EXHIBIT C



May 4, 2023

VIA FACSIMILE

ATTN: FOIA Appeals Office Office of the Judge Advocate General 1322 Patterson Ave. SE, Suite 3000 Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374

Fax: (202) 685-5472

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal - Request DON-NAVY-2023-007037

Dear FOIA Appeals Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A), and the implementing regulations of the Department of Defense (DOD), 32 C.F.R. pt. 286, American Oversight submits the following administrative appeal.

Background

On March 15, 2023, American Oversight submitted a FOIA request to the Department of Navy ("Navy" or "the agency") seeking the following:

- 1. Any report of an incident of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel.
- 2. Any study concerning incidents of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel in the possession of or created, utilized, maintained, received, or distributed by the Department of the Navy.
- 3. Records sufficient to identify the number of incidents or reports of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel, and any ensuing action recommended or executed by your agency, since February 11, 2020, or the earliest date thereafter for which this information is available.

To the extent that this information is aggregated and maintained in a database or spreadsheet, we would accept as responsive a printout from the database containing fields reflecting the date and key facts of each incident or report as well as any ensuing action



recommended or executed by the Department of the Navy. American Oversight does not object to the redaction of names, addresses, or other personally identifying information from records responsive to this request.

Please provide all responsive records from February 11, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

[1] American Oversight requests responsive data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format, to the extent that your agency maintains such data in a database or other format that can be readily exported into such format.

Ex. A.

By email dated March 16, 2023, Navy acknowledged American Oversight's request and assigned it tracking number DON-NAVY-2023-007037.

By email dated April 28, 2023 and attached letter, Navy provided a final response to parts 2 and 3 of the request. Ex. B. The agency noted that its FOIA office contacted the Navy Culture and Resilience Office and Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Office, each of which conducted searches of their local files. *Id.* The Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Office identified 1 record totaling 18 pages, which Navy determined to release in part and withhold in part, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) (Exemption 6). *Id.*

The agency's determination that records are exempt in part constitutes an adverse determination under DOD regulations. *See* 32 C.F.R. § 286.9(e). Pursuant to the requirements of 32 C.F.R. § 286.11, American Oversight submits this administrative appeal of Navy's following actions:

- (1) Failure to Provide an Adequate Administrative Determination
- (2) Failure to Conduct an Adequate Search for Records
- (3) Withholdings Under Claim of Exemption 6

Failure to Provide an Adequate Administrative Determination

Navy's response provides no detail regarding the agency's search, beyond the minimal information of the names of the two offices that conducted searches: the Navy Culture and Resilience Office and the Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Office. *See* Ex. B. Navy's response does not explain, for instance, which locations or custodians within those offices were searched; the date range applied; any key terms, search terms, or other query limitations used; or any guidance or parameters used to define the language in American Oversight's request. Nor does the response provide any rationale for those offices' excluding part 1 of the request in their searches, or any rationale for ostensibly excluding other offices from the search.

American Oversight thus cannot appeal the agency's response in a fully adequate manner, and American Oversight reserves the right to challenge search deficiencies and withholdings not described in the agency's bare response.

Failure to Conduct an Adequate Search for Records

An agency fulfills its obligation under FOIA if it can show "beyond material doubt that its search was reasonably calculated to uncover all relevant documents." *Ancient Coin Collectors Guild v. U.S. Dep't of State*, 641 F.3d 504, 514 (D.C. Cir. 2011). Navy has not shown that it conducted a search to meet its burden under this standard. The agency's failure to conduct an adequate search amounts to an improper withholding under—and violation of—FOIA. *Rodriguez v. U.S. Dep't of Defense*, 236 F. Supp. 3d 26, 34 (D.D.C. 2017) ("It is axiomatic that an inadequate search for records constitutes an improper withholding under FOIA."). As described above, Navy has not provided any information regarding the search to show that it conducted an adequate search.

Appeal of Exemption 6 Withholdings

Navy's response does not satisfy its burden to show that Exemption 6 properly applies or that the foreseeable harm standard applies.

An agency applying Exemption 6 must engage in a four-part analysis: first, whether the information at issue is a qualifying personnel, medical, or similar file under Exemption 6; second, whether there is a substantial privacy interest in the responsive records; third, the public interest in disclosure; and fourth, the balance of the competing public and private interests. *See* Dep't of Justice Guide to the Freedom of Information Act, Exemption 6 at 1–2.¹

In its response, Navy offers only that the records "contain instances of personally identifiable information (PII), such as names, dates of birth, and social security numbers of individuals," and the conclusory assertion that such instances are exempt under Exemption 6 "since release of this information would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of their personal privacy." Ex. B. Navy's response does not engage in the required analysis or balancing test for each type of information that it withholds.

While American Oversight's request noted that it "does not object to the redaction of names, addresses, or other personally identifying information from records responsive to this request," Ex. A, it is not evident from face of the records whether all of the redacted information constitute personally identifiable information. In particular, some redactions have been applied over portions of narrative entries, where it is unclear what type or category of information has been withheld. *See, e.g.*, Ex. B at 4, 9, 16. American Oversight therefore cannot fully assess the propriety of Navy's claim of Exemption 6.

Further, Navy's response did not meet its burden to show that releasing the withheld portions of the records would result in reasonably foreseeable harm. FOIA requires that

¹ Available at https://www.justice.gov/oip/page/file/1207336/download.

an agency may withhold responsive records under a discretionary exemption only if the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A)(i). In doing so, the agency must go beyond "general explanations' and 'boiler plate language." Ctr. for Investigative Reporting v. U.S. Customs & Border Prot., 436 F. Supp. 3d 90, 106 (D.D.C. 2019). Navy's response offers no confirmation that the agency even considered the foreseeable harm standard in making its determination, let alone provides a sufficient explanation.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Navy has failed to provide an adequate administrative determination, failed to conduct an adequate search for records, and failed to justify its claim of Exemption 6. Accordingly, American Oversight requests that Navy:

- (a) Conduct adequate searches for the records American Oversight has requested;
- (b) Provide American Oversight with information about the search methods and parameters used to identify responsive records;
- (c) Promptly release any responsive, non-exempt records, or portions thereof; and
- (d) Release the portions of the records withheld under claim of Exemption 6.

Thank you for your consideration of this appeal. As provided in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii), we look forward to your determination on our appeal within twenty working days.

For questions regarding any part of this appeal or the underlying request for records, please contact Mehreen Rasheed at foia@americanoversight.org or (202) 848-1320.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mehreen Rasheed Mehreen Rasheed on behalf of American Oversight

² See Freedom of Information Act Guidelines, Memorandum from the Attorney General, March 15, 2022, https://www.justice.gov/ag/page/file/1483516/download ("To help ensure proper application of the foreseeable harm standard, agencies should confirm in response letters to FOIA requesters that they have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying FOIA exemptions.").

EXHIBIT A



March 15, 2023

VIA EMAIL

FOIA Officer Chief of Naval Operations, DNS-36 2000 Navy Pentagon Washington, DC 20350-2000 usn.ncr.dns.mbx.don-foia-pa@us.navv.mil

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing regulations of your agency, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Department of the Navy produce the following records within twenty business days:

- 1. Any report of an incident of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel.
- 2. Any study concerning incidents of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel in the possession of or created, utilized, maintained, received, or distributed by the Department of the Navy.
- 3. Records sufficient to identify the number of incidents or reports of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel, and any ensuing action recommended or executed by your agency, since February 11, 2020, or the earliest date thereafter for which this information is available.

To the extent that this information is aggregated and maintained in a database or spreadsheet, we would accept as responsive a printout from the database containing fields reflecting the date and key facts of each incident or report as well as any ensuing action recommended or executed by the Department of the

¹ American Oversight requests responsive data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format, to the extent that your agency maintains such data in a database or other format that can be readily exported into such format.



Navy. American Oversight does not object to the redaction of names, addresses, or other personally identifying information from records responsive to this request.

Please provide all responsive records from February 11, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.

American Oversight requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government."² The public has a significant interest in extremism within the U.S. military. Records with the potential to shed light on this issue would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the federal government, including whether and to what extent the U.S. military has taken any action in response to service members identified as planning or engaging in criminal activity or other misconduct based on extremist ideologies. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to FOIA requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.⁴ As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

³ Will Carless, 13 Investigations, No Court-Martials: Here's How the US Navy and Marine Corps Quietly Discharged White Supremacists, USA Today (Apr. 13, 2021, 8:00 AM), https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/nation/2021/04/13/us-navy-marineswhite-supremacy-discharged/4566463001/; Alicia Tatone, Inside the U.S. Military's Battle with White Supremacy and Far-Right Extremism, NBC News (May 25, 2019, 8:32 AM), https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/inside-u-s-military-s-battle-whitesupremacy-far-right-ncna1010221.

⁴ See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.⁵

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.⁶ Examples reflecting this commitment to the public disclosure of documents and the creation of editorial content include the posting of records related to the Trump Administration's contacts with Ukraine and analyses of those contacts;⁷ posting records and editorial content about the federal government's response to the Coronavirus pandemic;⁸ posting records received as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;⁹ the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department's process for issuing such waivers;¹⁰ and posting records and analysis of federal officials' use of taxpayer dollars to charter private aircraft or use government planes for unofficial business.¹¹

⁵ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 112,700 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Mar. 10, 2023); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, https://twitter.com/weareoversight (last visited Mar. 10, 2023).

⁶ See generally News, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog.

⁷ Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine, American Oversight,

https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine.

⁸ See generally The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus; see, e.g., CDC Calendars from 2018 and 2019: Pandemic-Related Briefings and Meetings, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings.

⁹ See generally Audit the Wall, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall; see, e.g., Border Wall Investigation Report: No Plans, No Funding, No Timeline, No Wall, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/border-wall-investigation-report-no-plans-nofunding-no-timeline-no-wall.

¹⁰ DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance; Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents.

