

The DoD Times (Redacted)



Episode Six: Despicable Decisions in Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach

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Did You Know: The leadership at Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach places a higher priority on maintaining positive relations with Third Country National (TCN) vessel leadership than properly responding to concerns raised by subordinate personnel about incidents involving TCN crew members engaging in sexual assault, sexual harassment, harassment, and virtual stalking of sailors assigned to inspect the TCN vessels.

Here are some potential implications of these facts:

1. **Decreased Morale and Trust:** Sailors and personnel will feel unsupported and undervalued when leadership ignores or downplays their safety concerns. This will lead to lower morale, diminished trust in leadership, and decreased operational effectiveness.
2. **Escalation of Misconduct:** Ignoring or inadequately responding to complaints may embolden offenders and lead to an escalation in the frequency or severity of incidents. This will create a hostile and unsafe working environment for sailors.
3. **Operational Risks:** If incidents of misconduct go unchecked, this will lead to increased conflict or even dangerous situations during inspections or interactions with TCN vessels. A culture that tolerates or overlooks harassment will weaken the effectiveness of joint operations.
4. **Retention and Recruitment Issues:** When sailors feel unsafe or unsupported, there will likely be increased turnover or difficulty retaining qualified personnel. Moreover, potential recruits might be deterred from joining the organization, fearing a lack of protection or accountability.

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5. **Reputational Damage:** Neglect of sailor welfare will damage the Coast Guard's reputation, both internally and publicly. Negative publicity and scrutiny from media or advocacy groups will undermine public trust and erode the institution's standing.
6. **Negative Impact on Interagency and International Relations:** While prioritizing relationships with TCN vessel leadership may be aimed at preserving diplomatic and monetary ties, neglecting the well-being of sailors could strain internal relationships and coordination with other governmental or international bodies.
7. **Legal and Ethical Risks:** Failing to appropriately address allegations of sexual harassment, assault, or other misconduct exposes the organization to legal liability. It also risks non-compliance with policies regarding workplace safety, which could result in sanctions or lawsuits.

Coast Guard leadership, Congress, and the American people must take immediate action to ensure the safety and well-being of our service members. Coast Guard leadership must prioritize responding to allegations of sexual harassment and assault, ensuring accountability and fostering a culture of trust and respect. Congress must conduct oversight to hold leaders accountable and ensure policies protecting sailors are enforced. The American people must demand transparency and advocate for the protection of those who serve. Together, we must ensure that diplomacy does not come at the cost of our service members' safety and dignity.

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Feel free to reach out privately at francescagraham@walkthetalkfoundation.org or in the comments.

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Below is a sampling of news articles spotlighting systemic leadership corruption in the U.S. Coast Guard.

1. **Military Times:** This article discusses allegations that the Coast Guard covered up sexual assault cases at its academy. Lawmakers criticized the service for not providing documents and for heavily redacting those it did release. The scandal was highlighted through "Operation Fouled Anchor," which detailed years of unaddressed sexual assault cases. You can read the full article here: [Military Times](#).
2. **Stars and Stripes:** These articles cover veterans' calls for accountability in the Coast Guard's handling of sexual assault cases, pointing to a systemic cover-up over several years. The report details how the service failed to properly investigate or disclose sexual misconduct allegations. You can read the full articles here [Stars and Stripes](#) and here [Stars and Stripes](#).
3. **Connecticut Public** reported on a whistleblower's accusations that the U.S. Coast Guard lied to victims of sexual assault as part of a cover-up. This came to light during the Operation Fouled Anchor investigation, which uncovered over 100 incidents of sexual misconduct at the academy. For further details, check the article here: [Connecticut Public](#).

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4. **Marine Insight** covered legal actions against the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, with former students demanding \$130 million in damages, citing negligence in preventing sexual assaults. The article also discusses the systemic issues and legal proceedings following the CNN report on Operation Fouled Anchor. You can read more about it here: [Marine Insight](#).
5. **The Maritime Executive** reported on class-action filings by victims who allege that the academy failed to protect cadets from sexual assault. Legal actions are being pursued under the Federal Tort Claims Act. You can access the full article here: [Maritime Executive](#).

Graphic Information: [Betrayal betrayal everywhere - Toy Story Everywhere - quickmeme](#)