monday June 18th, Airman Caserta entered the work center as he normally does and notified me that he had a Lab appointment for his Physical. I asked which physical he was doing that for, since June was his birth month and he was due for his Periodic Health Assessment, Audiology, Eye exam, and Flight Deck Physical. He stated that is was for his Aircrew physical. I reminded him that he was given a timeline and a deadline, which he failed to meet on Friday June 15th. I asked him why I should allow him to leave work to work on other agendas when he hasn't met our goals and requirements at the command and in our workcenter. He acknowledged what I said and went about his normal working routine of doing the daily maintenance practices that we do first thing in the morning. I heard some junior sailors stating that he seemed frazzled and asked them to let him know if they see NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and that he needed to speak to him NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) had always taken an interest in all the junior sailors and tried to be an outlet or an ally when they needed to talk or vent. I went up to NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) office and briefed him on what transpired that morning and that he wasn't meeting the standards and that he didn't finish his PQS, and suggested that we talk to him together to present a unified front and come to an understanding with this sailor. Caserta went up to NC1's office and tried to talk to him without notifying his direct supervisor or myself, which was usual for him. NC1 told him to come get me so we could speak together. I was busy with other matters, so I told Caserta that we need to wait a bit to speak together. Later in the afternoon, NC1 came down and we made time to speak with Airman Caserta in the Line workcenter. NC1 did most of the talking, while trying to get him to understand my dilemma and the command goals and workcenter requirements of all sailors and their quals. Airman Caserta appeared to understand our points and when asked what he would do if he was the LPO, he stated "I would

make him get his quals". At this point we told him that the chain of command doesn't have to recommend him for the special program if he's not meeting the standards. We three were all in agreement that he would get his quals and then we would route his package. Later that afternoon NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) came down to my shop and pulled me outside stating that he had a voicemail from Airman Caserta's dad. I listened to it. His dad was threatening to go above HSC-28's chain of command "and then some" due to the way his son was being treated. His father stated that "We don't know how the Navy works and we don't know what the Navy regulations are." I told NC1 that we need to give that to the Line division NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) We did, and she deferred to NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) He was counselled by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) his qualifications and given a new deadline of July 20th to obtain his Plane Captain qualification. I was made aware of his timeline and he was awarded EMI by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

On June 21st, I was performing the workcenter audit and reviewing all the qualifications and training in ASM when I noticed that Airman Caserta had driver's license data inputted into ASM from Arizona. I check the license expirations because it is a requirement to have a current driver's license to drive the tow tractor and to drive a government vehicle. I brought this to the attention of NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and stated that he hadn't stood duty as the duty driver like the rest of his peers and some superiors since his assignment to HSC-28. I asked Airman Caserta to show me his state issued ID or driver's license from his home state, when he acted confused and stated that he didn't have one. I showed him on the computer screen that his DL information was inputted into ASM, which can't happen unless he provided it to someone when they made his profile upon his checking in to the command. I instructed him to call his parents and see if they have it, and asked if he was a licensed driver or if it was a state ID card. He stated that he didn't know. I gave him until the following week to get some information on where it is, or to obtain a new one. He was counselled on Friday June 22nd by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding this matter, as was most likely going to a disciplinary review board held by members of the Chiefs Mess to question his actions and gather information regarding what happened. On Monday, June 25th, he arrived to work around 0715 which is normal as our working hours are currently 0730 to 1800 due to maintenance constraints and low manning for the next few weeks. He appeared to be normal and worked just as hard as he always had. Nothing seemed odd or out of the sort with his behavior. He manned the fire bottle in the early afternoon during flight operations around 1430-1500ish. He came in from the flight line, went to the restroom, returned back to the shop grabbed his PPE, and went back out to the flight line. He seemed determined and steadfast in his movement while not saying anything to anyone in the shop. A few minutes later, we all heard the screams from NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) over the radio. Myself and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) ran out to the line where we saw the remains of Airman Caserta behind the tail area of the aircraft. I ran out to direct people back inside and to stay away from the area.

Continuation page

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

This statement, consisting of this page and 4 other page(s) were ~~handwritten by~~ TYPED me after I discussed its contents with NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I have read and understand the above statement. I have been given the opportunity to make any changes or corrections I desire to make and have placed my initials over the changes or corrections. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 28TH day of JUNE in the year 2018 at 1245 HOURS

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

...vestigative Service

AUTH: ~~DERIVED~~ FROM ARTICLE 136, UCMJ (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 03JUL18

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) /25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WITH NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18

1. On 27JUN18, Reporting Agent (RA) and Participating Agent NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO-EIGHT (HSC 28) regarding the reported death of AEAN Brandon Patrick CASERTA (V/CASERTA), USN, HSC 28. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was interviewed in Maintenance Officer's Office located at hangar LF-59, 1348 Tow Way Drive, Norfolk, VA 23511. RA and PA identified themselves verbally and physically via display of credentials.

2. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is pertinent to this investigation as NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was a mentor to V/CASERTA and reportedly had communication with Patrick CASERTA (P. CASERTA), the father of V/CASERTA subsequent to his death. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported having several conversations with P. CASERTA regarding V/CASERTA before and after his death on 25JUN18. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised he received a text message from P. CASERTA approximately 26JUN18 which stated to the best of his knowledge "So much for taking care of my son. Careers are going to suffer. I'm going to contact NCIS" or words to that affect. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) vocalized he deleted the text message and blocked P. CASERTA subsequent to receiving the text message. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) stated he spent some time mentoring V/CASERTA regarding his qualifications and his career path.

3. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported being concerned with V/CASERTA approximately eighteen (18) months prior when V/CASERTA stated he "didn't want to be here anymore." When NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) asked for clarification from V/CASERTA whether it was regarding the command or his life, V/CASERTA did not answer. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) advised he then took V/CASERTA to the Chaplain (NFI) and ensured he maintained daily checks with V/CASERTA.

4. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided a sworn-written statement to account for his relationship with V/CASERTA and his interaction with P. CASERTA, Enclosure (A) pertains.

ENCLOSURE(S)
(A) SWORN-WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN/27JUN18

WARNING
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000552

ATTACHMENT I-3; INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA. REPORT DATED JUNE 30 2021

EXHIBIT (18)

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: RESIDENT AGENCY NORFOLK

WARNING
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STATEMENT

Place : HSC-28
Date : 6/27/14

I, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), make the following free and voluntary statement to NCIS whom I know to be a Representative of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service. I make this statement of my own free will and without any threats made to me or promises extended. I fully understand that this statement is given concerning my knowledge of The Death of AE3N Brandon Caserta.

Around 18 months ago. I was in the berthing talking with Brandon Caserta and asking how his day was. I noticed he wasn't his normal self and continued to ask him if he was okay. He informed me that he didn't want to be here anymore and I asked if he meant the command or something else and he didn't respond. So I asked him to go to the wing chaplain to talk and he agreed to do so. We soon found out that he was unhappy in his current rate and wanted to do something different. When we went to the chaplain he was not there and I ended up giving them my contact info to get in touch with me for the chaplains number I received a telephone call later that night with the chaplains number and proceeded to contact the CAs number to get Casertas recall. I then called the recall number and it was his dad that answered. His father wanted to know why I was calling and proceeded to tell me that his son was depressed and hated his job. I then told him I would work with Caserta on trying to crossrate him soon as I could. He thanked me and hung up. As the months passed I would check on Caserta daily to see how he was doing. We were able to get him picked up for AWO and he was excited and ready to go. Around OCT-NOV timeframe he injured his shoulder in an accident on his bike. He ended up losing the

NCIS 5580/26 (1/2001) (Formerly NCISFORM 016/04-81)

000554

ENCLOSURE (A)

Orders. I contacted the Aircrew FCM to find out what we could do and they said if the Doctors say he is 100%, then to resubmit a package for Aircrew. Around Mar-Apr timeframe the doctors said that his shoulder was 100% and we began to start working on his package. About 3 weeks ago Caserta came up to my office and was extremely upset that his LPO wouldn't let him work on his Aircrew package. I went downstairs and sat with Caserta and NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and found out Caserta was behind on getting his Evals. I explained to Caserta that he should continue to work on his Evals and Aircrew package together that way he would get a favorable recommendation. Caserta agreed with me and thanked me. Monday morning June 25. I saw Caserta that morning and said Good morning to him. He greeted me with a smile and said good morning. Later on that day he took his life. I received a text message from his father the next day saying so much for you taking care of my son and that careers would suffer because of this and that he would be Contacting NCIS.

NOTHING FOLLOWS

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

This statement, consisting of this page and 2 other page(s) was typed/written by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) as we discussed its contents. I have read and understand the above statement. I have been given the opportunity to make any changes or corrections I desire to make and have placed my initials over the changes or corrections. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27 day of June in the year 2006 at 1157 hours.

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

Representative, Naval Criminal Investigative Service
AUTH: DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 136,
UCMJ (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

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

Representative, Naval Criminal Investigative Service
AUTH: DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 136,
UCMJ (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

Attachment J: Friends' Statements Gathered by NCIS

1. Two of Brandon's close friends were deployed on the USS Iwo Jima when they learned of AEAN Caserta's death. Both were female sailors, although neither were romantically involved with him. As verified by Brandon's own suicide notes, both were friends who treated him right and with respect. Both statements written on August 1, 2018. The thoroughness of their statements provides outstanding insights into AEAN Brandon Caserta.

a. Key comments from first statement (Attachment J-1):

(1) *One day I went in to buy a drink or food and he was sitting there smiling, super happy go lucky kid.*

(2) *One day he found out that I initially joined the Navy to be a rescue swimmer and we got to talking about how he was in BUDS and had to drop out. He wanted to try again or try for rescue swimmer…he was still interested in pursuing a career saving people.*

(3) *He had hurt his shoulder in a bike accident mid-summer 2017 and he had his rescue swimmer contract dropped. He was working on getting his physical therapy over with the first few months while I was out here.*

(4) *And I think it was about the end of May, beginning of June that he told me he got his contract renewed again so that he can apply. He was sitting in NC1's office emailing me about how they were not going to let him submit his application and just giving him the run around.*

(5) *Another couple of weeks went by and I hadn't talked to him or heard from him and he sent me an email. The day before we found out someone had died on our flight line, at our command. He told me that I wouldn't see him when I got back. That he wouldn't be there but he would have something for me that would explain everything.*

(6) *I thought it was a strange email until I found out someone had died and everything clicked.*

(7) *Two days after that email I found out that he had killed himself. Someone so happy and cheerful and only cared about other people.*

b. Key comments from second statement (Attachment J-2):

a. *It was usually just a "hey, how's your day?" type of conversation. He would always flash a smile at me. There weren't many times that I didn't see him smiling. He always seemed so happy. We slowly became better friends.*

b. *He always found a way to make me smile. He was always smiling and positive. We became pretty close friends. I trusted him and he trusted me. We lived in the same barracks and sometimes we would go out and eat. I believe I was one of his closest friends.*

c. *He emailed me a few weeks before the incident stating that he was upset because he didn't get the chance to go Aircrew. I asked why and he said it was because he didn't have his plane captain qualification. He was upset about that, but there was never a thought in my mind that he would commit suicide. I just figured he would be upset about it for a little while and then go back to the happy-go-lucky kid I knew.*

d. *He emailed me on June 24, 2018 stating that he would not be at the command once I got back and he thanked me for being a good friend to him. I did not see that email until 3 days after his death.*

e. *When our leadership told us all what had happened, I couldn't believe it. I'm not sure that anyone could. He was always such a happy and smiling guy. He never mentioned anything to me about hurting himself or was aware of him being depressed. He never talked about his family and I am not aware of a girlfriend.*

2. These statements from Brandon Caserta's friends echo comments made by numerous people, those statements being:

a. Happy-go-lucky.
b. Always smiling.
c. Able to make others smile.
d. Trusting and able to be trusted.
e. Wanting to help others.

3. Over time his friends started to see a darkness coming over this otherwise positive individual. Each time AEAN Caserta suffered an injury, he worked through it and recovered. What he could not work through was a network of supervisors, being influenced by one AE1 Brose, constantly determined to remove the smile, break the trust, and deny him his life's goal to help others.

4. One thing that does need to be addressed and dispelled despite the author of the command investigation trying to make it an issue contributing to AEAN Caserta's suicide is the situation with his former girlfriend.

a. All service-members, of all nations, since the age of antiquity, have had girlfriends in their past and back home. Throughout the 1800s and 1900s "The Girl I Left Behind Me" was a very popular song for service-members of the European, Canadian, and

American militaries. AEAN Caserta was no different than the hundreds of millions who served before him.

b. However, despite what the investigation officer claimed, backed by the above witness comment *I am not aware of a girlfriend and* AEAN Caserta's own suicide letter, the girl he left behind had absolutely nothing to do with his suicide.

STATEMENT

Place : LEGAL OFFICE USS IWO JIMA (LHD-7)
Date ~~5JUL18~~ 01 AUG 18
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), make the following free and voluntary statement to NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) whom I know to be a Representative of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service. I make this statement of my own free will and without any threats made to me or promises extended. I fully understand that this statement is given concerning my knowledge of death of Brandon CASERTA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) identification I am a NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) years old I was born in NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) My SSN #NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) My contact number is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) my personal email address is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) . I am currently assigned to the HSC-28 which is embarked on the USS IWO JIMA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to HSC-28, August 2015; I don't think that I met AEAN Brandon CASERTA until he started working in the Geedunk at HSC-28, NAVSTA Norfolk, VA. One day I went in to buy a drink or food and he was sitting there smiling, super happy go lucky kid. I think that he checked into the command around the beginning of 2017. I would talk to him every time I would go into the geedunk to buy food or just to talk. One day he found out that I initially joined the Navy to be a rescue swimmer and we got to talking about how he was in BUDS and had dropped out. He wanted to try again or try for rescue swimmer. There were quite a few people at the command that had been trying or were in special programs. But, he was still interested in pursuing a career saving people. He would talk to the crewman at the command that would go into the geedunk as well. We didn't hangout outside of work until one of our mutual friends, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) , went to rehab for a DUI. CASERTA didn't have a car so we planned a trip one weekend to drive up to Portsmouth, VA to see her. It was the end of January 2018 sometime because me and some of the other girls were about to leave on deployment. He didn't mind hanging out with a bunch of girls so it was a good time. We joked around and talked. That week he and I talked and I told him that I would email him while I was out on deployment and that he would email me as well. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) most every day out here on deployment we would email back and forth. He would ask me questions about the ship, talk about our day (on the ship and at home guard), talk about my relationship and then breakup. He helped me get through a lot of stuff and I thought that I was helping him too. I was an outlet for him to just ask anything and everything no matter how off the wall it was. He had hurt his shoulder in a bike accident mid-summer 2017 and he had his rescue swimmer contract dropped. He was working on getting his physical therapy over with the first few months while I was out here. And I think it was about the end of May, beginning of June that he told me he got his contract renewed again so that he can apply. He was sitting in NC1's office emailing me about how they were not going to let him submit his application and just giving him the run around, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and his LPO NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) old him that they couldn't do that unless it was for a legitimate reason and that if anything he needs to talk to his Chief or even the CO if he thought he was being treated unfairly. I would try to give him the best advice that I could, because I knew most of his friends were out here on deployment and I didn't want to bring negative into his life. I wanted him to better his naval career and I knew this

NCIS 5580/26 (1/2001) (Formerly NCISFORM 016/04-81)

ATTACHMENT J-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

EXHIBIT (32)

was what he was passionate about. After this conversation we talked a few more times and then I hadn't heard or talked to him for a few weeks. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) He asked me one day what the purpose of life was. It was random and strange but I didn't think anything of it. I always told him he could ask me anything and it wouldn't matter. So I answered and told him that we all strive for happiness and everyone's idea of happiness is different. We all need to find what makes us happy. I think he understand, we talked a little more about it. Another couple weeks went by and I hadn't talked to him or heard from him and he sent me an email. The day before we found out someone had died on our flight line, at our command. He told me that I wouldn't see him when I got back. That he wouldn't be there but he would have something for me that would explain everything. He thanked me for being such a good friend to him. I couldn't email him back because we were in River City at the time and the internet and emailing was down. I thought it was such a strange email until I found out someone had died and everything clicked. Two days after that email I found out that he had killed himself. Someone so happy and cheerful and only cared about other people. I wasn't sure why he did it until I looked back on our conversations and had a thought that maybe it had to do with everything that was going on his career path. He wanted so much to be a spec-ops guy and trained every day for it and he couldn't, he wasn't allowed to do it. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) asked if I still had the emails he sent me but I believe I deleted because of the size of my mailbox. I will look and see if I still have any of them. I never thought he was thinking of suicide when he wrote those emails to me. We never had any kind of romantic relationship we were good friends. We had planned on doing things once I returned from the deployment. He never talked about his family or having a girlfriend or where he grew up. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

This statement, consisting of this page and 1 other page(s) was typed by me and by SA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) we discussed its contents. I have read and understand the above statement. I have been given the opportunity to make any changes or corrections I desire to make and have placed my initials over the changes or corrections. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 01 day of AUGUST in the year 2018 at

1149 _____ NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Witnessed: _____

Representative, Naval Criminal Investigative Service
AUTH: DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 136,
UCMJ (10
U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

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

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

STATEMENT

Place : USS IWO JIMA (LHD-7)
Date : August 1, 2018

I, NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), make the following free and voluntary statement to SA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) whom I know to be a Representative of the United States Naval Criminal Investigative Service. I make this statement of my own free will and without any threats made to me or promises extended. I fully understand that this statement is given concerning my knowledge of the death of Brandon CASERTA.

For identification I am a NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) born on NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) My SSN is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and my contact number is NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I am assigned to HSC-28 and embarked on the USS IWO JIMA. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) reported to HSC-28, Naval Station Norfolk, VA, May 18, 2017, I remember making friends with AEAN Brandon CASERTA around August of 2017. I remember him working in the geedunk mostly but he was also in line shack as well. We started off just seeing each other around the command when I would be walking around or I would see him in the geedunk when I went in there. It was usually just a "hey, how's your day?" type of conversation. He would always flash a smile at me. There weren't many times that I didn't see him smiling. He always seemed so happy. We slowly became better friends. I gave him my number one day and after that, any time he needed to talk, he always texted me to do so. He texted me a lot whether it was just him asking about my day or if he actually needed to talk to get something off his chest. Sometimes, when I would have a bad day, I would see him around the command and he always asked me how I was doing. He would always find a way to cheer me up, whether it be with a corny joke or him sending me pictures of cute puppies. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) always found a way to make me smile. He was always smiling and positive. We became pretty close friends. I trusted him and he trusted me. We lived in the same barracks and sometimes we would go out and eat. I believe I was one of his closest friends. We would text almost every day. I went to SARP in January of 2018, and he came to see me every chance he could. Not long after, I went on deployment and he still emailed me every now and then. I told him if he needed anything at all while I was gone that he could email me and I would do my best to respond. I responded to his emails when I got the chance to. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) He emailed me a few weeks before the incident stating that he was upset because he didn't get the chance to go Aircrew. I asked why and he said it was because he didn't have his plane captain qualification. He was upset about that, but there was never a thought in my mind that he would commit suicide. I just figured he would be upset about it for a little while and then go back to the happy-go-lucky kid I knew. He emailed me on June 24, 2018 stating that he would not be at the command once I got back and he thanked me for being a good friend to him. I did not see that email until 3 days after this death. When our leadership told us all what had happened, I couldn't believe it. I'm not sure that anyone could. He was always such a happy and smiling guy. He never mentioned anything to me about hurting himself or was aware of him being depressed. He never talked about his family and I am not aware of a girlfriend. We never had any kind of romantic relationship we were just friends. I provided the email he sent me to SA NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

ATTACHMENT J-2: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

EXHIBIT (35)

This statement, consisting of this page and 1 other page(s) was typed by NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) as we discussed its contents. I have read and understand the above statement. I have been given the opportunity to make any changes or corrections I desire to make and have placed my initials over the changes or corrections. This statement is the truth to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) _____

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 1 day of AUGUST in the year 2018 at

1402.

Witnessed: _____ _____

Representative, Naval Criminal Investigative Service
AUTH: DERIVED FROM ARTICLE 136,
UCMJ (10 U.S.C. 936) AND 5 U.S.C. 303

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

N.F.E.

U.S. NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

INVESTIGATIVE ACTION 01AUG18

CONTROL: 25JUN18-NFNF-0298-7HNA

V/CASERTA, BRANDON PATRICK/SN USN
M/W/NEE3/N/NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)/25MAY97/SAN DIEGO, CA

RECEIPT AND REVIEW OF EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)SN AND V/CASERTA

1. On 01Aug18, Reporting Agent (RA) interviewed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) USN, HSC-28 embarked on the USS IWO JIMA regarding her relationship with V/CASERTA. During the interviewNCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)stated she had communicated via email with V/CASERTA since she deployed in February 2018. NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) utilized her Google email address to communicate with him. V/CASERTA used his T-Mobile cellular telephone which was attached to his email address (+1606266255756@tmomail.com) to email NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) provided RA a copy of the emails she received from V/CASERTA, Enclosure (A).

NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)ated she heard about V/CASERTA's death and several days later opened her email account and had received an email on 25Jun18, from V/CASERTA. RA conducted a review of the emails and observed NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) received an email from V/CASERTA on 25Jun18, which stated "Hey...I'm not going to be here when u get back. No matter what you hear about me, and trust me theres going to be a lot even if it doesn't sound possible, wait for me to explain everything to youNCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)s what you need from me. But I will leave u with this, thank you for being a good friend to me and giving me a chance!!:)

ENCLOSURE(S)
(A) Copies of Email Correspondence between NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)nd V/CASERTA/25Jul18

REPORTED BY: NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Special Agent
OFFICE: REPRESENTATIVE USS IWO JIMA (LHD-7)

WARNING
THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE
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EXHIBIT (36)

Attachment K: Summary Statements from AEAN Caserta's Father, Patrick

1. Unlike a civilian with no military experience, Patrick Caserta had a distinguished U.S. Navy career. He knew the rank structures and he knew what was expected of professional NCOs dedicated to mission accomplishment and care of subordinates. As both the father and U.S. Navy career development leader he recognized problems being suffered by AEAN Brandon Caserta. He knew what was right, what was wrong, and what was legal per U.S. law and U.S. Navy regulations. Provided is Patrick Caserta's "Explanation of Phone Calls" and summary of statements (Attachment K-1).

2. Explanation of Phone Calls:

a. June 18, 2018: Critical statements include:

(1) *Master Chief Pete Lerette posed as the Command Master Chief. Patrick told him all about AE1 Jared Brose and his abusive leadership and abusive power.*

(2) *He* (Caserta) *told him* (Lerette) *we were concerned about Brandon's welfare and wellbeing.*

(3) In a text to Patrick, Brandon revealed that Lerette was the Maintenance Master Chief, not the Command Master Chief.

b. June 25, 2018:

(1) *at 12:29 PM (a few minutes before Brandon died) Tokarski finally called Patrick back. Patrick again, told Tokarski we were afraid for Brandon's welfare and wellbeing. Tokarski immediately told Patrick that "if Brandon went to medical and* ***admits to being claustrophobic*** *then all this will go away."*

(2) *Patrick told Tokarski about the driver's license fiasco, again, and how Dalessandro illegally searched the Arizona DMV for Brandon's Driver's License, stole Brandon's ATM card to pay for the license. Tokarski did not care.*

(3) *Someone then came into Tokarski's office, Tokarski said, "What?" Whoever it was, said whatever was said again, Tokarski said, "Repeat that" and then he told Patrick he had to go. This was when Tokarski was told what Brandon did and that he was dead.*

(4) *In between the two phone calls with Patrick, Tokarski went and found Brandon and proceeded to yell at Brandon because Patrick called him. He told Brandon, words to the effect of "no matter how many times your daddy calls you, we will burn you". Tokarski should have brought Brandon into his office and called Patrick right back to try to work everything out as Patrick asked him to do. Instead, he sealed the fate of Brandon and humiliated Brandon in front of his fellow sailors. Had Tokarski handled this situation like a Senior Enlisted Advisor instead of*

demeaning, humiliating, and retaliating against Brandon, Brandon would be alive today.

c. June 25, 2018:

(1) *at 6:22 PM, Patrick called Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer. This was seconds after we were told by the Casualty Assistance Officers who came to our door to tell us Brandon died.*

(2) *Patrick also told Whitmer about Brose and Tokarski along with what Lerette and Dalessandro did to Brandon. Whitmer told Patrick he was going to have a JAGMAN investigation conducted. Patrick told Whitmer that we wanted to be interviewed for this investigation and Whitmer told him he will make that happen. We are still waiting to be interviewed. Whitmer deliberately kept us from being interviewed.*

(3) *During this call, Patrick told Whitmer all about AE1 Jared Brose, Maintenance Master Chief Pete Lerette, CMC David Tokarski, Chief Shelia Hennard, and NC1 Remmy Spence that they were all involved and allowed Brose to do whatever he wanted to Brandon. Whitmer told Patrick that he would do everything he could to help get answers and hold people accountable. All Whitmer did was sweep everything under the rug and has hidden the truth. He lied and impeded several investigations.*

d. June 26, 2018:

(1) *When Chief Relyea, our Casualty Assistant Officer, came back to the house so we could sign some paperwork, he confided in us and told us when they received the call from the Command, HSC-28, they were told to tell us Brandon was alive and in the hospital.*

(2) *They proceeded to tell Chief Relyea* ***not*** *to tell the parents he was deceased but to tell us Brandon was alive in the hospital, but Chief Relyea told them he could not lie to the parents.*

3. Summary of Statements:

a. *Brandon left five letters....we believe someone took the middle out of our letter that had all kinds of evidence and names along with the goodbyes to his grandmother who he was very close to, and his uncle.*

b. *We were NOT invited to the memorial service HSC-28 held. The Casualty Assistance Officers are supposed to make all of the arrangements and they never did. Whitmer even requested extra security on June 29, 2018, the day of the*

memorial. The proof is in the emails which we requested through the FOIA system.

c. *Lieutenant Skye Baber, who escorted Brandon home, was supposed to stay through the funeral because he needed to hand Patrick his flag. After Baber found out that Brandon was changed out of his Navy uniform and put into his favorite suit, Baber left without a word to anyone. On the day of the Funeral, July 8, 2018, neither the Honor Guard nor the funeral director had any idea where he was. So they had to ask one of Brandon's best friends, who happened to be in her dress blues, to stand in for the lieutenant.*

d. *We received an anonymous phone call from someone telling us Brandon was sexually assaulted by 5 men in the command. The command knows about this and who did it. That's why all of this happened to him. Brandon was, actually, a whistle blower on this. They said it happened in front of the Subway restaurant on base. The details were very convincing. In retrospect, Brandon started acting differently in April.*

e. *They didn't want us at the memorial service because they were afraid we would ask questions to people in the command and they didn't want us going anywhere near Brandon's barracks room, the medical examiner's office, or the NCIS office.*

f. *The day before Brandon died, a sister squadron in Norfolk had a suicide. He was a pilot which is very strange because pilots usually don't die by suicide. Commodore, Alan Worthy who was in charge of all 13 helicopter squadrons in Norfolk, Virginia did not mandate a standdown, there was no training held, it was business as usual and no one was told about this suicide. If HSC-28 held a standdown, Brandon would be alive today because flight ops would not have been held that day at all.*

g. *One night Brandon calls me and says he's worried about his friend that he keeps saying he is afraid he is going to hurt someone. I gave Brandon some numbers in the local area to give this friend to get help. The next thing Brandon knows is his friend is in the mental health ward being processed out of the Navy. He got out with an honorable discharge…He keeps in touch with us. We asked him why Brandon didn't do the same thing he did. He told us, word for word, they had talked about that and Brandon told him he was afraid his command would screw it up and he would get a bad conduct discharge.*

h. *While he was on light-limited duty, the computer reset his PQS back to zero percent and Brose refused to fix the percentage in the computer. So Brandon had to start over again. They considered him delinquent which wasn't fair. He dealt with it. I do want to point out that this qualification was for a helicopter plane*

captain qualification. He was going to and suppose to be leaving in less than two months to attend Aircrewman school. His new job was to be flying in P8 planes. He did not need this qualification and he still worked on them and never said he was not doing them because he was leaving.

i. *We submitted at least 18 DoD Inspector General complaints/investigations to this day and not one person has called us or interviewed us.*

Explanation of the Phone Calls

On June 18, 2018, at 1:02 PM, Patrick placed a call to CN1 Remmy Spence – left a message asking him to call Patrick immediately. Patrick said it was wrong to do what they are doing to Brandon. You know what I'm going to do and who I'm going to go to. Go get and help Brandon.

On June 18, 2018, at 1:22 PM, Spence ran to Master Chief Pete Lerette once he received Patrick's message, Lerette returned Patrick's call to Spence (apparently Spence was too scared to talk to Patrick) Lerette posed as the Command Master Chief. Patrick told him all about AE1 Jared Brose and his abusive leadership and abusive power. Patrick told him that Brandon was going Aircrewman and didn't need the Plane Captain Qualification. He told him we were concerned about Brandon's welfare and wellbeing. Lerette proceeded to tell Patrick that Brandon was claustrophobic and that he was going to take care of everything, and I have your my back "brother". He was extremely rude to Patrick on the call and kept calling him "brother". Lerette said "he (Brose) better not be doing that again" pertaining to Brose's abusive power. In a text to Patrick, Brandon revealed that Lerette was the Maintenance Master Chief, not the Command Master Chief.

This phone call came with consequences to Brandon during a June 19th meeting Brandon had with Lerette and Brandon's chief, Sheila Hennard. Please see Brandon's Timeline.

On June 25, 2018, at 12:04 PM Patrick called HSC-28's Quarterdeck to speak with the Command Master Chief, David Tokarski. Patrick called Tokarski because we were concerned for Brandon's welfare and wellbeing. Patrick told him about Brose, the driver's license story, the theft of Brandon's credit card and wallet by Dalessandro, and what he did on the computer. Tokarski kept telling Patrick that "if Brandon goes to medical and claims to be claustrophobic, all of this would go away." He also kept going round and round about the driver's license, so Patrick told Tokarski that "you do not need a driver's license to join the Navy, you do not need a driver's license to be in the command, you do not need a driver's license to be an AE, and you are not entitled to Brandon's driver's license". Patrick told Tokarski to go get Brandon and we can all talk about this and told him that Brandon is very upset about all of this and felt the command hated him even more. At that time, Tokarski told Patrick he had someone in his office and that he would call him back in a few minutes.

On June 25, 2018, at 12:29 PM, (a few minutes before Brandon died) Tokarski finally called Patrick back. Patrick again, told Tokarski we were afraid for Brandon's welfare and wellbeing. Tokarski immediately told Patrick that "if Brandon went to medical and **admits to being claustrophobic** then all of this would go away". Tokarski felt the command was entitled to Brandon's driver's license. Patrick told Tokarski, again, that Brandon did not drive, he never had insurance, and never had a car. Patrick told Tokarski about the driver's license fiasco, again, and how Dalessandro illegally searched the Arizona DMV for Brandon's Driver's License, stole Brandon's ATM card to pay for the license. Tokarski did not care. Patrick reiterated to Tokarski that "you do not need a driver's license to join the Navy, you do not need a driver's license to be

ATTACHMENT K-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

in the command, you do not need a driver's license to be an AE, and you are not entitled to Brandon's driver's license". Someone then came into Tokarski's office, Tokarski said, "What?" Whoever it was, said whatever was said again, Tokarski said "Repeat that" and then he told Patrick he had to go. This was when Tokarski was told what Brandon did and that he was dead.

In between the two phone calls with Patrick, Tokarski went and found Brandon and proceeded to yell at Brandon because Patrick called him. He told Brandon, words to the effect of "no matter how many times your daddy calls you, we will burn you". Tokarski should have brought Brandon into his office and called Patrick right back to try to work everything out as Patrick asked him to do. Instead, he sealed the fate of Brandon and humiliated Brandon in front of his fellow sailors. Had Tokarski handled this situation like a Senior Enlisted Advisor instead of demeaning, humiliating, and retaliating against Brandon, Brandon would be alive today.

June 25, 2018, at 6:22 PM, Patrick called the Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer. This was seconds after we were told by the Casualty Assistant Officers who came to our door to tell us Brandon died. Patrick had to call the Quarterdeck to reach him. The minute Whitmer got on the phone Patrick said, "This is all over a driver's license!" And "something big is missing and you know exactly what it is". Whitmer wouldn't tell Patrick what the "big thing missing" was but we knew something was missing. Patrick also told Whitmer about Brose and Tokarski along with what Lerette and Dalessandro did to Brandon. Whitmer told Patrick he was going to have a JAGMAN investigation conducted. Patrick told Whitmer that we wanted to be interviewed for this investigation and Whitmer told him he will make that happen. We are still waiting to be interviewed. Whitmer deliberately kept us from being interviewed. During this call, Patrick told Whitmer all about AE1 Jared Brose, Maintenance Master Chief Pete Lerette, CMC David Tokarski, Chief Shelia Hennard, and NC1 Remmy Spence that they were all involved and allowed Brose to do whatever he wanted to Brandon. Whitmer told Patrick that he would do everything he could to help get answers and hold people accountable. All Whitmer did was sweep everything under the rug and has hidden the truth. He lied and impeded several investigations.

On June 26, 2018, When Chief Relyea, our Casualty Assistant Officer, came back to the house so we could sign some paperwork, he confided in us and told us when they received the call from the Command, HSC-28, they were told to tell us Brandon was alive and in the hospital. On the way to our house, Chief Relyea either searched the internet or received a bulletin, stating that there was a mishap at the Norfolk Naval Base and the sailor was deceased. Chief Relyea told us that they pulled over, called the command to ask if Brandon was alive and in the hospital or was he deceased? The person they were speaking with kept telling him Brandon was alive and in the hospital. They told the person on the phone that they saw that a mishap happened and the sailor was deceased, they were finally told after about ten minutes of trying to get the truth, that Brandon was indeed deceased. They proceeded to tell Chief Relyea **not** to tell the parents he was deceased but to tell us that Brandon was alive in the hospital, but Chief Relyea told them he could not lie to the parents. He was flabbergasted he had to even go through that and admitted something was wrong with that command.

After Brandon died, Whitmer herded everyone into a small room or office, took everyone's cell phones away, and told all of them that he would consider it mutiny if any of them spoke to the parents or the media and he would throw them in Leavenworth Prison if they did. Whitmer and Prouty said this again in 2019 days before the Military Corruption and the Military.com articles came out. Except for this time we had an award posted and they added if you expect to collect on that reward, you will be tried for mutiny and put in Levenworth. This gag order is why no one has come forward with any information.

What would cause a 21-year old to jump into a spinning rear tail rotor of a helicopter? Someone in that command knows what truly happened to Brandon in April of 2018. HSC-28 or NCIS has never interviewed the person who was closest in proximity to the helicopter and had the best view of the event. They never talked to or got a statement from this person. As a matter of fact, this person was transferring in a few months and they transferred them early to another job without them asking to be transferred early. This person was talking to Brandon all day long up to when he disappeared for supposedly going to get a sandwich. This person liked Brandon and was good friends with him.

Brandon left five letters. He left 10-page letters to three friends in the command. He left us a five-page letter. Why would he leave 10-pages of letters for three friends and a five-page letter to his parents? These three friends turned on us and sided with the command. Brandon wanted them to help us and help us through this all. They did nothing but lie and turn their backs on him and us. Our letter is incomplete. If you read it you can see that. Someone purged it. On top of that, we believe someone took the middle out of our letter that had all kinds of evidence and names along with goodbyes to his grandmother who he was very close to, and his uncle. He never mentioned his cat which he would have. Trust us that cat meant everything to him. We on the other hand don't feel the same way about this cat. Therefore he would say please take care of and don't get rid of Aslan. Brandon was particular and the smartest person in the room most of the time. He would never leave us with very few facts and evidence.

Someone took Brandon's fingerprint and unlocked his phone minutes after the incident. That phone was ours; we paid for it and the bill, not Brandon. Brandon's computer was also purged. The computer belonged to me. I gave it to him, not as a gift. We had the computer and phone forensically looked at by the best reputable place we could find and they could not rule out beyond a doubt that the phone and computer were not purged or tampered with. Based on what they did find, they actually felt things are missing. Remember, NCIS has the ability to do things that the FBI and other entities can and it wouldn't leave a trail of what they did unless you have the best hacker in the world look at the stuff.

In the autopsy, the medical examiner stated that there is a needle mark on Brandon's forearm. They do not say why. Yet there is no mention that an IV was put into his arm. The ME and NCIS are responsible for getting the answers to this yet they ignored it. Also, it states on Brandon's evaluations that he was the hardest best worker in the command. Who kills the hardest best worker in the command? Then there is this: Brandon's evaluation states that Brandon had been standing watch as a duty driver for the past 6 months. If he was standing duty driver already,

then why did the driver's license ordeal even happen? Just like you, they will say it's an error. Still, that has no credibility coming from a corrupt command.

We were NOT invited to the memorial service HSC-28 held. The Casualty Assistant Officers are supposed to make all of the arrangements and they never did. Whitmer even requested extra security on June 29, 2018, the day of the memorial. The proof is in the emails which we requested through the FOIA system. HSC-28 did not even send flowers to Brandon's funeral and trust me they knew when and where it was going to be held. We got nothing from that command. Lieutenant Skye Baber, who escorted Brandon home, was supposed to stay through the funeral because he needed to hand Patrick his flag. After Baber found out that Brandon was changed out of his Navy uniform and put into his favorite suit, Baber left without a word to anyone. On the day of the Funeral, July 8, 2018, neither the Honor Guard nor the funeral director had any idea where he was. So they had to ask one of Brandon's best friends, who happened to be in her dress blues, to stand in for the lieutenant. This was a disgrace to Brandon, us, and the Navy.

Also this candy selling garbage. Brandon sold candy almost the entire time he was in HSC-28. He was a **rated** airman and he never worked one minute in his rating. Brandon went to A school in Pensacola, Florida, for Aviation Electrician and then went to C school in Norfolk, Virginia, to learn about the HM-60S Helicopter that he would be working on. The selling of candy is waste, fraud, and abuse period. They had four people selling candy day in day out, all day long. He was an AE3. Also, if you look at the command investigation they can't get his name right, they can't spell and nothing is right in it. Brandon is dead and they don't even have the decency to spell his name right. We gave NCIS all kinds of information and they just asked the command about it or did nothing with it. The things they did ask the command, the command just used it to stay a step ahead of us. Dalessandro stole his credit card, driver's license, and money from Brandon. They also stole other things out of his barrack's room.

This next part we have only told Amy about. We don't know what to do with it. However, it does fit and it fits way too perfectly. We received an anonymous phone call from someone telling us Brandon was sexually assaulted by 5 men in the command. The command knows about this and who did it. That's why all this happened to him. Brandon was, actually, a whistler blower on this. They said it happened in front of the Subway restaurant on base. The details were very convincing. In retrospect, Brandon started acting differently in April. He stopped going out to eat, buying things, grocery shopping, going to the movies, did nothing with anyone. When he was home, it seemed like he wanted to tell us something and couldn't because he was too embarrassed to.

Brandon loved candy. We gave him and sent him all kinds of his favorite candy before and around easter and for his birthday. So did his grandparents. This was in April and May of 2018. When we received his household goods, half of the boxes had candy and food in them; mostly candy. He didn't eat any of it. He also liked sharing and he gave none of it away.

Brandon had a bottle of 14 oxycodone pills in his room that he never took. These were from when he broke his collar bone in October 2017. He refused to take any pain medications (not

even when he tore his meniscus in his knee) and could have used these to end his life yet he didn't. That would have been the best and easiest way to end his life. Everything points to what happened Monday which no one seems to know except the person who was closest in proximity to the helicopter when he died. She had been talking to him on and off all day long. That person happened to be a friend of his. However, they can't account for him all day long. Other than that person, everyone talked to a few days after the incident, who will no longer talk to us, said he worked all day. Many had stated that he was seen talking on the phone to who they believed to be Patrick, but that was put out by the leadership. They have no idea what he did all day long for sure. The PQS, the driver's license, the DRB board, and the Captain's Mast had never been talked about and there is no record of it. We do know that after Brandon died an E-8 went into admin and picked up and took the paperwork submitted several weeks prior for Brandon going to a DRB board and Captain's Mast. This E-8 asked the girl who witnessed it "why wasn't this processed faster" this admin is the one who had been putting it to the bottom of the stack because she felt it was wrong to do this to Brandon and not fair. He took the paperwork and it was never seen again. It has not been talked about in any investigation or email or by anyone else. What did they do to him that day that made him jump into a rotor blade? What could give him the guts to go through with it without even calling us, leaving us a video, or anything other than just a text that said, "Just know I love you"

When we read his letter, he stated he wants to be cremated. What 21-year old know they want to be cremated? When we went to Virginia to see Brandon in October of 2017, we went on a trip to Pennsylvania to see his great grandfather's grave. We had never been there before. Brandon was close to him. We were at the cemetery for two or three hours and he never said there or on the way back that he wanted to be cremated. I'm telling you he was ashamed of something and wanted his body destroyed. Brandon had a body that most men only dream about.