¹¹ See generally Swamp Airlines: Chartered Jets at Taxpayer Expense, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/swamp-airlines-private-jets-taxpayer-expense; see, e.g., New Information on Pompeo's 2017 Trips to His Home State, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/new-information-on-pompeos-2017-trips-to-his-home-state.

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms "record," "document," and "information" in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Federal Records Act and FOIA.¹² It is not adequate to rely on policies and procedures that require officials to move such information to official systems within a certain period of time; American Oversight has a right to records contained in those files even if material has not yet been moved to official systems or if officials have, by intent or through negligence, failed to meet their obligations.¹³
- Please use all tools available to your agency to conduct a complete and efficient search for potentially responsive records. Agencies are subject to governmentwide requirements to manage agency information electronically,¹⁴ and many

See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy, 827 F.3d 145, 149–50
 (D.C. Cir. 2016); cf. Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Kerry, 844 F.3d 952, 955–56 (D.C. Cir. 2016).
 See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy, No. 14-cv-765, slip op. at 8
 (D.D.C. Dec. 12, 2016).

¹⁴ Presidential Memorandum—Managing Government Records, 76 Fed. Reg. 75,423 (Nov. 28, 2011), https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/28/presidential-memorandum-managing-government-records; Office of

agencies have adopted the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Capstone program, or similar policies. These systems provide options for searching emails and other electronic records in a manner that is reasonably likely to be more complete than just searching individual custodian files. For example, a custodian may have deleted a responsive email from his or her email program, but your agency's archiving tools may capture that email under Capstone. At the same time, custodian searches are still necessary; agencies may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.

- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Mehreen Rasheed at

Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments & Independent Agencies, "Managing Government Records Directive," M-12-18 (Aug. 24, 2012), https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/m-12-18.pdf.

foia@americanoversight.org or (202) 848-1320. Also, if American Oversight's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

<u>/s/ Mehreen Rasheed</u>
Mehreen Rasheed
on behalf of
American Oversight

EXHIBIT B

Case 1:23-cv-01661-CKK Document 1-3 Filed 06/08/23 Page 14 of 48



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS 2000 NAVY PENTAGON WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

> 5720 Ser DNS-H KK/23U113552

> > April 26, 2023

Sent via email to: foia@americanoversight.org

Ms. Mahreen Rasheed American Oversight 1030 15th Street NW Suite B255 Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Rasheed:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act (PA) request dated March 16, 2023. Your request was received in our office on the same day and assigned case number DON-NAVY-2023-007037.

In the course of processing your FOIA request this office contacted Navy Culture and Resilience Office (N17) and Equal Opportunity and Sexual Harassment Office (N170C) to conduct a search for applicable records. Accordingly, those offices searched their local files for records relating to part 2 and 3 of your request:

- "2. Any study concerning incidents of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel in the possession of or created, utilized, maintained, received, or distributed by the Department of the Navy.
- 3. Records sufficient to identify the number of incidents or reports of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, altright, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel, and any ensuing action recommended or executed by your agency, since February 11, 2020, or the earliest date thereafter for which this information is available".

N170C has identified 1 record totaling 18 pages that are responsive to your request. Upon review of these records, it has been determined that they contain instances of personally identifiable information (PII), such as the names, dates of birth, and social security numbers of individuals. These instances of PII are exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), since release of this information would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of their personal privacy. The remainder of the records are released to you.

Because your request is partially denied, you are advised of your right to appeal this determination by writing to:

Office of the Judge Advocate General 1322 Patterson Ave SE Ste 3000 Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Your appeal must be postmarked within ninety calendar days from the date of this letter. A copy of your initial request and this letter must accompany the appeal. The appeal should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION"

Case 1:23-cv-01661-CKK Document 1-3 Filed 06/08/23 Page 15 of 48

APPEAL" both on the envelope and the face of the letter. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this decision to be in error.

In this instance, the fees associated with the processing of your request are waived, but this action is not indicative of how future requests will be handled.

You have the right to seek dispute resolution services with this determination. You may contact the Navy FOIA Public Liaison Mr. Chris Julka by email at Christopher.a.julka.civ@us.navy.mil or phone at (703)697-0031. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services through the website ogis.archives.gov, via email ogis@nara.gov, or by phone at (202)741-5770. Questions may be directed to our FOIA Service Center at (202)685-0412 or via email at donoria-pa@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

G. Cason

G. Cason

Deputy Director,

DON FOIA/PA Program Office

NAVY EQU	WAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORT Supporting Directives OPNAVINST 5354.1G and OPNAVINST 5300.13						
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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PRIVACY SENSITIVE

Print Form

Page 1 of 5

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any occurrence, name available, and any act that apply. If a Servic may seek support from Investigative Organiza	es of involved parties, w ditional information whice e Member, uniformed w n a Command Climate i ation (MCIO) or to comm	itnesses, others to the may be helpful in titness, or first respi Specialist (CCS). It nand for investigation	or from whom previo resolving your repor onder perceives sub- ndividuals can also r on, or other appropri	us reports may have it. Attach additional sequent retaliation re aport to the inspecto	<u> </u>	other evidence the blocks for all lal harassment, they Criminal
[_	scrimination	Harassment			Sexual Haras	
Race	National Orig	in 🔲	Religion		Crude Offensive	Behavior
⊠ Color	Sexual Orient	tation -	Sex (including gende	er identity)	Unwanted Sexua	1 Attention
	turni.	<u></u>			Sexual Coercion	
following statement	itical Extremism. Ra	císm. Substance	abuse."			
			·			
9. Report Type:						
∑ Formal			[Info	rmal		
I acknowledge receipt	Receipt of Report (by Re t of this unlawful discrim we one calendar day (24	ination/harassmeni	t/sexual harassment	report.	o inform that authority of a	ny Interim action
10. Representative R	tecelving Report:		11. Rank/Rate:	12. Position	•	
			E7/CTNC	CMEO		
13. Command Name	Auic:		14. Representativ	e Signature:		15 Date:
IWTC CORRY ST	ATION					17 Sep 21
16. Complainant Ack	nowledgment/Signature	e. (By signing, Con	plainant affirms the	above has been rea	d, is understood, and is co	mect.)
(a) Name:			(b) Signature:			(c) Date:
ANONYMOUS						

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	i	·					
NAVY EQU NAVPERS	QUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORT RS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017) Supporting Directives OPNAVINST 5354.1G and OPNAVINST 5300.13						
PART III. FO	RMAL REPORT PROCESSING/COMMAND ACT	IONS					
INTERIM FEI compleinant a support assist complainant v RESOLUTIOI Resolution in of other approcontinuation nall messages DOCUMENT alleged offence Part III, with the and Parts IV a MIII NavyEO reached. Mai Retain this co	DEACK/ASSISTANCE TO COMPLAINANT. Tall and alleged offender apprised of the status of the irrance/referral as warranted. Ensure that all involve ill not be tolerated. (Recommend keeping a recolution to tolerated.) TIME STANDARDS/REPORTING. Resolution of udes: Completion of investigation, determination oriate action, notification to accused, and notification essages every 14 days through case resolution is UNCLASSIFIED. COMMAND ACTION. The complainant's commander's Commander, Commanding Officer or Officering V upon final disposition of report, via appropriate of V upon final disposition of report, via appropriate of via an e-mail that is not encrype appropriate entities in Individual personnel recompleted form and investigation onboard at least two case General (Code 15) investigations Branch. It	ke particular care to avoid westigation (including any ed are aware of the retallat of of such feedback/assistations can be completed for each feedback/assistation of validity of report, adjudition of complainant and subtained as the complete for ensuring the companies of the c	deadline extensions). Provide supplicion plan of action and know that retail ance. Attach record to the report formed no later than 20 days from investiguation at non-judicial punishment or comission of a close-out. If time stands sexual harassment. Explain the reason plants I and II are complete and pred to as Commander) (as applicable), ugh III are required to be forwarded with program manager, or EO program mould permit reviewers to clearly asce by statistical reports required by the charities command investigation shall be	emental counseling/ ation against the L) ation commencement, ourts-martial, initiation and counter met, on(s) for delay. Send oviding this to the Upon completion of thin 72 hours (3 days) aneger, to tain/assess decisions ain of command,			
formal, and ar	Climate Specialist (CCS) Consultation: OPNAVIN onymous sexual harassment, unlawful discriminal	IST 5300.XX and OPNAVI from and harassment repor	NST 5354.1G requires consultation of ts.	f a CCS in all Informal,			
(a) Command	Climate Specialist Name:	(b) Rank/Rate:	(c) Command Name/UIC:				
		E/8 CTICS	CIWT				
(d) Command	Climate Specialist Phone Number:	(e) Command Climate 5	Specialist E-mail Address:				
				:			
established fir three calendar acknowledged	nat I must provide all appropriate voice reports and ne lines. I further understand I must initiate an app days (72 hours) and notify complainant the same by all involved parties. I also understand that I all judge advocate for all allegations of sexual harass	propriate investigation or e day of investigation comm n required to consult a CC	rsure that one is being conducted (e. sencement. I must ensure a retaliation S prior to making a determination of t	g., by NCIS) within n plan is in place and			
Transfer of Re Joint military e	port: When the complainant and alleged offender vironment), the report shall be processed by the	are assigned to different command or service of the	commands or services (when all partie alleged offender.	es are not assigned to a			
	r Directing Investigation:						
(a) Name:		(b) Rank/Rate:	(c) Command Name/UIC:				
		O-5/COMMANDER	IWIC CORRY STATION				
(d) Contact In	formation:	(e) Signature:		(f) Date:			
				17 Sep 21			
3. Date Time	Group (DTG) of OPREP Messages (Attach a copy	of all messages to this for	nn.)				
(a) Initial DTC	La	(b) Close-Ou	PTG.				
1715	ois z sepzi	161802	Z JUN 22				
4. Investigatir	g Officer.						
(a) Name and	Contact Information:			(b) Date Convened:			
5. Complaina	it Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Comp	lainant affirms the above I	as been read end is understood.)				
(a) Name:	Anonymous	(b) Signature:		(c) Date:			
6. Alleged Off	ender Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Al	lleged Offender affirms the	above has been read and is underst	od)			
(a) DoD ID Nu		· 		1			
(b) Name:		(c) Signature:	Į V	(d) Date: 17SEP2			
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·					

