



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER NAVAL AIR FORCE ATLANTIC
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 300
NORFOLK VA 23551-2427

5830
Ser N01L/165
JUN 30 2022

FINAL ENDORSEMENT on USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) ltr 5830 Ser LEG/237
of 5 May 22

From: Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic
To: File

Subj: ACTION OF THE FINAL REVIEWING AUTHORITY CONCERNING THE LINE OF
DUTY INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF IC3 NATASHA HUFFMAN, USN, ON OR
ABOUT 10 APRIL 2022

1. Reference (a) is replaced with JAGINST 5800.7G.
2. The underlying investigation was reviewed in accordance with reference (a). Further endorsement is unnecessary, therefore the investigation is final. The subject line was modified to ensure proper identification of the investigation for administrative purposes.
3. The findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations of the investigating officer are approved.
4. I concur with the recommendation of the Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), and find IC3 Huffman's death, occurred in the line of duty and not due to the member's own misconduct.
5. Per section 0229(d) of reference (a), a copy of the investigation will be forwarded to Commander, Navy Personnel Command (PERS-62).
6. In accordance with section 0228(b) of reference (a), upon receipt of final autopsy and medical documents, Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), shall forward documents by separate correspondence via the review chain, with appropriate reference to the report of investigation and forwarding endorsement.
7. The point of contact regarding this matter is Mrs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Force Paralegal, who may be reached by email at (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)


J. F. MEIER

Copy to:
COMNAVPERSCOM (PERS-62)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
FPO AE 09550

5830
Ser LEG/237
5 May 22

From: Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
To: Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic

Subj: LINE OF DUTY INVESTIGATION OF DEATH OF IC3 NATASHA HUFFMAN, USN
ON OR ABOUT 10 APRIL 2022

Ref: (a) JAGINST 5800.7F

Encl: (1) LT (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ltr dtd 5 May APR 22 w/enclosures

1. Enclosure (1) documents IC3 Huffman's death resulting from apparent suicidal hanging, and is forwarded for the General Court-Martial Convening Authority's line of duty determination required by paragraph 0229(d) of reference (a).
2. The Line of Duty Investigation commenced on 11 April 2022; however, the investigation by local law enforcement remains ongoing and is expected to take several months before concluding. IC3 Huffman's death is currently documented as resulting from suicidal hanging. There is no indication that the incident is a result of any misconduct on the part of the Sailor. It is unnecessary to await the medical examiners official report of the manner and cause of death. Based on the facts and circumstances surrounding the member's death, the medical examiner's findings would not impact this line of duty determination.
3. Based on enclosure (1), I recommend finding that IC3 Huffman's death occurred in the line of duty and not due to the member's own misconduct as defined in paragraphs 0217 and 0229 of reference (a).

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B. C. GAUT

05 MAY 22

From: LT (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) USN
To: Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
Subj: LINE OF DUTY INVESTIGATION OF DEATH OF IC3 NATASHA HUFFMAN,
USN ON OR ABOUT 10 APR 2022
Ref: (a) JAGMAN, Chapter II
Encl: (1) Appointment Letter dtd 11 APR 22
(2) ICC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Memoranda dtd 12 Apr 22
(3) Death Certificate

Preliminary Statement

1. Pursuant to enclosure (1), and in accordance with reference (a), I conducted an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of IC3 Natasha Huffman that occurred off base in Hampton, Virginia, on 10 April 2022. Due to the ongoing investigation by local authorities, supported by NCIS, I was not able to collect any evidence or interview potential witnesses to the incident. I consulted with USS GEORGE WASHINGTON's Deputy Command Judge Advocate, LT (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) JAGC, USN, for legal direction. This report was not completed within the initial deadline; an extension of time was granted in order to receive the Death Certificate.
2. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has yet to release the manner and cause of death due to the pending investigation. However, I was able to obtain the service member's Death Certificate and attach as part of the record, which identifies the cause of death.