Five months before the anonymous call, we received a Facebook message on Brandon's site from an anonymous person also. Except they used a fake name, we believe. The letter says he was close to Brandon and was in seals with him. He went on to say his story about how he was messed with and called a BUD/S Dud. They made his life hell. He said, word for word, he was sexually assaulted by five guys on his ship. Why would he tell us this? His point was his command hated him also and they bullied and sexually assaulted him because they knew he couldn't tell anyone because they wouldn't believe him. After the anonymous call, we went to go read the post again and it was gone. The name was still there but the letter was gone. Brandon repeatedly told us everyone in the command hated him. We didn't believe him but, except for a few, it appears he was telling the truth.

When flight ops are going on, no one is allowed to go in the red area period. They let him in with the rotors going. Why? No one tackled him or even tried to. After he did what he did, they all ran away. Not one person rendered first aid to him. Nine or more flight crew people of all ranks and time in service ran away. Patrick had been near flight ops when a helicopter rotor hit the ship and spread shrapnel everywhere. People had head wounds and other things and everyone helped everyone.

No one is ever allowed in the "danger" area. I was a missile Gunnersmate during my first seven years in the Navy and we had a "danger circle" that we had to guard when the missile launcher

and guns were moving. No one was allowed in that circle, not even our own people who are qualified to relieve us.

Nothing HSC-28's command has written or investigated has been accurate. They can't even spell his name right or get his rank right. They lied to the press when they said they invited us to the memorial service that was held on June 29, 2018. That's an outright lie. They said in an article they even gave us a gift. The gift that arrived three months after his death was a cranial signed by the entire command. Think about how Brandon died and you tell me what message that command was sending us. It was the same cranial he took off right before he did what he did. They didn't want us at the memorial service because they were afraid we would ask questions to people in the command and they didn't want us going anywhere near Brandon's barracks room, the medical examiner's office, or the NCIS office. We were told they submitted our names to the gate guards informing them not to let us on base just in case we tried to come. We didn't even know it was happening so this was overkill, why?

There were several of Brandon's friends who were stationed in Virginia who got wind of the memorial service and tried to go. The command wouldn't tell them where it was. Why? Yet they allowed Brandon's former commanding officer, Commander Thomas (do not know the first name), to attend. This Commander Thomas liked Brandon a lot. He would talk to Brandon all the time and asked him about his Aircrewman package and when he was leaving for Aircrewman since he was found fit for duty, after breaking his collar bone falling off of his bicycle in front of HSC-28 before Commander Thomas left in early April of 2018. It's very possible he knew about the sexual assault and who was involved in helping Brandon in some form or another we will probably never know.

The cover-up here is worse than the crime as far as integrity, honor, ethics, etc. All the commanding officer had to do was take responsibility like he is required to because it's his command. Everything good and bad that happens he is responsible for. He could have taken the 13 with blood on their hands, all enlisted, and thrown them under the bus and probably learned from Brandon's death. Everything Whitmer did before and after Brandon's death is mind-boggling. The day before Brandon died, a sister squadron in Norfolk had a suicide. He was a pilot which is very strange because pilots usually don't die by suicide. Commodore, Alan Worthy who is in charge of all 13 helicopter squadrons in Norfolk, Virginia did not mandate a standdown, there was no training held, it was business as usual and no one was told about this suicide. If HSC-28 held a standdown, Brandon would be alive today because flight ops would not have been held that day at all. The events of June 25, 2018, would have gone way differently which would have prevented Brandon from dying. Three weeks before Brandon's death, there was another suicide in another sister squadron in Norfolk and, again, Commodore Alan Worthy, did not issue a standdown, he did not require training, Worthy and Whitmer acted like the losses were just the cost of doing business.

Patrick was in the Navy for 22 years and in every command that he was in they always threw the enlisted under the bus to save the officers. It is the Navy way. I have seen things that I had to report anonymously to the Inspector General and they came and fixed them, for the most part. Yet in Brandon's case, not many have come forward and the ones who have do not know much

of anything. How is it they don't care about our son's death? He did nothing wrong to anyone. ever except smile and work hard. Brandon's evals state he was the hardest best worker in the command. They wrote that. No one ever gave me words like that in my evals and I have never seen it before. I do know we love hard workers. No one kills the hardest best worker in the command, no one.

Brandon was welcomed home at any time. His college was going to be paid for by us and he could have gone, not worked, and just focused on school. He did not need to join the Navy and WE WERE DEAD SET AGAINST IT. We did everything to prepare him and he understood the risks and the fact that the Navy can do anything that they want in the end. He was a blackbelt in karate and one of the best swimmers out there. He had been doing both since he was four years old. In the three years Brandon was in the Navy, he saved $60,000 and had the post 9-11 GI bill. So he could have come home and stayed here. He had money in the bank and would have had a complete side of a new house to himself with a video game/computer room and a separate bedroom along with a den in a very nice area. We would pay for his college or anything else he wanted to do along with the GI Bill. He wanted to be a police officer and get on the SWAT team. Two of his best friends right here in Phoenix, Arizona are on the Phoenix Police Department and had been for a while before he died. He did an internship in high school and received a letter of recommendation from the Peoria Police Department for his work and his teacher.

Brandon has a friend who went through SEAL training with him who also did not make it through. That friend was a friend before Brandon joined the Navy. He ended up in Norfolk, Virginia also. They spent a lot of time together when they could. One night Brandon calls me and says he's worried about his friend that he keeps saying he is afraid he is going to hurt someone. I gave Brandon some numbers in the local area to give to this friend to get help. The next thing Brandon knows is his friend is in the mental health ward being processed out of the Navy. He got out with an honorable discharge. This friend went on to go into the Australian Army since he has dual citizenship and is doing extremely well. He keeps in touch with us. We asked him why Brandon didn't do the same thing he did. He told us, word for word, they had talked about that and Brandon told him he was afraid his command would screw it up and he would get a bad conduct discharge. Why would Brandon feel that way? His friend got an honorable discharge, is now in the Australian Army and kicking butt. Brandon knew how to get out, he witnessed it. Why wouldn't he follow suit? The answer is, HSC-28 was so toxic and abusive that even having a retired Navy dad would not be any help. He could have gone to medical and milked out a year of light-limited duty until his enlistment was up. He did none of this because he knew it would not work out that well for him. He knew no one at HSC-28 liked him.

So what would make a kid jump into a spinning rear tail rotor of a helicopter, not once but twice, in front of his entire command? That is the biggest question we have. At his funeral, his karate and swim instructors both said that Brandon was the most mentally tough kid they ever had in their classes. They didn't even know each other. People talk about committing suicide all the time and even attempt it. But to do it the way Brandon did, who has that kind of guts? Planning

it is one thing but to actually go through with it is a whole other ballgame. The message was look what you made me do.

To this day, no one who hasn't come forward has ever said they were sorry or even told the truth. Why? How could 200 or 300 people and an entire Navy not care that our son is dead? HSC-28 knew I was retired Navy and not one of them cared. When I was on recruiting for 15 years if anyone contacted me whether they were family, active, or retired military got involved in any way, I had to take care of them or I would have gotten in trouble. Yet they knew who I was and that I was a Navy counselor. They didn't care. For the record, I only called them on the 25th the day he died before he died. I called as a concerned father for my son's welfare and wellbeing. They knew I was retired Navy and didn't even acknowledge it. I never mentioned it but they knew, trust me.

The whole driver's license ordeal was a smoke-screen for something else. So many laws were broken and the bottom line is if Brandon did not drive; he did not drive. He **never** had car insurance and never drove alone once in his entire life. They stole his credit card and paid for his driver's license which was done on a government computer, during working hours, with seven witnesses (four of which were E-7's and above). The other three were E-6's. Brandon told them his driver's license/AZ ID was at home and that he had already texted us to send it per AE1 Brose's order. If they didn't believe him, why didn't they call us to verify this? They have called before so why not this time? Why did Chief Doug Dalessandro need Brandon to pay for a replacement license? Why would he break federal laws, steal, conceal, lie, and cover-up the entire driver's license ordeal? They were trying to process Brandon out of the Navy. That's what I think. While I was on the phone with the Senior Enlisted Advisor, David Tokarski, he told me word for word "if Brandon goes to medical and admits he is claustrophobic all of this would go away". Why would he word it that way? Brandon was not claustrophobic. It may be possible Brandon had a driving phobia. We have always had nice newer cars if I was 16 years old, I would have been afraid to drive them.

We were very close to Brandon. Brandon never even hinted to us that he would take his own life. Brandon came home on leave 4 or 5 times and picking him up and leaving we were all crying as in fighting tears. He was our everything. He was nice to everyone and had a smile that made you want to smile with love shining in his eyes. He saw you as a person nothing else; he never held any judgment and never stereo-typed others. He was kind-hearted and always put others before himself.

When Brandon was around two we started buying him bicycles. He refused to ride them. They collected dust. We continued through the years to buy him nice bikes. He refused to ride them every time. We would sell them for next to nothing at yard sales. Then just after we got rid of the last bike, he says out of nowhere he wants a bike. We said okay. We bought him a brand new bike. He rode that bike every day from 8th grade up till he went into the Navy. He even rode his bike to work in the Navy and everywhere else he wanted to go. His command knew this. My point is, Brandon was one who had to be comfortable with something before he would do some things. The qualifications he was getting in HSC-28, he is the type who has to completely understand and be able to perform them before he would be board ready. He was not delinquent

in his qualifications as you will read. What happened is he was at 90% complete on the Plane Captain Qualification when he broke his collarbone. He was not allowed to work on the quals and could not go beyond the danger zone line ever while on light-limited duty. When he returned from light-limited duty, he started on the quals again.

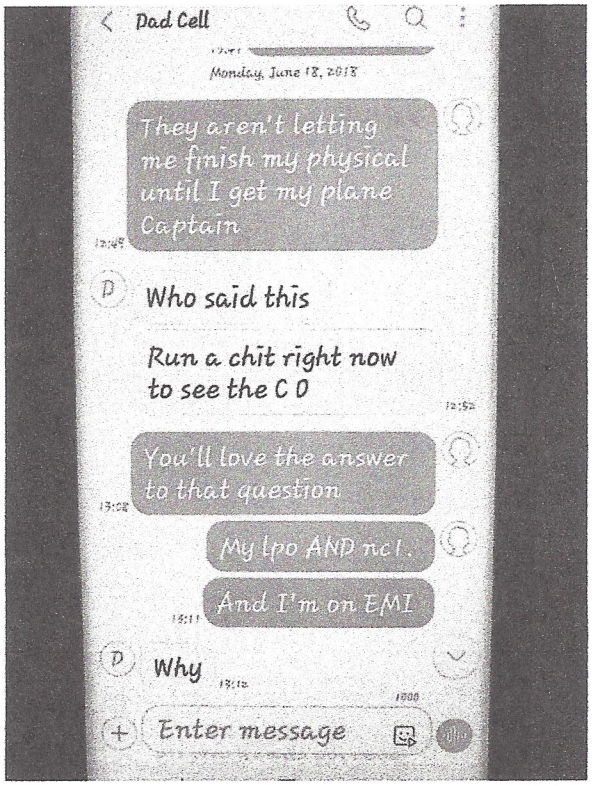
While he was on light-limited duty, the computer reset his PQS back to zero percent and Brose refused to fix the percentage in the computer. So Brandon had to start over again. They considered him delinquent which wasn't fair. He dealt with it. I do want to point out that this qualification was for a helicopter plane captain qualification. He was going to and suppose to be leaving in less than two months to attend Aircrewman school. His new job was to be flying in P8 planes. He did not need this qualification and he still worked on them and never said he was not doing them because he was leaving. That's one thing no one says in their statements. This qualification they said he was delinquent on was voluntary and many people in the command did not have it and had done four or more years in the command without ever getting it. Brandon was in this command for approximately 18 months with five of these months was on light-limited duty.

The cover-up here is worse than the crime. So what really happened? Since the command stole everything and erased everything that had the names and other things we may never know. We do know Brandon was a picture person and did videos for people. I know he had to have left one for us. They had to have erased it because it had the smoking gun in it. Like I said approximately 30 pages of letters for three friends in the command who turned on him and us and we get five. Our letter is incomplete and at a minimum, he left us another one and they kept it. They also stole his driver's license and the replacement one that was mailed to the command or Dalessandro. We put in a change of address for Brandon right away and to this day, not one piece of mail has ever been forwarded to our address; not even junk mail. As for the license, we called the DMV weekly to check if it was returned to them. In September we demanded it from NCIS. NCIS asks the command about it and of course, they had no idea what they are talking about. However, at the end of October 2018, it showed up at the AZ DMV. Over four months after his death. Had NCIS investigated instead of asking about it, they could have nailed the command. To this day, not one person in Brandon's chain of command has ever called us nor have we been interviewed by NCIS properly and the command investigation was done without us ever being talked to.

We submitted at least 18 DoD Inspector General complaints/investigations to this day and not one person has called us or interviewed us. They closed all of them. Every so often we get bits and pieces of some of them. I believe we have enclosed them. As for NCIS, they should have turned the investigation into a criminal one. They knew the command was corrupt and what they did. Had they done that, maybe some of this would have come out. The cameras at the command in the areas needed to confirm anything were not working. We have 16 cameras on the outside of our house which are all approximately five years old. Not one of them has ever broken. All 16 probably cost what one mil-spec camera would cost and ours seem to work and theirs don't and the ones broken are always the ones they need. No work orders to get them fixed were done

and there is no documentation indicating they are down. Just a simple notation that they are broken and we have to believe them.

Brandon's true place was supposed to be in the aviation electrician's shop no matter what because he went to Electrician school and advance electricians' school. The claim was they were "overmanned" yet they let others work in the shop while Brandon was there. While Brandon sold candy and did other things for the command, they raved about him. So, when he was found fit for duty on 28 March 2018, why was he sent to the flight line? He was told as soon as he was found "fit for duty", he would be leaving within two weeks. His Commanding Officer, Commander Thomas, at the time, was leaving in a few weeks and he asked Brandon personally all the time when will he be fit for duty so he can leave for Air-crewman school. Until 28 March 2018, Brandon sold candy and they loved him doing it. So, on 28 March he is found fit for duty and runs to the command Career Counselor, NC1 Remmy Spence, who is a self-proclaimed friend and mentor to him. Enclosed is the text Brandon sent out after he talked to him. Why wasn't he happy for his friend and why didn't he get Brandon out of there?



Remember I was a Navy Counselor in the Navy for 15 years and held every position possible in the rating to include Pacific Fleet Navy Counselor. This does not fit what Brandon's text said and what happened after that.

The Navy Aircrewman's detailer and manager of the entire program told me word for word he could have had Brandon out of the command in less than two weeks and that all he needed to know was Brandon was found fit for duty. I called him in July 2018 after Brandon's death. He told me word for word he never told **anyone** Brandon needed to redo a physical or anything like

that. He said word for word he has never spoken to anyone in Brandon's command since September of 2017 when he issued the orders for Brandon. I never told the detailer Brandon was dead, he asked me why was I calling and I said I was trying to help the kid out. He paused for a while so I'm not sure if he knew or not. He also told me word for word that Brandon's entire package was good for a year along with the physical to include the commanding officer's recommendation. Brandon's Aricrewman package was submitted in September of 2017 and came back right away approved with orders for him to leave on 18 February 2018. Keep in mind that if anything physically was wrong with Brandon, he would not be allowed on the flight line period no ifs, ands, or buts.

However, in the IG report, he does respond a little differently than he did to me. He focused more on the command has the final say and that if they can't afford to lose him then the commanding officer could recommend him not to go. However, Brandon's shop was overmanned. The Navy needed Aircrewman. He changed his answers somewhat but it won't work because the new current commanding officer, Whitmer, had been the executive officer the entire time Commander Thomas was in charge and had just taken over. He also said the command canceled the orders not him. So why did Brandon need to submit a new package? Who ordered that then turned it into a physical only? In April 2018 Brandon went through an annual aviation physical. They had to have required blood work for it. He passed it yet they still made him do another physical that was no different than the annual one. Brandon had to redo the bloodwork again for no reason. Why?

As you look through all of this you will notice that Aircrewman is never mentioned and they concealed the entire events up to it. They act like he was never going at all. If that was the case, they must tell the service member. As far as we know, up to the minute he died, Brandon was never told he was not going to be or they were not going to let him go Aircrewman. He would have told us. As a matter of fact, in the "just know I love you" text, he would have said I told you they were not going to let me go aircrewman. So, what happened to him? Then there is this: Brandon had a little over a year left before his enlistment was up. Brandon knew how to get out by mental health because of his friend and through medical for his knee or shoulder (broken clavicle). The medical way is an easy, safe route. Staying at the command for another year Brandon could have done it easily. He was mentally tough and with our help. We would have rented a house in Norfolk for a year until he got out. He just didn't have any support there.

So, we go back to what happened on the day of 25 June 2018. He worked all day long. You know you are going to kill yourself and you work all day long for the people who hate you. No way. Next, what would cause a good-looking kid with a rock-solid body to die who had money in the bank and was welcomed home anytime. As a matter of fact, as far as we were concerned, he still lived here. He was our only child and we did not change anything. He had the entire half of the house to himself.

He was just home on leave from May 20th till June 1st. He made Christmas plans with his friends. He talked to and saw his best friends to include the Phoenix police officers. He deliberately stayed less time this visit so he could have more leave for Christmas. He left no notes whatsoever. We tore his room apart. He took things back with him from home. We were going out there in September and he asked me on Father's Day if we can go see Stonewall Jackson's

and Robert E Lee's gravesites along with Antietam, Manassas/Bull Run and other civil war battlefields we had not been to. Father Day was the week before he died. As we said he did not seem his normal self in retrospect. It's as if he had something to tell us that happened to him. I can guarantee you he was not going to tell us he was going to die by suicide. What that was as stated we believe he was sexually assaulted by 5 people in his command and he was embarrassed because he was a black belt and it happened. It had to be. That being said, at least on our end trying to get justice for him changes nothing. It is actually going to make things more complicated because everyone will say they couldn't get it done with what they had so they are now trying this because of the Guillen stuff. So, trust us when I say we don't want it to be true but it fits way too well. The call and disappearing part of his letter to us along with long pauses from the girls who have come forward is scary that it is true.

Attachment L: Line of Duty Investigation and Command Investigation Supporting Documents

1. Over six months after the death of PO3 Brandon Caserta, on Jan 29, 2019, his father (Patrick) was forward a redacted version of the command investigation (Attachment L-1).

a. Revealed in the cover-letter enclosures were the Jul 10, 2018 command investigation appointment order and the Aug 9, 2018 approval for extension. Both documents were signed by the commander of the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Eight (HSC-28), U.S. Navy Commander L.D. Whitmer.

b. On Dec 6, 2018 the command investigation was approved by the Commander of Naval Air Force, Atlantic.

c. While it is important for the command investigation officer, who almost never is a seasoned and trained investigator (and certainly not in this case), to not stomp around in the work of NCIS professionals, it should not have taken fifteen days for Commander Whitmer to appoint his own investigator.

d. Even with this delayed appointment, interviews of the witnesses never occurred until after the granted extension. For such a tragic event that occurred on Jun 25, 2018, interviews of witnesses did not commence until Aug 13, 2018. This totally defies investigative logic. The basic principle of professional investigation is to get to the principles and the witnesses as quickly as possible. This forty-eight-day delay allowed time for memories to become twisted, correlation of witness testimony, and for people responsible for the event to refine their self-protecting statements. Reading the precise comment similarities within the witness statements lends great credit to this concern and also the concern as to whether this was a legitimate investigation or did the investigative officer act as a choir coordinator.

e. The "choir coordinator" concern is re-enforced by the concern that three suicides occurred within three sister squadrons in fifteen days; the legitimacy of an independent investigation would have been better served if conducted by an O-6 who had no ties to any of the squadrons.

f. The investigation officer for this investigation worked for the commander of the same squadron of which PO3 Brandon Caserta was assigned.

2. Review of performance documents reveals "indications of warnings" that were not just ignored, but rather intensified.

a. Brandon Caserta's evaluation from Oct 6, 2016 to Feb 28, 2017 (Attachment L-2) contradicts itself. All ratings are "meets standards," yet the "Comments on Performance" are

(1) *MOTIVATED SAILOR WITH LIMITLESS POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH AND SUCCESS.*

(2) *DRIVEN ACHEIVER. Graduated from H-60S "C" School and immediately hit the ground running. AEAN Caserta has already started working diligently towards his initial qualifications and has proven to be a valuable member of the work center.*

(3) *AEAN CASERTA HAS PROVEN TO BE A DEPENDABLE AND DETERMINED PROFESSIONAL.*

(4) AEAN Caserta was even rated, "Must Promote." This, and the aforementioned narrative comments, are the foundation of the contradiction.

b. The evaluation from Mar 1, 2017 to Jul 15, 2017 (Attachment L-3) rates much higher in "Standards" and "Comments on Performance," but is destructive in "Promotion Recommendation."

(1) Rated "Above Standards" are "Quality of Work", "Military Bearing/Character", and "Teamwork".

(2) Narrative comments include:

(a) *Airman Caserta is a proven self-starter who requires minimal supervision and is willing to take on new responsibilities.*

(b) With positive comments about motivation, team participant, and work ethic, the narrative closes out with: *Airman Caserta is a dedicated individual who shows great ability and initiative. Highly recommend for retention and advancement to Third Class Petty Officer.*

(3) Now comes the rub. This rater took the time to write a more thorough evaluation and justify the higher ratings than previously rendered. Unfortunately, he rated Brandon Caserta as "Promotable," which was a downgrade from the previous evaluation. This downgrade was an unjustified red flag that would have likely stopped an advancement in rank. It has been reported that Brandon Caserta addressed this matter with his NCO, who did check with administration about changing the evaluation. The NCO reported back to Brandon Caserta that a correction was not possible.

c. In combat, professional leaders are always looking for indications and warnings that something may be wrong. The best of these anchor on Lieutenant General Hal Moore's (portrayed by Mel Gibson in *We Were Soldiers*) maxim, "There is nothing going wrong, except there is nothing going wrong." There were obviously no Hal Moore types in AEAN Caserta's chain of command. Instead, it was a very abusive one that will be discussed in detail in numerous parts of this document. In his final forty days of life, the pressure intensified. Instead of recognizing and working with the

Sailor described in the two aforementioned evaluations, AEAN Caserta's leadership piled on him and commenced "stacking paper."

(1) Despite the fact that Brandon Caserta was an Aviation Electricians Mate Airman, whose specialty mission was to work inside the aircraft, he was being required to become plane captain qualified. On May 18, 2018, he received a "Record of Counseling" (Attachment L-4) stating *Your deadline to complete all required Line Division qualifications is 15June2018.*

(2) On Jun 18, 2018, seven days before his suicide, AEAN Caserta received written instructions (Attachment L-5) stating, *You are assigned EMI for the following reason: Failure to comply with HSC/HSM WING Qualification requirements of Plane Captain qualification obtainment in a six-month period.*

(3) On Jun 22, 2018, three days before his suicide, AEAN Caserta received another Record of Counseling (Attachment L-6), concerning driver's license status. As will be addressed in his father's upcoming rebuttal to the Command Investigation, AEAN Caserta did not drive. Unknown to him, an Arizona driver's education course he took while still in school had submitted him for a driver's license. Not knowing he had an approved driver's license, he did not drive. Taking his credit card from him, the NCOs went on the computerized link to the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles and Registration and processed him for a license. Taking a credit card away from someone, and processing a purchase without that person's approval, is a violation of law. However, these NCOs, especially one in particular, considered themselves above the law.

3. That one in particular was Aviation Electrician's Mate Petty Officer 1st Class (AE1) Jared Brose. The following statements were included in the Command Investigation:

a. Anonymous statement concerning AE1 Brose provided in the commander's suggestion box (Attachment L-7):

(1) This LPO treats his workers under him worse than garbage. I cant think of a better way to put this than how the recent article was written about the MCPON. He fosters a hostile work environment inside his small shop. He has an unpredictable temper that the slightest occurrence of things not going his way, he just goes off instead of deescalating the situation and finding a more proper calm way of doing things. He can be verbally abusive towards his coworkers. Referring to everyone as his "bitch" or other derogatory/degrading terms.

(2) This man is too incompetent and certainly NOT the right fit to "lead" some of the newest personnel at the command. He not to long ago got kicked off a DET for behavioral reasons and somewhere along the lines someone had a good idea to let him be "the example" of the most impressionable shop at the command. They

definitely learned and are learning what not to be. IF anyone stays in the navy because of him.

b. Record of Enlisted Counseling of AE1 Brose, dated Nov 22, 2017 (Attachment L-8):

(1) Counselor's statement: *As the LPO of DET 4 you are failing. Your sailors do not respect you and DET moral is at an all-time low. Multiple complaints have been made in the COC both verbally and written about you. The way you talk to Sailors is intolerable, unprofessional and not the standard that is expected of a First Class Petty Officer attached to DET 4. This is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated from this day forward. FIX IT"*

(2) AE1 Brose's written response: *I will continue to improve my relationship with my Sailors, while maintaining my professionalism as the LPO. My behavior and approach with the Sailors on our detachment has been unacceptable.*

c. Record of Counseling on AE1 Brose, dated Jan 18, 2018 (Attachment L-9):

(1) Counselor's statement: *As DET LPO you were counseled on 22 Nov 17 about your responsibilities and substandard performance. You have been mentored multiple times by the DET COC and given every opportunity to correct this behavior. You have not made any adjustment to how you interact with your Sailor. There have been multiple instances since this counseling that have been brought to the COC where you have degraded and demoralized you subordinates in front of other junior Sailors. This is unprofessional and completely unacceptable for any Sailor to do, let a lot one trusted in the billet of a First Class Petty Officer and Leading Petty Officer! If you want to continue being a First Class Petty Officer and your service to this Navy you need to fix yourself ASAP!*

(2) Solution: *You shall be relieved of your DET LPO position and removed from DET 4. Following an investigation from the COC, you could be subject to further disciplinary action. You will enroll in anger management class with Fleet and Family Support Center and report enrollment to your COC.*

(3) AE1 Brose's written response: *I am ashamed of my actions and behavior. I have let my chain of command and myself down. I will make every effort possible to correct myself to better myself, and the Sailors I work with.*

d. Record of Counseling on AE1 Brose, dated Jun 28, 2018, three days after AEAN Caserta's suicide (Attachment L-10):

(1) Counselor's Statement: *On 27 June, you were reported as saying derogatory remarks about the mishap that occurred on 25 June in front of junior Sailors. This counseling is to inform you that this is unacceptable behavior.*

(2) Solution*: Continue to seek out advice and counsel from more senior first class petty officers and Chief Petty Officers on the fundamentals of leadership. I further recommend that you do some research on some of the great leaders of our past, and read their books perhaps and try and take away some great leadership attributes.*

Furthermore,

You are being moved to Quality Assurance, effective today, and you will report directly to NAME BLOCKED not only as your QAS but your direct monitor…This move is NOT PUNITIVE, this move was going to happen anyway due to all the detachments that are underway to mitigate our manpower shortfalls. It is my sincere hope, that you take away from this the importance of correcting this leadership deficiency before punitive action becomes un avoidable.

(3) AEI Brose written response: *No commen*t.

4. Forty-eight days after the death of PO3 Brandon Caserta, the investigating officer commenced taking witness statements. As pointed out at several points in this independent assessment, waiting forty-eight days to collect witness statements is unacceptable. Yet, being this is what we have to live with, key comments from those statements are reviewed below. Statements provided as attachments C-11 through C-14 focus primarily on the abusive environment created by AE1 Brose. Statements provided as attachments C-14 through C-19 focus primarily on PO3 Caserta.

a. Statement administered August 13, 2018 (Attachment L-11), primary subject AEI Brose:

(1) Quoted comments: *After the incident on 25 June 18 several ANYMOUSE forms were submitted to the CO pointing out that AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED harsh and demeaning vernacular had not ceased. On 27 June AEI BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED was counselled and removed as LPO of the 310 WC after it became known of his derogatory and inflammatory comments concerning the deceased.*

(2) Analysis: This is exactly why obtaining witness statements as soon as possible is critical. AE1 Brose's counsellor is now presenting the picture that AE1 Brose was removed from position because of his derogatory comments about PO3 Caserta's death. In the counselling statement just reviewed, AE1 Brose was informed in writing: *This move is NOT PUNITIVE, this move was going to happen anyway due to all the detachments that are underway to mitigate our manpower shortfalls.* The truth only requires the remembering of one story. The person providing this statement is all over the map and the investigating officer doesn't get it.

b. Statement administered August 14, 2018 (Attachment L-12), primary subject AE1 Brose:

(1) Quoted comments: NAME OF AE1 BROSE BLOCKED *was LPO of Detachment 4 from August 2017 to January 2018. He was counselled twice about his abrasive leadership and ordered to enroll in anger management. After second counselling was removed as DET 4 LPO and placed under a new chief as a leadership challenge…There was no formal remediation program per his counselling.*

(2) Analysis: Identifying AE1 Brose as a problematic individual and allowing *no formal remediation program per his counselling* further testifies that this command not only failed to enforce behavior modification and follow through on its own mandated correction action requirements.

c. Statement administered August 15, 2018 (Attachment L-13), primary subject AE1 Brose:

(1) Quoted comments: *She was surprised that* AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *was put in 310 WC as the LPO knowing he had recently been removed from an LPO position. It was a leadership challenge for her and no particular guidance was given to his remediation. There were instances where* AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *would subvert Chief's authority when she wasn't present…AEAN Caserta was a happy-go-lucky sailor, was formal and always utilized military bearing and didn't talk back. Would be first to volunteer for cleaning duty, aircraft wash, or field day, however any initiative outside of direct prompting was lacking (ie, PC qual, EAWS, shop qualifications). He displayed no overt anger or animosity toward the command that she noticed…*

(2) Analysis: This statement sums up the difference between two Sailors.

(a) The first who was senior in rank simply due to time in service (and certainly not for leadership skills and dedication to the command or his seniors) who created a hostile and abusive environment wherever he was placed. The fact that this dysfunctional non-commissioned officer was passed around from senior supervisor to senior supervisor (while to direct quote: *no particular guidance was given to his remediation)* directly testifies to the lack of professional command environment in which this habitually problematic Sailor was allowed to exist, and without being held accountable for his behavior.

(b) The second Sailor had a positive attitude, was ready to volunteer for assignments of duties in which he was familiar. A proactive supervisor operating within a proactive environment which have been a significant positive influence in encouraging this junior Sailor to further develop. That obviously was not going to happen while AE1 Brose was in charge and no one senior to AE1 Brose was going to firmly establish control of him and bring him to proper justice for his behavior.

d. Statement administered August 13, 2018 (Attachment L-14), primary subject AEAN Caserta:

(1) Quoted comments:

(a) *Had a personal relationship as well as professional, saw AEAN Caserta as a little brother and made it a point to always check on him. In May of 17 he talked with Caserta's father for over an hour. His father is a retired Navy Career Counselor Senior Chief. Around the same time, he noticed a change in Caserta and was concerned. Brought him to the Wing Chaplain to get help for depression.* NAME BLOCKED *has taken several sailors to chaplain or Portsmouth because of suicidal thoughts or expression.*

(b) NAME BLOCKED *feel like he betrayed Caserta by taking* NAME BLOCKED*'s side in their last formal interaction, in which he conveyed the importance of completing his PC qualification and contributing to the shop.*

(c) NAME BLOCKED *and the Command Master Chief were on the phone with the deceased's father at the time of the incident.*

(d) NAME BLOCKED *personally questions the need for DRB referral, feels that he truly did not know he had a valid drivers license and possibly felt it was a violation of their trust.*

(2) Analysis: This statement is a testimonial as to why statements gathered a month and a half after an incident cannot be taken at face value. Facts can get buried and self-defending testimony can be refined.

(a) This NCO did not bring AEAN Caserta to the Chaplain as claimed in this statement. AEAN Caserta did go to the Chaplain, but this NCO had nothing to do with it. AEAN Caserta did feel that a bond of trust once existed between the two. Betrayal is the willful slaughter of trust, and it is true that AEAN Caserta felt this NCO betrayed him during the last counselling administered prior to the suicide.

(b) At least the NCO did acknowledge his belief that AEAN Caserta did not realize a valid driver's license existed. Where this NCO falls short on this point is not acknowledging that he did nothing while a fellow NCO took AEAN Caserta's credit card and used it to purchase a license. Even if the purchase of a product or service is for the card's owner, another person taking the card to make the purchase against the owner's will is a violation of the law.

e. Statement administered August 13, 2018 (Attachment L-15), primary subject AEAN Caserta:

(1) Quoted comments:

(a) *Has known Caserta since October 2017, and have socially interacted on multiple occasions but not frequently…Knew Caserta harbored animosity towards the command and the Navy, and was passive aggressive about it and disgruntled about the rating system. Caserta's father has contacted him twice to press for information about the command.*

(b) AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *did not single out Caserta, he treated everyone poorly.* NAME BLOCKED *warned the shop about* BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *and encouraged them to come to her if things remained unchanged IRT his attitude and behavior.* NAME BLOCKED *talked to* NAME BLOCKED *about AE1* BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *the Friday before the incident.*

(2) Analysis: Three key points come from these comments. AEAN Caserta did have animosity about the Navy. His father recognized that attention was needed and was trying to engage AEAN Caserta's leadership. AE1 Brose was a serious problem to all his subordinates, and rather than attack the problem head-on and hard, the solution was to make him someone else's problem.

f. Statement administered August 14, 2018 (Attachment L-16), primary subject AEAN Caserta:

(1) Quoted comments:

(a) *Never was under* AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED, *but dealt with him professionally and did not approve of his harsh leadership. Witnessed Caserta's bicycle accident in November of 2017, after which they became friends and texted daily. Discussed angst about not enjoying their jobs and rates, Caserta stated he didn't like* AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *being his LPO 1-2 weeks prior to the incident. Caserta was happy on the surface but depressed, and after his bicycle accident his life seemed to spiral out of control. Was upset sometimes and would convey that via text message, did not specifically recommend seeing a professional about his depression and anger…Caserta called in to muster and didn't sound right. She did not think that he would harm himself.*

(b) *Parents contacted her 4-5 times, but does not take their calls anymore as it was not helping the grieving process.*

(2) Analysis: These comments back up the ones just reviewed. AEAN Caserta was presenting himself in an emotionally positive manner, but was carrying a lot of pain. AE1 Brose was a principal source of the problem. Instead of helping AEAN Caserta through difficulty, AE1 Brose took pleasure in degrading those around him. AEAN Caserta did take a noticeable downturn, but no one took the additional

action of bringing this to the attention of someone in the chain of command who either could or would help.

g. Statement administered August 14, 2018 (Attachment L-17), primary subject AEAN Caserta:

(1) Quoted comments:

(a) *Caserta had a positive outlook on the surface, but routinely vented about work and his aircraft package. Didn't understand why he was being required to get his PC qualification if he was transferring. Noticed that Caserta was distant in the month of June and sent few e-mails and texts. Did ask "what the meaning of life" was, and sent her an email the day before the incident saying goodbye…Did not think that he would harm himself.*

(b) *Was on DET 4 when* AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *was removed as the LPO. He subverted authority and would demean sailors and use derogatory language towards them. Does not think that he should have been put in charge of 310 WC again.*

(2) Analysis:

(a) Again, a witness noticed AEAN Caserta was pulling back. As AEAN Caserta was going deeper into mental darkness, no one took the additional step to get him help. Instead, once again, AE1 Brose was identified as being extremely abusive, and the chain of command putting him into a position of authority of which he was clearly not fit.

(b) In this and the last statement, appear the words *does/did not think that he would harm himself*. This is the problem with the investigating officer writing summaries of witness interviews, rather than letting them write their own. Had the witnesses written their own statements, a potential concern would have been negated, specifically that the investigating officer had tried to manipulate the results of his report by minimizing just how bad the senior commander (his appointing officer) had failed.

h. Statement administered August 14, 2018 (Attachment L-18), primary subject AEAN Caserta:

(1) Quoted comments: *Text conversations would be about normal day to day things, but he opened up to her and talked a lot about* AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *and how he couldn't stand him. Described Caserta as goofy, but sincere, and was treated differently by some. Not bullying, but jokes at his expense were common.*

(2) Analysis: Once again the negative effect of AE1 Brose on AEAN Caserta is addressed. Also referenced is his sincerity and the harassment he endured.

i. Statement administered August 20, 2018 (Attachment L-19), primary subject AEAN Caserta:

(1) Quoted comments:

(a) NAME BLOCKED *checked-in to HSC-28 in May of 2016 as the Maintenance Master Chief. Very visible in the squadron, visited all shops frequently and talked to the sailors. Made the decision to put* AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *back into the 310 WC and charge* NAME BLOCKED *with the leadership challenge of training him.*

(b) *Counselled Caserta on 19 Jun 18 in regards to his qualification and the way forward for his time in the squadron. He was receptive and vowed to complete his training. He was seen soon after conducting an aircraft move brief, no outward signs of distress. Did not believe that Caserta was subversive in not knowing he had an AZ drivers license.*

(2) Analysis: Once again, AEAN Caserta is described as being sincere and not subversive. Yet, this is the person who put AE1 Brose back in charge of a section where he had proven to be very abusive – and made AE1 Brose the responsibility of someone else.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR FORCE, ATLANTIC
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE, SUITE 300
NORFOLK, VA 23551-2427

5720
Ser N01L/ 021
29 Jan 19

Mr. Patrick Caserta
10257 W. White Feather Lane
Peoria, AZ 85383

Dear Mr. Caserta:

SUBJECT: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST CASE NO. CNAL-2019-001

This letter responds to your January 29, 2019, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request seeking copies of the line of duty investigation and command investigation related to the death of your son, Brandon Caserta, on June 25, 2018.

Your request was received in this office on January 29, 2019, and was assigned the case number CNAL-2019-001.

A thorough search for records responsive to your request was conducted and the enclosed documents were identified as responsive to your request and were forwarded to this office for release determination.

My office conducted a review under applicable portions of the FOIA statute (5 U.S.C. 552) and Secretary of the Navy Instruction 5720.42F. This review indicated a requirement to delete the names, ranks, and social security numbers of military members and privacy information under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6). Release of this information would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Deletions have been indicated by placing the exemption code in place of the redacted material.

Additionally, some of the information contained in the reports is under the release authority of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). We are forwarding those documents to them for a release determination and direct response to you. NCIS can be contacted at: Naval Criminal Investigative Service Headquarters, Code 00LFJ, 27130 Telegraph Road, Quantico, VA 22134-2253. The telephone number is (571) 305-9092 and the email address is ncis_foia@ncis.navy.mil.

Because some information has been withheld from the responsive documents, you may consider this to be an adverse determination that may be appealed. If you have created an account in FOIAonline, you may submit your appeal directly within the web-based system. To do this, log into your account, retrieve your original request, and then click on the "Create Appeal" tab in the left-hand column. The basic information from your request will be duplicated

ATTACHMENT L-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIRMAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

for you, and then you can type in the basis of your appeal. If you do not have a FOIAonline account, you may send an appeal by regular mail to the Judge Advocate General (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Avenue, SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter and should include a copy of your initial request, a copy of this letter, and a statement indicating why you believe your appeal should be granted. I recommend that your appeal and its envelope bear the notation 'Freedom of Information Act Appeal.'

There are no fees associated with the processing of your request. I wish to offer my most sincere condolences for the loss of your son.