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017)		SSMENT REPORT Directives OPNAVINST	5354.1G and OPN	AVINST 5300.13
PART IV. FORMAL NOTIFICATION REVIEW				
1. Notification of Action Taken to Resolve Report.	(To concur within 20 c	alendar days of receipt of report.)	
(a) Report was completed on: (b) Report	was found to be:			
24 Sep 21 SUB	STANTIATED)		
(c) Based on the following findings:				
Member went to NJP and was	s assigned EN	Л.		
Right to review by higher authority (via an appea command action taken, and to request review of the submitted within 7 days of acknowledgment.				
(a) Echelon II Command:		(b) Echelon II CCS/EO Progr	am Manager Contact Ir	formation:
NETC		357		
Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signature)	oning Complainant at	firms the above has been read a	nd is understand)	
intend to submit a statement/appeal.	Semille A semilenti (m) (d)	DO NOT intend to subm		
(a) Name:	(b) Signature:		(c) Date:	(d) Seven Days:
Anonymous			(4	
Anonymous	D	6d		- 44
 Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature. (In Intend to submit a statement/appeal. 	ay signing, Allegea Un			oa.)
(a) Name: Member separated from Nav	Vy (h) Signature:	DO NOT intend to subm	(c) Date:	(d) Seven Days:
N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N		iger at command.	(c) bale.	(d) Seven Days.
	iember no ioi	iger at command.		
PART V. FORMALAPPEAL				
1. First Appeal Results:		T DO NOT CONOUR		* 9
[] CONCOR		DO NOT CONCUR		
(a) Name of Echelon II Reviewing Authority (Commander/Designee):	(b) Rai	nk/Rate: (e) Command Nam	ne/UIC:	
(d) Contact Information;	(e) Sig	nature:		(f) Date:
	,	5/2004.2.3838/64009/-	10 E	, • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By si	ionina Comaininasi	Winner their sharin has been vis- ? -	and in transferrate - 43	
intend to submit a statement/appeal.	anna, companiant at	inns me above has been read a	W 5	
(a) Name:	(b) Signature:	E PO NOT BREID IN SUBIR	(c) Datë :	(d) Seven Days:
A. A. WILLIAM	fit assumes		(o) Dais.	(a) deven Days.
3 Allamat Ciffornias A discussion	Ossalmala a sa			
 Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature. (A Intend to submit a statement/appeal. 	oy signing, Allegea Ot			oa.)
(a) Name:	(b) Signature:	DO NOT intend to subm		(d) 5
A-y 1 - mail tree	In oilliamie		(c) Date:	(d) Seven Days:

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017)	SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORT Supporting Directives OPNAVINST	5354.1G and OPNAVINST 5300.13
PARTY FORMAL APPEAL (continued)		
4: SECNAV - Final Appeal Results (action that been	taken to resolve report by reviewing authority):	
CONGUR	DÓ NOT CONCUR	
r	ž.	
(a) Name of SECNAV Reviewing Authority:	(b) Rank/Rate: (c) Command Nam	e/U C:
(d) Contact information:	(e) Signature:	(f) Dale:
5. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By sign	ling, Complainant affirms the above has been read at	nd is understood.)
(a) Name:	(b) Signature:	(c) Date:
ANONYMOUS		***
6. Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature, (8y)s	signing, Alleged Offender affirms the above has been	read and is understood.)
(à) Name:	(b) Signature:	(c) Date:
		. ,
PART VI FORMAL REPORT FOLLOW-UP		Santaway (
a review to ensure retailation did not occur.): (a) Were you subjected to any form of retailation beca (b) Rate your level of satisfaction with the processing.		
(e) Trace you reversely a sensitionary with the processing.	ir Aon Jebrit	
(c) Rate your level of satisfaction with the resolution of	f your report.	
(d) What could have prevented this incident?		
2: Complement Follow-Up Comments:		
a. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signi	ng, Complainant affirms the above has been read an	d is understand!
a) Name:	(b) Signature:	(c) Date:
ANONYMOUS	** ***********************************	(o) Baids.
4. Commander Follow-Up Notes, (Indicate dates/natur	re of any actions prompted by Complainant debrief.	Attach additional sheets as necessary.)
5. Commander Acknowledgmen/Signature. (By signin	ng, Commanding Officer affirms the above is correct	and report process is complete;)
a) Name:	(b) Signature:	(c) Date:
		IOSVIPEL

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORT

NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017)

Supporting Directives OPNAVINST 5354.1G and OPNAVINST 5300.13

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 5013 (g).

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Filing of allegations of unlawful discrimination and harassment based on race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity) or sexual orientation, national origin, and incidents of sexual harassment against military personnel. For Equal Employment Opportunity reports against civilian employees, see Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Management Directive 715.

ROUTINE USES: Information provided on this form may be used: (a) as a data source for report information, statistics, reports, and analysis; (b) to respond to requests from appropriate outside individuals or agencies (e.g. Members of Congress; the White House)

regarding the status of a report; (c) to adjudicate the report or appeal; or (d) any other properly established routine use. May use addendum as necessary.

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure is voluntary; however, failure to fully complete all portions of this form may result in rejection of the report on the basis of inadequate data to assess report.

PROTECT PRIVACY: Protect individual privacy (both complaina	nt and alleged offender) t	hroughout the process. (SECNAVIA	IST 5211.5 Series)				
PART I. COMPLAINANT INFORMATION & RESOURCES							
1. Complainant Name (Full First Name, MI, Last Name):	2. Rank/Rate:	3. DoD ID Number:					
4. Command Name/UIC:	5 Race/Ethnic Group:	6. Sex:	7. Date:				
Training Support Center, Great Lakes, IL/0580A	White	▼ Male	18 Jun 20				
B. Report Processing Options:	,		,				
(a) Informal Resolution System (IRS). (see OPNAVINST 535	4.1 Series or OPNAVINS	T 5300.13 Series)					
(b) U.S. Navy Sexual Harassment Prevention and Equal Opportal Toll Free: (800) 253-0931, DSN 882-2507, COMM (901) 8 E-Mail: Mill_NavyEOAdvice@Navy.mil.		Monday - Friday, 0830-1630 Central	Standard Time.				
(c) Authorized command or local resources. The following are	e available (Insert local na	ame, organization, and phone numb	er)				
Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Official:	CAPTI	TSC-GL	847-688-				
Fleet Family Support Center (FFSC):	FFSC Great La	kes NAVSTA-GL	847-688-3603				
Command Climate Specialist (CCS):		TSC-GL	847-688-				
Health Treatment Facilities (HTF):		VA	847-688-				
Chaplain:	CDR 1	TSC-GL	847-688-				
Legal:	Region Legal S	ervices Navy Region MID-LANT	847-688-4753				
 (d) NAVREGS 1151 Request mast with the Commanding Office Your right to communicate with the CO/OIC in a proper match such requests shall be acted upon promptly and forwarded (Attach local procedures as a separate document and additional communications with Inspector Generals. Any person who reports or who does not feel comfortable filing reports local via one or more of the available hot lines: Naval Inspector General: Toll free (800) 522-3451; DSN 2 Marine Corps Inspector General: DSN 224-1349, COMM 	inner, time, and place shad d without delay. itional information if neces ose chain of command do ally or in person can lodge 288-6743, COMM (202) 4	all not be denied or restricted. ssary.) pes not take effective action on ereports (anonymously if desired)					
Local TYCOM, ISIC, or local Commander's hot lines:	800-522-3451	847-688-2	847-688-				
(f) NAVREGS 1155. A Service member may always commun	icate individually with me	mbers of Congress.					
(g) <u>UCMJ Article 138</u> . A Service member who believes himself or herself wronged by his or her CO may file a report as provided in JAGMAN Chapter III.							
(h) NAVREGS 1150. A Service member who believes himself or herself wronged by his or her superior in rank or command (to include enlisted personnel) other than his or her CO may file a report as provided in JAGMAN Chapter III.							
(i) Anonymous Report Process. (see OPNAVINST 5354.1 Series or OPNAVINST 5300.13 Series)							
Complainant was advised of counseling/support services and provided a copy of this form.							
Representative Receiving Report:	10. Rank/Rate:	11. Position:					
	c.	Command Climate Specialist					
12. Command Name/UIC:	13. Representative Sign	nature:	14. Date:				
Training Support Center, Great Lakes, IL/0580A 18 Jun 20							
15. Complainant Name:	16. Complainant Signat	ure:	17. Date:				
			18 Jun 20				

