



# **Sexual Assaults: Expedited Transfer and Special Victims Counsel Program**

July 27, 2017

Fiscal Year 2017 Report to Congress



**Homeland  
Security**

*United States Coast Guard*

# Foreword

July 27, 2017

The following report, “Sexual Assaults: Expedited Transfer and Special Victims Counsel Program,” as prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard is submitted for review.

House Report 114-668 accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31) requires the Coast Guard to provide the number of requests for expedited transfer by victims of sexual assault and the number of service members served by its Special Victims Counsel program during FY 2016.



Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is being provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable John R. Carter  
Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

I am happy to answer any further questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 372-4411 or the Department’s Chief Financial Officer (Acting), Ms. Stacy Marcott, at (202) 447-5751.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul F. Zukunft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Paul F. Zukunft  
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard  
Commandant



# Sexual Assaults: Expedited Transfer and Special Victims Counsel Program

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# I. Legislative Language

This report responds to language in House Report 114-668 accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 115-31).

House Report 114-668 states:

The Committee directs the Coast Guard to continue to provide an annual report, due within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, on the number of expedited requests for transfer made by victims of sexual assault during the prior fiscal year, including the number of applications denied and a description of the rationale for each denied request. The report shall also include the number of service members served by the Special Victim Counsel program during the same period.

## II. Discussion

Sexual assault is a crime and a violation of the Service's core values. The Coast Guard is making every effort to abolish sexual assault from the Service. With consistent assessments and enhancements to our Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program, we will continue to hold offenders accountable and to offer professional and compassionate support for victims<sup>1</sup> while countering fears of stigma.

### Expedited Transfer Requests by Victims of Sexual Assault

During FY 2016, the Coast Guard received 20 requests for expedited transfers, and 19 requests were approved. One request was denied after careful consideration of the unique facts of the case. The victim was being processed for separation from the Coast Guard because of misconduct and other factors prior to the victim making an unrestricted report of sexual assault. In addition, the alleged perpetrator of the sexual assault was a civilian who lived in Michigan, while the command was located in Florida. The Coast Guard Personnel Service Center denied the transfer request after taking into account the needs of the victim and the command, and after confirming that the victim was receiving appropriate support resources.

### Service Members Served by the Special Victims Counsel Program

During FY 2016, the Coast Guard Special Victims Counsel Program served 255 victims of sexual assault. Of these 255 victims, 98 were new cases that were opened in FY 2016. Of those 98 victims, 68 were service members. The remaining 30 victims were a mix of dependents, Coast Guard civilian employees, and other civilians.

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<sup>1</sup> In this instance, the term "victim" applies to anyone who files an unrestricted report, whether the investigation has been completed or not.