Sincerely,

P. D. GALINDEZ
Captain, JAGC, U.S. Navy
Force Judge Advocate
By direction of the Commander

Enclosure: 1. Responsive Documents

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT WING ATLANTIC
610 "A" STREET STE 150
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA 23511-4011

1910
Ser N00/ 325
19 Nov 18

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on HELSEACOMBATRON TWO EIGHT ltr 5800 Ser N00/348 of 1 Nov 18

From: Commander, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic
To: Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON P. CASERTA

1. Forwarded, concurring with the Commanding Officer's recommendation.

A. M. WORTHY

Copy to:
HELSEACOMBATRON TWO EIGHT

"FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – PRIVACY SENSITIVE:
ANY MISUSE OR UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE MAY RESULT IN BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES."

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO EIGHT (HSC-28)
1348 CV TOWWAY DR.
NORFOLK, VA 23511 - 2596

5800
Ser N00/242
10 Jul 18

From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO EIGHT
To: [redacted]

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF
AEAN BRANDON P. CASERTA

Ref: (a) JAGMAN, Chapter II

1. This appoints you, per chapter II of reference (a), to inquire into the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of AEAN Brandon P. Caserta on 30 June 2018.

2. You are to investigate all the facts and circumstances of the incident, including a thorough evaluation of the existing culture and leadership within the 310 work center at the time of the incident. Report your findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations in letter form by 30 July 2018 unless an extension of time is granted. Reference (a) provides guidance for submission of your report. If you have not previously done so, read Chapter II of reference (a) in its entirety before beginning your inquiry.

3. You may seek legal advice from [redacted] during the course of your investigation.

4. By copy of this appointing order, administrative officer, HSC-28, is directed to furnish any necessary clerical assistance.

L. D. WHITMER

Enclosure (1)

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO EIGHT (HSC-28)
1348 CV TOWWAY DR.
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2596

5800
N00
9 Aug 18

From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO EIGHT
To: [redacted]

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION EXTENSION

Ref: (a) JAGMAN, Chapter II
(b) HELSEACOMBATRON TWO EIGHT ltr 5800 N00 of 10 Jul 18

1. Per reference (a), an extension to your investigation is hereby granted. Report your findings of reference (b) by 25 September 2018.

L. D. WHITMER

Enclosure (21

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER, NAVAL AIR FORCE, ATLANTIC
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE, SUITE 300
NORFOLK, VA 23551-2427

5830
Ser N01L/284
6 Dec 18

From: Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic
To: File

Subj: ACTION OF THE FINAL REVIEWING AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON P. CASERTA, USN

Ref: (a) [redacted] ltr 5830 of 2 Oct 18 w/end and encls
(b) JAG Manual, Chapter II

1. Readdressed.

2. Reference (a) has been reviewed in accordance with reference (b). Further endorsement is considered unnecessary; therefore, the investigation is final and will be retained at this command for a period of two years from the date of this action. Any further correspondence regarding this matter should be forwarded accordingly. The subject line has been modified to ensure proper identification of the investigation for administrative purposes.

3. On 25 June 2018, AEAN Brandon Caserta, USN, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO EIGHT (HSC-28) was killed when he committed suicide by jumping into the spinning tail rotors of an MH-60S helicopter. HSC-28 conducted a command investigation to inquire into the circumstances that preceded AEAN Caserta's suicide. The investigation determined that AEAN Caserta was suffering from a number of stressors, including a feeling of worthlessness since he had dropped on request from Special Warfare training; dissatisfaction with the Navy, HSC-28, and the Aviation Electrician's Mate rating; and apparent concern over the fact that he had been recommended for Disciplinary Review Board. The investigation also determined that AEAN Caserta's leading petty officer, [redacted] had created a hostile working environment in the work center which was likely a contributing factor to AEAN Caserta's decision to commit suicide.

4. The report of the Investigating Officer was reviewed and I approve the findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations of the Investigating Officer. With respect to [redacted] the Commanding Officer, HSC-28, determined that punitive action was not warranted, but issued an adverse evaluation and removed [redacted] from his position as leading petty officer.

5. The point of contact regarding this matter is [redacted] who may be reached by telephone at [redacted] or via email at [redacted]

By direction

Copy to:
CHSCWL
HSC-28

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY – PRIVACY ACT SENSITIVE:
Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of this information may result in both criminal and civil penalties.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON TWO EIGHT (HSC-28)
1348 CV TOWWAY DR.
NORFOLK, VA 23511 - 2596

5800
Ser N00/348
1 Nov 18

From: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO EIGHT
To: Commander, Naval Air ForcesAtlantic
Via: Commander, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON P. CASERTA

Ref: (a) JAGMAN, Chapter II

1. In accordance with section 0209f of reference (a), I hereby approve the findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations of the investigating officer.

2. The investigating officer conducted an in-depth review of the leadership and culture that existed in work center 310 during the time of AE3 Caserta's death. While I do not believe there is any single driving force that led to the suicide, I do believe that [redacted]'s findings concerning the work center's leading petty officer at the time of the incident are both troubling and valid. These findings have been further reinforced with comments found in our most recent DEOCS and CSA/MCAS surveys. The leading petty officer has been removed from his leadership position and will be held accountable for his actions.

3. At HSC-28, we have endeavored to better identify and mitigate both the professional and personal stressors and destructive behaviors of the Dragon Whale family in order to preserve the force and enable mission execution. In addition to having Chaplain-led large group discussions and the promotion of programs such as SafeTalk and Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions, we have also adopted the Force Preservation process from the United States Marine Corps. I believe this process is a mechanism that not only helps identify issues and enact mitigation strategies to support our Sailors, but will also ensure that the efficacy of those strategies are evaluated with a focus on the end goal - he well-being of our Sailors and their ability to maintain mission effectiveness.

L. D. WHITMER

5830
2 Oct 18

From: [redacted]
To: Commanding Officer, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO EIGHT

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON P. CASERTA

Ref: (a) JAGMAN, Chapter II

Encl: (1) Appointing Order of 10 Jul 18
(2) Appointing Order extension of 9 Aug 18
(3) NCIS Report of Investigation 31 Jul 18 (Interim)
(4) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(5) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(6) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(7) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(8) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(9) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(10) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(11) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(12) Summary of unsworn testimony of [redacted]
(13) Evaluation Reports ICO AEAN Brandon Caserta
(14) Records of Counseling IRT AEAN Brandon Caserta (18 May, 18 Jun, and 22 Jun)
(15) Records of Counseling IRT [redacted] (22 Nov 17, 18 Jan 18, and 28 Jun 18)
(16) Anonymous note submitted to the Commanding Officer's suggestion box

Preliminary Statement

1. Pursuant to enclosures (1) and (2), and in accordance with reference (a), a command investigation was conducted to inquire into the facts and circumstances surrounding the suicide of AEAN Brandon Caserta on 25 June 2018. Special Agent Nathaniel Konikoff conducted the NCIS investigation pursuant to the incident. The portions of the report of investigation that were utilized as evidence for the purposes of this command investigation have been included as Enclosure (3). Enclosure (3) includes inventory and photographs of all personal effects and witness interviews taken after the incident.

2. All reasonably available evidence and information has been collected, and all requirements of reference (a) and enclosures (1) and (2) have been satisfied. [redacted] was consulted in preparing this report.

Findings of Fact

EVALUATION REPORT & COUNSELING RECORD (E1-E6)

RCS BUPERS 1610-1

1. Name (Last, First MI Suffix)	2. Rate	3. Desig	4. SSN
CASERTA, BRANDON P	AEAN		[redacted]

5. ACT	FTS	INACT	AT/ADSW/ 265	6. UIC	7. Ship/Station	8. Promotion Status	9. Date Reported
X				55218	HSC-28	REGULAR	16OCT19

Occasion for Report					Period of Report	
10. Periodic	11. Detachment of Individual	12. Promotion/ Frocking	13. Special X		14. From: 16OCT06	15. To: 17FEB28

16. Not Observed Report	Type of Report 17. Regular X	18. Concurrent	20. Physical Readiness	21. Billet Subcategory (if any)
			P	NA

22. Reporting Senior (Last, FI MI)	23. Grade	24. Desig	25. Title	26. UIC	27. SSN
[redacted]	[redacted]	1310	DIV OFFICER	55218	000-00-0000

28. Command employment and command achievements.

Provides combat ready MH-60S armed helicopter detachments for ARG, SAR, SOF, VERTREP, HA/DR and utility services to CTF-80, FOURTH, FIFTH, and SIXTH FLEET AORs. Awarded 2016 and Blue "M", Retention Excellence, Safety "S".

29. Primary/Collateral/Watchstanding duties. (Enter primary duty abbreviation in box.)

AVIONICS TECH Avionics Technician-2. Performs scheduled and unscheduled maintenance of 13 MH60S aircraft. LV/TRANSIT: 16OCT06-16OCT19. TEMADD: 16NOV28-16JAN31. PFA: 16-2.

For Mid-term Counseling Use. (When completing EVAL, enter 30 and 31 from counseling worksheet and sign 32.)	30. Date Counseled	31. Counselor	32. Signature of Individual Counseled
	NOT PERF	TEMADD	

PERFORMANCE TRAITS: 1.0 - Below standards/not progressing or UNSAT in any one standard; 2.0 - Does not yet meet all 3.0 standards; 3.0 - Meets all 3.0 standards; 4.0 - Exceeds most 3.0 standards; 5.0 - Meets overall criteria and most of the specific standards for 5.0. Standards are not all inclusive.

PERFORMANCE TRAITS	1.0* Below Standards	2.0 Pro-gressing	3.0 Meets Standards	4.0 Above Standards	5.0 Greatly Exceeds Standards
33. PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE: Technical knowledge and practical application. NOB ☐	-Marginal knowledge of rating, specialty or job. -Unable to apply knowledge to solve routine problems. -Fails to meet advancement/PQS requirements. ☐	☐	-Strong working knowledge of rating, specialty and job. -Reliably applies knowledge to accomplish tasks. -Meets advancement/PQS requirements on time. X	☐	-Recognized expert, sought out by all for technical knowledge. -Uses knowledge to solve complex technical problems. -Meets advancement/PQS requirements early/with distinction. ☐
34. QUALITY OF WORK: Standard of work; value of end product. NOB ☐	-Needs excessive supervision. -Product frequently needs rework. -Wasteful of resources. ☐	☐	-Needs little supervision. -Produces quality work. Few errors and resulting rework. -Uses resources efficiently. X	☐	-Needs no supervision. -Always produces exceptional work. No rework required. -Maximizes resources. ☐
35. COMMAND OR ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: Contributing to growth and development, human worth, community. NOB ☐	-Actions counter to Navy's retention/ reenlistment goals. -Uninvolved with mentoring or professional development of subordinates. -Actions counter to good order and discipline and negatively affect Command/ Organizational climate. -Demonstrates exclusionary behavior. Fails to value differences from cultural diversity. ☐	☐	-Positive leadership supports Navy's increased retention goals. Active in decreasing attrition. -Actions adequately encourage/support subordinates' personal/professional growth. -Demonstrates appreciation for contributions of Navy personnel. Positive influence on Command climate. -Values differences as strengths. Fosters atmosphere of acceptance/inclusion per EO/EEO policy. X	☐	-Measurably contributes to Navy's increased retention and reduced attrition objectives. -Proactive leader/exemplary mentor. Involved in subordinates' personal development leading to professional growth/sustained commitment. -Initiates support programs for military, civilian, and families to achieve exceptional Command and Organizational climate. -The model of achievement. Develops unit cohesion by valuing differences as strengths. ☐
36. MILITARY BEARING/ CHARACTER: Appearance, conduct physical fitness, adherance to Navy Core Values. NOB ☐	-Consistently unsatisfactory appearance. -Poor self-control; conduct resulting in disciplinary action. -Unable to meet one or more physical readiness standards. -Fails to live up to one or more Navy Core Values: HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT. ☐	☐	-Excellent personal appearance. -Excellent conduct conscientiously complies with regulations. -Complies with physical readiness program. -Always lives up to Navy Core Values: HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT. X	☐	-Exemplary personal appearance. -Model of conduct, on and off duty. -A leader in physical readiness. -Exemplifies Navy Core Values: HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT. ☐
37. PERSONAL JOB ACCOMPLISHMENT/ INITIATIVE: Responsibility, quantity of work. NOB ☐	-Needs prodding to attain qualification or finish job. -Prioritizes poorly. -Avoids responsibility. ☐	☐	-Productive and motivated. Completes tasks and qualifications fully and on time. -Plans/prioritizes effectively. -Reliable, dependable, willingly accepts responsibility. X	☐	-Energetic self-starter. Completes tasks or qualifications early, far better than expected. -Plans/prioritizes wisely and with exceptional foresight. -Seeks extra responsibility and takes on the hardest jobs. ☐

ATTACHMENT C-2: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, DATED JUNE 30, 2021

EVALUATION REPORT & COUNSELING RECORD (E1-E6) (cont'd)

RCS BUPERS 1610-1

1. Name (Last, First MI Suffix)	2. Rate	3. Desig	4. SSN
CASERTA, BRANDON P	AEAN		[redacted]

PERFORMANCE TRAITS	1.0* Below Standards	2.0 Progressing	3.0 Meets Standards	4.0 Above Standards	5.0 Greatly Exceeds Standards
38. TEAMWORK: Contributions to team building and team results. NOB ☐	-Creates conflict, unwilling to work with others, puts self above team. -Fails to understand team goals or teamwork techniques. -Does not take direction well. ☐	☐	-Reinforces others' efforts, meets commitments to team. -Understands goals, employs good teamwork techniques. -Accepts and offers team direction. ☒	☐	-Team builder, inspires cooperation and progress. -Focuses goals and techniques for teams. -The best at accepting and offering team direction. ☐
39. LEADERSHIP: Organizing, motivating and developing others to accomplish goals. NOB ☐	-Neglects growth/development or welfare of subordinates. -Fails to organize, creates problems for subordinates. -Does not set or achieve goals relavant to command mission and vision. -Lacks ability to cope with or tolerate stress. -Inadequate communicator. -Tolerates hazards or unsafe practices. ☐	☐	-Effectively stimulates growth/development in subordinates. -Organizes successfully, implemenning process improvements and efficiencies. -Sets/achieves useful, realistic goals that support command mission. -Performs well in stressful situations. -Clear, timely communicator. -Ensures safety of personnel and equipment. ☒	☐	-Inspiring motivator and trainer, subordinates reach highest level of growth and development. -Superb organizer, great foresight, develops process improvements and efficiencies. -Leadership achievements dramatically further command mission and vision. -Perseveres through the toughest challenges and inspires others. -Exceptional communicator. -Makes subordinates safety-conscious, maintains top safety record. -Constantly improves the personal and professional lives of others. ☐

40. Individual Trait Avg. total of trait scores divided by number of graded traits.	41. I recommend this individual for (maximum of two): Assignment to Rating, Sea Special Programs, Shore Special Programs, Commissioning Programs, Special Warfare Programs, Rating Instructor Duty, Other. (Be specific)	42. Signature of Rater (Typed Name & Rate): I have evaluated this member against the above performance standards and have forwarded written explanation of marks 1.0 and 5.0.
3.00	ASSIGNMENT IN RATE / PLANE CAPTAIN	DEPLOYED. Date: [redacted]

43. COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE: * All 1.0 marks, three 2.0 marks, and 2.0 marks in Block 35 must be specifically substantiated in comments. Comments must be verifiable. Font must be 10 or 12 Pitch (10 or 12 point) only. Use upper and lower case.

Evaluation submitted to establish PMA average.

MOTIVATED SAILOR WITH LIMITLESS POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH AND SUCCESS.

- DRIVEN ACHEIVER. Graduated from H-60S "C" School and immediately hit the ground running. AEAN Caserta has already started working diligently towards his initial qualifications and has proved to be a valuable member of the workcenter.

AEAN CASERTA HAS PROVEN TO BE A DEPENDABLE AND DETERMINED PROFFESSIONAL

44. QUALIFICATIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS - Education, awards, community involvement, etc., during this period.

Promotion Recommendation	NOB	Significant Problems	Progressing	Promotable	Must Promote	Early Promote
45. INDIVIDUAL					X	
46. SUMMARY	X	0	0	0	2	0

47. Retention: Not Recommended ☐ Recommended ☒

48. Reporting Senior Address
COMMANDING OFFICER
HELSEACOMBATRON TWO EIGHT
1348 CV TOWWAY DRIVE
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2520

49. Signature of Senior Rater (Typed Name & Grade/Rate): I have reviewed the evaluation of this member against these performance standards and have provided written explanation to support the marks of 1.0 and 5.0.
[redacted] Date: 01MAR17

50. Signature of Reporting Senior [redacted] Date: 01MAR17
Summary Group Average: 3.00

51. Signature of Individual Evaluated. "I have seen this report, been apprised of my performance, and understand my right to submit a statement."
I intend to submit a statement. ☐ I do not intend to submit a statement. ☐
Date:

52. Type name, grade, command, UIC, and signature of Regular Reporting Senior on Concurrent Report
Date:

EVALUATION REPORT & COUNSELING RECORD (E1-E6)

RCS BUPERS 1610-1

1. Name (Last, First MI Suffix)	2. Rate	3. Desig	4. SSN
CASERTA, BRANDON P	AEAN		[redacted]

5. ACT	FTS	INACT	AT/ADSW/ 265	6. UIC	7. Ship/Station	8. Promotion Status	9. Date Reported
X				55218	HSC-28	REGULAR	17FEB01

Occasion for Report						Period of Report	
10. Periodic	X	11. Detachment of Individual		12. Promotion/ Frocking		14. From: 17MAR01	15. To: 17JUL15
					13. Special		

16. Not Observed Report	Type of Report			20. Physical Readiness	21. Billet Subcategory (if any)
	17. Regular	X	18. Concurrent	PP	NA

22. Reporting Senior (Last, FI MI)	23. Grade	24. Desig	25. Title	26. UIC	27. SSN
[redacted]	[redacted]	6330	DIVO	55218	[redacted]

28. Command employment and command achievements.

Provides combat ready MH-60S armed helicopter detachments for ARG, SAR, SOF, VERTREP, HA/DR and utility services to CTF-80, FOURTH, FIFTH, and SIXTH FLEET AORs. Awarded 2016 Medical Blue "M", 2016 CNO Aviation Safety "S", and 2016 Retention Excellence.

29. Primary/Collateral/Watchstanding duties. (Enter primary duty abbreviation in box.)

ARO — ARO ATTENDANT-4. Responsible for the maintenance, upkeep, stocking, and inventory of the command snack bar. WATCH: Duty Driver-5. PFA: 17-1.

For Mid-term Counseling Use. (When completing EVAL, enter 30 and 31 from counseling worksheet and sign 32.)	30. Date Counseled	31. Counselor	32. Signature of Individual Counseled
	NOT REQ		Brandon Caserta

PERFORMANCE TRAITS: 1.0 - Below standards/not progressing or UNSAT in any one standard; 2.0 - Does not yet meet all 3.0 standards; 3.0 - Meets all 3.0 standards; 4.0 - Exceeds most 3.0 standards; 5.0 - Meets overall criteria and most of the specific standards for 5.0. Standards are not all inclusive.

PERFORMANCE TRAITS	1.0* Below Standards	2.0 Progressing	3.0 Meets Standards	4.0 Above Standards	5.0 Greatly Exceeds Standards
33. PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE: Technical knowledge and practical application.	-Marginal knowledge of rating, specialty or job. -Unable to apply knowledge to solve routine problems. -Fails to meet advancement/PQS requirements.	-	-Strong working knowledge of rating, specialty and job. -Reliably applies knowledge to accomplish tasks. -Meets advancement/PQS requirements on time. X	-	-Recognized expert, sought out by all for technical knowledge. -Uses knowledge to solve complex technical problems. -Meets advancement/PQS requirements early/with distinction.
NOB					
34. QUALITY OF WORK: Standard of work; value of end product.	-Needs excessive supervision. -Product frequently needs rework. -Wasteful of resources.	-	-Needs little supervision. -Produces quality work. Few errors and resulting rework. -Uses resources efficiently.	- X	-Needs no supervision. -Always produces exceptional work. No rework required. -Maximizes resources.
NOB					
35. COMMAND OR ORGANIZATIONAL CLIMATE/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY: Contributing to growth and development, human worth, community.	-Actions counter to Navy's retention/ reenlistment goals. -Uninvolved with mentoring or professional development of subordinates. -Actions counter to good order and discipline and negatively affect Command/ Organizational climate. -Demonstrates exclusionary behavior. Fails to value differences from cultural diversity.	-	-Positive leadership supports Navy's increased retention goals. Active in decreasing attrition. -Actions adequately encourage/support subordinates' personal/professional growth. -Demonstrates appreciation for contributions of Navy personnel. Positive influence on Command climate. -Values differences as strengths. Fosters atmosphere of acceptance/inclusion per EO/EEO policy. X	-	-Measurably contributes to Navy's increased retention and reduced attrition objectives. -Proactive leader/exemplary mentor. Involved in subordinates' personal development leading to professional growth/sustained commitment. -Initiates support programs for military, civilian, and families to achieve exceptional Command and Organizational climate. -The model of achievement. Develops unit cohesion by valuing differences as strengths.
NOB					
36. MILITARY BEARING/ CHARACTER: Appearance, conduct physical fitness, adherance to Navy Core Values.	-Consistently unsatisfactory appearance. -Poor self-control; conduct resulting in disciplinary action. -Unable to meet one or more physical readiness standards. -Fails to live up to one or more Navy Core Values: HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT.	-	-Excellent personal appearance. -Excellent conduct conscientiously complies with regulations. -Complies with physical readiness program. -Always lives up to Navy Core Values: HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT.	- X	-Exemplary personal appearance. -Model of conduct, on and off duty. -A leader in physical readiness. -Exemplifies Navy Core Values: HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT.
NOB					
37. PERSONAL JOB ACCOMPLISHMENT/ INITIATIVE: Responsibility, quantity of work.	-Needs prodding to attain qualification or finish job. -Prioritizes poorly. -Avoids responsibility.	-	-Productive and motivated. Completes tasks and qualifications fully and on time. -Plans/prioritizes effectively. -Reliable, dependable, willingly accepts responsibility. X	-	-Energetic self-starter. Completes tasks or qualifications early, far better than expected. -Plans/prioritizes wisely and with exceptional foresight. -Seeks extra responsibility and takes on the hardest jobs.
NOB					

ATTACHMENT E-3: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, DATED JUNE 30, 2021

EVALUATION REPORT & COUNSELING RECORD (E1-E6) (cont'd)

RCS BUPERS 1610-1

1. Name (Last, First MI Suffix)	2. Rate	3. Desig	4. SSN
CASERTA, BRANDON P	AEAN		[redacted]

PERFORMANCE TRAITS	1.0* Below Standards	2.0 Progressing	3.0 Meets Standards	4.0 Above Standards	5.0 Greatly Exceeds Standards
38. TEAMWORK: Contributions to team building and team results. NOB [ ]	-Creates conflict, unwilling to work with others, puts self above team. -Fails to understand team goals or teamwork techniques. -Does not take direction well. [ ]	- [ ]	-Reinforces others' efforts, meets commitments to team. -Understands goals, employs good teamwork techniques. -Accepts and offers team direction. [ ]	- [X]	-Team builder, inspires cooperation and progress. -Focuses goals and techniques for teams. -The best at accepting and offering team direction. [ ]
39. LEADERSHIP: Organizing, motivating and developing others to accomplish goals. NOB [X]	-Neglects growth/development or welfare of subordinates. -Fails to organize, creates problems for subordinates. -Does not set or achieve goals relavant to command mission and vision. -Lacks ability to cope with or tolerate stress. -Inadequate communicator. -Tolerates hazards or unsafe practices. [ ]	- [ ]	-Effectively stimulates growth/development in subordinates. -Organizes successfully, implementing process improvements and efficiencies. -Sets/achieves useful, realistic goals that support command mission. -Performs well in stressful situations. -Clear, timely communicator. -Ensures safety of personnel and equipment. [ ]	- [ ]	-Inspiring motivator and trainer, subordinates reach highest level of growth and development. -Superb organizer, great foresight, develops process improvements and efficiencies. -Leadership achievements dramatically further command mission and vision. -Perseveres through the toughest challenges and inspires others. -Exceptional communicator. -Makes subordinates safety-conscious, maintains top safety record. -Constantly improves the personal and professional lives of others. [ ]

40. Individual Trait Avg. (Total of trait scores divided by number of graded traits.): 3.50

41. I recommend this individual for (maximum of two): Assignment in Rate; Sea Special Programs, Shore Special Programs, Commissioning Programs, Special Warfare Programs, Rating Instructor Duty, Other. (Be specific): ASSIGNMENT IN RATE | PLANE CAPTAIN

42. Signature of Rater (Typed Name & Rate): I have evaluated this member against the above performance standards and have forwarded written explanation of marks 1.0 and 5.0. DEPLOYED [redacted] Date:

43. COMMENTS ON PERFORMANCE: * All 1.0 marks, three 2.0 marks, and 2.0 marks in Block 35 must be specifically substantiated in comments. Comments must be verifiable. Font must be 10 or 12 Pitch (10 or 12 point) only. Use upper and lower case.

Airman Caserta is a proven self-starter who requires minimal supervision and is willing to take on new responsibilities.

MOTIVATED. Assisted in the cleanliness and upkeep of 15 squadron spaces, maintaining cleanliness throughout the department while contributing to the overall safety of command personnel.

TEAM PLAYER. Instrumental in the daily inventory and sales of command merchandise, generating nearly $3,000 a month in profit for Morale, Welfare and Recreation events.

Driven Work Ethic. Adapts easily to changing priorities and workloads. Consistently strives to achieve personal goals by involving himself in training while improving mission readiness for the squadron.

Airman Caserta is a dedicated individual who shows great ability and initiative. Highly recommended for retention and advancement to Third Class Petty Officer.

44. QUALIFICATIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS - Education, awards, community involvement, etc., during this period.

Promotion Recommendation	NOB	Significant Problems	Progressing	Promotable	Must Promote	Early Promote
45. INDIVIDUAL				X		
46. SUMMARY	X	0	0	3	0	0

47. Retention: Not Recommended [ ] Recommended [X]

48. Reporting Senior Address
HELSEACOMBATRON TWO EIGHT
1347 CV TOWWAY DRIVE
NORFOLK, VA 23511-2596

49. Signature of Senior Rater (Typed Name & Grade/Rate): I have reviewed the evaluation of this member against these performance standards and have provided written explanation to support the marks of 1.0 and 5.0. [redacted] Date: 06Jul17

50. Signature of Reporting Senior [redacted] Date: 7Jul17
Summary Group Average: 3.16

51. Signature of Individual Evaluated. "I have seen this report, been apprised of my performance, and understand my right to submit a statement."
I intend to submit a statement. [ ] I do not intend to submit a statement. [X]
Date: 06Jul17

52. Type name, grade, command, UIC, and signature of Regular Reporting Senior on Concurrent Report
Date:

RECORD OF COUNSELING	DATE: 18 MAY 2018

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The authority for requesting the following information in contained in 10 USC 8012 and EO 9397. The data will be used to document quality force counseling actions not prescribed in other directives. When completed, the form may or may not become a source document to support administrative actions. Data is also releasable to higher officials when used to support administrative separation or UCMJ actions.

Completion of the form by counselor is mandatory; however disclosure of information or facts may not be in the counselee's best interest in the event administrative, commendatory, or disciplinary action is subsequently deemed warranted by the counselee's Commanding Officer.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	GRADE	SSN
Caserta, Brandon	AEAN	N/A

DIVISION/WORKCENTER/DUTY SECTION	NAME/GRADE OF COUNSELOR
Line/310	[redacted]

REASON FOR COUNSELING

☐ PERFORMANCE	☐ PRIVATE INDEBTEDNESS	☐ PERSONAL BEHAVIOR
☐ SUPPORT OF DEPENDENTS	☐ OJT PROGRESS	☒ RESPONSIBILITIES
☐ DRESS/APPEARANCE	☐ QUARTERLY COUNSELING	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR COUNSELING. (Give details, facts, specific dates, names, sequence of events, etc.)

This is an informative counseling. In Accordance with CHSCWP/CHSMWL/CHSCWL/CHSMWP Plane Captain Program NAMPSOP, you have 180 days to complete all pre-requisite qualifications, and obtain your Plane Captain qualification. Your deadline to complete all required Line Division qualifications is 15June2018.

You are currently 31.2% complete on your Plane Captain PQS, and 98.2% complete on your A/M32A-108 and NC-10C qualifications. You were assigned to the Line Division from 21JUN2017 to 30NOV2017, and again assigned to Line Division from 23MAR18-present. That is a total of 7 months. You are a very motivated and smart sailor, whom I have faith in and I fully support you in completing these requirements.

If you need special assistance to complete your qualification, please inform your shift supervisor and work center Training Petty Officer. Failure to comply with the deadline will result in counseling chit and Extra Military Instruction directed by your LCPO.

SOLUTION. (IF REQUIRED) THAT YOU AND THE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPED AND DISCUSSED. (Outline all solutions and indicate which one(s) individual freely elected).
Will verify all requirements and closely monitor the progress of qualification.

OTHER AGENCIES INDIVIDUAL WAS REFERRED TO (Personal Affairs, Social Actions, Chaplain, Legal Services; The counselor makes the appointment).
N/A

COUNSELEE' COMMENTS:
I UNDERSTAND MY REQUIREMENTS. I WILL DO MORE TO DEMONSTRATE MY KNOWLEDGE TO REFLECT PREVIOUS PQS BEFORE THE ASM NAE RECONFIGURATION.

ATTACHMENT 6-4 INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, DATED JUNE 30, 2021

COUNSELEE'S SIGNATURE	COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE
AEAN CASERTA Casertn	[redacted]

REMARKS/FOLLOW-UP ACTION. (Outline all efforts including dates, names, progress, etc).
Every two weeks from this date, you will report to your LPO with the progress of qualification until complete.

BCPO: [redacted]

DLCPO:

DIVO: [redacted]

KEY COUNSELING POINTS

- Counseling is performed to solve a problem or to fulfill a need or recognize performance. Determine interview objectives prior to meeting, review available records and arrange office seating for best results.
- Give the individual the facts, whether they are pleasant or unpleasant.
- Be a good listener - Be fair.
- Refer individual to other base/ship agencies for professional help. You don't have the answer to all of the problems.
- Follow up on referrals to base/ship agencies to make certain that there is a continuity of action and that referrals are completed.
- KEEP THE INDIVIDUAL'S PROBLEM CONFIDENTIAL
- Help the person to grow in self-understanding.
- Do NOT lose your self control
- Do NOT make promises you can't keep
- Do NOT make snap decisions
- Do NOT forget to document the counseling and have the counselee sign the counseling sheet.

18JUNE2018

From: [redacted]
To: AEAN Brandon Caserta, USN

Subj: ASSIGNMENT OF EXTRA MILITARY INSTRUCTION
Ref : HELSEACOMBATRONTWOEIGHTINST 5800.1

1. You are assigned EMI for the following reason: Failure to comply with HSC/HSM WING Qualification requirements of Plane Captain qualification obtainment in a six-month period.

2. You are assigned EMI from 18JUN2018 until you have passed a mock Plane Captain board and become board ready, not to exceed two hours from the completion of end of shift and not to be performed on weekends, holidays, and authorized command wide special liberty days.

3. You will muster at HSC-28 with work center LPO per schedule to perform the following assignments:

   a. Conduct Plane Captain training and mock Daily/Turnaround inspections and Plane Captain functions while utilizing the proper publications.

4. Failure to adhere to the above guidelines will result in a violation of the UCMJ, Article 92; Failure to Obey a Lawful Order.

[redacted]

Date: 18 JUL 18

I acknowledge the receipt of the above EMI and understand the contents.

AEAN Caserta
AEAN Brandon Caserta

ATTACHMENT L-5: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, DATED JUNE 30, 2021

RECORD OF COUNSELING	DATE: 22JUN18

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The authority for requesting the following information in contained in 10 USC 8012 and EO 9397. The data will be used to document quality force counseling actions not prescribed in other directives. When completed, the form may or may not become a source document to support administrative actions. Data is also releasable to higher officials when used to support administrative separation or UCMJ actions.

Completion of the form by counselor is mandatory; however disclosure of information or facts may not be in the counselee's best interest in the event administrative, commendatory, or disciplinary action is subsequently deemed warranted by the counselee's Commanding Officer.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	GRADE	SSN
CASERTA, BRANDON	AEAN	N/A

DIVISION/WORKCENTER/DUTY SECTION	NAME/GRADE OF COUNSELOR
MAINT/ LINE	[redacted]

	REASON FOR COUNSELING	
☒ PERFORMANCE	☐ PRIVATE INDEBTEDNESS	☐ PERSONAL BEHAVIOR
☐ SUPPORT OF DEPENDENTS	☐ OJT PROGRESS	☒ RESPONSIBILITIES
☐ DRESS/APPEARANCE	☐ QUARTERLY COUNSELING	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR COUNSELING. (Give details, facts, specific dates, names, sequence of events, etc.)

You have been assigned to HSC-28 since 01FEB2017 and have not stood a duty driver watch as required by the SORM watch regulations. You have stated several times to your direct supervisors and duty section leaders that you do not have a drivers license and you are ~~claustrophobic and~~ uncomfortable driving a car.

While reviewing ASM documentation, your LPO discovered that you indeed have a drivers license which was entered into ASM upon your checking in to the command and was issued to you on 17AUG2015. When asked to provide your Arizona Drivers License, you stated that you do not have one. You have not performed your required duties as a watchstander (duty driver) like your peers and superiors since your assignement to HSC-28, due to the fact that you stated you are not a licensed driver.

Additionally, you are reqired to obtain a A/S32A-45 Tow Tractor license, as it is a pre-requisite to your required Plane Captain qualification.

Recommend DRB.

SOLUTION. (IF REQUIRED) THAT YOU AND THE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPED AND DISCUSSED. (Outline all solutions and indicate which one(s) individual freely elected).

ATTACHMENT L-6: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, DATED JUNE 30, 2021

OTHER AGENCIES INDIVIDUAL WAS REFERRED TO (Personal Affairs, Social Actions, Chaplain, Legal Services; The counselor makes the appointment).

COUNSELEE' COMMENTS: IN 2015 I HAD A PERMIT. MY FAMILY PUT ME THROUGH A DRIVERS SCHOOL. I DID NOT KNOW THE SCHOOL WAIVED THE DRIVERS TEST. WE WENT TO THE DMV, NEVER TOOK THE DRIVERS TEST. I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A STATE I.D. MY FATHER TOOK IT AWAY, I HAVE NEVER HAD IT IN MY POSSESSION IN MY WHOLE LIFE. IT'S POSSIBLE I CALLED HOME TO OBTAIN THE I.D. NUMBER.

COUNSELEE'S SIGNATURE	COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE
AEAN Cardeta	

REMARKS/FOLLOW-UP ACTION. (Outline all efforts including dates, names, progress, etc).

DLCPO: DIVO:

KEY COUNSELING POINTS

- Counseling is performed to solve a problem or to fulfill a need or recognize performance. Determine interview objectives prior to meeting, review available records and arrange office seating for best results.
- Give the individual the facts, whether they are pleasant or unpleasant.
- Be a good listener - Be fair.
- Refer individual to other base/ship agencies for professional help. You don't have the answer to all of the problems.
- Follow up on referrals to base/ship agencies to make certain that there is a continuity of action and that referrals are completed.
- KEEP THE INDIVIDUAL'S PROBLEM CONFIDENTIAL
- Help the person to grow in self-understanding.
- Do NOT lose your self control
- Do NOT make promises you can't keep
- Do NOT make snap decisions
- Do NOT forget to document the counseling and have the counselee sign the counseling sheet.

ASM Welcome, [redacted] **Program:** * None * **View:** Work Center

Logout | Preferences | Help

** FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - ANY MISUSE OR UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE CAN RESULT IN BOTH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES **

Work Center Summary | Upcoming Expirations | Career Training Summary | Class Management

QCL/QPT Records

Training Action Plans

Training Completion Records

Worker Profiles

Tips, Hints and FAQs

Reports

Document Library

Work Center Summary > Profile

View Basic Personal Data for the selected individual.

To Do List | QCL/QPT | Career Training | Completed Trng | Medicals | Profile | Assignments

Programs | Recurring Trng | Duties/Billets | Other | Reviews | Worker Email | IDP

User

User Name:	First Name:*	Middle:	Last Name:*	EDIPI Last 4:
CASERTAB01	BRANDON	P	CASERTA	2785

Branch:*	Pay Grade:	Rank:	Rating:	Name:
USN	E-3	AN	AE	AEAN CASERTA, BRANDON P

Email:	Phone #:
brandon.p.caserta@navy.mil	

EAOS:	PRD:
27-Sep-2019	31-Aug-2021

Current Assignments

Start Date	UIC	Unit	Work Center	Status	Projected End	Assignme
21-Oct-2016	N55218	HSC-28	HSC-28	Checked In		Orders To
23-Mar-2018	N55218	HSC-28	310	Checked In		Reports To

Drivers License

License Number:	State:	License Restriction
D08612492	Arizona	No records Found.

Issue Date:	Expiration Date:	Suspended:*	Auto Extend:
17-Aug-2015	25-May-2062	☐	

6 | 2

Subject: [redacted]

i've been keeping quiet and debating about doing this for a long time. But it has to be done. This LPO treats his workers under him worse than garbage. I cant think of a better way to put this than how the recent article was written about the MCPON. He fosters a hostile work environment inside his small shop. He has an unpredictable temper that the slightest occurrence of things not going his way, he just goes off instead of deescalating the situation and finding a more proper calm way of doing things. He can be verbally abusive towards his coworkers. Referring to everyone as his "bitch" or other derogatory/ degrading terms. As a first class who has been in 12 years, he 1. doesn't act like it and 2. doesn't hold himself to the standard of a first class. He acts more childish and immature than the junior sailors he is in charge of. Example. He talks about a LOT of Chiefs/ higher rank behind their back. Being realistic, everyone does it to a certain degree, but NOT in front of the whole shop to hear. Hes EXTREAMLY unprofessional. "i don't give a fuck what chief says he/she isnt here im telling you what to do right fucking now! You listen to me, I dont care! Chief is a dumbass, don't listen to them!" another example. A chief walks in, tells [redacted] something, said chief walks out. He will just blatantly yell out "DUCHBAG!" or "DUMBASS!" just 2 small examples. For someone trying to make chief, he sure shows a LOT of disrespect to the rank as a whole. This man is too incompetent and most certainly NOT the right fit to "lead" some of the newest personnel at the command. He not to long ago got kicked off a DET for behavioral reasons and somewhere along the lines someone had a good idea to let him be "the example" of the most impressionable shop at the command. They definitely learned and are learning what not to be. IF anyone stays in the navy because of him. They get treated like dogs and he rules over them. He believes that when he does things that he is supposed to do, that that means they need to work harder and 'give him more" I might add that he puts them off until the very VERY last possible second and if that involves marriage and/or BAH, that really could mess up someones personal life. He is the reason moral is down in the line shack. Its hard to respect someone who doesn't respect others and abuses his position. The workload is fine, very fast pace and can be exhausting at times but its manageable. The hardest part of the line shack work day is surviving the shift with him. This is my last attempt at hope for a change either in him or preferably a different LPO. Personally I suggest [redacted] Its also certain that they need a strong second class for night check supervisor [redacted] has said on occasion she would like to be night check supervisor.

ATTACHMENT L-7: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, DATED JUNE 30, 2021

HSC-28 DET 4 RECORD OF ENLISTED COUNSELING

Date 22 Nov 17

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The authority for requesting the following information is contained in 5 U.S.C.sec. 301, 10 U.S.C. 6947, 44 U.S.C.sec.3101, and Executive Order No. 9397. This information will be used to document quality force counseling actions not prescribed in other directives. Department of the Navy personnel may also use the information for evaluations and determinations in disciplinary, punitive and/or administrative actions. Disclosure of this information is voluntary.

Member Being Counseled

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	SSN	Rank/Rate
[redacted]	[redacted]		ON FILE	[redacted]

Person Conducting Counseling

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Title	Rank/Rate
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	DET 4 SEA	[redacted]

Reason for Counseling

- ☒ Performance
- ☐ Career Advancement
- ☐ Appearance
- ☐ Other (*specify*):
- ☒ Responsibilities
- ☐ Support of Dependents
- ☒ Personal Behavior
- ☐ OTJ Progress
- ☐ Indebtedness
- ☐ Delinquent in Qualification

Reasons, which caused the counseling requirement (Give facts, sequence of events, specific dates, etc.)