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND SEXUAL NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017) Su		REPORT es OPNAVINST 5354.1G and OPNAVINST 5300.13				
PART II. ALLEGED OFFENDER INFORMATION & NATURE O	F REPORT					
Filing Deadline: I understand that a formal report shall be made within 60 calendar days of the offending incident, or in the case of a series of incidents, within 60 calendar days of the most recent incident. This EO filing deadline does not affect alternative remedies that might apply.						
Alleged Offender Name (Full First Name, MI, Last Name):	2. Rank/Rate:	3. Command Name/UIC:				
	E-1	Training Support Center, Great Lakes, IL/0580A				
4. Location of Incident: Complainant & Alleged Offender	On Duty	▼				
5. Relationship to Complainant : Military Coworker		☑				
6 Race/Ethnic Group (obtain from FLTMPS): White		☑				
7. Sex: Male		▼				
8. NATURE OF REPORT: (State, in as much detail as possible, the basis for your report. Describe the behaviors / conduct under objection, date(s) of any occurrence, names of involved parties, witnesses, others to or from whom previous reports may have been made or received, other evidence available, and any additional information which may be helpful in resolving your report. Attach additional sheets as needed. Check the blocks for all that apply. If a Service Member, uniformed witness, or first responder perceives subsequent retaliation related to the report of sexual harassment, they may seek support from a Command Climate Specialist (CCS). Individuals can also report to the Inspector General (IG), a Military Criminal Investigative Organization (MCIO) or to command for investigation, or other appropriate command action.)						
Discrimination Harassment		Sexual Harassment				
Race National Origin	Religion	Crude Offensive Behavior				
Color Sexual Orientation	Sex (including gender	· identity)				
On Tuesday, 16JUN20, two students had been sent back		Sexual Coercion CCC. One of those students is FN Cone of those students.				
"In what responded with, "Man of the year, 1938." Knowing that thing, mainly to clarify his beliefs. He gave two thumbs verbatim, he "hates Jews," "wishes all Muslims would le wants to kill George Soros. He wants to kill ANTIFA. It extended arm NAZI salute. Shipmate, "Hates Chinese people." At one point, after telling personal desires to join some type of civilian militia that however, sontains the word "French", and is ma BOORDA hall ladder wells to speak with N.M.T.I.'s, and down. He began questioning anything to the NMTI's or emit about nim. Imany reasons. Idon't believe his beliefs belong in our nar and unique. If a day where he has a Jewish or Musshipmates needs help believe would strongly conational origin. His actions anger me, as a Sailor, as a Cl discrimination. The book "Night" by Elie Wiesel changed and in my opinion, hurt the reputation of the Navy increde himself. He took multiple actions I listed, up front and ce I'd like to add how EMI as a great instructor and has responsibly. I don't know what should happen to	way are you an eximal was Adolf Hitler, up and said, "not a ave Europe," he as an one instance he sexpressed is most likely going so "sole duty is to know a sole duty is to know a sol	wanted to kill communists with him. He aid "Hail Hitler," and around 30 minutes later he gave the anger that he overheard state that he ing to be kicked out of the navy, FN cold fill terrorists." the name of this group, lex-military. At one point, on my way speaking with EMI and NMTI's? saying what bought it, and said tigated by M.A.'s and the F.B.I." of reven just another fellow shipmate, and that fellow elp that fellow shipmate, simply due to his/her religion or uman being. I cry for those hurt and/or killed by the burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in't seem to care about keeping his personal ideologies to be burns my thoughts. People like hurt my heart, in the manufacture has a saying water has a sa				
9. Report Type: ☑ Formal	Infon	mal				

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND SEXUAL NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017)		EPORT OPNAVINST 5354.1G and OPN	AVINST 5300.13
PART II. ALLEGED OFFENDER INFORMATION & NATURE OF	F COMPLAINT (continu	ed)	
Acknowledgment of Receipt of Report (by Representative identifi I acknowledge receipt of this unlawful discrimination/harassment/ I understand that I have one calendar day (24 hours) to refer the that is taken.	/sexual harassment rep	ort.	any interim action
10. Representative Receiving Report:	11. Rank/Rate:	12. Position:	
		Command Climate Specialist	
13. Command Name/UIC:	14. Representative S	ignature:	15. Date:
Training Support Center, Great Lakes, IL/0580A			18 Jun 20
16. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Com	plainant affirms the abo	ve has been read, is understood, and is c	orrect.)
(a) Name:	(b) Signature:		(c) Date:
			18 Jun 20

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORT

NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017)

Supporting Directives OPNAVINST 5354.1G and OPNAVINST 5300.13

PART III. FORMAL REPORT PROCESSING/COMMAND ACTIONS

INTERIM FEEDBACK/ASSISTANCE TO COMPLAINANT. Take particular care to avoid re-victimizing complainants (and witnesses). Keep the complainant and alleged offender apprised of the status of the investigation (including any deadline extensions). Provide supplemental counseling/support assistance/referral as warranted. Ensure that all involved are aware of the retaliation plan of action and know that retaliation against the complainant will not be tolerated. (*Recommend keeping a record of such feedback/assistance*. Attach record to the report form.)

RESOLUTION TIME STANDARDS/REPORTING. Resolution of case should be completed no later than 20 days from investigation commencement. Resolution includes: Completion of investigation, determination of validity of report, adjudication at non-judicial punishment or courts-martial, initiation of other appropriate action, notification to accused, and notification of complainant and submission of a close-out. If time standards cannot be met, continuation messages every 14 days through case resolution is mandatory for reports of sexual harassment. Explain the reason(s) for delay. Send all messages UNCLASSIFIED.

DOCUMENT COMMAND ACTION. The complainant's command is responsible for ensuring Parts I and II are complete and providing this to the alleged offender's Commander, Commanding Officer or Officer-in-charge (hereafter referred to as Commander) (as applicable). Upon completion of Part III, with the exception of continuation(s) and close-out Date Time Groups, Parts I through III are required to be forwarded within 72 hours (3 days) and Parts IV and V upon final disposition of report, via appropriate Echelon II CCS, CMEO program manager, or EO program manager, to Mill NavyEOAdvice@Navy.mil via an e-mail that is not encrypted. Command records should permit reviewers to clearly ascertain/assess decisions reached. Make appropriate entries in individual personnel records, if applicable. Make any statistical reports required by the chain of command. Retain this completed form and investigation onboard at least two years, at which time the entire command investigation shall be sent to the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 15) Investigations Branch. Provide a copy of completed form to complainant as authorized under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and governing directives.

Information Act (FOIA) and governing directives.	-lovide a co	py or complete	d form to complainant as authorized di	idel Fleedom of
Command Climate Specialist (CCS) Consultation: OPNAVIN formal, and anonymous sexual harassment, unlawful discriminat				a CCS in all informal,
(a) Command Climate Specialist Name:	(b) Rank/	'Rate:	(c) Command Name/UIC:	
			Training Support Center, Great L	akes, IL/0580A
(d) Command Climate Specialist Phone Number:	(e) Comm	nand Climate S	specialist E-mail Address:	
(847)688-				
I understand that I must provide all appropriate voice reports and established time lines. I further understand I must initiate an app three calendar days (72 hours) and notify complainant the same acknowledged by all involved parties. I also understand that I are consult with a judge advocate for all allegations of sexual harass	oropriate investing to the day of investing to the day of investing to the day of the da	estigation or er stigation comm o consult a CC	nsure that one is being conducted (e.g. encement. I must ensure a retaliation S prior to making a determination of thi	, by NCIS) within plan is in place and
Transfer of Report: When the complainant and alleged offender joint military environment), the report shall be processed by the complainant and alleged offender joint military environment).				are not assigned to a
Commander Directing Investigation:				
(a) Name:	(b) Rank/Rate:		(c) Command Name/UIC:	
	Captain		Training Support Center, Great Lakes, IL/0580A	
(d) Contact Information:	(e) Signature:			(f) Date:
				18 Jun 20
3. Date Time Group (DTG) of OPREP Messages (Attach a copy	of all mess	ages to this for	m.)	
(a) Initial DTG:		(b) Close-Out	DTG:	
P 191513Z JUN 20				
4. Investigating Officer.				
(a) Name and Contact Information:				(b) Date Convened:
DC1				19 Jun 20
5. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Comp	olainant affirr	ms the above h	as been read and is understood.)	
(a) Name:	(b) Signatu	ure:		(c) Date:
				18 Jun 20
6. Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, A	lleged Offen	nder affirms the	above has been read and is understo	od.)
(a) DoD ID Number:				
(b) Name:	(c) Signatu	ıre:		(d) Date:

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT REPORT NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017) Supporting Directives OPNAVINST 5354.1G and OPNAVINST 5300.13								
PART IV. FORMAL NOTIFICATION REVIEW								
1. Notification of Action Taken to Resol	ve Report. (To d	concur with	in 20 calendar da	ys of receipt of report.)				
(a) Report was completed on:	(b) Report was	found to b	e:					
Dec 1, 2020	Substantiated	e.				•		
(c) Based on the following findings: Report was substantiated by invest on 14 December 2020.	igation and wit	tness state	ments. Accused	l was discharged with	an other then hone	rable discharge		
Right to review by higher authority (v command action taken, and to request r submitted within 7 days of acknowledgn	review of those fi							
(a) Echelon II Command:			(b) Ech	elon II CCS/EO Program	Manager Contact Inf	ormation:		
Naval Education and Training Con	nmand							
3. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signa	ature. (By signin	g, Complai	nant affirms the a	bove has been read and	is understood.)			
I intend to submit a statement/appe	al.		I DO	NOT intend to submit a	statement/appeal.			
(a) Name:		(b) Signati	ure:		(c) Date:	(d) Seven Days:		
4. Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Alleged Offender affirms the above has been read and is understood.)								
I intend to submit a statement/appe	al.		I DO	NOT intend to submit a	statement/appeal.			
(a) Name:		(b) Signatu	ure:		(c) Date:	(d) Seven Days:		
PART V. FORMAL APPEAL								
First Appeal Results:								
CONCUR			□ DO	NOT CONCUR				
(a) Name of Echelon II Reviewing Auth (Commander/Designee):	ority	(b) Rank/Rate:	(c) Command Name/U	IIC:			
VAN CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF						(0 D-1		
(d) Contact Information:		(e) Signature:			(f) Date:		
2. Complainant Asknowledgment/Signs	atura (Purajania	a Complai	nant affirms the a	hour has been road and	is understood)			
 Complainant Acknowledgment/Signa I intend to submit a statement/appea 	0.120 125 1	g, complai		NOT intend to submit a	10			
(a) Name:		(b) Signati		NOT litteria to subtrit a	(c) Date:	(d) Seven Days:		
(a) Ivanie.		(b) Signate	aro.		(c) Bate.	(a) Sevan Bays.		
Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/8	Signature. (By si	anina. Allei	ged Offender affir	ms the above has been re	ead and is understoo	d.)		
I intend to submit a statement/appe		aa) /	<u>20 06</u>	NOT intend to submit a		un.		
(a) Name:		(b) Signatu			(c) Date:	(d) Seven Days:		
					Var. Comment			

