

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2018

Admiral Karl L. Schultz
Commandant
U.S. Coast Guard
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20593

Dear Admiral Schultz:

On June 13, 2018, we wrote to request “all documents” pertaining to “allegations of harassment or bullying made by any student or faculty member at the Academy during the past three years, the results of any investigations conducted to examine these allegations, and the terms of any settlements reached.”¹ By the Coast Guard’s own account, materials pertaining to at least one of the allegations still have not been provided to us, and the documents that have been produced still contain extensive and inappropriate redactions.

On July 13, the Coast Guard produced approximately 70 heavily redacted pages of documents pertaining to allegations of harassment or bullying. The Coast Guard stated in the privacy act cover letter accompanying the documents that, due to the Freedom of Information Act, it was “obligated to withhold release of predecisional and deliberative records, as well as those records that would constitute invasion of personal privacy if released.”²

On August 17, 2018, the Coast Guard made what it called “a supplemental submission,” which the Coast Guard indicated would “provide ... the most complete picture of the investigations, while still respecting the privacy of the individuals involved.”³ This production included the materials previously produced, as well as new materials not previously produced. The materials contained fewer redactions than the original production, but there were still extensive redactions.

¹ Letter from Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, House Committee on Homeland Security, and Rep. Joe Courtney to Admiral Karl Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard (June 13, 2018) (online at <https://democrats-oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2018-06-13.EEC%20Thompson%20Courtney%20to%20Schultz-CG%20re%20Equity%20Scorecard%20Briefing%20Request.pdf>).

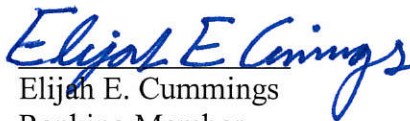
² Letter from Vice Admiral M.F. McAllister, Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, U.S. Coast Guard, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, House Committee on Homeland Security, and Rep. Joe Courtney (July 13, 2018).

³ Letter from Rear Admiral Melissa Bert, Director of Governmental and Public Affairs, U.S. Coast Guard, to Ranking Member Elijah E. Cummings, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson, House Committee on Homeland Security, and Rep. Joe Courtney (Aug. 17, 2018).

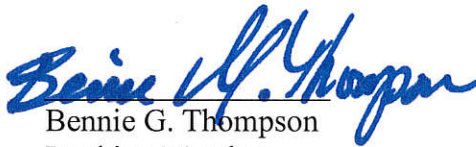
After a review of these materials and discussions with Coast Guard staff, we lack a complete picture of how allegations of harassment and bullying at the Coast Guard Academy during the past three years have been handled. To date, our investigation has been impeded by an ongoing lack of transparency from the Coast Guard. We strongly urge the Coast Guard to act in good faith to provide all documents requested.

We write to renew our request for all documents pertaining to all allegations of harassment or bullying at the Academy during the past three years. Please provide these documents by November 16, 2018.

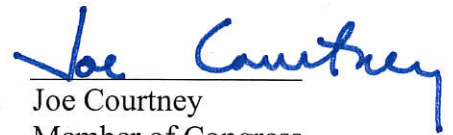
Sincerely,



Elijah E. Cummings
Ranking Member
Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security



Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

The Honorable Michael McCaul, Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security