Findings of Fact

1. On 10 Apr 22, the command received notification from EM1 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) a Sailor assigned to the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON, of an alleged suicide involving IC3 Natasha Huffman [Encl 2].
2. EM1 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) was present at IC3 Huffman's residence at the time of the alleged suicide [Encl 2].
3. The evening of 09 Apr 22, EM1 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) slept on the couch while IC3 Huffman slept in her bedroom [Encl 2].
4. EM1 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) awoke around 1145L to find IC3 Huffman suspended by a ligature in her closet, deceased, at which point he contacted 911 [Encl 2].
5. EM1 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) contacted ICC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to report the incident to his chain of command [Encl 2].

Subj: LINE OF DUTY INVESTIGATION OF DEATH OF IC3 NATASHA HUFFMAN,
USN ON OR ABOUT 09 APR 22

6. An autopsy was performed on IC3 Huffman on 11 April 2022; however, the results are not yet releasable, and will not be for an extended period of time.
7. To date, no investigative materials have been received by the command nor has the manner and cause of death been officially released by the Medical Examiner.
8. IC3 Huffman's Death Certificate was provided on 05 MAY 22, and indicates the cause of death as suicidal hanging with belt ligature. [Encl 3].

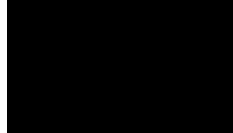
Opinions

1. IC3 Huffman's death was a result of a suicidal hanging. Per reference (a), even if there was evidence of a bona fide suicide attempt, "in view of the strong human instinct for self-preservation, suicide and a bona fide suicide attempt creates a strong inference of lack of mental responsibility."
2. IC3 Huffman's death was in the line of duty. The outcome of the local investigation will have no impact on this line of duty determination. There is no indication of any misconduct on the part of the member. IC3 Huffman's death is an apparent suicide, and not the result of her own misconduct.

Recommendations

1. I recommend the command submit this report or a similar report to the General Court-Martial Convening Authority (Commander Naval Air Force Atlantic), detailing the circumstances of IC3 Huffman's death, with the finding that her death occurred in the line of duty and was not due to her own misconduct.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)
FPO AE 09550

5800

11 Apr 22

From: Commanding Officer, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73)

To: LT (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) USN

Subj: LINE OF DUTY INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF IC3 NATASHA
HUFFMAN, USN ON OR ABOUT 10 APRIL 22

Ref: (a) JAGINST 5800.7F (JAGMAN)

(b) Public Law 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act

(c) DoD 6025.18, Implementation of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule in DoD Health Care Programs

1. Per Chapter II of reference (a), you are appointed to conduct an investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding the death of IC3 Natasha Huffman, USN, in Hampton, Virginia on or about 10 April 2022. If you have not previously done so, read Chapter II of reference (a) in its entirety before beginning your investigation. Refer to appendix A-2-K of reference (a) for a list of matters that should be included in your investigation report, as applicable.

2. You are directed to make one of the three following determinations concerning the death of the subject service member: (1) the death occurred in the line of duty and not due to the member's own misconduct; (2) the death occurred not in the line of duty and not due to the member's own misconduct; or (3) the death occurred not in the line of duty and due to the member's own misconduct.

3. In accordance with references (b) and (c), you are hereby authorized to receive, review, and discuss protected health information with appropriate providers concerning IC3 Huffman. The specific protected health information covered is anything in IC3 Huffman's medical record or mental health records regarding the incident specified above. The disclosure of IC3 Huffman's protected health information is subject to the minimum necessary to execute the military mission of conducting this investigation.

4. Submit your written findings in the format provided in appendix A-2-e of reference (a) by **25 April 2022**. You may seek legal advice from LT (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) JAGC, USN, Deputy Command Judge Advocate, USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73), during the course of your investigation.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

By Direction

12 APR 22

From: ICC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) USS GEORGE WASHINGTON
To: Preliminary Inquiry Officer

Subj: Line of Duty Investigation ICO IC3 Natasha Huffman, USN

1. On 10 Apr 22 at 1145, I received a call from EMI (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) one of the Sailors in my division, informing me of IC3 Natasha Huffman hanging herself in a closet in her home.
2. I verified that EMI (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) had called 911 prior to calling me; he said yes. I asked if IC3 Huffman was okay the night before and was told she wanted to sleep in the bedroom, so he slept on the couch.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