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Show Informal Instructions

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PRIVACY SENSITIVE

Print Form

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND SEXUAL NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 08-2017) Su				PORT PNAVINST 5354.1G and OPNA	VINST 5300.13
PART V. FORMAL APPEAL (continued)					
SECNAV - Final Appeal Results (action that been taken to res	solve	<u></u>		9030.55490. •• 8	
CONCUR		_ DO I	VOT C	CONCUR	
(a) Name of SECNAV Reviewing Authority:	(b)	Rank/Rate:	(c) (Command Name/UIC:	
(d) Contact Information:	(e)	Signature:			(f) Date:
Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Compl.)	lainar	nt affirms the at	ove h	as been read and is understood.)	
(a) Name:	(b)	Signature:			(c) Date:
Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Alle	eged	Offender affirm	s the a	above has been read and is understood.)	
(a) Name:	-00	Signature:			(c) Date:
PART VI. FORMAL REPORT FOLLOW-UP					
Complainant Follow-Up Survey (Commanders shall conduct a follow-up will include a determination of Complainant satisfaction a review to ensure retaliation did not occur.):					TO THE OWNER OF THE PARTY OF TH
(a) Were you subjected to any form of retaliation because of you	r rep	ort?			•
(b) Rate your level of satisfaction with the processing of your rep	ort.				•
(c) Rate your level of satisfaction with the resolution of your repo	ort.				<u> </u>
(d) What could have prevented this incident?					
Complainant Follow-Up Comments:					
Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Compl.			ove h	as been read and is understood.)	(a) Balan
(a) Name:	(D)	Signature:			(c) Date:
 Commander Follow-Up Notes. (Indicate dates/nature of any a 	action	ns prompted by	Comp	olainant debrief. Attach additional sheets	as necessary.)
 Commander Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Command) Name: 		ng Officer affirm Signature:	s the a	above is correct and report process is co	mplete.) (c) Date:

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PRIVACY SENSITIVE

NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND HARASSMENT COMPLAINT

NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 01-2022)

Supporting Directive OPNAVINST 5354.1H

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: 10 U.S.C. 8013 (g).

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: Filing of allegations of sexual harassment, to include wrongful broadcast or distribution of intimate visual images; hazing; bullying; stalking, as well as harassment and prohibited discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), gender identity, national origin, and sexual orientation against military personnel. For equal employment opportunity reports against civilian employees, see Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Management Directive 715.

ROUTINE USES: Information provided on this form may be used: (a) as a data source for complaint information, statistics, reports, and analysis; (b) to respond to requests from appropriate outside individuals or agencies (e.g., members of Congress; the White House) regarding the status of a complaint; (c) to adjudicate the complaint or appeal; or (d) any other properly established routine use. May use addendum as

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure is voluntary; however, failure to fully complete all portions of this form may result in dismissal of the complaint on the basis of inadequate data to assess complaint.

PROTECT PRIVACY: Protect individual privacy (both complainant and alleged offender) throughout the process. (SECNAVINST 5211.5F)

DADTI	RESOL	IDOEC

- 1. Informal Resolution System (IRS). (see OPNAVINST 5354.1H)
- U.S. Navy Harassment Prevention and Military Equal Opportunity Advice Line.
 Call Toll Free: (800) 253-0931, DSN 882-2507, COMM (901) 874-2507. Line manned Monday Friday, 0730-1600 central standard time.
 E-Mail: Mill Navy EOAdvice@navy.mil.
- 3. Authorized command or local resources. The following support services are available (Insert local name, organization, and phone number)

(a) Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Official:	Local Name	Organization	Phone Number	
(b) Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC):	Local Name	Organization	Phone Number	
(c) Command Climate Specialist (CCS):	Local Name	Organization	Phone Number	
(d) Command Managed Equal Opportunity (CMEO) Program Manager	Local Name	Organization	Phone Number	
(e) Health Treatment Facilities (HTF):	Local Name	Organization	Phone Number	
(f) Chaplain:	Local Name	Organization	Phone Number	
(g) Legal:	Local Name	Organization	Phone Number	

- 4. NAVREGS 1151 Request mast with the Commanding Officer (CO)/Officer in Charge (OIC). Your right to communicate with the CO/OIC in a proper manner, time, and place shall not be denied or restricted. Such requests shall be acted upon promptly and forwarded without delay. (Attach local procedures as a separate document and additional information if necessary.)
- Communications with Inspector Generals. Any person whose chain of command does not take effective action on complaints or who does not feel comfortable filing complaints locally or in person can lodge complaints anonymously, if desired, via one or more of the available hotlines:
 Naval Inspector General: Toll free (800) 522-3451; DSN 288-6743, COMM (202) 433-6743.

 Marine Corps Inspector General: DSN 224-1349, COMM (703) 614-1349

Local TYCOM, ISIC, or local Commander's hotlines: TYCOM Hot line ISIC Hot line CO Hot line

- 6. NAVREGS 1155. A Service member may always communicate individually with members of Congress.
- 7. <u>UCMJ Article 138</u>. A Service member who believes himself or herself wronged by his or her CO may file a complaint as provided in JAGMAN Chapter III.
- 8. <u>NAVREGS 1150</u>. A Service member who believes himself or herself wronged by his or her superior in rank or command, to include enlisted personnel, other than his or her CO may file a complaint as provided in JAGMAN Chapter III.
- 9. Anonymous Complaint Process. (see OPNAVINST 5354.1H)

PART II. COMPLAINANT INFORMATION

Formal Flow Chart

Filing Deadline: I understand that a formal complaint shall be made within 60 calendar days of the offending incident, or in the case of a series of incidents, within 60 calendar days of the most recent incident. This filing deadline does not affect alternative remedies that might apply.

includents, within 60 calendar days of the most recent includent. This ining deadline does not affect alternative remedies that might apply.								
1. Complainant Name <i>(Full First Name,</i> ANONYMOUS	MI, Last Name):	2. Rank/Rate:	3. DoD ID Number:	4. Sex:	5. Age:			
6. Ethnicity:	7 Race:		8 Religion:					
9. Command Name and Unit Identification USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN	-23		10. Component:					

CUI (when filled in)

Informal Flow Chart Print Form Page 1 of 7

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND HARASSMENT COMPLAINT NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 01-2022) Supporting Directive OPNAVINST 5354.1H								
PART II. COMPLAINANT INFORMATIC	N (continued)							
11. Complaint Type:								
Anonymous	Form	al			I	nformal		
12. Incident Type:								
☐ <u>Discrimination</u>	Harassment				Sex	ual Harassment		
Race National Origin Religion				Crude Offensive Behavior Unwanted Sexual Attention Sexual Coercion				
Color Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Sex (pregnancy) Sex					Wrongful Broadcast or Distribution of Intimate Visual Images			
Bullying	Hazing Written Physical	Е	Stalking	1		nvolves Electronic		ces
13. Location and Duty Status of Incident	02 2	1						
(a) Outside of the Continental Un	ited States (OCONUS	5)						
(b) On a Vessel								
(c) Complainant & Alleged Offer	nder On Duty							
PART III. ALLEGED OFFENDER INFOI	RMATION							
1 Alleged Offender Name (Full First Na	me, MI, Last Name):	2. Rank/Rate: MMFN	3. [DoD ID Nu	ımber:	4. Sex:		5. Age: 31 Dec 99
6. Ethnicity:	7 Race:	ı	8 Religio	on:				Į:
Not Hispanic or Latino	White		As atru					
9. Command Name and Unit Identification USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN			10. Con Active	nponent:				
11. Relationship to Complainant: And	onymous							
PART IV. RECEIPT OF COMPLAINT	17							
Acknowledgment of Receipt of Complain I acknowledge receipt of this prohibited to the appropriate authority and to inform	discrimination/harassmen			d that I ha	ve 1 calend	ar day (24 hours) to	refer	the complaint
1. Representative Receiving Complaint:		2. Rank/Rate:		3. Positi	ion:			
		PSC		CCS				
4. Command Name/UIC:		5. Representa	tive Siana	ture:			6. D	ate:
USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN	75) 21583						21]	May 22
Continued Next Page								
		CUI (when fill	(ni be		12			

Formal Flow Chart Informal Flow Chart Page 2 of 7

Case 1:23-cv-01661-CKK Document 1-3 Filed 06/08/23 Page 29 of 48 NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND HARASSMENT COMPLAINT NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 01-2022) Supporting Directive OPNAVINST 5354.1H PART V. NATURE OF COMPLAINT 1. NATURE OF COMPLAINT: (State, in as much detail as possible, the basis for your complaint. Describe the behaviors/conduct under objection, date(s) of any occurrence, names of involved parties, witnesses, others to or from whom previous complaints may have been made or received, other evidence available, and any additional information which may be helpful in resolving your complaint. Attach additional sheets as needed. If a Service member, uniformed witness, or first responder perceives subsequent retaliation related to the complaint of sexual harassment, they may seek support from a command climate specialist (CCS). Individuals can also provide complaint to the Inspector General (IG), a Military Criminal Investigative Organization (MCIO) or to command for investigation, or other appropriate command action.) did on board USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75), located at sea, on divers occasions from on In that MMFN or about 1 December 2021 to on about 17 May 2022, willfully displaying racially offensive objects and imagery (drawing swastika) within his work center, thereby creating an intimidating, hostile, and offensive environment. There by fail to obey a lawful general order, which was his duty to obey, to wit: paragraph 1(a), OPNAVINST 5354.1H, the Navy harassment prevention and Military Equal Opportunity Program Manual, dated 3 November 2021.

2. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, Complainant affirms the above has been read, is understood, and is correct.)

