

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF
SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE NEAL R. MARZLOFF
U.S. COAST GUARD INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE, CENTAL REGION**

**BEFORE THE
RESPONSE SYSTEMS PANEL**

DECEMBER 11, 2013

Introduction

Good morning Judge Jones and distinguished members of the Panel. I am Neal Marzloff, Special Agent in Charge of the Coast Guard Investigative Service's (CGIS) Central Region based in Cleveland, Ohio. I have served in this position since November 2007 and have been a credentialed CGIS special agent for 20 years, serving as both an active duty military member and now as a civilian employee.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak before this Panel today regarding the Coast Guard Investigative Service's role in responding to reports of sexual assault.

Mission

Let me begin by providing some background on the Coast Guard Investigative Service, our cadre of agents and our missions.

The Coast Guard Investigative Service is the criminal investigative arm of the Coast Guard and is organized as an independent and centralized investigative agency under Coast Guard Headquarters (CG-2). CGIS is led and managed by an OPM series 1811 (professional federal criminal investigator) Senior Executive Service Director.

CGIS supports Coast Guard commanders by providing investigative support to operations, force protection, intelligence collection and the maintenance of good order and discipline. CGIS special agents are neutral fact finders committed to providing fair and impartial investigative products for use by the appropriate command and legal office. CGIS special agents are prohibited from offering recommendations or opinions on matters concerning guilt, innocence or punishment, in order to preserve the objectivity of the criminal investigative process to the maximum extent possible.

CGIS currently has 105 active duty, 148 reserve and 106 civilian special agents serving at seven regional offices, three field offices and 39 Resident Agent Offices. Most reserve special agents are active law enforcement officers or federal agents in their civilian capacities and are fully integrated into operations at their respective CGIS offices.

Posture

CGIS is committed to aggressively investigating all unrestricted reports of sexual assault involving Coast Guard personnel. To accomplish this, we work in close collaboration with Coast Guard Sexual Assault Response Coordinators, Victim Advocates, Coast Guard Staff Judge Advocates, Special Victim's Counsel, the commands of both the victim and the accused, and state and local law enforcement agencies.

Training

Every CGIS special agent possesses the skills necessary to investigate a reported sexual assault. Upon entry into CGIS, special agents receive 12 weeks of entry level training followed by 10 weeks of agency specific training (or equivalent) at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Glynco, Georgia. In terms of sexual assault investigation, 15 CGIS special agents have been qualified as Family and Sexual Violence Investigators, who act as "subject matter specialists" for those reports involving family and sexual violence received in their areas of responsibility. Additionally, to date 50 CGIS special agents have completed the U.S. Army's Special Victim Unit Investigations Course. An additional six are currently attending the SVUIC training in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, and an additional 56 are scheduled to attend in FY14. Special Agents with this advanced training are available for consultation or as an additional resource when needed during an investigation.

Because the above mentioned initiatives incur significant training costs (FSVI/\$105,000 – CG funded, SVUIC/ \$180,000 – DOD funded), CGIS is also pursuing lower cost training initiatives focusing on a victim centric approach, such as interactive web based training in victim interviewing and embedding special agents with the Special Victims Units of the Boston, Philadelphia, Phoenix and very appropriate to today's venue, Austin Police Departments. This affords additional practical experience in an "immersion style" setting and the ability to collaborate with seasoned investigators, victim advocates and prosecutors in a high volume of sensitive crime investigations.

Promising Initiatives

CGIS special agents are also regularly participating in Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Workshops, alongside the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim Advocates and the Staff Judge Advocate. These four- hour presentations are presented in two distinct phases: the full crew and then gender-specific sessions. The primary goals for each session are to enable the member to be able to identify sexual assault; be able to intervene; and be able to report. This candid all hands engagement with attendees provides a unique opportunity for CGIS special agents to describe common misconceptions, as well as the realities of sexual assault. These workshops have been received very well by attendees and have also resulted in victims coming forward during or after the training to report incidents of sexual assault.

Because stateside CG units are widely dispersed and sometimes located in isolated areas, expediting CGIS resources to a victim or crime scene is sometimes hindered by distance or weather. In those cases, CGIS agents seek assistance from local law enforcement agencies to

provide an initial response. In the last year CGIS has also begun “surging” teams of agents in response to reports of sexual assault involving underway cutters, other deployed units, incidents in foreign ports, and in other situations where there is an expected high volume of investigative leads or other special circumstance.

Closing

I hope I was able to provide the Panel a brief description of the Coast Guard Investigative Service, our agents and the work we do.

Thank you again for this opportunity to address the Panel. I will do my best to answer any questions you may have for me.