As the LPO of DET 4 you are failing. Your Sailors do not respect you and DET moral is at an all-time low. Multiple complaints have been made to the COC both verbally and written about you. The way you talk to Sailors is intolerable, unprofessional and not the standard that is expected of a First Class Petty Officer attached to DET 4. This is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated from this day forward. FIX IT!

Solution that you and the individual developed and discussed to overcome the problem(s) and precluded future involvement. (Out line all solutions and indicate which one(s) individual freely elected)

You shall be the "LPO". You shall formally apologize to your Sailors for this lapse in professionalism. As the DET LPO and a First Class Petty Officer assigned to HSC-28 and this detachment, you are expected to enforce the standard not only for your Sailors but for yourself as well. You are expected to train and lead your Sailors without prejudices or bias. If significant improvement is not made you shall be replaced as the LPO and could face disciplinary action.

Counselee's Comments

I WILL CONTINUE TO IMPROVE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY SAILORS, WHILE MAINTAINING MY PROFESSIONALISM AS THE LPO. MY BEHAVIOR AND APPROACH WITH THE SAILORS ON OUR DETACHMENT HAS BEEN UNACCEPTABLE.

Counselee's Signature	Counselor's Signature
[redacted]	[redacted]

Remarks/Follow Up Actions

LCPO [redacted]

SEA

DIVO

ATTACHMENT L&B: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AE3 BRANDON CASERTA, DATED JUNE 30, 2021

RECORD OF COUNSELING	DATE: 18 JAN 18

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The authority for requesting the following information in contained in 10 USC 8012 and EO 9397. The data will be used to document quality force counseling actions not prescribed in other directives. When completed, the form may or may not become a source document to support administrative actions. Data is also releasable to higher officials when used to support administrative separation or UCMJ actions.

Completion of the form by counselor is mandatory; however disclosure of information or facts may not be in the counselee's best interest in the event administrative, commendatory, or disciplinary action is subsequently deemed warranted by the counselee's Commanding Officer.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	GRADE	SSN
[redacted]	[redacted]	N/A

DIVISION/WORKCENTER/DUTY SECTION	NAME/GRADE OF COUNSELOR
DET 4	[redacted]

REASON FOR COUNSELING

☒ PERFORMANCE	☐ PRIVATE INDEBTEDNESS	☒ PERSONAL BEHAVIOR
☐ SUPPORT OF DEPENDENTS	☐ OJT PROGRESS	☒ RESPONSIBILITIES
☐ DRESS/APPEARANCE	☐ QUARTERLY COUNSELING	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR COUNSELING. (Give details, facts, specific dates, names, sequence of events, etc.)

As DET LPO you were counceled on 22 NOV 17 about your responsabilities and substandard performance. You have been mentored multiple times by the DET COC and given every opportunity to correct this behaviour. You have not made any adjustment to how you interact with your Sailor. There have been multiple instances since this counceling that have been brought to the COC where you have degraded and demorilized you subordinates in front of other junior Sailors. This is unproffesional and completely unacceptable for any Sailor to do, let a lot one trusted in the billet of a First Class Petty Officer and Leading Petty Officer! If you want to continue being a First Class Petty Officer and your service to this Navy you need to fix yourself ASAP!

SOLUTION. (IF REQUIRED) THAT YOU AND THE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPED AND DISCUSSED. (Outline all solutions and indicate which one(s) individual freely elected).

You ~~shall be~~ ARE relieved of your DET LPO position and ~~be~~ removed from DET 4. Following an investigation from the COC, you could be subject to further disiplinary action. You will enroll in anger management class with Fleet and Family Support Center and report enrollment to ~~your~~ YOUR COC. SHALL

ATTACHMENT L-9; INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AE3AN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

OTHER AGENCIES INDIVIDUAL WAS REFERRED TO (Personal Affairs, Social Actions, Chaplain, Legal Services; The counselor makes the appointment).

COUNSELEE' COMMENTS:

I AM ASHAMED OF MY ACTIONS AND BEHAVIOR. I HAVE LET MY CHAIN OF COMMAND AND MYSELF DOWN. I WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT POSSIBLE TO CORRECT MYSELF TO BETTER MYSELF, AND THE SAILORS I WORK WITH.

COUNSELEE'S SIGNATURE [redacted]	COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE [redacted]

REMARKS/FOLLOW-UP ACTION. (Outline all efforts including dates, names, progress, etc).

BCPO: DLCPO: DIVO:

KEY COUNSELING POINTS

- Counseling is performed to solve a problem or to fulfill a need or recognize performance. Determine interview objectives prior to meeting, review available records and arrange office seating for best results.
- Give the individual the facts, whether they are pleasant or unpleasant.
- Be a good listener - Be fair.
- Refer individual to other base/ship agencies for professional help. You don't have the answer to all of the problems.
- Follow up on referrals to base/ship agencies to make certain that there is a continuity of action and that referrals are completed.
- KEEP THE INDIVIDUAL'S PROBLEM CONFIDENTIAL
- Help the person to grow in self-understanding.
- Do NOT lose your self control
- Do NOT make promises you can't keep
- Do NOT make snap decisions
- Do NOT forget to document the counseling and have the counselee sign the counseling sheet.

RECORD OF COUNSELING	DATE: 6/28/18

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

The authority for requesting the following information in contained in 10 USC 8012 and EO 9397. The data will be used to document quality force counseling actions not prescribed in other directives. When completed, the form may or may not become a source document to support administrative actions. Data is also releasable to higher officials when used to support administrative separation or UCMJ actions.

Completion of the form by counselor is mandatory; however disclosure of information or facts may not be in the counselee's best interest in the event administrative, commendatory, or disciplinary action is subsequently deemed warranted by the counselee's Commanding Officer.

NAME (Last, First, Middle Initial)	GRADE	SSN
[redacted]	[redacted]	N/A

DIVISION/WORKCENTER/DUTY SECTION	NAME/GRADE OF COUNSELOR
MAINT/ LINE	[redacted]

	REASON FOR COUNSELING	
☐ PERFORMANCE	☐ PRIVATE INDEBTEDNESS	☒ PERSONAL BEHAVIOR
☐ SUPPORT OF DEPENDENTS	☐ OJT PROGRESS	☐ RESPONSIBILITIES
☐ DRESS/APPEARANCE	☐ QUARTERLY COUNSELING	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR COUNSELING. (Give details, facts, specific dates, names, sequence of events, etc.)
On 27 June, you were reported as saying derogatory remarks about the mishap that ocurred on 25 June in front of your junior Sailors. This counseling is to inorm you that this is completely unacceptable behavior. Even in the most difficult and stressful of times a leader must remain calm, and choose the things that he or she say with the utmost care, espescially in front of the people you have been tasked with to lead. If that is not possible due to the circumstances, you must communicate with your immediate supervisor and remove yourself from the situation.

SOLUTION. (IF REQUIRED) THAT YOU AND THE INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPED AND DISCUSSED. (Outline all solutions and indicate which one(s) individual freely elected).
Continue to seek out advice and counsel from more senior first class petty officers and Chief Petty Officers on the fundamentals of leadership. I further recommend that you do some reasearch on some of the great leaders of our past, and read their books perhaps and try and take away some great leadership attributes.

Furthermore,

You are being moved to Quality Assurance, effective today, and you will report directly to [redacted] not only as your QAS but your direct mentor. He will be the person that you seek out FIRST. This move is NOT PUNATIVE, this move was going to happen anyway due to all of the detachments that are underway to mitigate our manpower shortfalls. It is my sincere hope, that you take away from this the importance of correcting this leadership deficiency before punitive action becomes un avoidable.

ATTACHMENT C-10: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AE3 BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUN 30, 2021

OTHER AGENCIES INDIVIDUAL WAS REFERRED TO (Personal Affairs, Social Actions, Chaplain, Legal Services; The counselor makes the appointment).

COUNSELEE' COMMENTS:

No Comments

COUNSELEE'S SIGNATURE	COUNSELOR'S SIGNATURE
[redacted]	[redacted]

REMARKS/FOLLOW-UP ACTION. (Outline all efforts including dates, names, progress, etc).

KEY COUNSELING POINTS

- Counseling is performed to solve a problem or to fulfill a need or recognize performance. Determine interview objectives prior to meeting, review available records and arrange office seating for best results.
- Give the individual the facts, whether they are pleasant or unpleasant.
- Be a good listener - Be fair.
- Refer individual to other base/ship agencies for professional help. You don't have the answer to all of the problems.
- Follow up on referrals to base/ship agencies to make certain that there is a continuity of action and that referrals are completed.
- KEEP THE INDIVIDUAL'S PROBLEM CONFIDENTIAL
- Help the person to grow in self-understanding.
- Do NOT lose your self control
- Do NOT make promises you can't keep
- Do NOT make snap decisions
- Do NOT forget to document the counseling and have the counselee sign the counseling sheet.

Summary of Interview of [redacted]

On 13 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted in person at HSC-28 Squadron spaces. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

[redacted] assumed his position as Maintenance Department Head in April of 2018. He was previously the OIC of the Naples Detachment. He had been briefed by the previous MO and MMCPO about 310 Work Center's LPO [redacted]'s leadership shortfalls.

310 WC has approximately 13-20 personnel working day and night check. [redacted] was day check LPO when AEAN Caserta was assigned to 310 WC (on or about JUL 17) for approximately one month prior to reassignment to Detachment 4 LPO. [redacted]s November Evaluation was ranked EP. However, he was counselled that same month for his harsh and demeaning leadership style.
[redacted] was counselled again in January 18 for failure to correct his leadership shortcomings and subsequently removed from DET 4 and sent to anger management classes
PIO thought to have been conducted.
No indications of continued demeaning or harsh leadership issues in 310, MO would routinely inquire and visit the shop, albeit a public forum.
After the incident on 25 June 18 several ANYMOUSE forms were submitted to the CO pointing out that [redacted]'s harsh and demeaning vernacular had not ceased. On 27 June [redacted] was counselled and removed as LPO of 310 WC after it became known of his derogatory and inflammatory comments concerning the deceased.

[redacted]'s contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

ATTACHMENT 4-11: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF [redacted] BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Summary of Interview of [redacted]

On 14 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted in HSC Winglant spaces. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

Checked into HSC-28 in March of 2017. Initially assigned to Quality Assurance WC then to 310 WC as LPO. Caserta was assigned to WC 310 in June of 2017 after time in the ARO. Was his immediate supervisor for two months until he was promoted to Detachment 4 LPO in August. Engaged Caserta during his time in the ARO about pursuing qualifications early, and advised him to get his qualifications to give his aircrewman package more merit. Initial evaluation of Caserta was that he was a hard worker and would always be the first volunteer for any work task.

[redacted] was LPO of Detachment 4 from August 2017 to January 2018. He was counselled twice about his abrasive leadership and ordered to enroll in anger management. After second counselling was removed as DET 4 LPO and placed under a new chief as a leadership challenge. Chief was pursuing Safe For Flight (SFF) qualification and spent a majority of her time in Maintenance Control as Under Instruction (UI). [redacted] would conduct face-to-face debriefs as issues arose and advise her as to how he handled the situation. There was no formal remediation program per his counselling.

During April/May evaluation period [redacted] noticed that Caserta was not making much progress on his qualifications and had been in the squadron for almost 2 years. Injury aside he needed to show progress and attain his Plane Captain qualification. Caserta was counselled by [redacted] and [redacted] (LCPO) subsequently placed him on Extra Military Instruction (EMI) on 18 May 2018, Plane Captain board was scheduled for 15 June (in 1 month). Caserta went on leave after this to visit home in Arizona for two weeks. LPO reviewed qualification progress daily and made sure Caserta was aware of his timeline.

More issues arose on 18 June, when Caserta requested to go to medical unannounced and [redacted] told him he couldn't at that time. WC manning was such that it would require losing two personnel (Caserta and the person to drive him to medical since he didn't have a car or a driver's license), plus he had to go to Portsmouth Naval Hospital (at least a 4-hour evolution there and back). Caserta went to [redacted], the result was a sit down with [redacted] [redacted] and Caserta about his qualification progress and how there needed to be more communication on when he needed to go to medical to coordinate transportation. Caserta was receptive and acknowledged his failure to make progress and said he would make better efforts. [redacted] did not see any change in his mentality after returning from leave.

[redacted] is currently assigned TAD to HSC WINGLANT Chaplain awaiting reassignment to another squadron. He has been participating in Self-Help classes and

[redacted]'s contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Enclosure (5)

ATTACHMENT E-42: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIRMAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED

Summary of Interview of [redacted]

On 15 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted via phone to HSC-28 Detachment 1 in Naples, Italy. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

Checked in to HSC-28 in May 2017. Was 110 WC (power plants) LPO prior to making Chief Petty Officer and was promoted to Leading Chief Petty Officer of 310 WC in October of 2017. Her Leading Petty Officer was [redacted] then was replaced by [redacted] after he was removed from Detachment 4 as the LPO. She was surprised that [redacted] was put in 310 WC as the LPO knowing he had recently been removed from an LPO position. It was a leadership challenge for her and no particular guidance was given as to his remediation. There were no formal grievances that were brought to her attention after [redacted] was put in the shop, however, some sailors went to the Command Senior Chief back then (CMDCM) [redacted] to talk about his leadership and intrapersonal interactions with their LPO. [redacted] would update [redacted] daily on his interactions with the shop personnel, in her opinion he showed progress. There were instances where [redacted] would subvert Chief's authority when she wasn't present.

AEAN Caserta was a happy-go-lucky sailor, was formal and always utilized military bearing and didn't back talk. Would be first to volunteer for cleaning duty, aircraft wash, or field day, however any initiative outside of direct prompting was lacking (ie, PC qual, EAWS, shop qualifications). He displayed no overt anger or animosity toward the command that she noticed. 19 June meeting with herself, Caserta, and Maintenance Master Chief laid out the details for Caserta to succeed, mainly being PC board ready as soon as possible. This would allow the command to endorse his Aircrew transition package and show progress within the command.

[redacted]'s contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Enclosure (6)

ATTACHMENT L-13 INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNJUSTLY DEBTY OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Summary of Interview of [redacted]

On 13 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted in person at HSC-28 Squadron spaces. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

Had a personal relationship as well as professional, saw AEAN Caserta as a little brother and made it a point to always check on him. In May of 17 he talked with Caserta's father for over an hour. His father is a retired Navy Career Counselor Senior Chief. Around the same time, he noticed a change in Caserta and was concerned. Brought him to the Wing Chaplain to get help for depression. [redacted] has taken several sailors to chaplain or Portsmouth because of suicidal thoughts or expression.

Caserta didn't want to be a burden, only sought help if he couldn't do it himself. He specifically sought out [redacted] when his LPO wouldn't let him go to medical for tests pursuant his Aircrew package. [redacted] has spoken to [redacted] on several occasions about his manner of addressing sailors under him. [redacted] feel like he betrayed Caserta by taking [redacted]'s side in their last formal interaction, in which he conveyed the importance of completing his PC qualification and contributing to the shop. This would give the command no qualm in endorsing his Aircrew package.

[redacted] and the Command Master Chief were on the phone with the deceased's father at the time of the incident. They were explaining and assuaging the fathers concerns that they were ganging up on him and requiring excessive duty from him. This is in response to Caserta's most recent referral to Disciplinary Review Board (DRB) for failure to produce his drivers license and be included in the duty rotation with his peers as a Squadron Duty Driver. [redacted] personally questions the need for DRB referral, feels that he truly did not know he had a valid drivers license and possibly felt it was a violation of their trust.

[redacted]'s contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

ATTACHMENT 2-4: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Enclosure (1)

Summary of Interview of [redacted]

On 13 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted in HSC-28 spaces. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

Checked into HSC-28 in October of 2017. Was assigned to 310 WC in January of 2018, and is currently working in AV/I. Has known Caserta since October of 2017, and have socially interacted on multiple occasions but not frequently. [redacted] was on Day check most of the time to accommodate his attendance of church functions. Knew that Caserta harbored animosity towards the command and the Navy, and was passive aggressive about it and disgruntled about rating system. Caserta's father has contacted him twice to press for information about the command. [redacted] reached out to Caserta and brought him to church several times, but that was not a reoccurring endeavor.

[redacted] did not single out Caserta, he treated everyone equally poorly. [redacted] warned the shop about [redacted]'s return and encouraged them to come to her if things remained unchanged IRT his attitude and demeanor. [redacted] talked to [redacted] about [redacted] the Friday before the incident.

[redacted]'s contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Enclosure (11)

ATTACHMENT L-15: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AE3 BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Summary of Interview of [redacted]

On 14 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted in HSC-28 spaces. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

Checked into HSC-28 in July of 2015. Never was under [redacted], but dealt with him professionally and did not approve of his harsh leadership. Witnessed Caserta's bicycle accident in November of 2017, after which they became friends and texted daily. Discussed angst about not enjoying their jobs and rates, Caserta stated he didn't like [redacted] being his LPO 1-2 weeks prior to the incident. Caserta was happy on the surface but depressed, and after his bicycle accident his life seemed to spiral out of control. Was upset sometimes and would convey that via text message, did not specifically recommend seeing a professional about his depression and anger. [redacted] was on duty the weekend prior to the incident. Caserta called in to muster and didn't sound like right. She did not think that he would harm himself.

Parents contacted her 4-5 times, but does not take their calls anymore as it was not helping the grieving process.

[redacted]'s contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Enclosure (8)

ATTACHMENT L-16: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Summary of Interview of [redacted]

On 14 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted in HSC-28 spaces. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

Checked into HSC-28 in August of 2015. Was in 310 WC until June of 2017, currently assigned to Detachment 4 in the 120 WC (Airframes). First met Caserta during his time in the ARO. Emailed and texted often, was deployed from February to August on DET 4. In January 2018, they went to visit a fellow sailor in rehab for alcohol ([redacted]), did not hang out routinely otherwise. Caserta had a positive outlook on the surface, but routinely vented about work and his aircrew package. Didn't understand why he was being required to get his PC qualification if he was transferring. Noticed that Caserta was distant in the month of June and sent few emails and texts. Did ask "what the meaning of life" was, and sent her an email the day before the incident saying goodbye. The ship was conducting straights transit and she was unable to email back or contact anyone. Did not think that he would harm himself. Was contacted by the family in July for information, had nothing to offer.

Was on DET 4 when [redacted] was removed as the LPO. He subverted authority and would demean sailors and use derogatory language towards them. Does not think that he should have been put in charge of 310 WC again. Thought requiring everyone to get PC qualification and 310 WC supervisor qualification hampered progress in getting actual rating shop qualifications. [redacted] was a one-upper, talked a lot about his previous experience but didn't get any qualifications that he supposedly previously held.

[redacted]s contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Enclosure (9)

ATTACHMENT L-17: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Summary of Interview of [redacted]

On 14 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted in HSC-28 spaces. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

Checked into HSC-28 in May of 2017. Went straight to 210 WC (AO shop), due to low manning. Talked to Caserta during work hours when he was in the ARO, and started texting outside of work in August of 2017. Text conversations would be about normal day to day things, but he opened up to her and talked a lot about [redacted] and how he couldn't stand him. Described Caserta as goofy but sincere, and was treated differently by some. Not bullying, but jokes at his expense were common. Contacted her via email prior to incident to say goodbye and wrote her a letter that was included in his personal effects. Caserta's family has contacted her but she told them she has nothing to offer them as far as information.

[redacted] contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

ATTACHMENT L-18: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AIRMAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Enclosure (2)

Summary of Interview of [redacted] (MMCO)

On 20 AUG 18, the Investigating Officer conducted an interview of [redacted] HSC-28. The interview was conducted in person at HSC-28 Squadron spaces. The contents of the interview are summarized substantially as follows:

[redacted] checked-in to HSC-28 in May of 2016 as the Maintenance Master Chief. Very visible in the squadron, visited all shops frequently and talked to the sailors. Made the decision to put [redacted] back into 310 WC and charge [redacted] with the leadership challenge of training him. The squadron only had one shift plus a swing catch crew, this prevented [redacted] from being placed in a different WC after removal from DET 4. Did not receive any complaints or reports from [redacted] or any of the 310 WC personnel, and checked on [redacted]'s progress routinely.

Counselled Caserta on 19 Jun 18 in regards to his qualifications and the way forward for his time in the squadron. He was receptive and vowed to complete his training. He was seen soon after conducting an aircraft move brief, no outward signs of distress. Did not believe that Caserta was subversive in not knowing he had an AZ drivers license. Talked to Caserta's father on 20 Jun IRT his qualifications and his son's way forward in the squadron. Father was receptive and conversation ended cordially.

[redacted] was not at the squadron on the day of the incident and was recalled after it happened. He was interviewed by SA Konikoff.

[redacted]'s contact information is:
Phone: [redacted]
Email: [redacted]

Enclosure (7)

ATTACHMENT L-19: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AE3 BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Attachment M: Line of Duty Investigation and Command Investigation Report Summary

1. As stated multiple times in this document, conducting an assessment a month and a half after a tragic incident had occurred is wrong. Professional law enforcement officers understand the first twenty-four, followed by the first forty-eight hours, are the most critical times for getting to the truth and resolving the "Five Ws plus /H" (who, what, where, when, why, and how).

2. It was important to stay clear of the NCIS investigation, especially concerning interviewing of witnesses. However, waiting a month and a half to commence taking statements from witnesses is without excuse. Memories change, self-protecting or self-glorifying testimonials are refined, and people have moved on with their lives. The best example of this is the NCO who wrongfully claimed he took AEAN Caserta to visit with the chaplain.

3. Only seven pages in length, the investigating officer's summary (Attachment M-1) needs to be read in its entirety. A detailed analysis of this summary will not be provided in this attachment, as AEAN Caserta's father accomplishes that in Attachment E of this document.

4. That stated, several points in the investigative officer's report need to be addressed and analyzed:

a. As described throughout the witness statements, AEAN Caserta was a good person and appeared to be "happy-go-lucky." Unfortunately, a set of injuries denied him the opportunity to pursue his immediate goals. The effects of those injuries could have been overcome with time.

b. AEAN Caserta was being required to complete plane captain qualifications. He was also pending transfer which would have negated the additional work once the transfer was executed.

c. He did have a growing disgust or animosity toward the environment in which he found himself. Multiple peers witnessed a change in AEAN Caserta

d. As verified by multiple witnesses, in all likelihood AEAN Caserta did not believe he had a valid Arizona driver's license. The illegal and abusive way his NCOs resolved this issue and threaten him with a disciplinary review board only added to his disgust and animosity. The one NCO who acted as his friend and mentor admitted the situation was handled wrong and that this NCO felt in part that he betrayed AEAN Caserta.

e. All the aforementioned points either did not have to occur or could have been overcome by a professional command climate. Not only did such an environment not exist, but the problem with AE1 Brose took the environment to a negative extreme.

(1) AE1 Brose should never have been placed in further charge of subordinates when his extremely abusive behavior was exposed time and again. Yet, AE1 Brose's supervisors failed to aggressively force behavior modification or meaningful discipline.

(2) Written counselling statements with no follow-through only encouraged AE1 Brose to get progressively worse. Informing AE1 Brose to read books about great leaders and try to emulate their behavior is about as spineless as it gets. From this comes the question on why no officer or NCO got into, and stayed in, AE1 Brose's face and made his life as miserable as he was making everyone else's until behavior modification was achieved.

(3) Periodic counselling and allowing AE1 Brose to play the "I'm a bad boy" act during these counselling sessions and then transferring AE1 Brose to other supervisors solved nothing.

f. Among the many NCO roles, one of the most important is to mentor their subordinates and help them "be all they can be." PO3 Caserta, from all testimonials, was a young man who cared about people and wanted to succeed in life. Instead of being provided a positive environment and a fair-but-firm supervisor, he was forced at a critical time in his life to endure never-ending abuse from someone who should have been long since bounced out of the NCO ranks – if not completely out of the U.S. Navy.

5. Unfortunately, as evidenced by the Recommendations section to this investigation, the officer corps also possesses an inability to exercise strong leadership.

a. The first paragraph of the Recommendations reads: *Based on the witness statements and counseling records, there is sufficient evidence to take* AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED *for violation of UCMJ, Article 93 – Cruelty and Maltreatment. It is clear from the evidence that AE1 BROSE'S NAME BLOCKED's behavior towards his subordinates was verbally abusive and demeaning. However, I recommend that the command transfer the member with a declining evaluation in lieu of awarding Captain's Mast. I do not recommend Captain's Mast due to the fact that the member can refuse Captain's Mast enduring to a Special or General Courts Martial, further extending the timeline, and exacerbating the healing process for all effected personnel.*

b. The harder right over the easier wrong would have been to hold AE1 Brose fully accountable for his despicable behavior. He could have been the positive difference to help PO3 Caserta navigate his life through a very negative time. Instead, to satisfy his own ego and desire to demean everyone around him, AE1 Brose greatly contributed to the downward spiral of the section and, especially, PO3 Caserta.

c. Instead of non-judicial or judicial punishment, the recommendation was to provide a "declining evaluation" on AE1 Brose, let him keep his undeserved rank, and send him on to another command where he can continue his abusive behavior as he had done before.

d. Using the investigative officer logic of not taking aggressive action because it would contribute to *exacerbating the healing process for all effected personnel* then no trial against a felon should ever occur because of the continuing pain it would cause the victims provided they were still alive. Fortunately, this investigative officer's logic was NOT applied to those charged and subsequently convicted at the Nuremburg Trials.

e. The reality this officer failed to understand was accountability of criminals and predators helps bring closure to the victims and the survivors of the deceased. It also sends a message to all others that such behavior will result in justice.

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON P. CASERTA

1. Brandon Caserta dropped on request from Special Warfare training after suffering a broken tibia on or about July/August 2016. He selected Aviation Electricians Mate as his rate, and proceeded on TAD orders from Coronado, CA to Norfolk, VA. [Encl (3)]

2. AEAN Caserta arrived at Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO EIGHT in February of 2017 after attending "A" & "C" Schools. He was assigned to the Auxiliary Resale Outlet (ARO) for 5 months before being assigned to 310 Work Center (WC) in June of 2017. [Encls (3), (11), (13)]

3. AEAN Caserta befriended [redacted] and [redacted] during his time in the ARO. They texted and corresponded via email and saw each other socially a handful of times outside of work. [Encls (10), (11)]

4. On or about May 2017, [redacted] while in the ARO, noticed AEAN Caserta was not himself and seemed depressed. He took him to the Wing Chaplain and ensured he was seen professionally; he had taken sailors to seek counseling previously and made sure to check on Caserta frequently in the future. [Encl (5)]

5. [redacted] was Caserta's Leading Petty Officer (LPO) in the 310 WC when he was assigned there after the ARO on or about June/July 2017. [redacted] was promoted to Detachment 4 LPO shortly after Caserta arrived in 310 WC on or about August 2017, but [redacted] stated that Caserta was a hard worker and always volunteered to help whenever it was needed. [Encls (4), (6), (13)]

6. [redacted] the Leading Chief Petty Officer of 310 WC, observed that AEAN Caserta to be a happy-go-lucky individual with good military bearing and professionalism. She also agreed that AEAN Caserta was often the first to volunteer for cleaning duties, aircraft wash, or field day but did not demonstrate initiative in completing his qualifications. [Encl (7)]

7. [redacted] who was also assigned to 310 WC on or about October 2017, invited Caserta to accompany him to his place of worship, AEAN Caserta attended worship ceremonies a few times. [redacted] also stated that Caserta had a great deal of animosity toward the Navy and the squadron and hoped that a religious experience would help him deal with his emotions. [Encl (12)]

8. AEAN Caserta did not like being in his current rate, and sought to redesignate to Aircrewman (AWF/R/S). [redacted] assisted in securing orders to rescue swimmer school and Avionics Warfare Sensor Operator School to begin in November 2017. However, Caserta was involved in a bicycle accident the week prior to executing those orders, and he broke his collar bone and was not physically qualified (NPQ) to begin training. [Encls (3), (5), (9), (10), (11), (12)]

9. [redacted] witnessed AEAN Caserta's bicycle accident in November of 2017, and assisted him in getting medical attention. After this incident they became friends and texted and emailed regularly. They met socially a handful of times outside of work as well, usually with [redacted] and [redacted] [Encls (3), (9), (10), (11)].

ATTACHMENT M-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

10. AEAN Caserta was reassigned to the ARO after his bicycle accident for the duration of his convalescence and/or limited duty from November 2017 – March 2018. During that time, his progress on his Plane Captain (PC) and Work Center Supervisor qualifications reset due to no progress/inactivity in accordance with the Naval Aviation Maintenance Program Instruction 4790. [Encls (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11)]

11. AEAN Caserta voiced his dissatisfaction with the squadron, the Navy, and his LPO [redacted] routinely during his correspondence with others from the squadron both verbally and electronically. Such statements were mainly made to [redacted] and [redacted] [Encls (5), (6), (9), (10), (11), (12)]

12. None of AEAN Caserta's peers thought to recommend he seek counselling and/or therapy about his feelings. His LPO [redacted] and Command Career Counselor [redacted] were also aware he did not like his current rate and wanted to redesignate. [Encls (5), (6), (8), (10), (11), (12)]

13. [redacted] was reassigned to 310 WC LPO from Detachment 4 in January of 2018. This was a demotion following two Reports of Counseling about his leadership methods being brash and abrasive. The first counseling occurred 22 November 2017, and the second counseling occurred 18 January 2018. [Encls (4), (6), (7), (8), (16)]

14. [redacted] was ordered to complete Anger Management and placed under a new Chief Petty Officer [redacted] as a leadership challenge. [redacted], [redacted], and [redacted] all frequented the 310 WC, engaged the sailors, and attempted to ensure they had a means to convey any concerns if things weren't working out with [redacted] as the LPO. [Encls (4), (6), (7), (8), (16)]

15. [redacted] counseled AEAN Caserta on his delinquent qualifications on 18 May 2018. Caserta was receptive and understood he needed to do better. 15 June 2018 was the suspense date for his PC Board and qualification. He went on leave for two weeks immediately following this counseling, from 18 May 2018 to 4 June 2018. [Encls (3), (6), (7), (14)]

16. AEAN Caserta did not complete his Personnel Qualification Syllabus (PQS) for the PC qualification and there was no board held on 15 June 2018. [redacted] further counselled Caserta on 18 June 2018 and awarded Extra Military Instruction (EMI) until he passed his mock PC board and was syllabus complete. [Encls (4), (6), (7), (14)]

17. AEAN Caserta requested to go to medical on 18 June 2018 to complete several labs and/or tests for his Aircrewman package renewal. Caserta had not previously let his LPO [redacted] know that he had any upcoming appointments. [redacted] questioned him about the nature of the procedures and told him he could not spare the manpower. Due to Caserta not having a car, Portsmouth Naval Hospital being 45-minute drive, and being unable to use the duty driver that day it would leave the work center two bodies short for most of the shift. [Encls (5), (6)]

18. AEAN Caserta went to [redacted] about his request to go to medical that day (18 June 2018) being denied by [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] conducted informal counselling

with AEAN Caserta, during which they explained that he needed to communicate his medical appointments further in advance, and he needed to prioritize his PC qualification over his aircrewman package for the time being. This would give his package more merit and show progress in his WC. Caserta was receptive and understanding, but [redacted] felt that he betrayed his trust with Caserta by siding with [redacted]. [Encls (5), (6)]

19. AEAN Caserta was counselled by the Maintenance Master Chief ([redacted]) and his LCPO ([redacted]) on 19 June 2018 in the Master Chief's office. This was informal counseling, after a lengthy phone conversation with Caserta's father (a retired Senior Chief Command Career Counselor) about his son's career and future in the squadron. [redacted] conveyed to him the importance of showing progress in the squadron and with his professional qualifications, and assured him that he would have his endorsement for his aircrew package if and when he completed his PC qualification. Caserta was receptive and vowed to complete his training. [redacted] did not think that Caserta was in distress or shaken after leaving his office. [Encls (7), (8)]

20. AEAN Caserta was counselled and recommended for Disciplinary Review Board (DRB) on 22 June 2018 due to his alleged failure to maintain a valid driver's license. He previously stated he didn't have a driver's license, just a state ID, but when his ID# was inputted in the AZ online database he did have one that was expired. [Encls (5), (6), (8), (9), (14)]

21. Due to his lack of a valid driver's license, AEAN Caserta had not been standing Duty Driver watch like some of his peers and superiors. The DRB was meant to determine if he had been subversive in telling the squadron he didn't have a driver's license. Most personnel interviewed stated he was most likely not being subversive. [Encls (5), (6), (8), (9), (14)]

22. [redacted] was on duty as the Assistant Squadron Duty Officer (ASDO) the weekend of 23-24 June 2018. She talked to Caserta when he called in to muster and later during a period of downtime on her personal cell phone, and stated he didn't sound right and questioned him about it. He did not respond to her queries. She did not think that he would harm himself. [Encls (3), (9)]

23. During the weekend of 23-24 June 2018, AEAN Caserta emailed [redacted] and [redacted] who were deployed with DET 4 embarked on the USS IWO JIMA. He asked "What was the meaning of life," but also told them goodbye and that he wouldn't be there when they returned. Both did not understand the messages and did not think that he would harm himself, however, they were also unable to respond due to straits transit communications blackout. [Encls (10), (11)]

24. The morning of 25 June 2018, AEAN Caserta gave two boxes of effects to [redacted] to be placed in the Ordnance Shop for [redacted]. [Encl (3)]

25. At approximately 1500 on 25 June 2018, AEAN Brandon Caserta took off his cranial protective helmet, proceeded to the back of a turning MH-60S helicopter, and leapt into the spinning tail rotor blade, ending his life. [Encl (3)]

26. At 1500 on 25 June 2018, HSC-28 Command Master Chief and [redacted] were on the phone with AEAN Caserta's father. His father had concerns about his son and he was not answering his phone calls so he decided to call the CMC to engage them about it. [Encls (3), (5)]

27. AEAN Brandon Caserta was declared dead by responding EMT personnel on 25 June 2018 at 1542 on the HSC-28 flight line. He was assessed and found not viable due to majority of skull and brain matter missing from impact to spinning tail rotor blade, resuscitation efforts were not employed. [Encl (3)].

28. After conducting the pre-mishap plan, [redacted] took possession of the boxes of effects left by AEAN Caserta for [redacted]. He locked it in his office and turned it over to NCIS Special Agent Konikoff later that day. [Encls (3), (4)]

29. The boxes contained gifts and games in one, and letters addressed to [redacted] (addressed as [redacted]; as it was her favorite Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Caserta's Parents, and Taylor Cousins (his ex-girlfriend in AZ). The letters also contained money and gift cards for the aforementioned people. [Encl (3)]

30. The letters delineate his anger towards the Navy and HSC-28, and alleged that they ruined his life. Specifically, AEAN Caserta stated that he had felt worthless since he dropped on request from Special Warfare training and saw no other way to make his depression cease. [Encl (3)]

31. In multiple letters, AEAN Caserta indicated that he had no actual desire or motivation to be an aircrewman, but that he just wanted to get out of the command. [Encl (3)]

32. Although the letters express anger towards HSC-28, such references are mostly vague and do not clearly specify the manner in which AEAN Caserta perceived the command as having ruined his life. However, in his letter to [redacted], AEAN Caserta wrote that "When I got in hot water with the higher ups is when the final straw happened," presumably alluding to the fact that he had been recommended for Disciplinary Review Board. [Encl (3)]

33. AEAN Caserta expressed particular frustration with the Navy's rating conversion process, writing in his letter to his parents: "While you're at it, attack the re-rate process because if that changed to any rate someone qualifies for based on ASVAB, not as many people in the future will suffer the fate I have…" [Encl (3)]

34. An unsigned, handwritten letter which appears to be written by AEAN Caserta, was also addressed to the HSC-28 Commanding Officer and found in the CO's suggestion box. The letter indicates that the decision to commit suicide "stems back from" the re-rate process, and asked the Commanding Officer to attempt to change the conversion process to allow Sailors to pick any rate "someone qualifies for without a waiver based on ASVAB score." [Encl (3)]

35. After the incident, several anonymous ("ANYMOUSE") letters were submitted to the Commanding Officer via his suggestion box. Many delineated that [redacted] should not be the

LPO of 310 WC and is not a leader that should be mentoring impressionable young sailors. The letters alleged that [redacted]'s vulgar and abusive vernacular was directly detrimental to the morale of the shop and recommended he be replaced. [Encl (16)]

36. The anonymous letters also indicated that [redacted] would refer to Sailors in derogatory and degrading terms and would undermine the authority of superiors when not in their presence (e.g., "I don't give a fuck what chief says he/she isn't here I'm telling you what to do right fucking now!"). [Encl (16)]

37. [redacted] was counselled on 27 June 2018 for a third time and sent TAD to Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic. The specifics of his counselling were speaking inflammatory remarks about AEAN Caserta posthumously. The command is seeking early transfer. [Encls (6), (15)]

38. The family of AEAN Brandon Caserta has reached out to all of the personnel interviewed in an effort to obtain information concerning the details surrounding their son's death. Some obliged and discussed some details with them, but eventually the general consensus was to cut communications to further the grieving and healing process. [Encls (5), (6), (9), (10), (11), (12)]

Opinions

1. On the surface, AEAN Caserta was a hard-working and happy-go-lucky Sailor from all interview accounts and was always the first to volunteer for working parties and additional duties. However, AEAN Caserta harbored significant resentment towards the Navy that apparently originated from his drop from Special Warfare Training. Although he openly expressed this resentment to his peers, he hid these concerns from his superiors. Most of the communications with his peers revolved around normal day to day trappings, their jobs and their shared pain and sufferings. It is very difficult to delineate the normal grumblings of enlisted sailors, and true cries for help and noticeable depression and anxiety, however no one thought that he was that depressed or that he was at risk for suicide. [FF 3-12, 18]

2. [redacted] took the initiative to see that AEAN Caserta received professional counseling when he noticed a change in his demeanor, this is not the first time he had taken a sailor to the Chaplain or facilitated therapeutic counsel. He does blame himself for Caserta taking his own life, due to the fact that he had assisted him in the past but didn't notice any change in his mood immediately prior to AEAN Caserta's suicide. [FF (4)]

3. Trials emerged for Caserta after he recovered from his bicycle accident and returned to the 310 WC. He had deadlines thrust upon him, was under scrutiny to complete his qualification, was counseled several times in the space of a month, and had been referred to DRB. As a young man with less than 2 years of experience in the Navy and in an operational unit, AEAN Caserta may have felt that the situation was unrecoverable. He did not seek the counsel of his peers or a mentor that I can find, and was stoically treading alone. These events and his solitude most likely contributed to his fatalistic mindset that was described in his final notes. [FF 15-21, 31]

4. [redacted]'s attempts to push Caserta to completing his PQS was likely accompanied by harsh language, posturing, and derision. The squadron leadership made efforts to be visible and

frequent the 310 WC shop and engage the sailors, but when directly asked if everything was going well they were met with platitudes of concurrence. Understandably so, it is extremely difficult to approach a superior or answer honestly when asked point blank if everything is going well, nobody wants to be solely responsible for taking shots at their immediate superior. Regardless, [redacted]'s noted belligerence, vulgarity, and brash leadership was likely a significant contributing factor in AEAN Caserta's decision to end his own life. [FF 13-15, 17-18, 34-35]

6. AEAN Caserta displayed many of the warning signs of depression and suicidal tendency during his last few weeks/days. He withdrew from his peers as expressed by [redacted] emailed to his deployed friends telling them goodbye, and, on the morning of his suicide, left a box of personal effects and letters for his friends and family. All personnel interviewed blamed themselves to degrees for not recognizing the warning signs in time. [FF 23-28]

Recommendations

1. Based on the witness statements and counseling records, there is sufficient evidence to take [redacted] to Captain's Mast for violation of UCMJ, Article 93 – Cruelty and Maltreatment. It is clear from the evidence that [redacted]'s behavior towards his subordinates was verbally abusive and demeaning. However, I recommend that the command transfer the member with a declining evaluation in lieu of awarding Captain's Mast. I do not recommend Captain's Mast due to the fact that the member can refuse Captain's Mast enduring to a Special or General Courts Martial, further extending the timeline, and exacerbating the healing process for all effected personnel.

2. The Commanding Officer should attempt to promote greater dialog between Officer and Enlisted and Senior and Junior personnel in the command; possibly during a Safety Stand Down or other such event. I recommend small mixed group discussion lead by counselors and/or Religious Programs Chaplains on how to help shipmates who may be depressed. I realize that Suicide Prevention is a routine GMT topic, but when an event such as this occurs people are more prone to opening up in small group settings with peers or near peers. Additionally, I know the Chaplains have had a noticeable presence since the event.

