



Sexual Assaults: Expedited Transfer and Special Victims' Counsel Program

June 16, 2021

Fiscal Year 2021 Report to Congress



**Homeland
Security**

United States Coast Guard

Foreword

June 16, 2021

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

House Report 116-458 accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260) requires the Coast Guard to provide the number of “expedited requests for transfer” that have been made by victims of sexual assault during the previous fiscal year, the number of applications denied, and, for each application denied, a description of the reasons why such application was denied. As part of this report, the Coast Guard also shall report on the number of service members served by its Special Victims’ Counsel program during FY 2020.



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

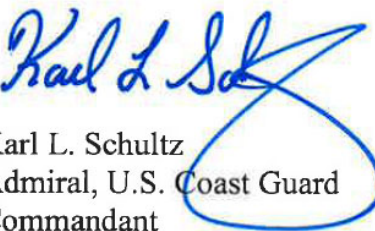
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

I am happy to answer any further questions that 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

Table of Contents

I.	Legislative Language.....	1
II.	Discussion.....	2
	Expedited Transfer Requests by Victims of Sexual Assault	2
	Service Members Served by the Special Victims' Counsel Program.....	2

I. Legislative Language

This document responds to the direction set forth in House Report 116-458 accompanying the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260).

House Report 116-458 states:

Expedited Requests for Transfer.—The Committee directs the Coast Guard to report, not later than 90 days of the enactment of this Act, on the number of “expedited requests for transfer” that have been made by victims of sexual assault during the previous fiscal year, the number of applications denied, and, for each application denied, a description of the reasons why such application was denied. As part of this report, the Coast Guard shall also report on the number of service members served by its Special Victim Counsel program in the previous fiscal year.

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 victims¹ while removing fears of stigma, retaliation, reprisal, or ostracism.

Expedited Transfer Requests by Victims of Sexual Assault

During FY 2020, the Coast Guard approved 33 of the 35 requests for expedited transfers routed to the Enlisted Personnel Management Division. Two requests were denied for the following reasons:

- **Medical support of member:** The member's requested transfer was considered, and as the member was undergoing mental health in-patient treatment with extensive outpatient follow-up, medical care requirements were factored into the decision to deny. At that time, a medical board also was initiated. The request would have moved the member away from medical support and to the same state, in close proximity, to the alleged assailant.
- **Initial permanent change of station request to San Diego denied and subsequent local area transfer approved:** The denial was per a recommendation of the Sexual Assault Prevention, Response, and Recovery Program Crisis Intervention Team. The Special Victims' Counsel recommended permanent transfer of the member to the local area unit, where the member was currently on temporary assignment. The Enlisted Personnel Management Division granted the transfer of this member. The alleged assailant in this case also was moved.

During FY 2020, the Coast Guard approved three of three requests for expedited transfers routed to the Officer Personnel Management Division. During FY 2020, the Reserve Personnel Management Division did not receive any expedited transfer requests.

Service Members Served by the Special Victims' Counsel Program

During FY 2020, the Coast Guard Special Victims' Counsel program served a total of 317 clients, including 150 new clients. These numbers include both unrestricted and restricted reports of sexual assault. The number of new clients in FY 2020 represented a 21-percent increase in new clients from FY 2019, when the program undertook representation of 119 individuals. Of the 150 new clients in FY 2020, 117 were service members and the remainder were dependents or civilians.

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