



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
1000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000

ACTION MEMO

FOR: SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FROM: Juan M. Garcia, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)

SUBJECT: Review of service record and performance of former Sailor Aaron Alexis

- You directed our Task Force to conduct three new reviews to better understand the granting and renewal of Department of the Navy security clearances in the wake of the Washington Navy Yard tragedy.
- After reviewing the service record and performance of former Sailor Aaron Alexis to determine the degree to which his conduct did or did not meet the threshold for the sustainment of his security clearance and fitness for Naval duty, the following action items and recommendation are provided for your consideration:
 - Require Command Security Manager responsibilities be assigned to Executive Officers or other senior member of the Command leadership team vice the current practice of assigning these duties to junior officers.
 - Require senior-level accountability on all detachment of individual evaluations/fitness reports.
 - Recommend all Office of Personnel Management investigative reports include any available police documents related to the subject being investigated for clearance eligibility.
- These action items and recommendation are intended to satisfy the first of the three reviews you directed. I anticipate making further recommendations to you upon completion of the remaining two reviews.

RECOMMENDATION: CNO/CMC coordinate with ASN(M&RA) to determine the implications of implementing the above stated recommendations.

Approve _____ Disapprove _____

Attachments:
As stated

September 20, 2013

Subj: TIMELINE OF EVENTS CONCERNING AARON ALEXIS

1. On June 3, 2004, approximately three years prior to his enlistment, Aaron Alexis was arrested in Seattle, WA. He was charged with malicious mischief for shooting the tires on a construction worker's vehicle. He remained in jail overnight and was released on his own recognizance. No charges were filed.
2. On May 5, 2007, Alexis enlisted in the Navy Reserve at New York Military Entrance Processing Station, Brooklyn, NY.
3. Upon Alexis's entry into the Navy Reserve, the standard Secret level investigation, or National Agency Check with Law and Credit Check, was initiated by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), DoD's Investigative Service Provider. Based on a fingerprint check with the FBI's Criminal Justice Investigation System, OPM became aware of the June 3, 2004 incident in Seattle, WA. As a result, OPM conducted an interview with Alexis. The investigation was closed on August 4, 2007. The resulting report to the Department of Navy Central Adjudication Facility (DONCAF) makes no reference to firearm use. Instead, the report states that Alexis "deflated the tires on a construction worker's vehicle."
4. On July 10, 2007, Alexis graduated from Recruit Training in Great Lakes, IL. On December 15, 2007, he graduated from Aviation Electrician's Mate "A" School and transferred to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 46 in Atlanta, GA. Alexis remained with this squadron for his entire time in the Navy. Due to Base Realignment and Closure, the squadron relocated to Fort Worth, TX in 2009.
5. On March 11, 2008, DONCAF, upon review of the OPM investigation, determined Alexis was eligible for a Secret level security clearance, with a single caution to the squadron concerning his negative credit history. At the time of Alexis's investigation and adjudication, a Secret level clearance was good for 10 years.¹
6. On September 23, 2008, then Commander (now Captain) Robert B. Fryer imposed non-judicial punishment (NJP) on Alexis for Unauthorized Absence (Article 86, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)). He received forfeiture of 1/2 pay per month for 2 months (suspended) and was reduced one pay grade (suspended). The reason for the unauthorized absence was that Alexis was in jail from August 10-11, 2008 in DeKalb County, GA following an arrest for disorderly conduct outside of a nightclub. The Record of NJP appears in his service record from this date forward.
7. On July 12, 2009, Commander Fryer imposed a second NJP on Alexis for being drunk and disorderly (Article 134, UCMJ). He was reduced one pay grade. This NJP was due to Alexis leaping off stairs and breaking his ankle while reportedly intoxicated. There was no police involvement. Alexis appealed this NJP.
8. Commander Steven P. Knight (now Captain) assumed command of the squadron on August 16, 2009.

¹ In 2012, the Directors of National Intelligence and Office of Personnel Management ordered Secret periodic investigations to be completed every five years. DoD anticipates this new requirement will be implemented in 2015.

9. On December 3, 2009, pursuant to Alexis's appeal, Commander Knight set aside the NJP based on a finding that there was insufficient evidence to prove he was intoxicated at the time of the incident.² The Report of NJP was removed from his record.

10. On September 5, 2010, Alexis was arrested in Fort Worth, TX for discharging a firearm in his residence the previous day. According to law enforcement documents, Alexis stated he accidentally discharged the firearm while cleaning it. No charges were filed.

11. Subsequent to Alexis's arrest in Fort Worth, TX, Commander Knight began the process to administratively separate him from the Navy. Specifically, Commander Knight's legal officer prepared an administrative separation document that he intended to forward to Navy Personnel Command. However, after Alexis was not charged for unlawfully discharging a firearm, this document was not signed, dated or sent.

12. Alexis had no security incidents reported in the Joint Personnel Adjudication System.³

13. The United States Navy has no record of any civilian conviction of Alexis.

14. On December 2, 2010, Alexis requested separation from the Navy in accordance with the existing "Reduction in Force" program allowing Sailors to request an early release from the Navy.

15. On December 9, 2010, Navy Personnel Command approved the member's request for separation. On January 31, 2011, he received an Honorable discharge with a Reentry Code of RE-1, the most favorable code.

16. Alexis was issued a Navy Reserve Identification and Privilege card on February 22, 2011 with an expiration date of May 4, 2015.

² Commander Knight was verbally informed by the appeal authority, Commander, Naval Air Force Reserve, that upon his review of Alexis's appeal, based on a lack of evidence regarding Alexis's intoxication, he would set aside the NJP if Commander Knight did not set it aside on his own.

³ The Joint Personnel Adjudication System is used extensively by the Department of Defense Central Adjudicative Facilities (DODCAF) to record information affecting individual eligibility to access classified information. In 2013, the individual Service Adjudicative Facilities merged and became DODCAF.