(a) Name:

ANONYMOUS

(b) Signature:

(c) Date:

CUI (when filled in)

Print Form

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND HARASSMENT COMPLAINT

NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 01-2022)

Supporting Directive OPNAVINST 5354.1H

PART VI. FORMAL COMPLAINT PROCESSING/COMMAND ACTIONS

INTERIM FEEDBACK/ASSISTANCE. Take particular care to avoid re-victimizing complainants (and witnesses). Keep the complainant and alleged offender apprised of the status of the investigation (including any deadline extensions). Provide supplemental counseling, support assistance, and referral as warranted. Ensure that all involved are aware of the retaliation plan of action and know that retaliation against the complainant or alleged offender will not be tolerated. (*Recommend keeping a record of such feedback/assistance*. Attach record to the complaint form.)

RESOLUTION TIME STANDARDS. To the extent practicable, the investigation of a formal harassment and prohibited discrimination complaint must be completed no later than 30 days (14 days for sexual harassment) from the date the investigation commenced. Resolution includes: completion of investigation, determination of validity of complaint, adjudication at non-judicial punishment or courts-martial, initiation of other appropriate action, notification to accused, and notification of complainant and submission of a close-out.

DOCUMENT COMMAND ACTION. The complainant's command is responsible for ensuring parts I and II are complete and providing this to the alleged offender's commander, commanding officer or officer in charge (hereafter referred to as commander), as applicable. Upon completion of part III, with the exception of continuation(s) and close-out date time groups, parts I through III are required to be forwarded within 3 days (72 hours) and parts IV and V upon final disposition of complaint, via appropriate echelon 2 CCS, CMEO program manager in the absence of a CCS, to OPNAV (N1710C) via an unencrypted e-mail to Mill Navy EOAdvice@navy.mil. Command records should permit reviewers to clearly ascertain and assess decisions reached. Make appropriate entries in individual personnel records, if applicable. Make any statistical reports required by the chain of command. Retain this completed form and investigation onboard at least 2 years, at which time the entire command investigation shall be sent to OPNAV (N170C). Provide a copy of completed form to complainant as authorized under Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and governing directives.

1. Command Climate Specialist (CCS) Consultation: CCS consultation is required in all informal, formal, and anonymous complaints of harassment and prohibited discrimination.

I understand that I must provide all appropriate voice reports and required message reports (e.g., OPREP) per OPNAVINST F3100.6K within established time lines. I further understand I must initiate an appropriate investigation or ensure that one is being conducted (e.g., by Naval Criminal Investigation Service) within 3 calendar days (72 hours) and notify complainant the same day of investigation commencement. I must ensure a retaliation plan is in place and acknowledged by all involved parties. I also understand that a CCS sufficiency review and a legal sufficiency review are required to be completed prior to making a determination.

Transfer of Complaint: When the complainant and alleged offender are assigned to different commands or services (when all parties are not assigned to a joint military environment), the complaint shall be processed as directed by OPNAVINST 5454.1H.

(a) Command Climate Specialist Name:	(b) Rank/	Rate:	(c) Command Name/UIC:	
	PSC		USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CV	N 75) 21583
(d) Command Climate Specialist Phone Number:	(e) Comn	nand Climate S	pecialist E-mail Address:	
757 443				
Commander Directing Investigation:				
(a) Name:	(b) Rank/	Rate:	(c) Command Name/UIC:	
			USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CV	N 75) 21583
(d) Contact Information:	(e) Signa	ture:		(f) Date:
3. Date-Time-Group (DTG) of OPREP Messages (Attach a copy	of all mess	ages to this for	m.)	
(a) Initial DTG:		(b) Close-Out	DTG:	
261812Z FEB 22				
4. Investigating Officer.				
(a) Name:			(t) Rank/Rate:
(c) Contact Information	(0	(d) Date Convened:		
5. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, complainant affirms the retaliation awareness brief v	vas conduc	ted and investig	gation was commenced.	
(a) Name:	(b) Signati	ure:		(c) Date:

CUI (when filled in)

Formal Flow Chart Informal Flow Chart

Print Form

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 01-202		SMENT COMPLAINT		Directive OPNA	VINST 5354.1H		
PART VI. FORMAL COMPLAINT PRO	CESSING/COMMAND	ACTIONS (continued)					
Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Si (By signing, alleged offender affirms the		orief was conducted and in	estigation was comm	nenced)			
(a) Name:		(b) Signature:			(c) Date:		
PART VII. FORMAL NOTIFICATION RE	EVIEW						
1. CCS Sufficiency Review							
(a) Name:		(b) Signature:	(c) Date:				
2. Legal Sufficiency Review							
(a) Name:		(b) Signature:			(c) Date:		
3. Notification of Action Taken to Resolv	re Complaint.	1		Ļ			
(a) Complaint was completed on:	(b) Complaint was four	nd to be:	(c) Corrective Action	n Taken:			
(e) Commander Name:		(f) Signature:			(g) Date:		
4. Right to submit an appeal: I acknowledge notice of my right to submit a statement concerning the investigative findings and command action taken, and to request review of those findings and actions by the appellate authority. The appellant's statement and all documentation submitted within 30 duty days after receiving the notice of finding.							
(a) Appellate Command:		(b) Appellate	Command CCS Cont	act Information:			
5. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, complainant affirms the above has been read and is understood.)							
☐ I intend to appeal.		□ I DO	NOT intend to appea	Ĺ.			
(a) Name:	(a) Name: (b) Signature: (c) Date :				(d) 30 Days:		
6. Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, alleged offender affirms the above has been read and is understood.)							
☐ I intend to appeal.		☐ I DO	NOT intend to appea	ľ,			
(a) Name:	(b) Sign	nature:		(c) Date :	(d) 30 Days:		

CUI (when filled in)
Informal Flow Chart
Print Form

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Formal Flow Chart

NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND HARASSMENT COMPLAINT NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 01-2022) Supporting Directive OPNAVINST 5354.1H							
PART VIII. FORMAL APPEAL							
First Appeal Results:							
CONCUR				DO NOT CONCUR			
(a) Name of Echelon II Reviewing Authority (Commander/Designee):		(b) Rank/Rat	te:	(c) Command Name/UK	0:		
(d) Contact Information:		(e) Signature	: :			(f) Date:	
2. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signin	g, compla	inant affirms t	he abo	ve has been read and is	understood.)		
I intend to appeal.				DO NOT intend to appear	al.		
(a) Name:	(b) Signa	ture:			(c) Date :	(d) 30 Days:	
3. Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature. (By si	igning, alle	eged offender	affirms	the above has been read	d and is understo	od.)	
l intend to appeal.				DO NOT intend to appea	al.		
(a) Name:	(b) Signa	ture:			(c) Date :	(d) 30 Days:	
					108 80		
SECNAV - Final Appeal Results (action that has bee CONCUR	en taken to	resolve the c	1277	nt by reviewing authority) DO NOT CONCUR			
(a) Name of SECNAV Reviewing Authority:		(b) Rank/Rai	te:	(c) Command Name/UK	D:		
(d) Contact Information:		(e) Signature) :			(f) Date:	
5. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing	g, compla	inant affirms t	he abo	ve has been read and is	understood.)	- L	
(a) Name:		(b) Signature	e:			(c) Date:	
ANONYMOUS							
Alleged Offender Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signature)	gning, alle			the above has been read	and is understoo	T	
(a) Name: (b) Signature:					(c) Date:		
PART IX, FORMAL COMPLAINT FOLLOW-UP							
Complainant Follow-Up Survey (Commanders shall conduct a follow-up debrief with the complainant within 45 days after the final action. Command follow-up will include a determination of complainant satisfaction with the effectiveness of corrective action, timeliness, present command climate, and a review to ensure retaliation did not occur.):							
(a) Were you subjected to any form of retaliation becau	se of your	complaint?					
(b) Rate your level of satisfaction with the processing o	f your com	plaint.		%			
(c) Rate your level of satisfaction with the resolution of your complaint.							

CUI (when filled in)

Formal Flow Chart

Print Form

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NAVY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY (EO) AND HARASS NAVPERS 5354/2 (Rev. 01-2022)	MENT COMPLAINT S	Supporting Directive OPNAV	INST 5354.1H
PART IX: FORMAL COMPLAINT FOLLOW-UP (continued)			
(d) What could have prevented this incident? 2. Complainant Follow-Up Comments:			
3. Complainant Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, complainant Name: (a) Name:	inant affirms the above has been (b) Signature:	n read and is understood.)	(c) Date:
ANONYMOUS			
4. Commander Follow-Up Notes. (Indicate dates/nature of any ac			
5. Commander Acknowledgment/Signature. (By signing, comman		s correct and complaint process is	
(a) Name:	(b) Signature:		(c) Date:

Formal Flow Chart Informal Flow Chart CUI (when filled in)

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May 4, 2023

VIA FACSIMILE

ATTN: FOIA Appeals Office Office of the Judge Advocate General 1322 Patterson Ave. SE, Suite 3000 Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374 Fax: (202) 685-5472

Re: Freedom of Information Act Appeal - DON-NAVY-007511

Dear FOIA Appeals Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A), and the implementing regulations of the Department of Defense (DOD), 32 C.F.R. pt. 286, American Oversight submits the following administrative appeal.

Background

On March 15, 2023, American Oversight submitted a FOIA request to the Department of Navy seeking the following:

- 1. Any report of an incident of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel.
- 2. Any study concerning incidents of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel in the possession of or created, utilized, maintained, received, or distributed by the Department of the Navy.
- 3. Records sufficient to identify the number of incidents or reports of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel, and any ensuing action recommended or executed by your agency, since February 11, 2020, or the earliest date thereafter for which this information is available.

To the extent that this information is aggregated and maintained in a database or spreadsheet, [1] we would accept as responsive a printout from the database containing fields reflecting the date and key facts of each incident or report as well as any ensuing action recommended or executed by



the Department of the Navy. American Oversight does not object to the redaction of names, addresses, or other personally identifying information from records responsive to this request.

Please provide all responsive records from February 11, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

[1] American Oversight requests responsive data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format, to the extent that your agency maintains such data in a database or other format that can be readily exported into such format.

Ex. A.