[redacted]

Attachment N: Rebuttal for the Command's Investigation Report

1. For over seven months Patrick and Teri Caserta, the parents of AEAN Brandon Caserta, asked for a copy of Command's Investigation Report concerning their son's death. Although all names except Brandon's were redacted, it was not hard for Patrick to figure out the identities. Also, through his career in the U.S. Navy and extensive experience in mission accomplishment, while taking care of subordinates, Patrick was able to identify issues that were not properly covered and glossed over at the expense of truth.

2. Provided is Patrick Caserta's complete analysis (Attachment N-1) of the entire command inquiry. Patrick's expressed anger that frequently comes out in this analysis is completely understandable. His, and Teri's, son had died while enduring an abusive environment. Adding to the pain is the fact that this was an environment Patrick served and trusted for an entire career.

3. In his detailed narrative, Patrick Caserta opens with an examination of the Dec 8, 2018 letter from Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic, subj: ACTION OF THE FINAL REVIEWING AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON P. CASERTA, USN.

a. In the second paragraph of this letter is the statement: *Further endorsement is considered unnecessary; therefore, the investigation is final and will be retained at this command for a period of two years from the date of this action.*

(1) Concerning this comment in his rebuttal, Patrick Caserta states: *That it is final. That means that they are done and satisfied with this investigation. This is the first issue with all of this. This investigation is inaccurate, filed with lies, contains very short statements from witnesses or potential witnesses, it was thrown together, not back up by facts, missing the parent's interviews, and an attempt to conceal the truth to save the ones who are responsible for AEAN Caserta's murder.*

(2) Patrick Caserta is right. This Command Investigation into the death of AEAN Brandon Caserta was at best a shoddy piece of workmanship. Witness statements were short-paraphrased summaries written by the investigative officer, with no guarantees that the narratives reflected everything the witnesses said. Furthermore, as explained before, the first interviews did not commence until forty-eight days **after** AEAN Caserta's death.

b. The majority of the comments in paragraph 3 of this letter place the blame for AEAN Caserta's death on his mental state, commencing with the words, *The investigation determined that AEAN Caserta was suffering from a number of stressors*. This paragraph concludes with the comment, "The investigation also determined that AEAN Caserta's leading petty officer AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED had created a hostile working environment in the work center which was likely a contributing factor to AEAN Caserta's decision to commit suicide."

(1) As Patrick Caserta points out in his analysis, the term "likely" is a **grave** understatement. AEAN Caserta was enduring difficult times. A professional NCO could have guided him through those difficult times. Instead, he was forced to endure the wrath of a continually abusive supervisor and an environment of senior supervisors who displayed no aggressive determination to either bring that abusive NCO under control or hold this NCO accountable for his behavior.

(2) As already discussed, even the investigative officer recommended no Uniform Code of Military Justice action on AE1 Brose. A bad evaluation and passing AE1 Brose on to yet another set of subordinates he can abuse can hardly be considered justice.

4. Then comes the issue pointed out by Patrick Caserta of three suicides within three weeks under Commodore Alan Worthy, who is in charge of 13 helicopter squadrons in Norfolk, VA.

a. There was no suicide training which could have helped AEAN Caserta understand his situation and be informed where he could receive help. Also, had the training been conducted after the first suicide, AEAN Caserta's peers and friends could have possibly learned of indications and warnings that would have helped them in reporting the downward turn they later identified with AEAN Caserta.

b. Commanders all the way up the chain, especially after the second suicide, should have acknowledged a problem existed.

5. Yet, from two thousand miles away, Patrick had picked up on the indications and warnings that Brandon Caserta was in a very troubled state of mind and required immediate command attention. Instead of working with Patrick, up to the very moment of Brandon's death, the NCOs of the command displayed a great deal of arrogance and indifference. This is borne out by Patrick Caserta's comment, *I told CMC David Tokarski this and he argued with me right up to the exact second, HSC-28 murdered our son.*

6. Rather than distract from the thoroughness of Patrick Caserta's rebuttal, a complete reading of this document is highly encouraged. Patrick Caserta's anger is highly understandable. He served an entire career in the Navy, and his NCO years consisted of taking care of Sailors. His son was lost in a dysfunctional system which Patrick Caserta would have stood against had it occurred in his various assignments.

7. Every statement in Patrick Caserta's rebuttal is important. For the direction of this document, attention is drawn to the following specific comments:

a. Topic Category: Preliminary Statement

(1) Section 1 (page 2, third paragraph): *This investigation is incomplete and has been from the start. None of AEAN Caserta's friends were ever talked to and many of them are in the Navy in different commands. They didn't even interview us, his parents.*

(2) Section 2, (page 3, first paragraph): *The Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer, told the command that we were not invited because we were mourning and that not talking to us will help with the grieving process.*

b. Topic Category: Finding of Fact

(1) Section 1 (page 3, third paragraph): *AEAN Caserta did not drop on request from special Warfare Training.*

(2) Section 2 unnumbered (page 3, fourth paragraph): *He had leg pain and went to medical for it. He was told it was shin splints; was refused x-rays. He tried to work through it, but he knew something was wrong.*

(3) Section 3 unnumbered, (page 4, first paragraph): *He finally went to medical on another base and x-rays were taken. He had a broken tibia in 4 places. He was running 20 miles a day with a broken leg. And, oh by the way, he had pneumonia.*

(4) Section 4 (page 4, second paragraph): *No one ever noticed AEAN Caserta was depressed and if they did, they didn't do anything about it. AEAN Caserta went to the Chaplain on his own. He went there because his girlfriend broke up with him.*

(5) Section 8 (page 5, first paragraph): *In October he received orders to go to Aircrewman school as an Avionic Warfare Operator (AWO). Everyone wishes he would have had orders to leave in November 2017. He would be alive today. He was leaving on 18 February 2018. His bicycle accident happened on 9 November 2017 and he broke his collar bone. Those orders were canceled in January by NC1 Spence and he was told once he was fit for duty, he needed to let the Navy counselor know and he would get new orders and be gone within weeks. The command canceled his orders when he could have healed on the other end waiting for school to start.*

(6) Section 10 (page 5, fourth paragraph): *AEAN Caserta was assigned to the ARO again to sell candy after he broke his collarbone.*

(7) Section 11 (page 6, first paragraph): *He was very unhappy in this command because they called him a BUD's dud and other derogatory statements and name calling…AE1 Brose on a daily basis would tell AEAN Caserta to "go make yourself useful somewhere else". How can you like the command under those*

circumstances? He was berated, humiliated, bullied and intimidated every single day since the day he checked into that command.

(8) Section 13 (page 6, paragraph 4): *Brandon was a death by suicide because he lost all confidence due to poor leadership in his command.*

(9) Section 15 (page 6, paragraph 7): *AEAN Caserta was not delinquent in any qualifications. The PQS system reset itself back to zero and all progress he had been working on was erased. Before the system rest, AEAN Caserta was 72% complete on his PC qualification.*

(10) Section 16 (page 7, paragraph 1): *Why would he be delinquent on this qualification if he has 180 days to complete it? As for EMI, he was coming in at 7 in the morning and getting back to his room at 9pm on those days. Can you imagine doing this yourself for a qualification you don't need? Remember, he was leaving. Only the commanding officer can sign off on EMI, and he didn't.*

(11) Section 19 (page 8, paragraph 4): *AEAN Caserta had broken up with his girlfriend and sought out the Chalian to talk to him about it. NC1 Spence wouldn't know this because I didn't tell him. So, his statement is an outright lie like so many others in this report.*

(12) Section 19 continued (Page 9 excerpts from paragraphs 1 through 3 and Page 10 paragraph 1) concerning Patrick Caserta's conversation with Master Chief Lerette, subject AEAN Brandon Caserta:

(a) *I'm sure if Master Chief Lerette told me that he was useless, can you imagine all the things he told AEAN Caserta.*

(b) *As for AEAN Caserta leaving his office unshaken, that is wrong. He was mad that he got yelled at and Master Chief Lerette was spitting on him by accident that shows how mad Lerette was. AEAN Caserta said the conversation was one way. Master Chief Lerette didn't let AEAN Caserta talk.*

(c) *There were many errors in the one-sided conversation such as the computer resetting his qualifications and the fact that he wasn't delinquent and of course how AE1 Brose was treating him. For the record, if I had known he wasn't the Command Master Chief as he said he was, I* ***never*** *would have spoken to him. He lied to me, because he didn't want me to call Command Master Chief Tokarski and spill the beans on his plot to keep AEAN Caserta in the command and force him to get the plane captain qualification overnight and deploy him. I have the text from AEAN Caserta telling me I didn't talk to the Command Master Chief and I gave this text to the IG and told NCIS about it.*

(d) *I trusted Master Chief Lerette and it cost me my son's life. ..He is as guilty as anyone. He lied in this statement, to NCIS, to the IG, to the Command Investigating officer, to me and my wife, and did absolutely nothing he said he would.*

(13) Section 21 (Page 10, paragraph 3 through page 13, paragraph 1):

(a) *AE1 Brose was furious with AEAN Caserta after he got in trouble for denying and letting him go get medical care. He goes in the ASM system and mysteriously finds out that AEAN Caserta had an ID Number in the computer under his Command information. He runs to Chief Hennard and Master Chief Lerette and complains.*

(b) *Then somehow a chief from Arizona, Chief Delasandro, gets involved and now seven people are involved standing in front of this computer while Chief Delasandro inputs AEAN Caserta's information.*

(c) *Chief Delasandro puts all the information in and asks AEAN Caserta for $12. He says "I do not have $12". Chief Delsandro asked him if he has a credit card, AEAN Caserta said he did not but I have a debit card. Chief Delasandro then says give it to me, grabs it out of AEAN Caserta's hand, inputs the information and prints out a receipt, hands it to AEAN Caserta and says, "looks like you have a driver's license"…This driver's license, to this day, has never been returned to us and was sent to the command with AEAN Caserta's name on it.*

(d) *Someone in HSC-28 stole it, Here is why: They violated every privacy act rule in the book. They forced him to pay for something he didn't need or want. They took and used his debit card without his permission.*

(e) *HSC-28 did not care about whether he could drive or not, safely. They were going to bring him to captain's mast because they felt he was a liar and that they were going to make him drive an 18-passenger van. HSC-28 felt they were entitled to his driver's license, they stole money from him to get one which violated his rights and privacy. They wouldn't let him go to legal or medical. AEAN Caserta dies and they cover up and fabricate information not even caring that we most likely have texts, e-mails, a picture of the DMV receipt, the fact that he told his parents and his old roommate everything that was going on…Malingering is not mentioned in this report at all and I was told many times that many believed him that he didn't drive or know he had a driver's license.*

(f) *On the 22 June 2018 Counseling Chit, it was all typed out. The counselor recommended a Disciplinary review board without even hearing or, in this case, reading AEAN Caserta's side of the story. This is against every Navy policy out there. You are innocent until proven guilty and how can you be pre-*

recommended for something without you having any chance to explain your side of the story? A disciplinary review board is not the place to explain your side of the story for the first time.

(g) *The Arizona DMV database indicated AEAN Caserta did have a driver's license. But it was expired.*

(14) Section 22 (Page 13, paragraph 4): *The Assistant Squadron Duty Officer spoke to AEAN Caserta, during the last days of his life. She stated he didn't sound right. He did not respond to her queries…She said she didn't think he would harm himself. How could she possibly know this since she didn't take the time to find out what was wrong with him? It was her duty to seek him out personally if she felt something was not right with him.*

(15) Section 23 (Page 14, carryover paragraph and paragraph 1):

(a) *We have been told AE1 Brose was seen arguing with AEAN Caserta right before he died by suicide. We also know that AEAN Caserta told people on the flight line that he was hungry and was going to get something to eat.*

(b) *He disappeared for 40 or more minutes, he did not leave the building that anyone knows of. No one, to this day, knows what he did, where he went,* ***but we do know from the medical examiner's report that he had an empty stomach so he did not eat.*** *No one to this day had even looked into the matter and this 40-minute disappearance is very important and most definitely shows the command is covering this up. That 40 minutes will answer the biggest question in everyone's minds.*

(c) *What would cause a twenty-one-year-old young man to jump into a turning helicopter rear rotor blade, miss and do it again. The command knows what they did and are covering it up and trying to make everyone believe on the 24th of June 2018 he had completely made his mind up.*

(16) Section 24 (Page 14, paragraphs 3 and 4):

(a) *Who would drop off boxes of letters and gifts at 7 am in the morning and dies by suicide at 3:34 pm? He could have done it right after he dropped them off that morning.*

(b) *This command trapped him and broke him that day and he felt he didn't have a choice. The people in HSC-28 drove him to choose death by suicide because he lost all confidence in leadership and for the way he was treated. HSC-28 murdered him and they do not want to take any reasonability for it.*

(17) Section 25 (Page 15, paragraphs 1 and 3):

(a) *Even when he is dead, they continue to disrespect him and blame him for all their unacceptable actions, practices, unsatisfactory training, and lack of training, lies, abusive and hostile work environment that was standard operating procedure for them. Again, this behavior is taught and comes from the top. Commander Whitmer is ultimately responsible for this because he did not condone what was going on in his own command. AE1 Brose is a product of the Commanding Officer's training program…**The command climate control surveys before this were horrible and no one did anything.** AE1 Brose and others were identified in them.*

(b) *A hostile work environment with no way out. Then the day before AEAN Caserta died, a sister Helicopter Squadron in Norfolk had a suicide, three weeks prior to that there was another suicide in another sister squadron of HSC-28 in Norfolk. No training was conducted after either of the first two. There was no media attention on either one of those suicides and both Commanding Officers were relieved. HSC-28's Commanding Officer who teaches and supports abusive and hostile work environment is still in charge acting like nothing happened, taking no responsibility for it at all and putting all the blame on AE1 Brose.*

(18) Section 26 (Page 16, paragraph 2 and page 17, paragraph 1):

(a) *If CMC Tokarski went and talked to AEAN Caserta when I called him on this call, AEAN Caserta would still be alive. This is a fact. Thirty minutes went by before he called me back. I thought he was doing as I asked. During that time, we received a text from AEAN Caserta saying "Just know that I love you". We didn't understand it and thought it was because CMC Tokarski went and talked to him and told him what the actual plan was that I told him what was going to happening and that they believe him about the driver's license. CMC Tokarski cost us valuable time and we had no chance to save AEAN Caserta because we trusted CMC Tokarski and those 30 minutes of time ruined everything.*

(b) *CMC Tokarski called me back 30 minutes later and continued to argue with me about the driver's license and the claustrophobic idea he had.*

(c) *He said "what?" then he said, "repeat that" then he said, "I got to go" and hung up. It was a strange ending. We sent AEAN Caserta texts and tried to call him all day long after that. It turns out I was on the phone with CMC Tokarski when AEAN Caserta died by suicide on the second call. CMC Tokarski and the command did a press release without our permission before we had even been notified of his death. They did this on purpose and the next day they corrected it and again it ran without our permission. The other two suicides didn't make the media and my son's did before we even knew he was dead.*

(d) *The call stated in this investigation has absolutely no details in it and I just told you the true story about the call. CMC Tokarski left all the information out on purpose. The evidence shows in texts and other things that what I said is true and accurate.*

(19) Section 33 (page 20, paragraph 2):

(a) *AEAN Caserta did not do what he did because of the "lingering" effects of the SEAL program. He did what he did because of HSC-28's abusive and hostile environment. The only reason why this investigator even put this statement in here is to try to throw the blame to what happened to him in BUD's and take the blame off HSC-28.*

(b) *The letter he left us comes from the heart and is the factual truth from the person going through it. He says word for word:* ***I want as many people as possible fired, kicked out, and/or at the very least lose rank. I do not want a military funeral I've done nothing in the military to be proud of. Ruin these people's lives as much as they have ruined mine. While you are at it, attack the rerate process because if that changed to any rate someone qualifies for not as many people in the future will suffer the fate I have.***

(c) *That explains it and is interpreted by me in the above rebuttal perfectly and the way it was meant to. There is no excuse whatsoever this command and its investigator could possibly say to convince anyone it wasn't their fault period.*

(20) Section 35 (page 21, paragraph 4):

(a) *That is a fact that AE1 Brose is not a leader. He should not have been mentoring impressionable young sailors. The Command allowed him to be this way, that is on them. AE1 Brose was fired and kicked off deployment and Master Chief Lerette put him back in charge like nothing ever happened. He is very abusive in front of others to include the CDR Whitmer, CDR Prouty, CMC Tokarski, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Hennard, NC1 Spence and many others and not one E-4 and above did anything. That tells us the command supported, encouraged, taught and promoted the abusive and hostile community that AE1 Brose thrived in.*

(b) *AEAN Caserta lost all confidence in the leadership of HSC-28 and was forced into his death by suicide.*

(c) *As for the anonymous letters, they had been submitted before and after the incident. They are lying to cover up they knew. They didn't care at all and now they have grieving parents who have questions and not getting any answers and HSC-28 is trying to cover this up.*

(21) Section 36 (Page 22, paragraph 1):

(a) *AEAN Caserta submitted the same information a week prior to his death. The command climate survey was prior to all the above and no one did anything about it. AE1 Brose would call AEAN Caserta a BUD's DUD on a daily basis. He would also say to AEAN Caserta, "Why don't you go make yourself useful somewhere else."*

(b) *These comments were said in front of everyone and he would throw packages on the floor when AEAN Caserta would receive them.*

(22) Section 38 (Page 22, paragraph 3):

(a) *We did reach out for answers. AEAN Caserta told us in his letter to. He gives us names of good people in the command that he trusted. He wanted to leave them money and gifts…Every one of them turned their backs on us after we talked to them. They said they are going with the command on this.*

(b) *NCIS told us the only reason people talk to me to begin with is because they felt sorry for me.*

c. **Topic Category: Opinions**

(1) It is intentional that this report will stay clear of actual opinions stated by AEAN Caserta's father, Patrick. However, there are some comments he does make in this topic category that are not opinions. It also must be remembered that Patrick is not just AEAN Caserta's father, but also a career U.S. Navy NCO with extensive leadership and sailor development experience behind him. In these arenas, Patrick Caserta is a subject matter expert.

(2) Section 1 (page 23, paragraph 1)

(a) *AEAN Caserta's SEAL Special Operations Training was over two years prior to this, he obviously knew how to deal with it.*

(b) *The investigating officer states that it is hard to delineate between normal grumblings of enlisted sailors, and true cries for help and noticeable depression and anxiety. This should not even be an issue. If the chain of command cared about their sailors, enlisted or officers, they would be able to tell who are noticeably depressed and have anxiety or crying out for help.*

(3) Section 6 (page 25, continuing paragraph):

(a) *In this investigative report it shows blame toward one person and that person is AE1 Brose. No one else did anything wrong.*

(b) *Anyone at any time could have helped him.*

d. Topic Category: Recommendations

(1) The recommendations made in Patrick Caserta's rebuttal are beyond the scope of this Independent Assessment. Two comments made by Patrick Caserta that deserve mention here are not recommendations, but statements concerning the mistreatment AEAN Caserta's family has received in their attempts to bring closure in the death of their son.

(a) Section 1, (Page 25, paragraph 1): *I wrote to the Commodore. He never responded so I assume he knows he is responsible for all three suicides and just chooses to look the other way. One is too many, three in a month and no one does anything.*

(b) Section 2, (Page 26, paragraph1): *Not one person from the command attended AEAN Caserta's funeral here to include the Lieutenant from the command who was supposed to be there and present me with a flag.*

8. Independent Assessment Analysis: Reaching out to Patrick and Teri Caserta would have interfered with the end-product the investigating officer was intent on constructing. This was not an investigation intent on thorough analysis of the problems within the command, but rather a tool to give the appearance of an investigation without setting the stage to hold anyone permanently accountable for their behavior or lack of action.

Rebuttal for the Command's Investigation Report - Received Report on January 29, 2019

Memo Dated 6 Dec 18 From Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic - 5830 – SER N011/284

2.b. States: Further endorsement is considered unnecessary.

That it is final. That means that they are done and satisfied with this investigation. This is the first issue with all of this. This investigation is inaccurate, filled with lies, contains very short statements from witnesses or potential witnesses, it was thrown together, not back up by facts, missing the parent's interviews, and an attempt to conceal the truth to save the ones who are responsible for AEAN Caserta's murder.

3. AEAN Caserta was suffering from a number of stressors

All of AEAN Caserta's stressors were caused by HSC-28 and the hostile work environment they created. The hostile environment was NOT a likely factor it WAS the whole reason he died by suicide. The hostile environment is standard operating procedure for HSC-28 and they teach and endorse the hostile environment they created. The disciplinary review board was being done by AE1 Jared Brose, NC1 Remmy Spence, Master Chief Pete Larette, Chief Shelah Hennard, Chief Delasandro all because of a driver's license that they claim they are entitled to. This couldn't be further from the truth. You do not need a driver's license to join the Navy, you do not need one to be an electrician in the Navy, you do not need one to be in HSC-28, you do not need one to sell candy, you do not need one to launch helicopters or work on them, and you do not need one to stand duty. More importantly, HSC-28, the Navy, or anyone is not entitled to AEAN Caserta's driver's license period. I told CMC David Tokarski this and he argued with me right up to the exact second, HSC-28 murdered our son. I will talk more about this which will be backed by facts on the driver's license ordeal later in the breakdown of this report.

How can someone approve the finding of facts without the truth backed by facts? A Naval officer conducted this investigation, the Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer signed off on it, then the Commodore. All three Naval officers claim there is a finding of facts. That is a lie and all three of these officers are trying to conceal the truth. This is total disrespect for AEAN Brandon Caserta and in particularly us, his parents. They have been and are currently putting us through mental anguish that is more than wrong it is cruel. I, his father, am a 22-year retired Navy Senior Chief and have been disrespected as a person and as a Navy Senior Chief by all of this and everyone who murdered my son.

Commodore A. M. Worthy signs off on this without even verifying the facts himself and takes HSC-28's Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer's word for it. Commodore Worthy does this in spite of the fact that on 06/24/2018 there was another suicide in one of his squadron's, and three weeks prior to that there was another one. The only difference between the three is that AEAN Caserta's Commanding Officer leaked the news without permission from us and the other two never made the media. No suicide training had been done in spite of the two prior suicides occurring. One is too many, two is

ATTACHMENT N-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN BRANDON CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

disgraceful, three is just unacceptable and criminal. Had proper suicide training been held on the morning of 6/25/2018 or after the first suicide, AEAN Caserta would still be alive today.

Memo Dated 10 Jul 18 – From Commanding Officer HSC-28 -5800 Ser N00/242

1. The date of AEAN Caserta's death is wrong. AEAN Caserta was murdered on 6/25/2018 not 6/30/2018. I guess his death is not very memorable to Commanding Officer Whitmer.

   The Commanding officer initiates and assigns an investigation into AEAN Caserta's death on 7/10/2018. He was killed and murdered by him on 6/25/2018. The delay is because he has everyone coving up and getting their stories straight to completely cover up the truth and facts with their own versions.

Memo Dated 2 Oct 18 – To Commanding Officer, HSC-28 – 5830

Preliminary Statement

1) This investigation is incomplete and has been from the start. None of AEAN Caserta's friends were ever talked to and many of them are in the Navy in different commands. They didn't even interview us, his parents. AEAN Caserta's personal effects were tarnished by sending command personnel to pack up his room. They were the fox guarding the hen house and any pictures are deemed tarnished because of the fact that the command is the guilty party in all this. They also stole money and other things out of his room. Pictures being taken by the thieves are not evidence nor are they of use in this investigation since the guilty party took the pictures.

2) All reasonable evidence and information have been collected, and all requirements of references was consulted in the finding of facts.

   This is an outright lie. No one ever talked to us, his parents, his friends outside the command who are in the Navy, or his personal friends at home. Two of his best friends are Phoenix Police Officers and no one talked to them. Both police officers attended AEAN Brandon Caserta's funeral and helped us with the entire mess that HSC-28 created. Both Police officers were Brandon's age. Almost all of AEAN's Brandon Caserta's true friends attended his funeral. Some were active duty from all over the United States. All of them helped us through all this and all are outraged over what this command did to him. AEAN Caserta's command helped with absolutely nothing.

   As a matter of fact, here is what they really did. They leaked his death to the news media. They told the entire command not to ever talk to us and threatened them with jail time bad evaluations and anything else they can threaten them with if they talked to us. HSC-28 held a memorial service without our permission and didn't invite us to it.

They refused to let AEAN Caserta's friends who are in the Navy and outside of the command attend the memorial. The Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer, told the command that we were not invited because we were mourning and that not talking to us will help us with the grieving process. He also told them he submitted our names to the gate so we couldn't get onto the Norfolk Naval Base. He stated we were bad people and that I'm retired Navy, and that I was going to get them back for Brandon's murder. He wrote a letter to us that arrived at the end of July that said the attendance was not mandatory but everyone came to it.

We talked to many sailors who said they weren't there. Not one officer from HSC-28 called to give their condolences, never offered any assistance, never helped us with anything period. As a matter of fact, they deliberately delayed and ignored all things that had been required of them to do. Then, they tried to blame the local Phoenix causality assistance team here for it. That local causality assistance team had been so outstanding to us and went above and beyond to help us. They did nothing but great honest things. The command to this day blames them. They didn't do anything wrong and it was a ploy to, again, make us suffer mental anguish so that they could cover up the fact that they murdered our son. HSC-28 knew the local casualty team was assisting us and because they forwarded all e-mails and conversations with us to the proper authorities to help us with what questions we had, the command deliberately found a way to blame them to get them to stop and keep them from helping us. It worked for a week or two until I called the Navy Bureau. This alone proves that the command was covering up everything and anyone who could ruin it for them they removed from the situation. The problem was the people they kept removing are the same people who were helping us get through all this.

FINDING OF FACT

1) AEAN Caserta did not drop on request from special Warfare Training. First of all, again, the dates are wrong. He left SEAL Special Warfare Training at the end of April early May 2016. He was at home in Phoenix from later May until early June 2016. He had to go to urgent care and the emergency room for his pneumonia while home. It would be hard for him to be at Special Warfare in July /August 2016. He did not go directly to Norfolk, Virginia from Coronado, California. He went to Pensacola first for several months to a school for the AE rating.

   Here is the true story of what happened. He had leg pain and went to medical for it. He was told it was shin splints; was refused x-rays. He tried to work through it, but he knew something was wrong. He went back to medical and they denied him x-rays, again, because it was shin splints **(sound familiar he has been denied to go to medical many times while he was in the Navy in particular by this command).** He told them he has had them before and worked through them. He said this is not shin splints. They didn't care. He went back and finished the training for the day. Early the next morning when he had a boat(raft) on his shoulder he collapsed.

They threw him into a pickup truck, took him to the bell and rang it for him. He finally went to medical on another base and x-rays were taken. He had a broken tibia in 4 places. He was running 20 miles a day with a broken leg. And, oh by the way, he had pneumonia. The day AEAN Caserta collapsed, is the same day the seal recruit was drowned by the staff there. We, Brandon's parents, were there at the time with him. I wanted to go talk to the SEALs about AEAN Caserta because it was unfair what they did. AEAN Caserta wouldn't let me because he said Special Warfare is a small community and if forced to do something will blackball him and he wouldn't make it anyway. I reluctantly honored his wishes. The ratings that were given to AEAN Caserta were GS, AN, SN, FN, and AE. He picked AE and we were right outside of the place he did this at. He talked it over with us before he chose it. He only had those choices and that was it. They transferred him to Pensacola, FL with a severely broken leg and pneumonia. They said they didn't have room to keep him in San Diego, CA.

4) No one ever noticed AEAN Caserta was depressed and if they did, they didn't do anything. AEAN Caserta went to the Chaplin on his own. He went there because his girlfriend broke up with him. NC1 Remmy Spence is lying that he took him. I'm sure the Chaplin records can prove this; however, I know exactly why he went. This story will come up again later in the report. I will elaborate on it and explain it in detail.

5) AE1 Jared Brose stated that AEAN Caserta was a hard worker and always volunteered to help with whatever was needed. You will read this time and time again. He was the best and hardest worker in the command. This is important because this is another reason the command killed AEAN Caserta. They betrayed him and allowed AE1 Brose and many others to abuse him in spite of him being the best and hardest worker in the command.

6) AEAN Caserta did work on his qualifications. There is no Navy requirement for him to get the said qualification and many people take a while to get it if your name isn't AEAN Caserta. He was the poster board for initiative, and this is a direct slam to make him look bad just as the command wanted her to.

7) AEAN Caserta did not like how he was treated by others. Many of his true friends have received texts from AEAN Caserta that everyone in the command hates him. His animosity toward the Navy is simple. He had a broken leg during SEAL training and was kicked out of the Special Warfare for it. He was denied medical treatment many times. He had a broken leg and pneumonia. Would you have animosity toward the Navy too? His PC qualification was always on track and, I will say this again, it is **not** a Navy regulation for him to get this qualification nor is it a qualification for his direct job as an Aviation Electrician. Many sailors leave HSC-28 without it. Besides, as you will see, he was leaving this command; he didn't need the qualification. The aircraft he was going to be on is a plane. The equipment he was going to school for was in the plane. He was going to school to track and find enemy submarines. It would be hard to

be a plane captain when your equipment is in the plane and you are in the plane when it takes off. This is fact and no one can dispute this.

8) Again, wrong dates as usual. In October 2017 he received orders to go to Aircrewman school as an Avionic Warfare Operator (AWO). Everyone wishes he would have had orders to leave in November 2017. He would be alive today. He was leaving on 18 February 2018. His bicycle accident happed on 9 November 2017 and he broke his collar bone. Those orders were canceled in January by NC1 Spence and he was told once he was fit for duty, he just needed to let the Navy counselor know and he would get new orders and be gone within weeks. The command canceled his orders when he could have healed on the other end waiting for school to start. They sent him to the same area, Pensacola, with a broken leg and a pneumonia. This is the first of many times personal greed clouded this command's judgment to keep the best worker in the command. The problem was the Commanding Officer at the time was Commander Thomas and he always asked AEAN Caserta when he was getting his new orders and leaving. Every time he saw AEAN Caserta he asked this. Apparently, no one told him what plan they had to keep AEAN Caserta. I want to point out, too, that, at this time, Commander Duane Whitmer was the Executive Officer. I also want to point out that Commander Thomas attended AEAN Caserta's memorial service. He even came up to the podium and said many nice things about him from what I'm told. Apparently, they didn't stop him from coming to the service like they did us and many of AEAN Caserta's friends who are stationed in Norfolk.

   Why would anyone want to sabotage AEAN Caserta from getting orders to go aircrewmen and leave the command when he has no initiative? However, you will transfer AE1 Jared Brose who the command placed back in charge after being kicked off of deployment and helped murder AEAN Caserta like yesterday. So, if you murder someone you leave and not go to Captain's Mast. If you are the hardest, best worker in the command and have no initiative, they keep you.

9) No comment, as this may be true.

10) AEAN Caserta was assigned to the ARO again to sell candy after he broke his collarbone. He was on light limited duty from November 2018 to March 2018. He had already sold candy for 6 months and now he had to do it again. He has been in the Navy at this point for over 2 years and in his current command for one year and has done nothing but sell candy. As for his qualifications, he couldn't work on them and he was told he didn't have to because he was on light limited duty. They could have put him to work elsewhere but they will say they couldn't. That would be a lie. He could have gone to the electrician workshop and helped them with inside things. While he was selling candy, he became the go to person and the expert there. **Not surprising for the best and hardest worker in the command. They sent him, with a duty driver, to Sam's Club all the time to buy more items for the Geedunk. They gave him a credit card to purchase the items with**

another person's name on it. This person had transferred out of the command several years ago. So, a duty driver can bring him to buy candy, but not to go to medical.

11) AEAN Caserta did voice his dissatisfaction with others about the command. The said individuals backed to him. That is missing in this biased report. He was **very** unhappy in this command because they called him a BUD's dud and other derogatory statements and name calling. A BUD's dud is a person who didn't make it through Navy SEAL training. Less then .000000001 percent of the Navy could pass the SEAL physical fitness test to even get a SEAL contract. AEAN Caserta made it to week 3 in the SEAL training. Hundreds had failed out by then. He was running 20 miles a day on a broken leg with pneumonia. You speak of fit and tough. Everyone talked bad about the command and no one did anything about it. I don't have the enclosures, they kept that from this report, but I assure you that it is both ways. AE1 Brose on a daily basis would tell AEAN Caserta to "go make yourself useful somewhere else". How can you like the command under those circumstances? He was berated, humiliated, bullied and intimidated every single day since the day he checked into that command.

12) As for AEAN Caserta rerating, he was already approved and he had orders, but he got hurt. He was cleared by a doctor in March 2018. He went up to the Command Career Counselor NC1 Spence and told him. He also told the Commanding Officer, Commander Thomas when Commander Thomas asked him, he said NC1 submitted the fit for duty clearance.

13) All I can say at this point is the command knew AE1 Brose had issues for a long time and deliberately put him in charge of young sailors who he just took full advantage of and bullied, berated and abused them. AEAN Caserta's death by suicide was due to not only LPO Brose but because he lost faith in the entire command's leadership.

AEAN Brandon Caserta was driven to suicide by his command which is murder. The failure to act properly and judiciously makes the U.S. Navy and HSC-28 accessories to the murder of Brandon. More than one person in Brandon's chain of command gave Brandon nothing but indifference when they ignored the situation. They were protecting the perpetrators to continue a campaign of despicable bulling, berating and intimidation that pushed him to the brink. Brandon was a death by suicide because he lost all confidence due to poor leadership in his command.

By putting AE1 Brose, a known abusive leader, who bullies, threatens, makes fun of, belittles, blackmails, intimidates, berates and many other traits of how not to be in life. The above threshold of the definition of murder is met.

14) The anger management really worked well. If anything, it made him worse.

15) AEAN Caserta was not delinquent in any qualifications. The PQS system reset itself back to zero and all the progress he had been working on was erased. Before the system

reset, AEAN Caserta was 72% complete on his PC qualification. He did not go on leave for 2 weeks. He on leave for 10 days (May 22 – May 31, 2018). He was saving time for Christmas so he took only 10 days on purpose. This is another indicator he was fine when he came home and went back. He had already made plans for Christmas with his friends and family. This is exactly why this report was thrown together and signed off on without any fact verification or validation. No one even bothered to review AEAN Caserta's personnel file to get the facts for this report. This investigation and report has been thrown together and that is completely unacceptable and demeaning.

16) As I pointed out to you already, AEAN Caserta is not required by the Navy to obtain this qualification in the timeframes they wanted it done. The PQS system reset his qualifications to zero with nothing completed. In mid-June he was to have them completed and board ready. The Counseling Chit done on 18 May 2018, states he has 180 days to complete this qualification. Why would he be delinquent on this qualification is he has 180 days to complete it? As for EMI, he was coming in at 7 in the morning and getting back to his room at 9pm on those 3-4 days. Can you imagine doing this yourself for a qualification you don't need? Remember, he was leaving. Only the commanding officer can sign off on EMI, and he didn't.

    Putting him on EMI was done illegally and if by some chance it wasn't, he was not behind on anything since he was not required to do this and had 180 days to complete it. The Plane Captain is in charge on the tarmac and is responsible for everyone and everything to include the safety of all. Now would you force someone to hurry up with this qualification in a matter of days when people take many years to get it? Yes, some get it quickly. The group that was on the flight line when AEAN Caserta died by suicide didn't even try and stop him and they ran away. They didn't even try and give him first aide. Again, would you hurry someone to get this qualification? Apparently, the training program they have in place is subpar and is not proper due to them not keeping the areas safe and preventing this from happening.

17) AEAN Caserta had gone to medical many times before on base and off base. He always had a ride. So, the duty driver was not the only one who could drive him. Plus, I'm positive the medical he was going to that day was the local base one. He also never went to medical when a lot of work was outstanding. If we look at his medical appointment sheets, they show he missed many because, again, he was the best and the hardest worker in the command. This appointment AE1 Brose knew about. It was the last appointment needed to complete a physical he didn't even need to get to go aircrewman. They were making him get another physical and do all the paperwork over again for their personal greed. I will prove this over and over again and it is factual and back by true evidence. So, this losing two people garbage is made up so is the lack of AEAN Caserta telling someone he had an appointment. Couldn't spare the manpower is a lie. LPO AE1 Brose used to tell AEAN Caserta to make himself useful somewhere else all the time. This is factual just ask others they will verify this.

18) Again, he didn't need the qualification to go Aircrewman. He didn't even need to do a new physical nor did he need their endorsement. He already had it and it was good for a year starting from October 2017 to October 2018. So, the prioritizing was a lie and a ploy to get him to qualify on something he did not need. Why would the best and hardest worker in the command need more merit? Why would he need anything if he is the best of the best? He is a command dream junior sailor. NC1 Spence sided with AE1 Brose on this one because he didn't have a choice or so he says. He threatened and blackmailed AEAN Caserta about the Aircrewman rerate to help AE1 Brose and Master Chief Pete Lerette get AEAN Caserta Plane Captain qualified so they could deploy him. He was leaving! Why would they even try to deploy him? This was all about personal greed, period.

I want to point out that, to this point, AEAN Caserta was "friends" with NC1 Spence, was going aircrewman, and did not need to do a complete package all over again and resubmit it. AEAN Caserta did it anyway because he trusted NC1 Spence and he told him he had to redo it all. So, they refuse to let him go to medical, they threaten to take away his dream of going aircrewman if he doesn't get the qualification he didn't need, his friend, NC1 Spence, turns on him and threatens, blackmails, and lies to him about having to do another complete package. This happened all on the same day. This was just the beginning of what the rest of that day and his last few days he was alive he had to deal with. Here was, again, by talking to everyone, the best and hardest worker in the command who volunteered for everything to include washing helicopters, cleaning floors, bathrooms, outside decks whatever they needed done and HSC-28 treated him like this.

19) I called NC1 Spence; but he didn't answer. I told him as a friend, yes, we were "self-made friends" because he called me looking for Brandon when the Chaplin was looking for AEAN Caserta in 2017 regarding an appointment that had been changed. The Chaplin tasked NC1 Spence to find him and tell him the new time. We talked for a long time. He told me he would take care of AEAN Caserta and we hit it off because I had also been a Navy counselor in the Navy. I just had many jobs above his and I was an expert in the field. He asked me why Brandon was seeing the Chaplin. I told him it was personal and had nothing to do with the command. That's all I told him. So, if he referred AEAN Caserta to the Chaplin or as he says brought him to the Chaplin why did he ask me why Brandon was seeing him?

AEAN Caserta had broken up with his girlfriend and sought out the Chaplin to talk to him about it. NC1 Spence wouldn't know this because I didn't tell him. So, his statement is an outright lie like so many others in this report. I later spoke with NC1 Spence after Brandon got his orders to aircrewman school in October -November 2017 timeframe and the first thing out of his mouth was I told you I would take care of your son for you. I left him a message after they wouldn't let AEAN Caserta go to medical. I told him that was wrong, and they couldn't do that. I told him to help AEAN Caserta with this and that I will go to the commanding officer if I have to about all this. Then I received a text from

AEAN Caserta. It says "NC1 Spence is involved in all this". I then sent NC1 Spence a text saying please tell me you are not involved in all this. I have these texts. I also have the outgoing calls to him. The next thing I know, my cell phone is ringing with a call from the Norfolk area code. It was Master Chief Lerette who claimed to be the Command Master Chief. That position is the senior enlisted advisor for the command and that person worked directly for the commanding officer.

This counseling session happened because Maintenance Master Chief Lerette called me and we talked. He was rude and told me there are 50 chiefs in this command. He was mad that he was calling me. He claimed to be the Command Master Chief. He kept saying you called my NC. We discussed AEAN Caserta's package for Aircrewman, being denied medical, the candy selling, the plane captain qualification and many other things. He told me he heard AEAN Caserta was afraid of aircraft. I told him that was not true. I even sent a text out to AEAN Caserta and asked him and he said no. I have this text as evidence. Mast Chief Lerette defended everything. He even said AE1 Brose better not be abusing people again and that he would put an end to it and send him to Captain's Mast. When we discussed the plane captain qualification, he claims it would do the Navy good. He also said AEAN Caserta is useless to him because he does not have that qualification and he can't deploy him. No wonder AEAN Caserta felt useless in that command. I'm sure if Master Chief Lerette told me that he was useless, can you imagine all the things he told AEAN Caserta to his face?