CERTIFICATE OF VITAL RECORD

VERIFY PRESENCE OF WATERMARK HOLD TO LIGHT TO VIEW

3854393 COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA - CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS - RICHMOND

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S CERTIFICATE

DATE RECORDED
APRIL 18, 2022

STATE FILE NUMBER
22-025160

1. FULL NAME OF DECEASED NATASHA		2. SEX <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE		3. DATE OF DEATH APRIL 10, 2022		4. DATE OF BIRTH DECEMBER 10, 1997		5. AGE 24		6. IF UNDER 1 YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		7. IF UNDER 1 DAY <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
8. WAS SUBJECT EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		9. BIRTHPLACE (ALL STATES & FOREIGN COUNTRIES) IOWA		10. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)		11. IF NO SSN, CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT OBTAINABLE <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		12. STREET ADDRESS (INCLUDE HOUSE AND/OR APT. # OR ROUTE NO.) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)		13. CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE HAMPTON		14. ZIP CODE 23669	
15. COUNTY OF DECEASED'S RESIDENCE (If independent city, leave blank) VIRGINIA		16. U.S. STATE (If foreign country of residence, leave blank) VIRGINIA		17. RACE OR ORIGIN (CHECK ONE OR MORE) <input type="checkbox"/> WHITE <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN <input type="checkbox"/> HISPANIC <input type="checkbox"/> ASIAN <input type="checkbox"/> NATIVE AMERICAN <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____		18. CITIZENSHIP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNITED STATES OF AMERICA <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____		19. USUAL OR MAIN OCCUPATION INTERIOR COMMUNICATIONS ELECTRICIAN		20. U.S. NAVY U.S. NAVY		21. MARITAL STATUS <input type="checkbox"/> NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> SEPARATED <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	
22. FULL NAME OF DECEASED'S FATHER OR PARENT (Last, first, middle, maiden name, if any) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)		23. FULL NAME OF DECEASED'S MOTHER OR PARENT (Last, first, middle, maiden name, if any) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)		24. FULL NAME OF DECEASED'S FATHER OR PARENT (Last, first, middle, maiden name, if any) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)		25. FULL NAME OF DECEASED'S MOTHER OR PARENT (Last, first, middle, maiden name, if any) (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)		26. ORDER MALE		27. ORDER FEMALE		28. INFORMATION RELATIONSHIP OR SOURCE OF INFORMATION MOTHER/PARENT 1	
29. PLACE OF DEATH (If independent city, leave blank) HAMPTON		30. STREET ADDRESS OR RT. NO. OF PLACE OF DEATH (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)		31. CITY OR TOWN OF DEATH HAMPTON		32. COUNTY OF DEATH (If independent city, leave blank) VIRGINIA		33. ZIP CODE 23517		34. COUNTRY VIRGINIA		35. METHOD OF DEPOSITION <input type="checkbox"/> BURIAL <input type="checkbox"/> CREMATION <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____	
36. PLACE OF DEPOSITION - NAME OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORIUM TIDEWATER CREMATORIUM		37. STREET ADDRESS OF CEMETERY OR CREMATORIUM 1501 COLONIAL AVENUE		38. CITY (COUNTY) NORFOLK		39. STATE VIRGINIA		40. ZIP CODE 23517		41. COUNTRY VIRGINIA		42. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR (LICENSED) /S/ HARRY D OLIVER IV	
43. SIGNATURE OF MEDICAL EXAMINER /S/ CLARE BRYCE		44. NAME OF MEDICAL EXAMINER CLARE BRYCE		45. DATE SIGNED APRIL 11, 2022		46. CITY NORFOLK		47. STATE VIRGINIA		48. ZIP CODE 23510		49. COUNTRY VIRGINIA	



This is to certify that this is a true and correct reproduction or abstract of the official record filed with the Virginia Department of Health, Richmond, Virginia.

DATE ISSUED: **APRIL 18, 2022**

Do not attach unless on security paper with the seal of Virginia Department of Health, Vital Statistics in the lower left hand corner.

Section 32.1-272, Code of Virginia, as amended

Jenet M. Rainey
Jenet M. Rainey, State Registrar
VS 16C