



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

*May 8, 2019*

Fiscal Year 2019 Report to Congress



**Homeland  
Security**

*United States Coast Guard*

# Foreword

May 8, 2019

The following report, “Sexual Assaults: Expedited Transfer and Special Victims Counsel Program,” has been prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-6) 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 2018.

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

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

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
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, or your staff may contact my Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,



Karl L. Schultz  
Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
Commandant





# Sexual Assaults: Expedited Transfer and Special Victims Counsel Program

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# I. Legislative Language

This document responds to the language set forth in the Joint Explanatory Statement accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-6).

The Joint Explanatory Statement states:

The Coast Guard is directed to continue to provide an annual report 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, as described on page 40 of House Report 115-948.

House Report 115-948 (referenced in the Joint Explanatory Statement) states:

The Committee directs the Coast Guard to continue to provide an annual report 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 U.S. Coast Guard's core values. The Coast Guard is making every effort to eliminate sexual assault from the Service. With consistent improvements to its Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Program, the Coast Guard will continue to hold offenders accountable and to offer professional and compassionate support for victims<sup>1</sup> while removing fears of stigma.

### Expedited Transfer Requests by Victims of Sexual Assault

During FY 2018, the Coast Guard approved 37 of the 40 requests for expedited transfers. Three requests were denied for the following reasons:

- Care of dependents: Member requested transfer away from locale of legal dependent. In FY 2019, the member's dependency status changed, and the subsequent transfer request was approved.
- Misconduct investigation: Member requested expedited transfer after an investigation for misconduct commenced. Due to the circumstances of the investigation, the expedited transfer was denied.
- Request partially granted: Transfer denied due to member misconduct, which led to separation from the Coast Guard. Member was authorized temporary transfer away from unit until separation.

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

During FY 2018, the Coast Guard Special Victims Counsel Program provided services to 285 victims of sexual assault. Of these 285 victims, 131 victims were new cases opened in FY 2018. Of those 131 victims, 105 were service members.

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