By letter and email dated April 25, 2023, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) provided a partial response to American Oversight's request, which it assigned tracking number DON-NAVY-2023-007511. Ex. B. According to the letter, the Office of the Chief Naval Operations referred part 1 of the request to NCIS. NCIS noted that it searched its Knowledge Network (KNET) database using search terms "white supremacy, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, and pro-nazi." *Id.* The search resulted in sixteen "investigations," and NCIS asserted 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(A) (Exemption 7(A)) to fully withhold five of the investigations, which it stated are pending. *See id.*

The agency's determination that records are exempt constitutes an adverse determination under DOD regulations. *See* 32 C.F.R. § 286.9(e). Pursuant to the requirements of 32 C.F.R. § 286.11, American Oversight submits this administrative appeal of NCIS's following actions:

- (1) Failure to Provide an Adequate Administrative Determination
- (2) Failure to Conduct an Adequate Search for Records
- (3) Withholdings Under Claim of Exemption 7(A)

Failure to Provide an Adequate Administrative Determination

NCIS's response does not provide sufficient detail about its search to allow American Oversight to sufficiently assess the adequacy of the search. The response does not explain, for instance, agency's rationale for excluding parts 2 and 3 of the request from NCIS's search, nor its rationale for referring part 1 of the request to NCIS, but no other Navy offices or components. Similarly, NCIS does not explain why it did not search any other locations besides the KNET database, nor does it confirm the date range applied.

¹ NCIS's response letter stated that the KNET database "identifies investigative reports," and noted that its search of the database resulted in a number of "investigations" Ex. B. It is unclear what type or types of records "investigations" refers to in the response letter—whether investigative reports, another type of record, or some combination.

American Oversight thus cannot appeal the agency's response in a fully adequate manner and reserves the right to challenge search deficiencies and withholdings not described in the agency's response.

Further, DOD regulations require that an adverse determination include "[a]n estimate of the volume of any records or information withheld, such as the number of pages or some other reasonable form of estimation." 32 C.F.R. § 286.9(f)(3). NCIS has not provided such a page count or similar estimation here. While it identifies five "investigations," Ex. B, this does not shed any light on the volume and type of records.

Failure to Conduct an Adequate Search for Records

An agency fulfills its obligation under FOIA if it can show "beyond material doubt that its search was reasonably calculated to uncover all relevant documents." *Ancient Coin Collectors Guild v. U.S. Dep't of State*, 641 F.3d 504, 514 (D.C. Cir. 2011) (internal quotations omitted). NCIS has not shown that it conducted a search to meet its burden under this standard. An agency's failure to conduct an adequate search amounts to an improper withholding under—and violation of—FOIA. *Rodriguez v. U.S. Dep't of Def.*, 236 F. Supp. 3d 26, 34 (D.D.C. 2017) ("It is axiomatic that an inadequate search for records constitutes an improper withholding under FOIA."). As described above, NCIS has not provided sufficient information to show that it conducted an adequate search.

In addition to the deficiencies described above, NCIS's response also suggests that it may have applied an improper date range parameter to the search. The response letter incorrectly describes American Oversight as seeking records from "February 20, 2020 through the date <code>[the]</code> request was received." Ex. B. American Oversight's request sought the responsive records from "February 11, 2020, through the date the search is conducted." Ex. A. Again, without sufficient information regarding the date range applied, American Oversight cannot fully assess or appeal the search in a fully adequate manner.

Appeal of Exemption 7(A) Withholdings

FOIA protects from disclosure records compiled for law enforcement purposes to the extent that their disclosure "could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(A). To justify withholdings under Exemption 7(A), an agency must (1) identify an enforcement proceeding that is pending or reasonably anticipated, and then (2) show that the disclosure of those documents would "in some particular, discernible way, disrupt, impede, or otherwise harm" the proceeding. Bagwell v. U.S. Dep't of Educ., 183 F. Supp. 3d 109, 118 (D.D.C. 2016). NCIS's conclusory assertion that the investigatory records it withheld are exempt from disclosure falls short of the requisite showing.

First, NCIS has not identified a particular law enforcement proceeding. While NCIS's response letter noted that the withheld investigations were "still pending," Ex. B, it did not identify a law enforcement proceeding. *See Durrani v. Dep't of Just.*, 607 F. Supp. 2d 77, 89 (D.D.C. 2009) (the agency's "claim of an ongoing investigation, without any

evidence of a pending or potential enforcement proceeding, fails to provide a sufficient basis for withholding records under exemption 7(A)").

Second, NCIS has not shown how release of responsive records could "reasonably be expected to interfere with" the law enforcement proceeding at issue. Sussman v. U.S. Marshals Serv., 494 F.3d 1106, 1114 (D.C. Cir. 2007). An agency must identify the responsive records and make a particularized assessment about the impact of the disclosures. See id.; see also Crooker v. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, 789 F.2d 64, 66 (D.C. Cir. 1986) (Exemption 7(A) does not "authorize [a] blanket exemption for all records relating to an ongoing investigation" (internal quotations omitted)). NCIS's conclusory response made no such showing.

An agency is separately obligated to provide any reasonably segregable, nonexempt information in the records. 5 U.S.C.§ \$552(a)(8)(A)(ii), 552(b). This cannot be done as a blanket matter, but rather the agency must assess each record. See Bevis v. Dep't of State, 801 F.2d 1386, 1389-90 (D.C. Cir. 1986). NCIS's response provides no indication that it conducted an individualized review of the withheld records. Rather, NCIS appears to inappropriately rely on a blanket assertion that any record related to an ongoing investigation is exempt. NCIS's response therefore fails to meet its obligations under FOIA.

Finally, NCIS's response did not meet its burden to show that releasing the withheld portions of the records would result in reasonably foreseeable harm. FOIA requires that an agency may withhold responsive records under a discretionary exemption only if the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by an exemption. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A)(i). In doing so, the agency must go beyond "general explanations' and 'boiler plate language." Ctr. for Investigative Reporting v. U.S. Customs & Border Prot., 436 F. Supp. 3d 90, 106 (D.D.C. 2019). NCIS's cursorily asserted that its review "included consideration of the 'foreseeable harm standard," but did not provide a substantive or sufficient explanation to support its conclusion.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, NCIS has failed to provide an adequate administrative determination, failed to conduct an adequate search for records, and failed to justify its claim of Exemption 7(A). Accordingly, American Oversight requests that the agency:

- (a) Conduct adequate searches for the records American Oversight has requested;
- (b) Provide American Oversight with information about the search methods and parameters used to identify responsive records;
- (c) Promptly release any responsive, non-exempt records, or portions thereof; and
- (d) Release the portions of the records withheld under claim of Exemption 7(A).

Thank you for your consideration of this appeal. As provided in 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(ii), we look forward to your determination on our appeal within twenty working days.

For questions regarding any part of this appeal or the underlying request for records, please contact Mehreen Rasheed at <u>foia@americanoversight.org</u> or (202) 848-1320.

Sincerely,

<u>/s/ Mehreen Rasheed</u> Mehreen Rasheed on behalf of American Oversight

EXHIBIT A



March 15, 2023

VIA EMAIL

FOIA Officer Chief of Naval Operations, DNS-36 2000 Navy Pentagon Washington, DC 20350-2000 usn.ncr.dns.mbx.don-foia-pa@us.navv.mil

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, and the implementing regulations of your agency, American Oversight makes the following request for records.

Requested Records

American Oversight requests that the Department of the Navy produce the following records within twenty business days:

- 1. Any report of an incident of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel.
- 2. Any study concerning incidents of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel in the possession of or created, utilized, maintained, received, or distributed by the Department of the Navy.
- 3. Records sufficient to identify the number of incidents or reports of white supremacist, white nationalist, white separatist, far-right, alt-right, or pro-Nazi activity or ideology among military personnel, and any ensuing action recommended or executed by your agency, since February 11, 2020, or the earliest date thereafter for which this information is available.

To the extent that this information is aggregated and maintained in a database or spreadsheet, we would accept as responsive a printout from the database containing fields reflecting the date and key facts of each incident or report as well as any ensuing action recommended or executed by the Department of the

¹ American Oversight requests responsive data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet format, to the extent that your agency maintains such data in a database or other format that can be readily exported into such format.



Navy. American Oversight does not object to the redaction of names, addresses, or other personally identifying information from records responsive to this request.

Please provide all responsive records from February 11, 2020, through the date the search is conducted.

Fee Waiver Request

In accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) and your agency's regulations, American Oversight requests a waiver of fees associated with processing this request for records. The subject of this request concerns the operations of the federal government, and the disclosures will likely contribute to a better understanding of relevant government procedures by the general public in a significant way. Moreover, the request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes.

American Oversight requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is "in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of operations or activities of the government." The public has a significant interest in extremism within the U.S. military. Records with the potential to shed light on this issue would contribute significantly to public understanding of operations of the federal government, including whether and to what extent the U.S. military has taken any action in response to service members identified as planning or engaging in criminal activity or other misconduct based on extremist ideologies. American Oversight is committed to transparency and makes the responses agencies provide to FOIA requests publicly available, and the public's understanding of the government's activities would be enhanced through American Oversight's analysis and publication of these records.

This request is primarily and fundamentally for non-commercial purposes. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, American Oversight does not have a commercial purpose and the release of the information requested is not in American Oversight's financial interest. American Oversight's mission is to promote transparency in government, to educate the public about government activities, and to ensure the accountability of government officials. American Oversight uses the information gathered, and its analysis of it, to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. American Oversight

² 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

³ Will Carless, 13 Investigations, No Court-Martials: Here's How the US Navy and Marine Corps Quietly Discharged White Supremacists, USA Today (Apr. 13, 2021, 8:00 AM), https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/nation/2021/04/13/us-navy-marines-white-supremacy-discharged/4566463001/; Alicia Tatone, Inside the U.S. Military's Battle with White Supremacy and Far-Right Extremism, NBC News (May 25, 2019, 8:32 AM), https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/inside-u-s-military-s-battle-white-supremacy-far-right-ncna1010221.