He said people had to do two deployments because of AEAN Caserta. That's a lie and again AEAN Caserta was leaving. As far as doing the Navy good, wouldn't it do the Navy good if everyone ate better, lost weight, and worked out more? As I said before, it is obvious that they had no intention of AEAN Caserta going aircrewman or transferring. Master Chief Lerette told me AEAN Caserta was lying about him not being able to go to medical. He claimed he talk to AEAN Caserta and helped him out and he said he had my back and called me brother at least 10 times. I told him I would talk to AEAN Caserta about the qualification and he will stay on track as he always has. That is why AEAN Caserta was receptive about it all because we launched a plan to do as they wanted and get him out of there. As for AEAN Caserta leaving his office unshaken, that is wrong. He was mad that he got yelled at and Master Chief Lerette was spitting on him by accident that shows how mad Lerette was. AEAN Caserta said the conversation was one way. Master Chief Lerette didn't let AEAN Caserta talk.

There were many errors in the one-sided conversation such as the computer resetting his qualifications and the fact that he wasn't delinquent and of course how AE1 Brose was treating him. For the record, if I had known he wasn't the Command Master Chief as he said he was, I **never** would have spoken to him. He lied to me, because he didn't want me to call Command Master Chief Tokarski and spill the beans on his plot to keep AEAN Caserta in the command and force him to get the plane captain qualification overnight and deploy him. I have the text from AEAN Caserta telling me I didn't talk to the Command Master Chief and I gave this text to the IG and told NCIS about it. As for

the endorsement after completing plane captain qualification, AEAN Caserta didn't need an endorsement; he already had one. That was the secret that they kept from us.

They knew this and that is why NC1 Spence went to Master Chief Lerette and had him call me. NC1 Spence told him I was going to call the Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer, and I was a Navy Counselor and that I would expose their plan to keep AEAN Caserta from going. Well, unfortunately, it worked. I believed and trusted Master Chief Lerette. I really thought he was the Command Master Chief as he said he was. Who would impersonate someone he wasn't unless he had something to hide? The Command Master Chief is the only one who could say "I have 50 chiefs in this command" and "my NC1" and it would be true. Now, for the record, if Master Chief Lerette had really meant if AEAN Caserta got Plane captain quailed he would sign off on him going aircrewman then why did he tell me AEAN Caserta was useless to him without it and people had to do two deployments because he wasn't plane captain qualified. Again, AEAN Caserta was leaving. I trusted Master Chief Lerette and it cost me my son's life. How did he **not** contribute to the murder of my son? He is as guilty as anyone. He lied in this statement, to NCIS, to the IG, to the Command Investigating officer, to me and my wife, and did absolutely nothing he said he would. If he had fixed and removed AE1 Brose, AEAN Caserta would still be alive. He was told by me that AE1 Brose was mistreating AEAN Caserta. I told Master Chief Lerette, word for word, that I was concerned about the welfare and well-being of my son. That was the first thing I said just like I did when I spoke to the real Command Master Chief, Tokarski.

20) How can you counsel and send someone to a disciplinary review board for having a driver's license and you have no evidence that he does?

21) I'm putting this driver license to rest right here and now. This is long and is the exact conversation I had with Command Master Chief Tokarski on the first phone call to him on 6/25/2018. Here is exactly what happened: AE1 Brose was furious with AEAN Caserta after he got in trouble for denying and letting him go get medical care. He goes in the ASM system and mysteriously finds out that AEAN Caserta had an ID Number in the computer under his Command information. He runs to Chief Hennard and Master Chief Lerette and complains. They tell him to go to AEAN Caserta and have him write his full name, address, date of birth and social security on a piece of paper. AEAN Caserta complies not knowing why he needed to do that because he always does as others ask with no questions. AE1 Brose never told him what it is for and it is something you cannot ask someone for no reason. That's a fact.

AE1 Brose goes to the workshop and starts looking up AEAN Caserta's information in the Arizona DMV website to see if he has a driver's license. Nothing comes up. Then somehow a chief from Arizona, Chief Delasandro, gets involved and now seven people are involved standing in front of this computer while Chief Delasandro inputs AEAN Caserta's information. There are five chiefs and two 1st Class Petty officers who are watching and being a part of this. Chief Delasandro asks AEAN Caserta if he has ever

moved AEAN Caserta says he did. He has him write down the new address. His information comes up with his old address. It is free to change your address in the state of Arizona so no fee is required, but it costs $12 to change the mailing address. They wanted a new updated driver's license sent to the command. Chief Delasandro puts all the information in and asks AEAN Caserta for $12. He says "I do not have $12". Chief Delsandro asked him if he has a credit card, AEAN Caserta said he did not but I have a debit card. Chief Delasandro then says give it to me, grabs it out of AEAN Caserta's hand, inputs the information and prints out a receipt, hands it to AEAN Caserta and says "looks like you have a driver's license". The address change would have been free. He made him pay for a replacement driver's license. This driver's license, to this day, has never been returned to us and was sent to the command with AEAN Caserta's name on it. The DMV never received it back to this day.

Someone in HSC-28 stole it. Here is why: They violated every privacy act rule in the book. They forced him to pay for something he didn't need or want. They took and used his debit card without his permission. This is all in text to me with an email timeline to back it up along with a copy of the receipt he was given. I want to point out that no one knows for sure if it is a driver's license and it was not valid if it was even a driver's license at this point. So how could he be going to a disciplinary review board for having a driver's license, malingering, and failing to maintain one? AEAN Caserta had 10 days by Arizona law from when he went to basic training to change his address period. He moved eight times in over two and a half years while in the military. In the state of Arizona and Virginia it is the state law that you must have and maintain car insurance to drive any vehicle, period. As for the government is self-insured, that is true but you are still required to have a valid driver's license, car insurance and know how to drive. AEAN Caserta did not drive and has never ever driven by himself and there is not one person in the world who can say he ever drove by himself. He never had car insurance and surely has never driven a van yet alone an 18-passenger one. You cannot make someone drive period.

Now for what I told AEAN Caserta and Command Master Chief Tokarski, I explained what I have said so far. I said AEAN Caserta does not drive. I told him AEAN Caserta has never driven alone and that his driver's license is used as an ID purposes only. That is factual truth with no deception period. CMC Tokarski argued with me. Since he was arguing about something that he was out of line with and couldn't possibly even win the argument, I informed CMC Tokarski that it is not a requirement to join the Navy to have a driver's license, it is not a requirement to have a driver's license to be in his command, it is not a requirement to have one to be an electrician, to sell candy or to launch helicopters. Then I stated that the Navy did not pay for the license and no one in the Navy or HSC-28 is entitled to his driver's license.

I went on to say AEAN Caserta is not going to any disciplinary review board without me being there and that I represent him, and he is to go to base legal right now. I told him I will get an attorney for AEAN Caserta and I'm going to be there tomorrow or the next

day at the latest. CMC Tokarski then told me all this goes away if AEAN Caserta goes to medical and claims to be claustrophobic. He also said he had already sent some assistant Senior Chief to tell AEAN Caserta if he goes to medical and claims to be claustrophobic all this goes away. I told him AEAN Caserta is not claustrophobic and if anything, he may have a driving phobia. I pointed out to him that he cannot make AEAN Caserta drive because it is a safety hazard and people in the command could be killed. There was no way he could be a duty driver period. He doesn't want to drive and never has alone ever. Many people his age in modern America do not drive. Especially since Lyft and Uber came into the picture. Years before this when AEAN Caserta told us he doesn't want to drive I thought he was crazy. I even talked to my college professors about it. Everyone I talked to have the same issues with their children.

They told me this is common and to understand that when he is ready someday, he will probably drive. That day hadn't come. We even sent him to a very high dollar driving school in hopes that it would change his mind. It didn't and so we were out $2,000. After completing and graduating from the school, he was entitled to getting an Arizona driver's license. He never drove any automobile by himself his entire life. He went to week three in Navy SEAL Training. He was not claustrophobic. A driver's license is not a requirement to be in the Navy, HSC-28, or his job. As a matter of fact, no one is required to show or tell anyone they have a driver's license other than if they are asked by a police officer. It is a private matter and no one's business.

Let's talk about why what I said is not in this investigation. I cannot believe they even put what they did in it. It is worse than admitting what they did. They do not want anyone to know what they were doing to AEAN Caserta. Like I have said to everyone who cared about AEAN Caserta, would you want to tell your boss, the Navy, NCIS, and IG that you were trying to bring a young sailor to captain's mast and it caused him to do what he did? HSC-28 literally murdered AEAN Caserta. When the media gets ahold of this story, and someday they will, the Navy will have a PR nightmare worse than they have ever seen. Think about this, they did not believe him that he did not drive, and they certainly did not believe me. HSC-28 did not care about whether he could drive or not, safely. They were going to bring him to captain's mast because they felt he was a liar and that they were going to make him drive an 18-passenger van. HSC-28 felt they were entitled to his driver's license, they stole money from him to get one which violated his rights and privacy. They wouldn't let him go to legal or medical. AEAN Caserta dies and they cover up and fabricate information not even caring that we most likely have texts, e-mails, a picture of the DMV receipt, the fact that he told his parents and his old roommate everything that was going on. Actually, HSC-28 was really taking AEAN Caserta to a Disciplinary Review Board for malingering. I have this in text and AEAN Caserta told me on the phone. Malingering is not mentioned in this report at all and I was told many times that many believed him that he didn't drive or know he had a driver's license. If that was true, then why is he dead? They never said to AEAN Caserta they believed him or to me. He would be alive if they did.

On the 22 June 2108 Counseling Chit, it was all typed out. The counselor recommended a Disciplinary review board without even hearing or, in this case, reading AEAN Caserta's side of the story. This is against every Navy policy out there. You are innocent until proven guilty and how can you be pre-recommended for something without you having any chance to explain your side of the story? A disciplinary review board is not the place to explain your side of the story for the first time. I have been on and in charge of 100's of these boards and it does not work that way. You cannot even set one up without just cause. Having a driver's license and not ever driving alone is not just cause. If someone wants to twist this then let's put it to rest. If AEAN Caserta had a driver's license it was no one's business nor are they entitled to his driver's license period.

The Arizona DMV database indicated AEAN Caserta did have a driver's license, but it was expired. No one in the Navy or his command had any right to enter an online database and punch in any person's personal information to see anyone's driver's license. AEAN Caserta never gave permission for anyone to do this. It violated his rights, his privacy, and most of all extremely unethical and against the law period. Remember, this was the best and hardest worker in the command and not one person was looking out for AEAN Caserta's well-being, welfare, career development, mentoring, nothing, just an illegal DMV search. If AEAN Caserta had a mentor as the command requires which is to be an E-7 or above, he could have gone to that person and he could have asked for help. It's hard to do when the command never assigned anyone to him.

Lack of a valid driver's license. He didn't t have a lack of anything. He is not required to have a driver's license. Since it's not a requirement to be in the Navy, at HSC-28, or his rating it would be hard to have a lack of a valid driver's license. A valid invalid driver's license would be wrong state, wrong type, whatever words they want to use, if you do not drive, it is a non-issue and nonstarter period.

22) The Assistant Squadron Duty Officer spoke to AEAN Caserta, during the last days of his life. She stated he didn't sound right. He did not respond to her queries. That's a lie ask anyone and look at this investigation AEAN Caserta always did as he was told. He always showed respect and always answered all questions when asked. She said she didn't think he would harm himself. How could she possibly know this since she didn't take the time to find out what was wrong with him? It was her duty to seek him out personally if she felt something was not right with him. She just dismissed him like everyone else in that command. No one cares about their sailors at all and this proves it. Everything that is learned, comes from the top down. If the Commanding Officer doesn't care, why should anyone else.

23) First of all, AEAN Caserta only e-mailed Kristen and Miki who were the only two on deployment that he emailed. The other person he texted was Katrina Carden who was on nights. Secondly, on June 2, 2018, AEAN sent a text message to Miki that said, "What's the objective of life?" He did not send this the weekend of June 23-24. The email that is referenced that was sent out is only talked about because they want to

show that AEAN Caserta planned this out and had made his mind up. What is left out of this statement is the fact that he also told them that "I'm royally FUCKED now by the command. I can't go crewmen anymore". Which proves HSC-28 took that option way from him. What they fail to tell you is that he sent a text message to Katrina Carden who he left all the letters for on her desk on June 25 that states, word for word, **Unless things don't go right. Then I'll have to give it to you later. If you honestly prefer that, then I will do it.** This means he was not sure what he was going to do if anything at all. AE1 Brose, CMC Tokarski, Chief Hennard, NC1 Spence, Chief Delasandro or any one of them or a combination of them after this text put him over the edge on a point of no return. We have been told AE1 Brose was seen arguing with AEAN Caserta right before he died by suicide. We also know that AEAN Caserta told people on the flight line that he was hungry and was going to get something to eat.

He disappeared for 40 or more minutes, he did not leave the building that anyone knows of. No one, to this day, knows what he did, where he went, **but we do know from the medical examiner's report that he had an empty stomach so he did not eat**. No one to this day had even looked into the matter and this 40-minute disappearance is very important and most definitely shows the command is covering this up. That 40 minutes will answer the biggest question in everyone's minds. What would cause a twenty-one-year-old young man to jump into a turning helicopter rear rotor blade, miss and do it again. The command knows what they did and are coving it up and trying to make everyone believe on the 24th of June 2018 he had completely made his mind up. This is untrue by the texts sent to us that the command has never seen but NCIS has had from day one. Also, I want it to be known that someone used his fingerprint to get in his phone when he was already dead. That phone belongs to me. What did they do to it and what did they erase add or mess with?

24) The time these items were placed on Katrina's desk is unknown. They do not want you to know the exact time. There is evidence that it was put there later in the day. Maybe during the 40-minute disappearance or after what happened during that time, he was forced to go do what he did. By the command saying it was early morning it is trying to convince people that he had this all planed out. Who would drop off boxes of letters and gifts at 7am in the morning and dies by suicide at 3:34 pm? He could have done it right after he dropped them off that morning.

Why would he work all day long in a command who hates him and made it impossible for him to like and function in? HSC-28 did not care about him, they didn't look out for his wellbeing or welfare, they didn't believe him, nor appreciate all his hard work, and you expect us to believe he worked hard all day knowing he was going to kill himself for sure? No way, there is more evidence to support he was not sure what he was going to do. The letters do not say how he was going to die or when. This command trapped him and broke him that day and he felt he didn't have a choice. The people in HSC-28 drove him to choose death by suicide because he lost all confidence in leadership and for the

way he was treated. HSC-28 murdered him and they do not want to take any reasonability for it.

25) At 1500 which is 3pm is not the time he took his own life. It was approximately 1534. We have texts coming and going with him at 1500 and beyond. They can't even put in this report the right times and dates of things. I have pointed this out all over this report. Paying attention to detail is what any investigation requires and better yet is what from day one the Navy teaches you. As I have pointed out and proven with factual evidence, this command ignored paying attention to detail and that is another reason AEAN Caserta is dead. Even when he is dead, they continue to disrespect him and blame him for all of their unacceptable actions, practices, unsatisfactory training, and lack of training, lies, abusive and hostile work environment that was standard operating procedure for them. Again, this behavior is taught and comes from the top. Commander Whitmer is ultimately responsible for this because he did not condone what was going on in his own command. AE1 Brose is a product of the Commanding Officer's training program. It was taught to him and encouraged by the leadership in this command. **The command climate control surveys before this were horrible and no one did anything**. AE1 Brose and others where identified in them.

The Commanding Officer and the leadership in the command did nothing about the treatment, the bullying and the abusive leadership. Yet you see in this investigation there were no complaints against AE1 Brose since he was kicked off deployment for doing the exact things he continued to do. The Command Climate survey tells them AE1 Brose was still doing what he did before. The survey was weeks before all this happened. AEAN Caserta also put in the Commanding Officer's suggestion box an in-depth complaint. It was put in a week before this happened and AEAN Caserta took a picture of it on his phone. Weeks before this happened, command climate surveys were conducted and many of them had bad reviews with details about AE1 Brose and others. So, we know of four plus times that evidence proves AE1 Brose had not changed one bit since being kicked off DET 4 and going to Anger Management and was allowed to continue to do what he always had. I told Master Chief Lerette, I told CMC Tokarski, AEAN Caserta put it in the Commanding Officer's suggestion box, stated it on his command survey, in his letters to us and others. Everything but the letters was known before he died and the Commanding Officer and his leadership did nothing. That means they supported and taught it.

A hostile work environment with no way out. Then the day before AEAN Caserta died, a sister Helicopter Squadron in Norfolk had a suicide, three weeks prior to that there was another suicide in another sister squadron of HSC-28 in Norfolk. No training was conducted after either of the first two. There was no media attention on either one of those suicides and both Commanding Officers were relieved. HSC-28's Commanding Officer who teaches and supports an abusive and hostile work environment is still in charge acting like nothing happened, taking no responsibility for it at all and putting all the blame on AE1 Brose. Commander Whitmer, Commander, Prouty, Command Master

Chief, Tokarski, Chief Delasandro, Chief Hennard, NC1 Spence and AE1 Brose should ALL be held accountable due to the lack of leadership, training, decision making, caring, and most of all for them murdering of one of their sailors they were entrusted with. Loss of confidence can't even begin to justify why this commanding officer and his leadership he put in place should be relieved and put in jail for all this.

26) I did call Command Master Chief Tokarski. I never said anything about AEAN Caserta not responding to my calls. I called about my son's welfare and wellbeing and how the command was treating him. In particular, about the treatment from AE1 Brose and NC1 Spence. I talked about the aircrewman situation, Master Chief Lerette lying to me about who he was and him not doing anything about AE1 Brose when I, in fact, told him he was threatening my son, abusing him, blackmailing him, and many other issues. I called to clear up and put a rest to the Disciplinary Review Board and the driver's license. CMC Tokarski was very combative and argumentative with me. He said a Disciplinary Review Board is nonjudicial punishment. I told him AEAN Caserta does not drive and has never driven by himself. I also told him he has never had car insurance either. I said he will not be going to any board without me present. I also told him since I tried explaining the driver's license issue to him and he was arguing with me. I told him it is not a requirement to have a driver's license to be in the Navy, to be in the Command, to be a Navy Electrician, and neither you nor the Navy are not entitled to his driver's license. He seemed to think otherwise. I told him I was coming out and that I represent AEAN Caserta and he will not go to a board or sign anything going forward and to get him and keep away from AE1 Brose, NC1 Spence, Chief Hennard, and Master Chief Lerette until I get there.

I told CMC Tokarski I'm having AEAN Caserta run 3 chits, one to go to legal, one to go talk to the Commanding Officer, and one to go to the Equal Opportunity Officer on the base. I have the texts to AEAN Caserta about this and he was still alive. I said the call didn't go as well as I thought it would, but that he was going to call me back. If CMC Tokarski went and talked to AEAN Caserta when I called him on this call, AEAN Caserta would still be alive. This is a fact. Thirty minutes went by before he called me back. I thought he was doing as I asked. During that time, we received a text from AEAN Caserta saying "Just know that I love you". We didn't understand it and thought it was because CMC Tokarski went and talked to him and told him what the actual plan was that I told him what was going to happening and that they believe him about the driver's license. CMC Tokarski cost us valuable time and we had no chance to save AEAN Caserta because we trusted CMC Tokarski and those 30 minutes of time ruined everything.

CMC Tokarski then told me all this goes away if AEAN Caserta goes to medical and claim that he is claustrophobic. He said he told his senior chief who fills in for him to go tell AEAN Caserta early that morning. I told him AEAN Caserta is not claustrophobic and if anything may, have a driving phobia but not claustrophobia. He repeated it four times about being claustrophobic. He told me he had to go and would call me back in ten

minutes. I thought he was going to get AEAN Caserta and tell him that everything was fine or give the request chits to him. I also could not figure out what part of AEAN Caserta does not drive he couldn't understand. I also told him there isn't a person on the planet who can say they saw him drive because he didn't.

CMC Tokarski called me back 30 minutes later and continued to argue with me about the driver's license and the claustrophobic idea he had. I told him that he is asking AEAN Caserta to lie and that wasn't going to happen. I told him he couldn't be an aircrewman if he lied and said he was claustrophobic yet alone many other things in the Navy or in civilian life. If it was true, that would be different. I asked if he had a mentor assigned in the command as required by Navy regulations and the Command regulations. He said no. I asked what is wrong with you why do you not believe him he doesn't drive and surly he cannot make him drive especially in a full-size truck and an 18-passenger van. I reminded him that I'm coming out to clear all this up and again to send him to legal and to the Base Equal Opportunity Officer. He said "what?" then he said, "repeat that" then he said, "I got to go" and hung up. It was a strange ending. We sent AEAN Caserta texts and tried to call him all day long after that. It turns out I was on the phone with CMC Tokarski when AEAN Caserta died by suicide on the second call. CMC Tokarski and the command did a press release without our permission before we had even been notified of his death. They did this on purpose and the next day they corrected it and again it ran without our permission. The other two suicides didn't make the media and my son's did before we even knew he was dead.

The call stated in this investigation has absolutely no details in it and I just told you the true story about the call. CMC Tokarski left all the information out on purpose. The evidence shows in texts and other things that what I said is true and accurate. As a matter of fact, look at one of the counseling chits in this investigation it says he is claustrophobic in type which means his chief, Shelah Hennard, put that in it before he signed it. Someone lined it out. I assume it was either AEAN Caserta or Chief Hennard. I'm sure AEAN Caserta would not sign it without it being removed because it wasn't true. No one can say it was put there by mistake; it was done on a computer and printed out ahead of time. So, on 22 June 2018 they already were messing with him to go to medical and lie and tell them he is claustrophobic. AEAN Caserta never mentioned the claustrophobia stuff to us. I talked to AEAN Caserta for over 2 hours on the night of the June 22nd and during late afternoon on the 23rd. We also texted all day on the 24th. Nothing was said about claustrophobia. What we do know is it wasn't said on the 25th and we find this strange. We actually told him to do as the command wanted and if he went to medical to see if they felt he possibly could be claustrophobic but that was just to get him away from everyone in the command until we arrived there. We sent the text to go to medical for this. We didn't know he was already dead. The text proves that CMC Tokarski did indeed try and get AEAN Caserta to lie and say he was claustrophobic and wanted me to also tell him to lie and do it.

27) Now the time of death is correct. The investigator never verified, proof read or corrected anything in the report. He just wrote to suit him and the command to cover all this up.

28) The fox guarding the hen house takes the boxes of evidence and locks them up. Who knows what he did with them or if he took anything from it and the locked door was a nice touch; we will never know if it is true. They should not have touched anything.

29) Apparently, Taylor Cousins deserves no privacy in this report; her name wasn't blacked out. As for the contents, we will never know if this is everything or not. The command got to it before NCIS. I have demanded everything in these boxes to be sent to me immediately to include his phone and computer. To this day, we have only been given a copy of the letter he wrote to us and nothing else. We do have the phone and computer but that literally took an act of congress to get. Since AEAN Caserta left two boxes for Katrina Carden wanting her to give out, she never had custody of it, all of it belongs to us by default and the fact that we were the beneficiaries of his estate. They need our permission to touch any of this and to take it. They never asked and did as they wanted just like they always do.

30) This is a deceitful lie and couldn't be further from the truth. AEAN Caserta did blame HSC-28 and the chain of command, that is a fact. As for the Special Warfare, I will translate it for you since the command is trying to cover all this up. He did get dropped from SEALS Special Warfare; he did not drop on request. He was very disappointed in that. I told the story about it earlier in this rebuttal. However, what he is saying is if the rerating process had been proper in the Navy after someone drops out or gets dropped from the Special Warfare Program, they should get a choice on what job they can do in the Navy as anything that interests them that he qualifies for.

He didn't get anything offered to him he wanted to do and, remember, he had a broken tibia in 4 places and could not walk at this time. His point is twofold. If the process was different and he had a choice, he would have **never** been in HSC-28. Which means he wouldn't have been put in the abusive, hostile environment he was stuck in. Furthermore, he would be still alive. He also tasked us to get the rerating process changed and we will after we honor his wishes and get the justice he asked us to get for him due to what HSC-28 did to him. Any other interpretation of this is a lie and is not based on facts. HSC-28 murdered him and he tells you this many times. He reached out for help, we tried to help him, he did an anonymous letter and in a command climate survey. He told all his friends outside of HSC-28, who are his true friends. Two of them are **Phoenix Police Officers his age**. Those two are our, self-proclaimed by them, sons. Unlike HSC-28 and his so-called friends in that command, they are all devastated and have helped us through this the best they can considering they are just as devastated. They want to help, honor and get justice for their best friend.

AEAN Caserta had been in HSC-28 for over two years. He came home four times to include the month prior to when he died by suicide. He always got recharged at home and all his true friends always said it was his safe zone. He loved it at home. Was he depressed? He was no more depressed than everyone else in HSC-28. How could they not be? It is a command that trained and taught the abusive and hostile environment that it has and it comes from the top leadership. AEAN Caserta had his own room at home, a video game room, large amounts of money in the bank, was always welcomed home, could live at home forever with no money needed, the fittest in HSC-28, he looked fantastic and had everything going for him. He smiled all the time. AEAN Caserta's true friends said he had a Magic Johnson smile. He had many girlfriends, and was smart. He was the greatest son in the world and so easy to love. He always did as he was told and always accepted people for who they were, he didn't care if they liked him or not, he was always there for everyone who needed him. He was a blackbelt in karate and had unshakable discipline and confidence. If you want to read about him go to www.dignitymemorial.com, search obituaries for his name. He had no reason to die. HSC-28 murdered him.

31) This is a true fact. He wanted out of HSC-28 due to being in the command for over two years selling candy and working on a flight line, and not being an electrician which he was trained to be, and being in an abusive, hostile environment. He was already selected to be an aircrewman and he did want to be one. Let's say he didn't want to and what the investigator says is true. He was going to reenlist in the Navy for 6 years and not get a bonus for it to go Aircrewman. Just to get out of the command. That's how bad it is there. Had they not blackmailed him, lied to him and made him do his package illegally over again, he would have been gone. He would be alive today. He had no true idea if he would love Aircrewman, but he wanted to take the challenge. However, he wanted out of that abusive, hostile environment that badly to reenlist for 6 years with no bonus. He did have another option, he could have gone back to SEAL training. His 2-year mark was up in April 2018. He chose to go Aircrewman. As a career counselor and his father, it was to do something more suited to his liking and to get out of HSC-28.

Everyone knew he hated it there because of how he was treated. He was the best and the hardest worker in the command and hated it there. If you really think about what I just said then you have the true answer. What is sad, factually, is the Commanding Officer knew all about AE1 Brose, Master Chief Lerette, CMC Tokarski, NC1 Spence, Chief Hennard, Chief Delasandro and many others. He was the Executive Officer before he became Commanding Officer. This command investigator did not go to AEAN Caserta's prior Commanding Officer CDR Thomas because he loved and respected AEAN Caserta. He would only have great things to say about AEAN Caserta. CDR Thomas protected him and had his career development, well-being, and was so proud to send AEAN Caserta to Aircrewman school. AEAN Caserta was his hardest, best worker at his command and the American blue Jacket at his finest period. Yes, they had been abusing AEAN Caserta from the day he arrived, but AEAN Caserta knew Commander Thomas had his back and everyone knew it.

They would have never tried to do the plane captain, driver's license, blackmailing, threating him while Commander Thomas was in the command. What former Commanding Officer goes to a memorial service for a 21-year-old? He made that much of an impact on Commander Thomas by working hard, smiling all the time, and being the best and hardest worker in the command. We are told three people spoke at AEAN Caserta's memorial service one of them was Commander Thomas. There are approximately 300 people in HSC-28 and three people talked, and one was his former Commanding officer and one was the Chaplin, who we heard did a horrible job. We have the CD of the service which arrived three months after the fact. I'm sure it's on it.

32) These references are very clear and not vague at all. We, his parents, knew he put the command suggestion in weeks prior, I told Master Chief Lerette, Master Chief Tokarski, NC1 Spence that AEAN Caserta told just about everyone how bad it was there and how much he hated it there. They treated him like garbage and he was the best and hardest worker in that command till the day they murdered him. The command did ruin his life. They didn't believe him, they wanted to bring him to Captain's mast over a driver's license when he didn't even drive. They were using this to keep him from going aircrewman. They were making him work from 7am till 9pm every night to get the qualification he didn't need. They had no right to send him to a disciplinary review board; it was criminal what they did to him. I told them he didn't drive and they still wanted to ruin his life. They had no entitlement to his driver's license and don't forget they felt so strongly about the entitlement they stole and committed many crimes to be able to steal it when it arrived at the command. As I write this I'm crying because I have to live with the fact that I tried to do the right thing and let the command know all this was wrong and they murdered him because they feel they are God. How hard is to tell the truth? This investigation is a joke; they know it and now so do you.

33) I talked about the rating conversion above in detail. I will get this fixed after I honor my son's wishes and get justice for him. He is right, if he had been able to do something he wanted to do, he would have never been in HSC-28 let alone in the abusive, hostile environment, and having AE1 Brose in charge of him, a failed LPO, who was allowed by the chain of command to continue to do what he does best, berate, belittle, abuse, threaten and bully everyone under him. The command endorsed this and AE1 Brose thrived in this environment. AEAN Caserta did not do what he did because of the "lingering" effects of the SEAL program. He did what he did because of HSC-28's abusive and hostile environment. The only reason why this investigator even put this statement in here is to try to throw the blame to what happened to him in BUD's and take the blame off HSC-28. The letter he left us comes from the heart and is the factual truth from the person going through it. He says word for word:

I want as many people as possible fired, kicked out, and/or at the very least lose rank. I do not want a military funeral I've done nothing in the military to be proud of. Ruin these people's lives as much as they ruined mine. While you are at it, attack the rerate

process because if that changed to any rate someone qualifies for not as many people in the future will suffer the fate I have.

That explains it and is interpreted by me in the above rebuttal perfectly and the way it was meant to. There is no excuse whatsoever this command and its investigator could possibly say to convince anyone it wasn't their fault period.

34) We have never read this letter but again read the above, it is his way of telling Commander Duane Whitmer this would never have happened if that process was different and I surely wouldn't have been in your abusive and hostile environment that you allowed if the process was different. He is blaming the commanding officer and the Navy for allowing all this to happen to him. We found a letter in his personal stuff that the command, and NCIS missed we gave it to NCIS. It is talking about the same issues except it says, "I run 20 miles a day on a broken leg and this is how you treat me".

The letter states word for word, "I'm not living like this anymore. Fuck this command, fuck the Navy!! If the rerate process was better than it is, we all wouldn't be in this mess, but I'm tired of living a failure's life day in day out. It's hell for me every day here. Why should I get punished for getting injured in Seal training then get denied medical? I was only running 20 miles a day on a broken leg, silly me, I was fine. I'm done. It's not worth it to live like this anymore."

You cannot blame anyone other than HSC-28. He spells it out. He then says "we all wouldn't be in this mess". He isn't talking about anything other than being in HSC-28, due to no fault of his own, and what they were doing to him. The Commanding officer, CDR Whitmer, Executive Officer CDR Prouty, the Department Head, Master Chief Tokarski, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Hennard, Chief Delasandro, AE1 Brose, and NC1 Spence are guilty and someone needs to hold all of them accountable for what they did and didn't do.

35) That is a fact that AE1 Brose is not a leader. He should not have been mentoring impressionable young sailors. The Command allowed him to be this way, that is on them. AE1 Brose was fired and kicked off of deployment and Master Chief Lerette put him back in charge like nothing ever happened. He is very abusive in front of others to include the CDR Whitmer, CDR Prouty, CMC Tokarski, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Hennard, NC1 Spence and many others and not one E- 4 and above did anything. That tells us the command supported, encouraged, taught and promoted the abusive and hostile community that AE1 Brose thrived in. This meets the definition of the murder requirement. As I said, the anonymous letters had been put in there before the incident. AEAN Caserta lost all confidence in the leadership of HSC-28 and was forced into his death by suicide. The command got together with the said guilty parties and started their cover up because they knew they had been exposed by AEAN Caserta and me, his father, a retired Navy Senior Chief, and would get the answers he needed to do as his son tasked him with and to hold everyone involved in this accountable for what they did

and didn't do. As for the anonymous letters, they had been submitted before and after the incident. They are lying to cover up they knew. They didn't care at all and now they have grieving parents who have questions and not getting any answers and HSC-28 is trying to cover this up.

36) AEAN Caserta submitted the same information a week prior to his death. The command climate survey was prior to all the above and no one did anything about it. AE1 Brose would call AEAN Caserta a BUD's DUD on a daily basis. He would also say to AEAN Caserta, "Why don't you go make yourself useful somewhere else." These comments were said in front of everyone and he would throw packages on the floor when AEAN Caserta would receive them. The entire command knew and they lied in this investigation and said they didn't know. This also is grounds to fire, remove, Court Marshall, and put in jail all of the said individuals directly responsible for his death.

37) Third time being counseled on June 27, 2018. AE1 Brose murdered AEAN Caserta and he gets a counseling chit for criticizing and belittling AEAN Caserta after his death? And now they want to get rid of him? Why was that not done two years ago? Now suddenly everyone is "offended" by his comments. AEAN Caserta thought his death would free him from this. He can't even rest in peace.

38) We did reach out for answers. AEAN Caserta told us in his letter to. He gives us names of good people in the command that he trusted. He wanted to leave them money and gifts. When I say money, I mean he had an investment that could be promising sooner than later we are talking big money. Every one of them turned their backs on us after we talked to them. They said they are going with the command on all this. I told them all he is dead. This is about a death not theft or something. They didn't care. The command threatened them with jail time, bad evaluations, and their careers if they talk to us again. NCIS told us the only reason people talk to me to begin with is because they felt sorry for me. Nice thing to say to a retired Navy Senior Chief. We deserve answers. We are 3,000 miles away and we knew the command murdered him.

As for a general consensus, I didn't know that the investigating officer and Commanding Officers had degrees in Psychiatry and Psychology. I'm a retired Navy Counselor and have higher credentials than both of them combined. Threatening is one of the things that they murdered AEAN Caserta with so extending it to all was easy and encouraged in this command's abusive and hostile environment. Think about what a Commanding Officer and his command could say to people for them to not to help their friends' parents through this, forgo inheritance of money, his trust, Katrina, Kristen and Miki read their letters and knew the command was responsible and to do the right thing and talk to us. I do want to say this was worse than wrong. Again, it was cruel to us and fits right in with how this command operates.

OPINIONS

1) No one cared if AEAN Caserta was sad or depressed. The abuse he and other junior sailors received daily was enough for them to know what was going on. AEAN Caserta's SEAL Special Warfare Training was over two years prior to this, he obvious knew how to deal with it. As a matter of fact, Aircrewman is in the Special Warfare category in the Navy, but the investigating officer must not know this. AEAN Caserta was going back to Special Warfare and he was getting out of the command. What a great mix for someone who had moved on. It doesn't get any better than that. The investigating officer states that it is hard to delineate between the normal grumblings of enlisted sailors, and true cries for help and noticeable depression and anxiety. This should not even be an issue. If the chain of command cared about their sailors, enlisted or officers, they would be able to tell who are noticeably depressed and have anxiety or crying out for help. No one in HSC-28 even tried to see who fell into these categories; therefore, proves without a doubt they don't care about their sailors.

2) As told earlier, NC1 Spence did not take AEAN Caserta to the Chaplin and he was not there about the Navy it was because of the breakup with his girlfriend. He may have talked about the SEALs and other issues but NC1 Spence did not set it up. Also, NC1 Spence knew AEAN Caserta was scared, depressed and mad over the Aircrewman and driver's license issue and the DRB. I told him myself about the Aircrewman and asked him to help until I found out he was involved in threatening and blackmailing AEAN Caserta. He is a liar and his lies got AEAN Caserta in this stranglehold to begin with. Had NC1 Spence really talked to the Community Manager, AEAN Caserta would have been out of the command in April 2018. This is fact and undisputable. He knew Brose was abusing AEAN Caserta. He witnessed it time and time again.

   I will give NC1 Spence one compliment. He did, in the past prior to the events of what transpired the week of June 18-25, defend AEAN Caserta against AE1 Brose. However, him turning his back on AEAN Caserta and myself really hurt AEAN Caserta's feelings. I mean really hurt his feelings. AEAN Caserta and I trusted NC1 Spence and NC1 Spence was a work friend and the highest-ranking person AEAN Caserta was friends with. AEAN Caserta was devastated over NC1 Spence's betrayal. NC1 Spence not only knew this he didn't care. NC1 Spence worked directly for the Executive Officer Trevor Prouty and, technically the Commanding Officer, and could have done a lot to help AEAN Caserta. He truly turned his back on AEAN Caserta. This event was heartbreaking to AEAN Caserta period. AEAN Caserta never went to the Chaplin twice that we know of. I do know he said the Chaplin was useless. My experience is they usually are but I never told my son this. I did text NC1 Spence and told him he and the command will be held accountable for their actions for what they did and didn't do. He did fall in both categories and never responded to me. It states in this investigation that he blames himself, well, he should. He was a contributing factor and he knows it. Again, his actions meet the murder requirement definition.

3) AEAN Caserta was never assigned a mentor, NC1 Spence, who AEAN Caserta thought he could go to, turned his back on him, AE1 Brose from day one had bullied, belittled, called him names and Chief Hennard didn't care about the best and hardest worker in the command. I was helping him so was his mom. We feel we failed him with this command but we didn't want him getting retaliated against for having me help him so I did what I could under the circumstances. If the command would have done what they are paid to do, he would be alive. Look at his letter and read what he wrote about us. He wasn't alone; he was trapped in an abusive and hostile environment and everywhere he turned they just didn't care. The counseling and all the events that HSC-28 put him through that week should have never happened the way it did. I talked to Master Chief Lerette and he told me he had my back and would take care of my son. He called me brother 10 or more times. I have the incoming call logged in by phone and AEAN Caserta's phone along with texts AEAN Caserta and I exchanged over the call not to mention I talked to my son on the phone also later that day. Actually 9pm; he had EMI. As for the other stuff, as I stated before, the Navy is not entitled to anyone's driver's license and AEAN Caserta did not need the Plane Captain qualification. He certainly, didn't need the command to put him on EMI (Extra Military Instruction) and punish him when he was the hardest and best worker in the command.

4) Yes, this is true. It was wrong and cruel for AE1 Brose's behavior, but no one cared, and no one did anything to stop it. It was not life or death to get the plane captain qualification; like I said he didn't need it. They knew this and didn't care. AEAN Caserta **always** did as he was told, even when he was growing up. He was a model sailor and they all just let him get taken advantage of, lied to, blackmailed, belittled, cheated, abused, threatened, called names, spit on, and many other things the abusive and hostile environment the command created and endorsed.

5) Where did this item go? It appears someone deleted this item.

6) AEAN Caserta probably did display warning signs. We entrusted HSC-28 to care for the wellbeing and the welfare of him and they betrayed our trust not to mention AEAN Caserta's. They put him through so much in just two days. He had lost trust and confidence in everyone around him and not one person from HSC-28 wanted to reach out and help him. Everyone knew what AE1 Brose, NC1 Spence and Chief Hennard was putting AEAN Caserta through Thursday and Friday June 21 and 22. You can't tell me that not one person in that command saw that he was hurting. We don't understand why ANYONE would allow that kind of treatment in the first place. I never gave the command permission to read AEAN Caserta's letters. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that they tarnished the evidence and stole things they wanted to. Here's what I do know. He didn't have a hostile environment at home or by us. The command did all that by themselves.

   AEAN Caserta did everything right and was a model sailor, the best and hardest worker in the command. The abusive and hostile environment the command created and

allowed forced him to die by suicide. He sent them a message. That message is look at what you made me do. Suicide is a private, silent killer. Almost everyone does it in privacy. He had a bottle of oxy codon from his shoulder injury. He refused to take drugs. Why didn't he use it? Why didn't he die by suicide at home, his safe zone? He didn't want to do what he did. HSC-28 forced his hand. In this investigative report it shows blame toward one person and that person is AE1 Brose. No one else did anything wrong. If you read this you now know beyond a doubt that everyone named in this rebuttal, murdered him. Anyone at any time could have helped him. They could have said this license thing is not anything to worry about. They could have sent him to Navy defensive drivers' school. They could have actually rolled up their sleeves and taught him to drive. No, they had to crucify him, and they had no legal right to do what they did; none that's a fact. AE1 Brose pushed plane captain qualifications on him when there are others who don't even have it and they don't get treated like AEAN Caserta. He was leaving to fly in aircrafts. You can't launch a plane if your job is in the plane and ride in it. No one cared about him and they didn't want to. They murdered the hardest working sailor in the command and now are trying to cover it up. Only in the military could this possibly happen. It's all about the leadership worrying about their own careers. They should be held accountable for what they did and didn't do. There is no honor in lying and treating people the way they do. AEAN Caserta saved future suicides. If it wasn't him it would have been someone else with the hostile work environment created by HSC-28.