⁴ See 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii).

also makes materials it gathers available on its public website and promotes their availability on social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter.⁵

American Oversight has also demonstrated its commitment to the public disclosure of documents and creation of editorial content through regular substantive analyses posted to its website.⁶ Examples reflecting this commitment to the public disclosure of documents and the creation of editorial content include the posting of records related to the Trump Administration's contacts with Ukraine and analyses of those contacts;⁷ posting records and editorial content about the federal government's response to the Coronavirus pandemic;⁸ posting records received as part of American Oversight's "Audit the Wall" project to gather and analyze information related to the administration's proposed construction of a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, and analyses of what those records reveal;⁹ the posting of records related to an ethics waiver received by a senior Department of Justice attorney and an analysis of what those records demonstrated regarding the Department's process for issuing such waivers;¹⁰ and posting records and analysis of federal officials' use of taxpayer dollars to charter private aircraft or use government planes for unofficial business.¹¹

⁵ American Oversight currently has approximately 16,000 followers on Facebook and 112,700 followers on Twitter. American Oversight, Facebook, https://www.facebook.com/weareoversight/ (last visited Mar. 10, 2023); American Oversight (@weareoversight), Twitter, https://twitter.com/weareoversight (last visited Mar. 10, 2023).

⁶ See generally News, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/blog. ⁷ Trump Administration's Contacts with Ukraine, American Oversight,

https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-contacts-with-ukraine.

⁸ See generally The Trump Administration's Response to Coronavirus, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/the-trump-administrations-response-to-coronavirus; see, e.g., CDC Calendars from 2018 and 2019: Pandemic-Related Briefings and Meetings, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/cdc-calendars-from-2018-and-2019-pandemic-related-briefings-and-meetings.

⁹ See generally Audit the Wall, American Oversight,
https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/audit-the-wall; see, e.g., Border Wall
https://www.americanoversight.org/border-wall-investigation-report-no-plans-no-funding-no-timeline-no-wall.

¹⁰ DOJ Records Relating to Solicitor General Noel Francisco's Recusal, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/document/doj-civil-division-response-noel-francisco-compliance; Francisco & the Travel Ban: What We Learned from the DOJ Documents, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/francisco-the-travel-ban-what-we-learned-from-the-doj-documents.

¹¹ See generally Swamp Airlines: Chartered Jets at Taxpayer Expense, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/investigation/swamp-airlines-private-jets-taxpayer-expense; see, e.g., New Information on Pompeo's 2017 Trips to His Home State, American Oversight, https://www.americanoversight.org/new-information-on-pompeos-2017-trips-to-his-home-state.

Accordingly, American Oversight qualifies for a fee waiver.

Guidance Regarding the Search & Processing of Requested Records

In connection with its request for records, American Oversight provides the following guidance regarding the scope of the records sought and the search and processing of records:

- Please search all locations and systems likely to have responsive records, regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics.
- In conducting your search, please understand the terms "record," "document," and "information" in their broadest sense, to include any written, typed, recorded, graphic, printed, or audio material of any kind. We seek records of any kind, including electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs, as well as letters, emails, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, or minutes of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions.
- Our request for records includes any attachments to those records or other materials enclosed with those records when they were previously transmitted. To the extent that an email is responsive to our request, our request includes all prior messages sent or received in that email chain, as well as any attachments to the email.
- Please search all relevant records or systems containing records regarding agency business. Do not exclude records regarding agency business contained in files, email accounts, or devices in the personal custody of your officials, such as personal email accounts or text messages. Records of official business conducted using unofficial systems or stored outside of official files are subject to the Federal Records Act and FOIA.¹² It is not adequate to rely on policies and procedures that require officials to move such information to official systems within a certain period of time; American Oversight has a right to records contained in those files even if material has not yet been moved to official systems or if officials have, by intent or through negligence, failed to meet their obligations.¹³
- Please use all tools available to your agency to conduct a complete and efficient search for potentially responsive records. Agencies are subject to governmentwide requirements to manage agency information electronically,¹⁴ and many

See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy, 827 F.3d 145, 149–50
 (D.C. Cir. 2016); cf. Judicial Watch, Inc. v. Kerry, 844 F.3d 952, 955–56 (D.C. Cir. 2016).
 See Competitive Enter. Inst. v. Office of Sci. & Tech. Policy, No. 14-cv-765, slip op. at 8
 (D.D.C. Dec. 12, 2016).

¹⁴ Presidential Memorandum—Managing Government Records, 76 Fed. Reg. 75,423 (Nov. 28, 2011), https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/28/presidential-memorandum-managing-government-records; Office of

agencies have adopted the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Capstone program, or similar policies. These systems provide options for searching emails and other electronic records in a manner that is reasonably likely to be more complete than just searching individual custodian files. For example, a custodian may have deleted a responsive email from his or her email program, but your agency's archiving tools may capture that email under Capstone. At the same time, custodian searches are still necessary; agencies may not have direct access to files stored in .PST files, outside of network drives, in paper format, or in personal email accounts.

- In the event some portions of the requested records are properly exempt from disclosure, please disclose any reasonably segregable non-exempt portions of the requested records. If a request is denied in whole, please state specifically why it is not reasonable to segregate portions of the record for release.
- Please take appropriate steps to ensure that records responsive to this request are not deleted by the agency before the completion of processing for this request. If records potentially responsive to this request are likely to be located on systems where they are subject to potential deletion, including on a scheduled basis, please take steps to prevent that deletion, including, as appropriate, by instituting a litigation hold on those records.

Conclusion

If you have any questions regarding how to construe this request for records or believe that further discussions regarding search and processing would facilitate a more efficient production of records of interest to American Oversight, please do not hesitate to contact American Oversight to discuss this request. American Oversight welcomes an opportunity to discuss its request with you before you undertake your search or incur search or duplication costs. By working together at the outset, American Oversight and your agency can decrease the likelihood of costly and time-consuming litigation in the future.

Where possible, please provide responsive material in an electronic format by email. Alternatively, please provide responsive material in native format or in PDF format on a USB drive. Please send any responsive material being sent by mail to American Oversight, 1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255, Washington, DC 20005. If it will accelerate release of responsive records to American Oversight, please also provide responsive material on a rolling basis.

We share a common mission to promote transparency in government. American Oversight looks forward to working with your agency on this request. If you do not understand any part of this request, please contact Mehreen Rasheed at

Mgmt. & Budget, Exec. Office of the President, Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments & Independent Agencies, "Managing Government Records Directive," M-12-18 (Aug. 24, 2012), https://www.archives.gov/files/records-mgmt/m-12-18.pdf.

foia@americanoversight.org or (202) 848-1320. Also, if American Oversight's request for a fee waiver is not granted in full, please contact us immediately upon making such a determination.

Sincerely,

<u>/s/ Mehreen Rasheed</u>
Mehreen Rasheed
on behalf of
American Oversight

EXHIBIT B



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY HEADQUARTERS NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE 27130 TELEGRAPH ROAD QUANTICO VA 22134-2253

5720 2023-007511 SER00LJF/23U0749

Mahreen Rasheed American Oversight 1030 15th St. NW Suite B255 Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Sir/Ma'am:

This responds to your March 16, 2023, electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, separated into three sections, each seeking various information concerning incidents of white supremacy from February 20, 2020 through the date your request was received. Your request was partially referred to this Service for processing by the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations specifically to address any Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) regarding your request cited as Number (1). We received this portion of your request on March 23, 2023.

For the portion of your request cited as Number (1), in which you seek reports involving military personnel and white supremacy, please be advised that this Service does not have a case category designated for white supremacy or hate crimes, nor do we track those types of crimes. Therefore, in an effort to locate responsive records, we conducted a search of the NCIS Knowledge Network (KNET) database using the search terms provided in your request. KNET identifies investigative reports created and transmitted by NCIS and NCIS field offices. A search of the KNET using the terms "white supremacy, white nationalist, white separatist, farright, alt-right, and pro-nazi" resulted in locating sixteen investigation that contained at least one of these phrases. However, as our initial search is limited to a search for specific keywords and not necessarily for context, when processing each record we may determine some of the records to be non-responsive to your request. For example, the term "far right" may be in the context of location (i.e., far right of the room) and not necessarily related to your request.

One investigation has not yet been received at headquarters for retention. Because this record requires coordination with another office, your request falls within "unusual circumstances." See 5 U.S.C. 552 § (a)(6)(B)(i)-(iii). Due to these unusual circumstances, we need to extend the time limit to respond to your request beyond the ten additional days provided by the statute. Once coordination is complete, we will place your request in our routine queue, which is managed on a first-in, first-out basis based on the date of your request.

Five of the sixteen investigations are still pending. Therefore, these five are currently exempt from disclosure. Per the provisions of 5 U.S.C. § 552 (FOIA) at subsection (b)(7)(A), law enforcement records are exempt if the production of the records at the time requested reasonably can be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings. Our review included consideration of the "foreseeable harm standard" (i.e., that information which might technically fall within an

5720 2023-007511 SER00LJF/23U0749

exemption should not be withheld from a FOIA requester unless the agency can identify a foreseeable harm or legal bar to disclosure).

As the official responsible for the partial denial of your request, I am advising you of your right to appeal this determination. Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Navy's designee: Office of the Judge Advocate General, (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Avenue, S.E., Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5066. The envelope and letter must bear the annotation "FOIA Appeal." A copy of your initial request and a copy of this partial denial letter must accompany the appeal.

If you choose not to appeal, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services. You may contact the Department of the Navy's FOIA public liaison, Mr. Chris Julka, at christopher.a.julka@navy.mil or (703) 697-0031 or the Office of Government Information Services (https://ogis.archives.gov/).

Once the remaining 11 investigations have been processed, we will provide a response. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact us at ncis_foia@ncis.navy.mil or (571) 305-9092.

Sincerely,

K. RICHMAN

Senior Associate Counsel

Head, Government Information Sharing Unit