Recommendations

1) AE1 Brose was not the only one who created the hostile environment. Master Chief Tokarski, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Delasandro, NC1 Spence, Chief Hennard and CDR Whitmer allowed the abusive and hostile environment AE1 Brose created. They all need to be relieved immediately awaiting court martial. Anything less than that is unacceptable. CDR Whitmer should have resigned himself and if he didn't the commodore who is overall in charge of all the helicopter squadrons in the area should have done it for him. I wrote to the Commodore. He never responded so I assume he knows he is responsible for all three suicides and just chooses to look the other way. One is too many, three in a month and no one does anything. I guess it's the cost of doing business in the Navy. If AE1 Brose wanted a court martial, that would have been great. Since he is working for the Chaplin, doing nothing and is away from the command already this is a bunch of garbage. He should have already been court marshalled along with the said names above.

2) The command's training on suicide is not up to par. It is done to check a box. They didn't even hold it again since AEAN Caserta's death. Civilian physiatrists or phycologists should be conducting suicide prevention like Lifeline. How can people in charge of the command give proper suicide prevention training when they are training you, they are saying if you need help let us know while they are shaking their heads no. They present it like it will ruin your career. The commanding officer should have brought Lifeline in immediately. The Chaplin is a joke. They do good things, but suicide prevention is not

one of them. There are too many issues and they are not properly trained to deal with certain things and to think like a civilian physiatrist or phycologist, in particular, ones from a Veteran Center. They deal with all kinds of problems that any military establishment creates including how to handle an abusive environment. They don't place guilt or judge anyone.

No Captain's Mast, working with a Chaplin and routine suicide training by the command; that's the going rate for murder. I have never seen nor heard of any command operating like this. I have been in many commands in my 22 years. Some good and some bad but not like this. This Commanding Officer needs to be relieved and court marshalled immediately. He promotes an abusive and hostile environment and blames it on others. He is unprofessional and has repeatedly displayed conduct unbecoming of an officer. The leadership under him does the same thing. He is the ring leader of it and his entire command's leadership along with him is an embarrassment to the Navy. At any time, any of these people could have come forward and told the truth. They had their chance and chose to lie. They disrespected us, our family, AEAN Caserta, before and after death, his friends and many others. Not one person from the command attended AEAN Caserta's funeral here to include the Lieutenant from the command who was supposed to be there and present me with the flag. This investigation and its results are lies, a cover up, sloppy quality control, and unacceptable. I want the FBI to investigate all this, honor AEAN Caserta's wishes and get justice for him. He gave his life to expose the people who murdered him. It is the least we can do for him and to get justice for him

Not one good thing was said about AEAN Caserta by the investigating officer. He checks into the command in February of 2017. **By March 1, 2017 his first evaluation says Motivated sailor with unlimited potential for growth and success. Driven achiever, graduated from C school and immediately hit the ground running. AEAN Caserta has already started working diligently on his initial qualifications and has proved to be a valuable member or the work center. AEAN Caserta has proven to be a dependable and determined professional.**

Does this sound like a depressed sailor who was dropped from Seal training? He had been in the command a month and already was the best and hardest worker in the command. This proves he arrived exactly how the Navy wanted him to and the command over a 2-year period just ruined his life instead of being concerned about his welfare, wellbeing, career development, moral, and many other things. Better yet not one good thing is said about him in this report. The SEALs literally screwed AEAN Caserta over and he arrived in the command and proves to be a superstar in one month.

AEAN Caserta's 7 July 2017 Evaluation

Airman Caserta is a proven self-starter who requires minimal supervision and is willing to take on new responsibilities. Motivated assisted in the cleanliness and upkeep of 15 squadron spaces, maintaining cleanliness throughout the department while contributing

to overall safety of the command personnel. Team player instrumental in the daily inventory and sales of command merchandise, generating nearly $3,000 a month in profit for morale, welfare and recreation events (selling candy). Driven work ethic adapts easily to changing priorities and workloads. Consistently strives to achieve personal goals by involving himself in training while improving mission readiness for the squadron. Airman Caserta is a dedicated individual who shows great ability and initiative. Highly recommended for retention and advancement to third class petty officer.

Look at the above and they say many times in this investigative report he had no intuitive. Remember those comments were made to make him look bad and take away from what the command really did. The investigating officer encouraged this and this is another reason this investigation is a lie and cover up.

From 1 July 2017 to November 5, 2017, he went to an advanced swimming school, put in a package to go aircrewman and was highly recommended for it by the commanding officer and others. He was accepted and received orders to Aircrewman School in October 2017. In November 2017 he fell off his bike and broke his collarbone. He went back to selling candy. He went home in December 2017 for Christmas. His orders were canceled by the command via NC1 Spence because of the collarbone was not completely healed. More importantly he wasn't fit for full duty yet. They could have arranged to transfer him with his collar bone the way it was. They said we will cancel these and once fit for duty you will be gone in 2-3 weeks after being found fit for duty.

He was found fit for duty at the end of March 2018. NC1 Spence and the others plot a plan to keep him in the command and make him do his entire Aircrew package over again and NC1 Spence never even talked to the community manager at the bureau about it. He told AEAN Caserta the Community Manager Senior Chief Bryant told him he had to do it all over again. That was a lie, never made sense and was confirmed by me directly when I called Senior Chief Bryant in July 2018. He had never heard from anyone in the command since the initial package submittal in September-October 2017. He never talked to NC1 Spence or anyone in the command even when they sent in the order cancelation, he never spoke to them. AEAN Caserta in April starts redoing everything all over again. He comes home on leave in May 2108. He goes back 31 May 2018. He tries to complete the package and the last thing he needs to do AE1 Brose wouldn't let him go to medical to do it. AE1 Brose knew if AEAN Caserta went there and completed it then he would be done and he would leave in a few weeks. I want to point out that you read AEAN's Caserta's evaluations they are glowing with words they put in there that totally contradicts their investigation. Not one bad thing is said about AEAN Caserta he heals from his collarbone gets a new package he didn't need done. Never had any declining performance and continued to maintain and be the hardest and best worker in the command up to the minute he died.

AEAN Caserta's performance or initiative never declined like they try and paint the picture of. He was fine until they pushed the plane captain qualification down his throat that he didn't need and certainly didn't need by June 15th, took away the aircrewman for no reason trying to keep him in a command that he was leaving, tried to bring him to captain's mast for malingering and other things over a driver license and because he didn't drive. All this in one week. He went from the best and hardest worker in the command to a dirt bag in days, that's how they tell the story. Look above, they are lying and they submitted the proof that he walked on water in the command in spite of being in an abusive and hostile environment that they created.

When you join the military and in many other stages in boot camp pre-seal, pre-buds, buds you fill out medical forms, have tests done, checked out over and over again to make sure you are healthy enough to go through and continue on to each of these stages in the Navy and SEALs. He also had 3 complete physicals while in HSc28. Not one piece of paperwork anywhere does it state he is claustrophobic. He wouldn't have been able to get as far as he did if he was. He factually was not claustrophobic, and the command wanted him to lie and say he was. Not one doctor ever said or thought AEAN Caserta was claustrophobic yet his command who was playing doctor wanted him to be. Look at what this 21-year-old who had nobody in the command looking out for him and no mentor which is required by Navy and his command regulation accomplished in this abusive and hostile environment without ever raising his voice and just doing everything they asked him to do without question. No one has one bad thing to say about AEAN Caserta and many good things to say that are in this report and if the FBI asks the questions properly like they are trained to do will hear this.

Best military bearing, runs to do everything quickly, does it right the first time, pays attention to detail, always volunteered for stuff, finished his work and went and help others not just in his work place but other places, bought candy and snacks for workers who said they were hungry, always on time, never late, uniform look like it came from the dry cleaners brand new in the wrapper every day. Always respected everyone to include the people who murdered him. He was caring, non-judgmental, looked out for others, helped everyone, found ways to improve and do things better, exceled in everything he did, smiled while he did all this, and many more things. Is this a depressed, unmotivated sailor, who the command should be doing what they did to? No way, they are thief's, lairs, crooks, abusive leaders, cheaters, belittling, threatening, blackmailing, and so much more. The abusive and hostile environment created by them was used to murder my son.

AEAN Caserta was fine until AE1 Brose came back from being kicked off deployment. When he came off leadership challenge, he was worse than before he left. Commander, Whitmer, Commander Prouty, CMC Tokarski, NC1 Spence, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Delasandro and Chief Hennard all allowed AE1 Brose to be the way he was. AE1 Brose was mad because he was kicked off deployment and took it out on AEAN Caserta.

They looked the other way and allowed his behavior to continue. AEAN Caserta did not ask to be under AE1 Brose; they assigned him to be under AE1 Brose. A known abusive and hostile leader oversaw impressionable young adults and ultimately, one of them was murdered.

WHAT WE WANT

A proper and thorough investigation by all parties to include NCIS and IG
We want a criminal investigation done by the FBI
We want the following people held accountable and reassigned immediately while any and all investigations are being conducted to include NCIS and IG pending the results of said investigations:

Commodore, Captain Worthy
Commanding Officer, Commander Duane Whitmer
Executive Officer, Commander Trevor Prouty
Command Master Chief David Tokarski
Maintenance Master Chief Pete Lerette
NC1 Remmy Spence
Chief Delasandro
Chief Shelah Hennard
AE1 Jared Brose

We want everyone in that command to know that they can call and talk to us immediately
We want suicides to stop in the military

Attachment O: Family's Contact with NCIS Concerning AEAN Caserta's Death and Property

1. Of the massive amount of communication directly and indirectly with NCIS, four e-mail trails are provided in this independent assessment.

a. E-mail trail dated Sep. 20, 2018, subject: "Email from Mr. Caserta" (Attachment O-1). Dialog participants were LSC Eric Relyea, (NOSC Phoenix Staff), Mrs. Karen Arita (Family Liaison Coordinator, NCIS Headquarters), and Patrick Caserta. Key points highlighted are:

(1) From Patrick Caserta at 10:38 PM, Sep 20, 2018: *That's great the agent is aware of my concerns however that is not going to get the claim form and police report done. So what is being done about the person in the command who used my sons fingerprint to access my cell phone. No one in the command had my permission to do so and they don't work for NCIS. Again my concerns are not answered…*

(2) From Mrs. Arita to LSC Relyea, relayed to Patrick Caserta at 2:49 PM, Sep 20, 2018: *The NCIS case agent for Brandon CASERTA'S death investigation is aware of these concerns.*

(3) From Patrick Caserta to LSC Relyea, relayed to Mrs. Artia at 10:13 AM, on Sep 20, 2018: *There is no missing boxes. They stole the items or they failed to keep the items secure and they are stolen. When the boxes arrived they had been re-taped 3 plus times. You witnessed this. I need a claim form and where to report this as a theft…I gave the serial numbers and a picture of the pen. I also provided and indisputable story about the drivers license…As for the drivers license issue they all are responsible for its theft to cover up the malingering accusation…They still have time on that to send it to me, but I know they shredded it. It is possible the Commanding Officer does not know and the others in the chain of command did this on their own.*

b. E-mail trail dated Oct. 3, 2018, subject: "Personal Property" (Attachment O-2). Dialog participants were LCSW Karen Artia and Patrick Caserta. Key points highlighted are:

(1) From Patrick Caserta to Mrs Arita, date time group of transmission unavailable: *We have found Brandon's, farewell and reason letter to the command and the notebook pad of paper he wrote the other letters on. The letter was folded in a folder and the notebook was with a bunch of folders. We found the notebook first and used a pencil to see if we could see what was written on it. It worked somewhat, but a little later we found the last page he tore out of it…I'm contacting you to let you know that this letter is very important and vital to your investigation. How it was missed by NCIS or the command thief's is beyond me…I just want to point out that unlike NCIS we are cooperating and notifying you of the findings.*

(2) From Mrs Arita to Patrick Caserta, at 1229 PM, Oct 3, 2018: *I thought about calling you, however this will be just a brief note. Using the pictures you sent, NCIS was able to locate one iPod Touch. It is in NCIS custody at this time. It was overlooked previously because it was entered into the log as an iPhone. The case agent also confirmed for me we have the pen. I'm really sorry for the confusion on this, it wasn't intentional but I know it caused you additional stress. I'm sorry.!*

c. E-mail trail from Jan 29, 2019 thru Feb 27, 2019, subject: "Request of Line of Duty/Command Investigation Reports" (Attachment O-3). Dialog participants are LSC Eric Relyea and Patrick Caserta. Key points highlighted are

(1) From Patrick Caserta to LSC Relyea, 9:43 AM, Feb 27, 2019: *I went to base legal. They cant help me because their sole job is to protect the government. Its a conflict of interest as sad as it sounds. The military times will be calling you very soon. I talked to them last week. As for JAG and the reports we have our requests in and I will follow up with them. I talk to NCIS today but it is about what they are going to return to me. As for the command investigation that you delivered to us as you probably already suspected it is complete lies and frauded. We rent a rebuttal to the Senators and Military Times. They got our sons name right on it and that's about it.*

(2) *From Patrick Caserta to LSC Relyea, 1:11 AM, Jan 30, 2019: We need your help as usual. It says to appeal the report as in if we do not agree with it because they deliberately (adverse Report) withheld information we need to send an letter to the enclosed address on the document. One of the things it asks for is the original fioa request. Is the original request the E-mail I had sent to you? If not how do we get it.*

d. E-mail trail from Feb 26, 2019 through Mar 3, 2019, subject: "Items in the box Left" (Attachment O-4). This e-mail was sent by Patrick Caserta to Mrs. Karen Arita. Included in the e-mail was another e-mail trail titled: "Evidence Return." Dialog participants in this included trail are Special Agent Daniel Merschen and Patrick Caserta. Admin note: The address on the cover page of this e-mail trail (signalcop@aol.com) is Patrick Caserta e-mailing the dialog trail to the author of this independent assessment. Key points highlighted are

(1) From Patrick Caserta to Mrs. Arita, 12:21 PM, Mar 3, 2019:

(a) *From day one in spite of the fact that I didn't agree with you and that the command was guilty on all this I was very nice and understanding with you. However I do want to let you know that we do not appreciate you not telling us about a hand written letter left to the commanding officer gift cards and some other things. You where asked point blank about who and what letters was left. You said 4 letters and a note to Taylor. Where this Commanding officer letter came from and how it came to light last week is unacceptable.*

(b) *Now I have to wait for the Commanding Officers letter and break it down. It also could ruin our credibility with all the help we have asked for. You pout us at an in an unfair situation that is going to create many hours of work to fix and undue.*

(c) *You are also the one who told NCIS to look for an IPAD. I told you IPODs. They couldn't find them and no one had ever seen an IPAD. Well that was truthful on their part since you asked them about the wrong item. Then to top it off NCIS took both IPODS and labled them IPHONES.*

(d) *Why a criminal investigation was never done over the thefts, lies and many other things is wrong and we now have to deal with it.*

(2) From Patrick Caserta to Mrs. Arita, included in e-mail from Special Agent Merschen to Mrs. Arita, 10:48 AM, Feb 26, 2019:

(a) When the Investigating office, Commanding Officer, Commodore and fleet Admiral signed the investigation, they committed fraud. They knew the statements not to be true and endorsed them anyway. I expect charges to be filed, and if NCIS just puts it in their report then they need to make sure it goes to whoever files charges.

(b) *I may have made a mistake on my last e-mail to you. Apparently the report we received is the command investigation. However, it's not too late for NCIS to use the Command's investigation against them before we do and to make things right so NCIS can recommend charges against all parties involved stated in this email.*

2. Patrick and Teri Caserta should never have been put through the torment of fighting with their son's supervisors while trying to rescue Brandon from a downward spiral. Recognizing that the command-ordered investigation was not focused on identifying all those responsible while enduring the untimely loss of their son, NCIS became the next hope for truth. Unfortunately, dealing with NCIS as shown in this attachment, continually undermined hope of trust and competence.

From: "patrick.97" <patrick.97@cox.net>
To: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Date: September 20, 2018 at 10:38 PM
Subject: Re: FW: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

That's great the agent is aware of my concerns however that is not going to get the claim form and police report done. So what is being done about the person in the command who used my sons fingerprint to access my cell phone. No one in the command had my permission to do so and they don't work for NCIS. Again my concerns are not answered and the chain of command of the murders are still in charge. Please by all means keep ignoring me and doing what you want to.

I'm just getting started and starting October 1st this is going to be my full time job to get justice for my son. I have been extremely nice to NCIS and I'm just about done with being blown off and I will be forced to take further action on all this.

If anyone thinks that I'm waiting 12 to 15 months for my computer, phone ,money left for me,and the chain of command to be relieved and prosecuted know now that that will be unacceptable. Brandon's wishes will be carried ou in a timely manner. His friends and family are so mad about all this. I cannot keep making excuses for all of you

Again I need claim forms and who do I file a police report with. NCIS being aware is not going to get it documented so I can press charges against them.
Can you please for once help me with the theft. If you want you can send me the forms so I can fill out put my statement on it and the names of the one involved or better put the criminals.

Thank You

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

That's great the agent is aware of my concerns however that is not going to get the claim form and police report done. So what is being done about the person in the command who used my sons fingerprint to access my cell phone. No one in the command had my permission to do so and they don't work for NCIS. Again my concerns are not answered and the chain of command of the murders are still in charge. Please by all means keep ignoring me and doing what you want to. I'm just getting started and starting October 1st this is going to be my full time job to get justice for my son. I have been extremely nice to NCIS and I'm just about done with being blown off and I will be forced to take further action on all this. If anyone thinks that I'm waiting 12 to 15 months for my computer, phone ,money left for me,and the chain of command to be relieved and prosecuted know now that that will be unacceptable. Brandon's wishes will be carried ou in a timely manner. His friends and family are so mad about all this. I cannot keep making excuses for all of you Again I need claim forms and who do I file a police report with. NCIS being aware is not going to get it documented so I can press charges against them. Can you please for once help me with the theft. If you want you can send

ATTACHMENT 0-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AGAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

me the forms so I can fill out put my statement on it and the names of the one involved or better put the criminals. Thank You Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

-------- Original message --------
From: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Date: 9/20/18 2:49 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: "patrick.97" <patrick.97@cox.net>
Cc: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Subject: FW: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

Good Afternoon Mr. Caserta,

FYI..

V/r
LSC Relyea
NOSC PHX
602-353-3020

-----Original Message-----
From: Arita, Karen L - GOV <KAREN.ARITA@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:48 PM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Subject: RE: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

Chief Relyea,

Thank you. The NCIS case agent for Brandon CASERTA's death investigation is aware of these concerns. I appreciate all that you do for the family in their time of sadness, grief, and stress.

R/s,

Karen

Karen Arita, LCSW
Family Liaison Coordinator
Death Investigations, Code 23B
Naval Criminal Investigative Service Headquarters
(760) 830-6297 - Desk

- FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY -
This E-mail is from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and may contain information that is Law Enforcement Sensitive or Privacy Act Sensitive. It is to be used for official purposes only. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure may result in both civil and criminal penalties.

-----Original Message-----
From: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:13 AM
To: Arita, Karen L - GOV <KAREN.ARITA@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>
Cc: Cetnar, Fred A CIV NAVBASE San Diego, N17 <fred.cetnar@navy.mil>; Hicks, Alphonso L CWO3 HSC-28 <alphonso.hicks@navy.mil>; Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Subject: FW: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

Good Morning Mrs. Arita,

Please see below email from Mr. Caserta.

V/r
LSC Relyea
NOSC PHX
602-353-3020

-----Original Message-----
From: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 9:34 AM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Subject: RE: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

You are being too nice with your words. There is no missing boxes. They stole the items or they failed to keep the items secure and they were stolen. When the boxes arrived they had been re-taped 3 plus times. You witnessed this. I need a claim form and where to report this as a theft. I will use the Commanding officers name and the warrant officer as the criminals since they refuse to call us and work this out. I gave the serial numbers and a picture of the pen. I also provided and indisputable story about the drivers license. What is the process to file the above claims. Unless the command wants to pay for it themselves I highly recommend this that way I will not need to file a police report and they are off the hook somewhat. As for the drivers license issue they all are responsible for its theft to cover up the malingering accusation. Wont work we have the receipt and the DMV on our side. They still have time on that to send it to me,but i know they shredded it. It is possible
the Commanding Officer does not know and the others in the chain of command did this on their own. However his command so he is responsible for it. All this over due by months and I'm going to keep with this until someone contacts me and helps me get this all done.

Thank You

On September 18, 2018 at 4:18 PM "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> > wrote:

Good Afternoon Mrs. Arita,

Please see below email from Mr. Caserta. I'm not sure if CWO3 Hicks is still attached to HSC-28 but would it be possible to reach out to the Command and see if maybe a box was missed when the moving company picked up Brandon's personal property?

Thank you

V/r
LSC Relyea, Eric
NOSC PHX
602-353-3020

-----Original Message-----
From: patrick.97 <patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net> >
Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 11:46 AM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> >
Subject: RE: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

What is the status on this. I need to know it is not optional I have been wanting to know what to do. How many times do I need to contact all of you till I get an answer. Ignoring this is not going to make it go away. Who is going to pay for the missing items and who is going to be held accountable for it.

Thank You

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

-------- Original message --------
From: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> >
Date: 9/13/18 5:56 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: "Arita, Karen L CIV NCIS, Code 23" <karen.arita@ncis.navy.mil <mailto:karen.arita@ncis.navy.mil> >, "Hicks, Alphonso L CWO3 HSC-28"

<alphonso.hicks@navy.mil <mailto:alphonso.hicks@navy.mil> >
Cc: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net> >, "Collins, Justin C CDR, Commanding Officer, NOSC Phoenix" <justin.collins@navy.mil <mailto:justin.collins@navy.mil> >, "Freedline, David J LCDR NR NOSC Phoenix" <david.freedline@navy.mil <mailto:david.freedline@navy.mil> >, "Dotson, Jerry CMDCM NOSC Phoenix Command Master Chief" <jerry.dotson1@navy.mil <mailto:jerry.dotson1@navy.mil> >, "Nelson, Michael A CIV NAVREG SW RCC, N8" <Michael.A.Nelson@navy.mil <mailto:Michael.A.Nelson@navy.mil> >, "Cetnar, Fred A CIV NAVBASE San Diego, N17" <fred.cetnar@navy.mil <mailto:fred.cetnar@navy.mil> >, "Reyes, Martin H CIV CNRSW, N17" <martin.h.reyes1@navy.mil <mailto:martin.h.reyes1@navy.mil> >, "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> >
Subject: RE: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

Good Morning Mrs. Anita and CWO3 Hicks,

Mr. Patrick Caserta can be reached at the following:

patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net>
Cell: 602-625-7581 or 602-625-7216

Thank you

V/r
LSC Relyea, Eric
NOSC PHX
Office: 602-353-3020
Cell: 661-373-1915

-----Original Message-----
From: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net> >
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 6:54 PM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> >
Subject: Re: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

Eric

I know you are trying to help and are the messenger on all this. Everyone tells us if we need anything and if there is anything they can do they will. Well I'm here to tell you so far none of it has been true when we ask for help on things. It has been a long time on this. It is not going away until I know what to do. I will be sending this every time I think of it until resolved. You asked for a detailed list weeks ago so you and the person in San

Diego could get to the bottom of this. I have heard nothing on that part, but I did give you the list. As I told you at the door nothing will stop me from getting justice to honor my son. So this theft will be taken care of and if I need to file an Norfolk Virginia police report along with a base theft report I will. Charges will be filed and those involved will be prosecuted by law period. I will not accept any payment those I pod touch's ,the Pen, and his drivers license are priceless and needed for me to take further action on all this . Someone will answer my questions. If no one wants to then tell me that so I can get my own people involved. The command is corrupt and they did all this. We did nothing wrong. I didn't tell them to steal the items. They will answer to me and this is not a request. 6 e-mails ago was a request. This is a demand and it will be dealt with by someone.

I do not want to play my news story hand yet however it is looking like I will not have a choice. For the record if you choose not to decide you still have made a choice. I go to San Diego on the 26th. Whoever is you contact there can get me everything I have asked for or I want to see them in person to hear it from them that they are not going to do anything. My kindness and patience is gone. My son was murdered and the people who did this is still all in the command. Nothing has been done. They stole from a dead sailor that is going to go over well when the Secretary of Defense and the CNO reads that. Then there is the fact that this command tainted everything by packing his stuff,leaving it unsecured, and delaying the shipment. They did that and there is no way out. No one in this command is worth defending they all had a hand in his murder. If no one sees this then fine they can read it in the paper and Navy Times.

Anyone reading this go to dignity.com and look at what everyone wrote about our son. After you read it you will have no doubt about what happened and that he was murdered. There is an Army out there of help for Brandon's murder and they are growing impatient also. You wouldn't believe the Angels who have offered their help and are just waiting for the green light on all this. One we get the press and other involved there is no going back. My family will suffer from it but we are all prepared to do as Brandon requested in his letter. This will be done and everyone involved in all this for what they did and didn't do will be held accountable for their actions. No matter the cost$. This e-mail and all the others are going to be forwarded to the Senators and DOD IG. There is no public affairs office in the world who can stop and cover all this up. I gave you the serial numbers of the I pod Touch's. I gave you a picture of the pen. I also proved that the command stole his drivers license
. These are indisputable facts and by no one helping me get the proper paperwork filed to the proper police agency is unacceptable.

Thank You

Patrick

On September 6, 2018 at 10:20 AM "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> > > wrote:

Good Morning Mrs. Karen,

Can you please let Mr. Caserta know the steps he can take to report these items stolen / missing? As well as the agencies this will be reported to?

Thank you

V/r
LSC Relyea
NOSC PHX
602-353-3020

-----Original Message-----
From: patrick.97 <patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net> <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net> > >
Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 6:26 PM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> > >
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

I already knew they didn't have them I need to know how to report the thefts. Thank You

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

-------- Original message --------
From: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> > >
Date: 9/5/18 10:13 AM (GMT-06:00)
To: "patrick.97" <patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net> <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net>

> >
Subject: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

-----Original Message-----
From: Arita, Karen L - GOV <KAREN.ARITA@NCIS.NAVY
<mailto:KAREN.ARITA@NCIS.NAVY> <mailto:KAREN.ARITA@NCIS.NAVY
<mailto:KAREN.ARITA@NCIS.NAVY> > .MIL>
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 4:02 PM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil
<mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil
<mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> > >
Subject: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

Chief Relyea,

The email was forwarded to the NCIS case agent.

NCIS did not seize the property Mr. CASERTA says is missing. The NCIS death case remains open and ongoing at this time. I will inform you when the active investigation is complete. It will be followed by a thorough review process before the case will be authorized for closure. The entire process usually takes about 12-15 months, sometimes longer.

Thank you.

R/s,

Karen

Karen Arita, LCSW

Family Liaison Coordinator

Death Investigations, Code 23B

Naval Criminal Investigative Service

(760) 830-6297 - Desk

-------- Original message --------From: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" Date: 9/20/18 2:49 PM (GMT-07:00) To: "patrick.97" Cc: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" Subject: FW: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA Good Afternoon Mr. Caserta, FYI.. V/r LSC Relyea NOSC PHX 602-353-3020 ----- Original Message----- From: Arita, Karen L - GOV Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:48 PM To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff Subject: RE: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA Chief Relyea, Thank you. The NCIS case agent for Brandon CASERTA's death investigation is aware of these concerns. I appreciate all that you do for the family in their time of sadness, grief, and stress. R/s, Karen Karen Arita, LCSW Family Liaison Coordinator Death Investigations, Code 23B Naval Criminal Investigative Service Headquarters (760) 830-6297 - Desk - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - This E-mail is from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and may contain information that is Law Enforcement Sensitive or Privacy Act Sensitive. It is to be used for official purposes only. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure may result in both civil and criminal penalties. -----Original Message----- From: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 10:13 AM To: Arita, Karen L - GOV Cc: Cetnar, Fred A CIV NAVBASE San Diego, N17 ; Hicks, Alphonso L CWO3 HSC-28 ; Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff Subject: FW: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA Good Morning Mrs. Arita, Please see below email from Mr. Caserta. V/r LSC Relyea NOSC PHX 602-353-3020 -----Original Message----- From: Patrick Caserta Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 9:34 AM To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff Subject: RE: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA You are being too nice with your words. There is no missing boxes. They stole the items or they failed to keep the items secure and they were stolen. When the boxes arrived they had been re-taped 3 plus times. You witnessed this. I need a claim form and where to report this as a theft. I will use the Commanding officers name and the warrant officer as the criminals since they refuse to call us and work this out. I gave the serial numbers and a picture of the pen. I also provided and indisputable story about the drivers license. What is the process to file the above claims. Unless the command wants to pay for it themselves I highly recommend this that way I will not need to file a police report and they are off the hook somewhat. As for the drivers license issue they all are responsible for its theft to cover up the malingering accusation. Wont work we have the receipt and the DMV on our side. They still have time on that to send it to me,but i know they shredded it. It is possible the Commanding Officer does not know and the others in the chain of command did this on their own. However his command so he is responsible for it. All this over due by months and I'm going to keep with this until someone contacts me and helps me get this all done. Thank You On September 18, 2018 at 4:18 PM "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" > wrote: Good Afternoon Mrs. Arita, Please see below email from Mr. Caserta. I'm not sure if CWO3 Hicks is still attached to HSC-28 but would it be possible to reach out to the Command and see if maybe a box was missed when the moving company picked up Brandon's personal property? Thank you V/r LSC Relyea, Eric NOSC PHX 602-353-3020 -----Original Message----- From: patrick.97 > Sent: Tuesday, September 18, 2018 11:46 AM To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff > Subject: RE: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA

What is the status on this. I need to know it is not optional I have been wanting to know what to do. How many times do I need to contact all of you till I get an answer. Ignoring this is not going to make it go away. Who is going to pay for the missing items and who is going to be held accountable for it. Thank You Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device -------- Original message -------- From: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" > Date: 9/13/18 5:56 AM (GMT-06:00) To: "Arita, Karen L CIV NCIS, Code 23" >, "Hicks, Alphonso L CWO3 HSC-28" > Cc: Patrick Caserta >, "Collins, Justin C CDR, Commanding Officer, NOSC Phoenix" >, "Freedline, David J LCDR NR NOSC Phoenix" >, "Dotson, Jerry CMDCM NOSC Phoenix Command Master Chief" >, "Nelson, Michael A CIV NAVREG SW RCC, N8" >, "Cetnar, Fred A CIV NAVBASE San Diego, N17" >, "Reyes, Martin H CIV CNRSW, N17" >, "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" > Subject: RE: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA Good Morning Mrs. Anita and CWO3 Hicks, Mr. Patrick Caserta can be reached at the following: patrick.97@cox.net Cell: 602-625-7581 or 602-625-7216 Thank you V/r LSC Relyea, Eric NOSC PHX Office: 602-353-3020 Cell: 661-373-1915 -----Original Message----- From: Patrick Caserta > Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 6:54 PM To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff > Subject: Re: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA Eric I know you are trying to help and are the messenger on all this. Everyone tells us if we need anything and if there is anything they can do they will. Well I'm here to tell you so far none of it has been true when we ask for help on things. It has been a long time on this. It is not going away until I know what to do. I will be sending this every time I think of it until resolved. You asked for a detailed list weeks ago so you and the person in San Diego could get to the bottom of this. I have heard nothing on that part, but I did give you the list. As I told you at the door nothing will stop me from getting justice to honor my son. So this theft will be taken care of and if I need to file an Norfolk Virginia police report along with a base theft report I will. Charges will be filed and those involved will be prosecuted by law period. I will not accept any payment those I pod touch's ,the Pen, and his drivers license are priceless and needed for me to take further action on all this . Someone will answer my questions. If no one wants to then tell me that so I can get my own people involved. The command is corrupt and they did all this. We did nothing wrong. I didn't tell them to steal the items. They will answer to me and this is not a request. 6 e-mails ago was a request. This is a demand and it will be dealt with by someone. I do not want to play my news story hand yet however it is looking like I will not have a choice. For the record if you choose not to decide you still have made a choice. I go to San Diego on the 26th. Whoever is you contact there can get me everything I have asked for or I want to see them in person to hear it from them that they are not going to do anything. My kindness and patience is gone. My son was murdered and the people who did this is still all in the command. Nothing has been done. They stole from a dead sailor that is going to go over well when the Secretary of Defense and the CNO reads that. Then there is the fact that this command tainted everything by packing his stuff,leaving it unsecured, and delaying the shipment. They did that and there is no way out. No one in this command is worth defending they all had a hand in his murder. If no one sees this then fine they can read it in the paper and Navy Times. Anyone reading this go to dignity.com and look at what everyone wrote about our son. After you read it you will have no doubt about what happened and that he was murdered. There is an Army out there of help for

Brandon's murder and they are growing impatient also. You wouldn't believe the Angels who have offered their help and are just waiting for the green light on all this. One we get the press and other involved there is no going back. My family will suffer from it but we are all prepared to do as Brandon requested in his letter. This will be done and everyone involved in all this for what they did and didn't do will be held accountable for their actions. No matter the cost$. This e-mail and all the others are going to be forwarded to the Senators and DOD IG. There is no public affairs office in the world who can stop and cover all this up. I gave you the serial numbers of the I pod Touch's. I gave you a picture of the pen. I also proved that the command stole his drivers license . These are indisputable facts and by no one helping me get the proper paperwork filed to the proper police agency is unacceptable. Thank You Patrick On September 6, 2018 at 10:20 AM "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" > > wrote: Good Morning Mrs. Karen, Can you please let Mr. Caserta know the steps he can take to report these items stolen / missing? As well as the agencies this will be reported to? Thank you V/r LSC Relyea NOSC PHX 602-353-3020 -----Original Message----- From: patrick.97 > > Sent: Wednesday, September 05, 2018 6:26 PM To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff > > Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA I already knew they didn't have them I need to know how to report the thefts. Thank You Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device -------- Original message -------- From: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" > > Date: 9/5/18 10:13 AM (GMT-06:00) To: "patrick.97" > > Subject: FW: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA -----Original Message----- From: Arita, Karen L - GOV > .MIL> Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2018 4:02 PM To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff > > Subject: RE Email from Mr. CASERTA Chief Relyea, The email was forwarded to the NCIS case agent. NCIS did not seize the property Mr. CASERTA says is missing. The NCIS death case remains open and ongoing at this time. I will inform you when the active investigation is complete. It will be followed by a thorough review process before the case will be authorized for closure. The entire process usually takes about 12-15 months, sometimes longer. Thank you. R/s, Karen Karen Arita, LCSW Family Liaison Coordinator Death Investigations, Code 23B Naval Criminal Investigative Service (760) 830-6297 - Desk

Hi Karen
You told me from day one that NCIS is very through and good. Then there is the Congressional liaison Mr, Carl Wiley who writes letters to the Senator as if NCIS is on all this and they are doing me a favor by having you be the liaison to us. He has put the brakes on all this on my end by telling the Senators how it works and of course they forward us the letter. We are offended by his letters and the lack of detail in them and written from the perspective that NCIS is doing us a favor. Now that I said that, I now need to report to you that we just finished going through all Brandon's personal belongings sent to us from the command. I knew NCIS was not as through as they had claimed to be nor was the command. I have reported the missing items and I have also reported the drivers license issues numerous times. Along with my demanding the entire chain of command be relieved ,along with the others involved in this and the said individuals held accountable for their actions in all this. None of this has been done as of yet.
Now lets see if you are reading this properly. We have found Brandon's , farewell and reason letter to the command and the notebook pad of paper he wrote the other letters on. The letter was folded in a folder and the notebook was with a bunch of folders. We found the notebook first and used a pencil to see if we could see what was written on it. It worked somewhat, but a little later we found the last page he tore out of it. We have some pending requests with you and one is for the lead agent to come out to our home and talk with us. I'm contacting you to let you know that this letter is very important and vital to your investigation. How it was missed by NCIS or the command thief's is beyond me. The letter and notebook is here waiting for your instructions. It would be nice if the lead agent came out and spent a day with us and to hand carry the letter and notebook back for the investigation. I just want to point out that unlike NCIS we are cooperating and notifying you of the findings. Believe me I would love to say to you the excuses NCIS has said to us ,but as usual we take the high road. Just remember we could have sat on this and had it put on the cover of Time magazine showing what a great job NCIS did on all this. In spite of the fact that we believe the investigation will not get justice for Brandon and hold the chain of command and the individuals involved accountable we will give these items to you. we hope just maybe this letter has a effect on the outcome to get Brandon's justice.

Trust me you want this letter. It is a little over a half page or so. Just remember our requests such as wanting to read the 3 letters and the note to Taylor. The computer,phone, and money back. As I said no matter what you get the letter and notebook so please consider our requests again and let us know what NCIS wants us to do with the new found information. I just want to make clear that the notebook and letter are being turned over to NCIS no matter what. Please let me know what you want to do.

Thank You

Patrick
Mr. Caserta,

ATTACHMENT O-2: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Yes, they will. I emailed today to mention something to check out, which is how I learned he was out of the office this week. I hope to talk with you next week before I go TDY on Thursday. Also, I'll ask the agent when he would be in a position to call you directly.
I hope you and Teri are doing relatively okay at this time. I'll be in touch and of course, call me whenever you like.

Kind Regards,

Karen

Karen Arita, LCSW
Family Liaison Coordinator
Death Investigations, Code 23B
Naval Criminal Investigative Service Headquarters
(760) 830-6297 - Desk

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This E-mail is from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and may contain information that is Law Enforcement Sensitive or Privacy Act Sensitive. It is to be used for official purposes only. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure may result in both civil and criminal penalties.

-----Original Message-----
From: patrick.97 <patrick.97@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 03, 2018 1:16 PM
To: Arita, Karen L - GOV <KAREN.ARITA@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Personal Property

Thank you. Please ask them to please keep going and find the other items.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

-------- Original message --------
From: "Arita, Karen L - GOV" <KAREN.ARITA@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>
Date: 10/3/18 12:29 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net>
Cc: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Subject: Personal Property

Mr. Caserta,

I thought about calling you, however this will be just a brief note. Using the pictures you sent, NCIS was able to locate one iPod Touch. It is in NCIS custody at this time. It was overlooked previously because it was entered into the log as an iPhone. The case agent also confirmed for me we have the pen. I'm really sorry for the confusion on this, it wasn't intentional but I know it caused you additional stress. I'm sorry!

They continue to try to locate a second iPod Touch. The case agent is in trial this week, but I will reach out on Tuesday to ask if there is any further information on this concern.

With Respect and Kind Regards,

Karen

Karen Arita, LCSW

Family Liaison Coordinator

Death Investigations, Code 23B

Naval Criminal Investigative Service Headquarters

(760) 830-6297 - Desk

- FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY -

This E-mail is from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and may contain information that is Law Enforcement Sensitive or Privacy Act Sensitive. It is to be used for official purposes only. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure may result in both civil and criminal penalties.

Thank you. Please ask them to please keep going and find the other items.

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

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Date: 10/3/18 12:29 PM (GMT-07:00)
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Hi again

I forget something. When was the last time suicide awareness,prevention,training, and education was conducted in the command prior to AE3 Caserta? Was AE3 Caserta in attendance with verifiable evidence. Who gave the awareness, prevention,training, and education on it to AE3 Caserta that is documented. did SAIL conduct it and if not why not. If the person is AE1 Browes then you have an additional problem here. I know suicide is a choice, you said this. The problem is he was broken by the command and forced to do it to get out of a abusive,lying,cheating,threatening, abuse of power, intimidating work environment. If you put anyone in the military on a cliff I guarantee I could get them to jump. Break them down,lie to them,lie about them, and the list goes on. So who is at fault me or the person jumping. AE3 could have done this at home ,but he didn't. He could have done it in private but he didn't, he instead sent a message to the command. If you read his letter he wishes there was more time. That comment alone means Navy personal were closing in on him and he felt he had no choice. AE3 Caserta had specific wish's in his letter and probably letters.

These wish's will be carried out and whatever it takes to do that will be done to have justice served as he asked. I hope this investigation is going to accomplish this cause if not this is just the beginning of a mess that his command and NCIS created. It would be much easier to do the right proper investigation and hold the chain of command and the

others involved accountable for what they did and didn't do. I have said this to you and others many times and I hope that someone listened to me and heard me. My full time job as of today is getting justice served for my son's death period. No matter what it costs, no matter what road blocks , lies, and gag order is in place I will continue the quest to fulfill his wish's. The Angel we speak to all the time her son was hit and killed by an illegal immigrant. She has accomplished things everyone said she couldn't and some.

I know how the military thinks and they do as they want to. I'm sure they are laughing at me right now because they believe that what they do will be final. Please by all means do that. Like I said this is just the beginning you have our hands tied but once your investigation is over the excuses are gone and at that time we will begin our quest if the investigation is not accurate , though , and the chain of command held accountable along with the others involved.

Thank You
Hi Karen
Attached is the receipt from when the people in the command took AE3 Caserta's debit-card and the license number. This a big deal and I'm determined to find out who among the 7 involved stole it from the U.S. mail. If they haven't been identified I suggest they are, because they illegally took and used AE3 Caserta's debit-card and when it arrived after his death stole it to cover everything up. If there is doubt to my above statement please by all means follow the texts AE3 sent to me for all this. This is indisputable evidence. They were sending him to a DRB Board on the license for malingering and that was illegal its-self yet alone against Navy Regulations. No one and I mean no one is entitled to AE3 Drivers license period. I want charges on the illegal use of his debit card and the theft of the drivers license. AZ DMV will verify they never revived it back as of 09/28/2018. This is evidence I hope NCIS has and is using against the command. If not then it will come back to haunt them someday. Also who was AE3 Caserta's mentor in the command? Is that person one of the names involved in all this. If so or not I want documentation of the last time the mentor talked toAE3 Caserta. I mean documentation. On the commands web site it says word for word they assign an mentor for all personnel in the command. It is also a Navy regulation and inspection item.
Thank You
Hi Karen
There is something I just thought of something and it is a big deal now in the Navy from what I read and have saw. AE3 Caserta was in the command for 2 years and they repeatedly would change his hours from days to nights. Now on the surface it seems reasonable but it was not. Without exaggerating his working days where changed from days to night and back at least 40 times. That is outrageous to begin with,but they never let him have time off as in he would work a night and they change him to days aand he had to work the same day he got off at 4am and go back in by 7am. He never got a transition to it they always screwed him on this. He was very tired and did not get much sleep because of this. Why is this a big deal?

Two reasons the ships that collided into other ships had issues like this and that is factual and NCIS did the investigation. The other reason is the others got transition time to go from days to night but AE3 Caserta the biggest reason was because of AE1 Brose. He hated AE3 Caserta and this also made it harder for AE3 to get all his Air crewmen package done because he wouldn't get to see the Command Career Counselor since that person worked days. AE1 Brose knew this so he would constantly switch AE3 to nights. AE3 was extremely tired and fatigued a lot. AE1 Brose also wouldn't let AE3 Caserta go to lunch or dinner when he worked days or nights.
If the Navy tries to say the Commanding officer has discretion on working hours determined by what is best for the command please I hope he says that. It is a crock that command was so hosed they could work 24/7 and still not get their work done because they had a incompetent chain of command. You can not work someone that much for 2 years straight it is illegal and it burns people out to a point that they make mistakes that can kill people. I know this will not be a big deal to NCIS I just wanted documented I told you about this. I'm sure in the other investigations that will happen on all this it will come into play.
I'm sorry I come up with things all the time. Due to the tragic event it has been hard to focus on little things that are big things. I have a great memory when it comes to things that are not right or I had to help someone with. Sometimes things get by me and stay on the back burner and then they come out. Other times it is a question that sparks it. I have to get all the facts out so we can get closure to all this and get proper justice for our son. Just please know that it will be the little things that where not done right or forgotten that will make all the truth come out in the end. I know NCIS knows what they are doing ,but I also know that missing facts that no one thought to ask about or question always ruins a investigation. Medical Examiner says its a suicide he didn't have a choice, but why AE3 did what he did and what would cause a person to do it the way he did is the true investigation. That will someday be done by others if NCIS chooses not to take the proper approach to this.

The command caused this and they has so many problems and skeletons in their closet that will come back to haunt everyone who investigated all this. Don't get me wrong if NCIS recommends the chain of command be relived and the others involved held accountable, then I will be the first one to apologize. But we both already know that unless a hail Mary comes our way the NCIS investigation that everyone seems so confident in is just the beginning of what my family will have to do for the next 5 plus years. I do hope I'm wrong I really do,but unfortunately I know how the Navy works and how they do investigations and they have always ended in disappointment for all and focused on what they thought was important instead of the bigger issues and picture. You can call us anytime. However you do not have to call us on receiving this unless you need to. You can e-mail me back like you do sometimes. I always leave that discretion up to you.

Thank You

From: "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
To: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net>
Date: February 27, 2019 at 1:45 PM
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Request of Line of Duty / Command Investigation Reports

Good Afternoon Mr. Caserta,

I wish you the best of luck and again I'm truly sorry. My CO's info below

CDR Justin Collins
Commanding Officer
Navy Operational Support Center Phoenix
Work: (602) 353-3000

V/r
LSC Relyea, Eric
602-353-3020
661-373-1915

-----Original Message-----
From: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil>
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Request of Line of Duty / Command Investigation Reports

I went to base legal. They cant help me because their sole job is to protect the government. Its a conflict of interest as sad as it sounds. The military times will be calling you very soon. I talked to them last week. As for JAG and the reports we have our requests in and I will follow up with them. I talk to NCIS today but it is about what they are going to return to me. As for the command investigation that you delivered to us as you probably already suspected it is complete lies and frauded. We sent a rebuttal to the Senators and Military Times. They got our sons name right on it and that's about it.

If you ever wondered about things you heard as you grew up and movies you have seen about government cover ups and other things this is one of them. Its a shame we disrespect the dead like this. Every week we find out new things and the word is getting out and calls for help are slowly being answered. We will not give up and as you already know we have the means to do it. Things are starting to come together and the NCIS report is signed off. They are redacting it as we speak for a copy to go to us. That report will be useless because it confirms the M.E. report and a few other things. However it removes all the current roadblocks in our way to get justice for our son. Trust me you will hear about all this in the future and I will keep you posted.

ATTACHMENT 0-3: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

Can you give me your Commanding Officers phone number. I need to talk to the C.O. I want to clear up any misconception that your command did anything wrong and that the only thing your command did was go above and beyond for us and how we appreciate that.

Again Thank You for caring and everything you have done for us. You honest unconditional help has been the only thing in all this that has gone right for us and kept us on a tract to dealing with this mess.

Thank You

Patrick

On February 27, 2019 at 9:12 AM "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> > wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Caserta,

I haven't heard anything from JAG or as you told me a few weeks ago that the Military Times / Navy Times may be calling me for an interview. I would contact Jag in Norfolk concerning any reports that are pending.

V/r
LSC Relyea, Eric
Office: 602-353-3020
Cell: 661-373-1915

-----Original Message-----
From: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net> >
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 2:39 PM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff
<eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil> >
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Request of Line of Duty / Command Investigation Reports

Hi chief Relya did you get my answer to your e-mail? I was wondering was I suppose to talk to JAG. I'm thinking I forgot to about something maybe? Or did you mean IG and I have only e-mailed the IG he hasn't did an phone interview with me and knowing how IG works may not. Everyone is still waiting for the NCIS report. It still isn't finalized and this may be a good thing because it was supposed to be done by December it was wrapping up and for some reason it is still ongoing. I believe it may be because of all the information I gave to them that they didn't do anything with and figured out the information was very creditable facts. Or they saw the command investigation and saw

it was filled with lies and a cover up. Then again maybe they are just taking their time. Please let me know.

Thank You

Patrick

On February 17, 2019 at 5:54 PM "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil>> <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil>> > > wrote:

Good afternoon Mr. Caserta,

Did you speak with the Jag in Norfolk? Please let me know. I haven't heard anything from Military Times or the Navy Times yet?

Thank you

V/r
LSC Relyea
NOSC PHX
602-353-3020

-----Original Message-----
From: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net>> <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net <mailto:patrick.97@cox.net>> > >
Sent: Wednesday, January 30, 2019 1:11 PM
To: Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil>> <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil>> > >
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Request of Line of Duty / Command Investigation Reports

Hi again

We need your help as usual. It says to appeal the report as in if we do not agree with it because they deliberately (adverse Report) withheld information we need to send an letter to the enclosed address on the document. One of the things it asks for is the original fioa request. Is the original request the E-mail I had to send to you? If not how do we get it. We do not have an online account and it is too late to get one to meet what

they are needing for an appeal. If you read page 1 and 2 as we call it or the cover letter from the person who sent i to you on the back page it spells it out. Please let us know what to do and if we are reading this right. Thank You

On January 29, 2019 at 11:18 AM "Relyea, Eric M LSC NOSC Phoenix Staff" <eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil>> <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil <mailto:eric.relyea@navy.mil>> > > wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Caserta,

As per our phone conversation this morning (29 Jan 2019) can you please reply back to LCDR Colberg and myself with an official request of the Line of Duty / Command Investigation report.

LCDR Colberg POC info:

Barbara J. Colberg
LCDR, JAGC, USN
Deputy Force Judge Advocate (N01L1)
Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 300
Norfolk, VA 23551-2427
Phone: (757) 836-9920

Email: barbara.j.colberg@navy.mil <mailto:barbara.j.colberg@navy.mil> <mailto:barbara.j.colberg@navy.mil <mailto:barbara.j.colberg@navy.mil>> > <mailto:barbara.j.colberg@navy.mil <mailto:barbara.j.colberg@navy.mil>> <mailto:barbara.j.colberg@navy.mil <mailto:barbara.j.colberg@navy.mil>> > >

Thank you

V/r

LSC Relyea

NOSC PHX
602-353-3020

From: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net>
To: signalcop@aol.com
Sent: Wed, Mar 31, 2021 11:32 am
Subject: Fwd: Re: Items in the box Left

Also the the agent in charge called me and we went over the things he was going to send to me. I do not remember him mentioning the bullet pen. You told me they found it and had it. Please have him make sure he included it in the things. Chances are it is because it was stuffed in an envelope when he found it and he told me anything in the envelopes is coming. I just want to make sure. Thank You.
> On March 3, 2019 at 12:21 PM Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net> wrote:
>
>
> Karen
>
> From day one in spite of the fact that I didn't agree with you and that the command was guilty on all this I was very nice and understanding with you. However I do want to let you know that we do not appreciate you not telling us about a hand written letter left to the commanding officer gift cards and some other things. You where asked point blank about who and what letters was left. You said 4 letters and a note to Taylor. Where this Commanding officer letter came from and how it came to light last week is unacceptable.
>
> Although I know what he would say in a letter to the commanding officer I have told many people about what was left and what happened in the command. I have asked for help from many and to this day you have no idea how big this will be in time. You will read hear and justice will happen for Brandon as he asked us all to do. Now I have to wait for the Commanding Officers letter and break it down. It also could ruin our credibility with all the help we have asked for. You pout us at an in an unfair situation that is going to create many hours of work to fix and undue. This mistake is bad and how you and NCIS are going to fix it is beyond me. As I said to you before the phone and computer belonged to me personally period. The box never was taken in possession by the person who he tasked to distribute the things so that box belonged to us still. I know NCIS does as they want and that they we not going to give us anything until it was over,but that is how they operate until they cant do it anymore.
>
> I would have hired an attorney to get all items from NCIS had I known you where withholding information about the box. What you did was unacceptable and inexcusable. Because I have the line of duty report I knew about some comments made in it and I'm sure they came from the letter in question. It says we would never be in this situation if the rerate process was proper and not unfair. Although the command interpreted it the way I said it,that is not what it meant. He is saying had the rerating process been fair and proper I would have never stepped foot in your abusive threatening,lying,blackmailing,intimidating,belittling,unfair,biased, and many other things command. Now I have to wait till I get the letter and read it, then I have to get the

ATTACHMENT 0-4: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

information out to all who are helping us and explain it properly.
>
> We have been nothing but nice to you and NCIS in spite of the matter of theft from my son and many other things no one is doing about all this. Why a criminal investigation was never done over the thefts, lies and many other things is wrong and we now have to deal with it. We will deal with it and we will get justice for our son. Hiding information and ignoring information is not going to stop us from accomplishing our goals. The truth is so obvious yet it is ignored. That's fine we will just bring it to light in due time. You have put us in a worse situation by not telling us about the letter and gift cards and who knows what else. You preached to us getting help with grieving and the healing process.
>
> I told you we had some things set up and we where going to get help. The people who are experts in their field lost it when I told them you withheld the commanding officer letter. You individually set back 8 months of grieving and healing counseling therapy. That is their words not mine. How could you keep this information from us? You told me word for word 4 letters and a note to Taylor. We talked about the 4 letters and the note to Taylor over the past 8 months with you as in that was all that was there.
>
> I hope if you are contacted by a senator or even the president you tell them you didn't tell us about this letter so they know we didn't hide anything. Also the 2 agents that came to our house didn't mention it and we asked them what was in the box exactly. If this letter was not in the box you still should have told us about this. There is a chance the letter in question was left in the command suggestion box and that is why you sent it to the FBI lab. If that is the case you still should have told us so we could let others know in particular those helping us. You ruined our credibility with everyone. You may not care ,but we do. Everything we tell must flow and be creditable back by factual evidence. We have done that. You put all that in jeopardy by not telling us about this letter.
>
> You are also the one who told NCIS to look for an IPAD. I told you IPODs. They couldn't find them and no one had ever seen an IPAD. Well that was truthful on their part since you asked them about the wrong item. Then to top it off NCIS took both IPODS and labeled them IPHONES. Yes I know you are going to say an honest mistake. Well I thought NCIS never makes mistakes. Just ask them or ask others they actually believe NCIS is that good. If they only knew the truth. N ow we are waiting for a investigation the size of the old phone books. We will have to break it down word by word and mark my words it will have errors and mistakes in it. That is how NCIS honors dead people I guess. Its a shame you did what you did because we actually thought highly of you and we knew you where the messenger on all this.
Karen

From day one in spite of the fact that I didn't agree with you and that the command was guilty on all this I was very nice and understanding with you. However I do want to let you know that we do not appreciate you not telling us about a hand written letter left to the commanding officer gift cards and some other things. You where asked point blank

about who and what letters was left. You said 4 letters and a note to Taylor. Where this Commanding officer letter came from and how it came to light last week is unacceptable.

Although I know what he would say in a letter to the commanding officer I have told many people about what was left and what happened in the command. I have asked for help from many and to this day you have no idea how big this will be in time. You will read hear and justice will happen for Brandon as he asked us all to do. Now I have to wait for the Commanding Officers letter and break it down. It also could ruin our credibility with all the help we have asked for. You pout us at an in an unfair situation that is going to create many hours of work to fix and undue. This mistake is bad and how you and NCIS are going to fix it is beyond me. As I said to you before the phone and computer belonged to me personally period. The box never was taken in possession by the person who he tasked to distribute the things so that box belonged to us still. I know NCIS does as they want and that they we not going to give us anything until it was over,but that is how they operate until they cant do it anymore.

I would have hired an attorney to get all items from NCIS had I known you where withholding information about the box. What you did was unacceptable and inexcusable. Because I have the line of duty report I knew about some comments made in it and I'm sure they came from the letter in question. It says we would never be in this situation if the rerate process was proper and not unfair. Although the command interpreted it the way I said it,that is not what it meant. He is saying had the rerating process been fair and proper I would have never stepped foot in your abusive threatening,lying,blackmailing,intimidating,belittling,unfair,biased, and many other things command. Now I have to wait till I get the letter and read it, then I have to get the information out to all who are helping us and explain it properly.

We have been nothing but nice to you and NCIS in spite of the matter of theft from my son and many other things no one is doing about all this. Why a criminal investigation was never done over the thefts, lies and many other things is wrong and we now have to deal with it. We will deal with it and we will get justice for our son. Hiding information and ignoring information is not going to stop us from accomplishing our goals. The truth is so obvious yet it is ignored. That's fine we will just bring it to light in due time. You have put us in a worse situation by not telling us about the letter and gift cards and who knows what else. You preached to us getting help with grieving and the healing process.

I told you we had some things set up and we where going to get help. The people who are experts in their field lost it when I told them you withheld the commanding officer letter. You individually set back 8 months of grieving and healing counseling therapy. That is their words not mine. How could you keep this information from us? You told me word for word 4 letters and a note to Taylor. We talked about the 4 letters and the note to Taylor over the past 8 months with you as in that was all that was there.

I hope if you are contacted by a senator or even the president you tell them you didn't

tell us about this letter so they know we didn't hide anything. Also the 2 agents that came to our house didn't mention it and we asked them what was in the box exactly. If this letter was not in the box you still should have told us about this. There is a chance the letter in question was left in the command suggestion box and that is why you sent it to the FBI lab. If that is the case you still should have told us so we could let others know in particular those helping us. You ruined our credibility with everyone. You may not care ,but we do. Everything we tell must flow and be creditable back by factual evidence. We have done that. You put all that in jeopardy by not telling us about this letter.

You are also the one who told NCIS to look for an IPAD. I told you IPODs. They couldn't find them and no one had ever seen an IPAD. Well that was truthful on their part since you asked them about the wrong item. Then to top it off NCIS took both IPODS and labeled them IPHONES. Yes I know you are going to say an honest mistake. Well I thought NCIS never makes mistakes. Just ask them or ask others they actually believe NCIS is that good. If they only knew the truth. N ow we are waiting for a investigation the size of the old phone books. We will have to break it down word by word and mark my words it will have errors and mistakes in it. That is how NCIS honors dead people I guess. Its a shame you did what you did because we actually thought highly of you and we knew you where the messenger on all this.
That sounds great. My phone number is (602) 625-7581.

Thank you,

Patrick

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device
That sounds great. My phone number is (602) 625-7581.Thank you,Patrick Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device
-------- Original message --------
From: "Merschen, Daniel G. - GOV" <daniel.merschen@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>
Date: 2/26/19 11:54 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: "patrick.97" <patrick.97@cox.net>
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Evidence Return

How about tomorrow (27 FEB) around 1300 EST? Please send me your cellphone number.

-----Original Message-----
From: patrick.97 <patrick.97@cox.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:11 PM
To: Merschen, Daniel G. - GOV <daniel.merschen@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Evidence Return

On the 27th between 9am our time and 2pm our time. 28 anytime after 9am our time.
Thank You

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

-------- Original message --------
From: "Merschen, Daniel G. - GOV" <daniel.merschen@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>
Date: 2/26/19 10:48 AM (GMT-07:00)
To: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net>
Subject: Evidence Return

Good Afternoon Mr. Caserta,

Please let me know when you are available for a phone call regarding the remaining evidence I need to return to you.

V/r,

Dan

Daniel Merschen

Special Agent

Norfolk Field Office

1329 Bellinger Blvd

Naval Station Norfolk, Bldg U-40

Norfolk, VA 23511

Desk: 757-444-6221

Cell: 757-348-5995

-------- Original message --------From: "Merschen, Daniel G. - GOV" <daniel.merschen@NCIS.NAVY.MIL> Date: 2/26/19 11:54 AM (GMT-07:00) To: "patrick.97" <patrick.97@cox.net> Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Evidence Return
How about tomorrow (27 FEB) around 1300 EST? Please send me your cellphone

number. -----Original Message-----From: patrick.97 <patrick.97@cox.net> Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2019 1:11 PMTo: Merschen, Daniel G. - GOV <daniel.merschen@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: Evidence ReturnOn the 27th between 9am our time and 2pm our time. 28 anytime after 9am our time. Thank You Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device-------- Original message -------- From: "Merschen, Daniel G. - GOV" <daniel.merschen@NCIS.NAVY.MIL> Date: 2/26/19 10:48 AM (GMT-07:00) To: Patrick Caserta <patrick.97@cox.net> Subject: Evidence Return Good Afternoon Mr. Caserta,Please let me know when you are available for a phone call regarding the remaining evidence I need to return to you. V/r,Dan Daniel MerschenSpecial AgentNorfolk Field Office1329 Bellinger BlvdNaval Station Norfolk, Bldg U-40Norfolk, VA 23511Desk: 757-444-6221 Cell: 757-348-5995
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Norfolk, VA 23511
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Cell: 757-348-5995

Karen
Hi. I wanted to get the status of the NCIS report and a few other things. I have repeatedly demanded Brandon's belongings. As I have said I want everything in the boxes left on the desk to include the boxes. That means the 3 hundred dollar bills,gift cards,letters all of them,3D metal models,everything and I mean everything that was in the boxes and that NCIS still has. To include anything with his name ion it or believed t belong to him. The agent I spoke to in October -November time frame told me he woul send all of this stuff ASAP. He even asked me if it was OK to send separately because the box containing the computer and phone was sealed and it would be easier to send the other stuff separately.

That was well over 3 months ago. Where is the NCIS report? Again this isn't a request is a demand and it has always been a demand since the first time we spoke. Sooner o later NCIS will be held accountable for their actions. Its just a matter of time. Treating me like I'm in the military or like they will do as they want isn't going to work in the end. We have so many things going right now and trust me they will all in line and come together very shortly they have too. When that happens I wouldn't want to be the one explaining this to the public. Seven months is way too long for these items to be sitting in a safe or room collecting dust when we have repeatedly demanded the items. I also want to point out to you that the command investigation is a fraud. The people lied in their statements and that means they lied in your so called under oath statements. Thi

is proven with factual evidence and our rebuttal to the command investigation.As I have repeatedly told NCIS I expect the entire chain of command relived along with all of the others I have reported to you in the past. They lied under oath that is a crime in this country and the Navy. I want them relieved to desk jobs pending trial.

I have officially reported all this to you along with the theft of items and many other things. These issues fall under NCIS and I expect all of the individuals involved in this that I have reported to you from day one held accountable for their actions for what they did and didn't do. Fraud is a crime and so is lying on official statements not to mention the command Investigation. When the Investigating office,Commanding Officer,Commodore and fleet Admiral signed the investigation they committed fraud . They knew the statements not to be true and endorsed them anyway. I expect charges to be filed and if NCIS just puts it in their report then they need to make sure it goes to who ever files charges.

Its bad enough my son is dead and everyone involved turned their backs on him and us. Then to coverup and lie on official investigations that is unacceptable criminal and outright fraud period. You told me to calm me down that all statements are under oath and how seriously NCIS takes them. We the time has come to deliver on that statement. I want charges against these individuals. Also none of this people are to make or be given rank,transfer or retire while all this is going on to include the new charges of falsifying official statements and interfering with and investigation and fraud and theft. The command investigation is a fraud and I suggest NCIS reads it looks at the information I have given to them over the past 7 months and then they will see what I'm talking about.

I'm hoping and prying that the hold up on the NCIS report is because of what i have told you over the past 7 months. That would mean someone finally looked at the facts and evidence. If not just get the report done so I can take it from there. You have had the world on hold under the excuse of NCIS is still investigating. That stopped the day the command submitted the frauded coverup investigation officially. I told you from day one when we spoke the command would cover this up and fraud the investigation. As a courtesy I have enclosed our rebuttal. If NCIS reads it and actually uses it talks to us and Brandons true friends they just maybe will be able to get all this right. Can you please finally do the right thing for our son and us. Take all of this for action. Thank You Karen

I may have made a mistake on my last e-mail to you. Apparently the report we received is the command investigation. However, it's not too late for NCIS to use the Command's investigation against them before we do and to make things right so NCIS can recommend charges against all parties involved stated in this email. Although, this may not be the NCIS report it is obvious the route that is being taken and the stance of the command. However, let's focus on what we still demand. We want everything that was in the boxes that Brandon put on Katrina Carden's desk. Those items include all four letters and the note to Taylor.If by chance there was more than five we want them all. All the original ones not copies.

We want the gifts he made for them to include the gift cards, the money, the games and anything else in those boxes. We want the letter Brandon supposedly left for the Commanding Officer Duane Whitmer in the command suggestion box. We want the suggestion complaint Brandon put in there the weeks prior to all this. We also want anything NCIS and the command took that belonged to Brandon. We had requested this before. We want all of his training records, reports, counseling, anything that pertains to him or has his name on it. We also want anything that has our name on it or that pertains to us.

We want an unredacted NCIS report and we want everything NCIS has on all of this from the Command, the IG, anything and it will be unredacted. I also want to alert you to the fact that the command's investigation was a joke. It was inaccurate, it stinks of cover up, it's incomplete, and unacceptable. I want the entire Command relieved to include NC1 Remmy Spence, Chief Shelah Hennard, Master Chief Pete Lerette, CMC David Tokarski, AE1 Jared Brose, Commanding Officer Duane Whitmer, Executive Officer Trevor Prouty, Chief Delasandro (from Arizona who searched the AZ DMV), the officer who did the investigation, and any other name I have submitted to you in the past. If you used anything from the command's investigation in you investigation, it is wrong, inaccurate and outright lies. It is also incomplete and I hope you used what I sent to you over the course of all this to counter the command's investigation. If not, what a grave mistake and unacceptable action NCIS did. In particular the key things I told you about. The Plane Captain qualifications, driver's license incident, aircrewmen incident, the calls to the CMC, his call to me, and the call from Master Chief Lerette and NC1 Spence.

If NCIS says and uses the hand written letter Brandon left for the commanding foficer, I highly suggest they call me for a proper interpretation of it. Apparently, the command can't read and comprehend reading. When I show this investigation to others they are going to go nuts over the lies and cover up. The command made it easy for us to get the proper help we need to honor Brandon's wishes and to get justice for him. Will NCIS do the same? That's up to you to report to them. They should contact us face-to-face and get the real story before they embarrass themselves like the command just did. The mental anguish the command has put us through isn't just wrong it is cruel. I have said from the first time I have talked to you all people who killed my son will be held accountable for what they did and didn't do. What they didn't do is as big as what they did do. I guess they didn't teach this in NCIS school.

They sure did in the Navy I was in and so does law enforcement. The physiologist helping us through all this knew Brandon very well and he is a prior officer in the Air Force. He is on our side and he even feels the command and Navy are covering this up. I will help you again with this. Brandon was driven to suicide by his command which is murder. The failure to act properly and judiciously makes the U.S. Navy an accessory to the murder of Brandon. More than one person in Brandon's chain of command gave Brandon nothing but indifference when they ignored the situation. They were protecting the perpetrators to continue a campaign of despicable bulling that pushed him to the

brink. Brandon was a death by suicide because he lost all confidence due to poor leadership in his command. Now dispute the above with everything you got and in the end you lost and don't know it.

Also who stole the driver's license? That person will be prosecuted by NCIS since that is your forte. I expect this to happen soon. I reported it to you along with the missing money. When are they going to be prosecuted?

Thank you,

Patrick Caserta

Attachment P: Department of Defense Inspector General Preliminary Inquiry Report

1. Per a request of Patrick Caserta, a request for an IG investigation was conducted on circumstances surrounding the death of AEAN Brandon Caserta. For this independent assessment, only one of the findings will be discussed.

a. As already reviewed in Attachment F of this document, and revisited in this attachment the week prior to his death, AEAN Caserta placed in the commander's "ANYMOUSE" suggestion box a letter addressing the problems being created by AE1 Jared Brose (Attachment P-1).

b. This document, plus the counseling statements already reviewed, and CDR Whitmer's knowledge of the long-term history involving AE1 Brose, makes it clear that he knew about this serious problem.

c. Furthermore, Maintenance Master Chief Lerette was fully aware of the problems with AE1 Brose. If Squadron Commander Whitmer failed to have established effective communications with his master chiefs, then a serious breakdown in leadership, then a serious leadership problem within the squadron, did in fact exist.

d. It also needs to be pointed out that the NCOs knew the letter was placed in the commander's ANYMOUSE box. It was no secret AEAN Caserta was the person who submitted it.

2. In the Preliminary Inquiry Report, completed April 4, 2019 (nine months after AEAN Caserta's death), the IG documented:

a. *While we acknowledge CDR Whitmer had knowledge that this subordinate had a history of issues prior to his assumption of command, it is clear that CDR Whitmer had no knowledge of the current situation.*

b. *The preponderance of the evidence reveals that while CDR Whitmer was aware of AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED leadership issues while at Department 4, there was no reason to believe CDR Whitmer was aware of the hostile work environment being perpetrated by AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED within 310WC.*

c. *These findings are supported by numerous interviews that detail the two sides of AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED, one which was abrasive when dealing with peers and junior Sailors, and one which was professional with Sailors senior to AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED.*

d. *All of those interviewed stated that they did not raise concerns about AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED to anyone senior in the chain-of-command at HSC-28.*

e. *Additional, USFF IG found no substantiating information received via the Commanding Officer's Suggestion Box…*

f. *The preponderance of the evidence reveals that there was no reasonable expectation that CDR Whitmer, or members of AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED immediate divisional chain-of-command, were aware that AE1 BROSE's NAME BLOCKED was creating a hostile work environment within HSC-28.*

3. The IG's declaration is wrong in many directions:

a. As provided in the first document in this attachment, this letter was part of previous investigations. Suddenly, the IG is unable to find *substantiating information received via the Commanding Officer's Suggestion Box*. This one sentence discredits the IG's finding of "unsubstantiated" on this issue.

b. The IG acknowledges that CDR Whitmer was aware of AE1 Brose's history, but apparently did nothing to personally monitor the situation. It is also apparent that CDR Whitmer did not do work-space visits that were the trade-mark of his predecessor, CDR Thomas.

c. The statement that no one in the chain-of-command brought this serious problem to the attention of CDR Whitmer serves as testimony that this same officer was not engaged in the operations of the squadron he commanded. The fact that Army Brigadier General Janis Karpinski was unaware of what subordinate troops two commands down from hers were doing at Abu Ghraib (Iraq) Detention Facility did not release her from responsibility. She was relieved of command for those abuses. Apparently, the term "Command Responsibility" has different meanings in the U.S. Army and U.S. Navy.

4. The invalidity of the IG's finding on its first investigated issue, specifically that concerning CDR Whitmer's knowledge of the abuse of AE1 Brose, negates any further reason to dissect the rest of the IG report.

5. Patrick Caserta does have documentation and evidence to dispute the other issues addressed by the IG. Further analysis should be the subject of an assessment different than this one.

60|2

Subject: [redacted] AE1 Brose

i've been keeping quiet and debating about doing this for a long time. But it has to be done. This LPO treats his workers under him worse than garbage. I cant think of a better way to put this than how the recent article was written about the MCPON. He fosters a hostile work environment inside his small shop. He has an unpredictable temper that the slightest occurrence of things not going his way, he just goes off instead of deescalating the situation and finding a more proper calm way of doing things. He can be verbally abusive towards his coworkers. Referring to everyone as his "bitch" or other derogatory/ degrading terms. As a first class who has been in 12 years, he 1. doesn't act like it and 2. doesn't hold himself to the standard of a first class. He acts more childish and immature than the junior sailors he is in charge of. Example. He talks about a LOT of Chiefs/ higher rank behind their back. Being realistic, everyone does it to a certain degree, but NOT in front of the whole shop to hear. Hes EXTREAMLY unprofessional. "i don't give a fuck what chief says he/she isnt here im telling you what to do right fucking now! You listen to me, I dont care! Chief is a dumbass, don't listen to them!" another example. A chief walks in, tells [redacted] something, said chief walks out. He will just blatantly yell out "DUCHBAG!" or "DUMBASS!" just 2 small examples. For someone trying to make chief, he sure shows a LOT of disrespect to the rank as a whole. This man is too incompetent and most certainly NOT the right fit to "lead" some of the newest personnel at the command. He not to long ago got kicked off a DET for behavioral reasons and somewhere along the lines someone had a good idea to let him be "the example" of the most impressionable shop at the command. They definitely learned and are learning what not to be. IF anyone stays in the navy because of him. They get treated like dogs and he rules over them. He believes that when he does things that he is supposed to do, that that means they need to work harder and 'give him more" I might add that he puts them off until the very VERY last possible second and if that involves marriage and/or BAH, that really could mess up someones personal life. He is the reason moral is down in the line shack. Its hard to respect someone who doesn't respect others and abuses his position. The workload is fine, very fast pace and can be exhausting at times but its manageable. The hardest part of the line shack work day is surviving the shift with him. This is my last attempt at hope for a change either in him or preferably a different LPO. Personally I suggest [redacted] has [redacted] Its also certain that they need a strong second class for night check supervisor [redacted] said on occasion she would like to be night check supervisor.

Brose

ATTACHMENT P-1: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AE3 CASERTA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

40

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY REPORT (4 April 2019)
Aviation Electrician's Airman (AEAN/E-3)[1] Brandon Caserta
Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO EIGHT (HSC-28)
NIGHTS Case# 201803056
DCATS Case# 20180724-052749-CASE-02

Allegation/Issue: Known complainant alleges multiple allegations of wrongdoing to include fraud, hostile work environment, abuse of authority, dereliction of duty, and regulatory non-compliance. Allegations of a criminal nature were referred to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) via 20180724-052749-CASE-01.

(1) Name, rank, and organization of subject:

(a) Commander (CDR/O-5) Lynden Whitmer Jr., Commanding Officer, HSC-28

(2) Description of violation:

(a) That CDR Lynden Whitmer Jr., Commanding Officer, HSC-28, was derelict in his duties when he failed to act upon incidents of misconduct and complaints in violation of Article 92, UCMJ; to wit, CDR Whitmer failed to take action when informed of [redacted] verbally abusive behavior towards subordinates.

(3) Date violation occurred:

Between October 2016 and June 2018

(4) Where violation occurred:

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron TWO EIGHT, Naval Station Norfolk, Norfolk, VA

(5) Law, rule, or regulation violated:

Article 92, Uniformed Code of Military Justice

(6) Findings:

Not Substantiated

(7) Analysis:

(a) A review of documentary and testimonial evidence by Commander, U. S. Fleet Forces Command Inspector General reveals that CDR Lynden Whitmer Jr., Commanding Officer, HSC-28, was unaware that a subordinate Sailor was creating an active hostile work environment

[1] AEAN Caserta was posthumously promoted to AE3, for the sake of consistency the decedent will be addressed as AEAN throughout this report.

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~~Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure may result in both civil and criminal penalties.~~

ATTACHMENT P-2: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE UNTIMELY DEATH OF AEAN CASERA, REPORT DATED JUNE 30, 2021

within one of his divisions. While we acknowledge CDR Whitmer had knowledge that this subordinate Sailor had a history of issues prior to his assumption of command, it is clear that CDR Whitmer had no knowledge of the current situation.

(d) Briefly describe the evidence that supports the findings:

1) In his 22 July 2018 letter to DOD IG, the complainant alleged that CDR Whitmer knew about a hostile work environment that was permeated by verbal abuse, fear, and intimidation as evidenced by information contained in command climate surveys and the fact that , 310WC Leading Petty Officer, HSC-28, had been removed from his position as a detachment Leading Petty Officer. The complainant alleges that this hostile work environment was a major contributing factor in the suicide death of his son, Aviation Electrician's Airman (AEAN/E-3) Brandon Caserta.

In evaluating whether CDR Whitmer was derelict in his duties, USFF IG evaluated CDR Whitmer's actions against Article 92, Uniformed Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), which finds that a person subject to UCMJ is derelict in the performance of their duties if the following exists: (a) that the accused had certain duties; (b) that the accused knew or reasonably should have known of the duties; and (c) that the accused was (willfully) (through neglect or culpable inefficiency) derelict in the performance of those duties.

USFF IG interviewed approximately twenty individuals, both members and non-members of HSC-28, as well as individuals provided by the complainant as possible witnesses, reviewed Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) Organizational Climate Surveys (DEOCS), training records, counseling records, evaluation reports, and command investigations in an effort to gain a holistic view of the situation and circumstances regarding the alleged hostile work environment perpetuated by within 310WC (Line Division).

In response to these efforts, USFF IG found that on 22 November 2017, , Detachment 4[2] Senior Enlisted Advisor, counseled in writing following multiple complaints about the unprofessional manner in which he addressed his subordinates; directed to formally apologize to his Sailors for his lapse in professionalism and informed him that he would be replaced as Leading Petty Officer (LPO), if he did not significantly improve. On 18 January 2018, informed via written counseling, that he was being relieved as the Detachment 4 LPO due to multiple instances in which he degraded and demoralized his subordinates; directed that enroll in anger management classes, an action that did not occur. testified that the Command

[2] Detachment 4 was a deployable unit of squadron personnel, aircraft, and equipment embarked aboard USS IWO JIMA in support of disaster support to civilian authorities (DISA). Detachment 4 consisted of an Officer in Charge (OIC), Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA), aircraft, flight crews, and maintenance personnel.

Master Chief at the time was informed of [redacted] issues; [redacted] was positive that the Command Master Chief informed CDR Steven Thomas, then HSC-28 Commanding Officer, and CDR Whitmer of the issues, but he did not have any direct interactions with CDR Thomas or CDR Whitmer. Testimonial evidence reveals that CDR Thomas made the decision to remove [redacted] after consulting with the HSC-28 Triad. Immediately following the relief, CDR Whitmer spoke with [redacted] about how to be a better leader and discussed a way ahead. Approximately two weeks later, [redacted] assumed LPO duties within the 310WC.

Subsequently, [redacted] had two issues after returning to 310WC with one situation involving the use of vulgarity and another allegedly involving sexism; both situations were addressed via verbal counseling by [redacted] immediate divisional chain-of-command without HSC-28 Triad involvement. Testimony provided by both [redacted] supervisors and subordinates reveals that his immediate divisional chain-of-command were unaware of any leadership issues following the verbal counseling related to vulgarity and sexism. Additionally, interviews conducted with both [redacted] superiors and subordinates reveal that [redacted] was adept at concealing his hostile behavior from his superiors and that subordinates did not notify anyone senior in the HSC-28 chain-of-command about any issues they were having with [redacted] Testimony provided by AEAN Caserta's peers and roommates revealed that AEAN Caserta never detailed specific issues he was having with [redacted], rather AEAN Caserta made non-specific statements such as "he hated work" or that he "didn't like his LPO."

USFF IG analyzed two Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) Organizational Climate Surveys (DEOCS) that had been conducted while CDR Whitmer was assigned to HSC-28. The first DEOMI Organizational Climate Survey was completed in May 2017 for CDR Steven Thomas, then HSC-28 Commanding Officer, while CDR Whitmer served as Executive Officer. A review of this DEOMI Organizational Climate Survey found no mention, either overtly or peripherally, of any issues regarding [redacted] performance or behavior. The second DEOMI Organizational Climate Survey was initiated following CDR Whitmer's change of command in April 2018. This DEOMI Organizational Climate Survey was conducted from 4 June 2018 - 2 July 2018 with a report published by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute on 10 July 2018; this report was published 16 days after the death of AEAN Caserta and would not have been available to CDR Whitmer prior to the publication date. A review of this DEOMI Organizational Climate Survey by USFF IG found three references related to [redacted], all of which alluded to issues he was having with subordinates.

The preponderance of the evidence reveals that while CDR Whitmer was aware of [redacted] leadership issues while at Detachment 4, there was no reason to believe CDR Whitmer was aware of the hostile work environment being perpetrated by [redacted] within 310WC. Additionally, USFF IG determined that [redacted] immediate divisional chain-of-command was unaware of the hostile work climate [redacted] was perpetuating within the 310WC. These

findings are supported by numerous interviews that detail the two sides of [redacted], one which was abrasive when dealing with peers and junior Sailors, and one which was professional with Sailors senior to [redacted]. All of those interviewed stated that they did not raise concerns about [redacted] to anyone senior in the chain-of-command at HSC-28. Additionally, USFF IG found no substantiating information received via the Commanding Officer's Suggestion Box, or contained within the May 2017 Command Climate Survey, which would have led the HSC-28 Triad or [redacted] immediate divisional chain-of-command to suspect that a hostile work environment existed within 310WC. The preponderance of the evidence reveals that there was no reasonable expectation that CDR Whitmer, or members of [redacted] immediate divisional chain-of-command, were aware that [redacted] was creating a hostile work environment within HSC-28. As such, the allegation that CDR Whitmer was derelict in his duties when he failed to act upon incidents of misconduct and complaints in violation of Article 92, UCMJ is **not substantiated**.