

HOT ISSUE BRIEF**ISSUE: ALLEGATIONS BY MALE TRAINEE OF SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MALE LEADING SEAMAN INSTRUCTOR**

SENSITIVITY: High. Issue is sensitive due to the nature of the matter, the involvement of a Defence Member and the location, given recent media interest in incidents in HMAS *Cerberus*.

KEY ISSUES:

- A male Seaman Star (SMN*) has alleged that he had a sexual relationship with a male Leading Seaman (LS) instructor in a Married Quarter Residence on 04 May 2011.
- The SMN* is under the age of eighteen and his mother has been informed of this incident.
- The SMN* has been interviewed by Victoria Police today.
- The SMN* and the LS are being provided with appropriate Divisional and other support as appropriate.
- At his request, the LS has been removed from instructing the class in which the SMN* is a member and has taken leave.
- Command is cognisant of the sensitivities involved in this matter and the welfare of each member.
- Command intent is to:
 - continue to liaise with Service Police;
 - provide support to the affected members; and
 - provide an update as appropriate.
- Both sailors were posted to the Defence School of Signals and not Rogers Division.
- It is considered that there is no link between this matter and recent media allegations associated with Rogers Division in 2008.

Contact Officer:	s22
Authorised by:	

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BACKGROUND (Staff in Confidence)

The SMN is being provided support through the Divisional system, with access to medical, chaplaincy, psychologist, and the CERBERUS Sexual Offence Support Person network as required. A member of the CERBERUS Command team is known to the family, and is providing support to the sailor (at the sailor's request), and has spoken with the sailor's mother. The sailor has been approved to travel home on leave this weekend. On current reports the sailor is fairing well.

The LS is currently on leave, however is being reviewed by a Doctor this afternoon for his physical and mental wellbeing. He is receiving Divisional, chaplaincy, medical and psychological support. A Sexual Offence Support Person will be offered once the initial VICPOL interview takes place. The LS had recently broken up from a recognised relationship, and due to the early stage of the investigations is unable to be informed about any possible charges or ramifications - the weight of both issues are of concern, and Command is seeking to best manage his welfare and support without inadvertently interfering with the investigation.

With respect to the investigations, the matter was referred to VICPOL after an initial interview with ADFIS. VICPOL are the lead investigative agency at this time. It is, prima facie, likely that a number of DFDA offences have been committed. DFDA action will only be considered after the VICPOL investigation is complete, and with regard to the available facts and circumstances. Command is aware of the issues involved, and is seeking to manage this as closely as possible, without impeding the current civil police investigation.

TALKING POINTS

- Navy can confirm that serious allegations have been raised by a trainee sailor at HMAS *Cerberus*. There are a number of unresolved issues now being investigated by VICPOL. Navy is unable comment further until this investigation has been completed.

Clearance	Name	Appointment	Date Time Group
<i>Cleared by:</i> <i>(Group/Service)</i>	s22		11 May 11
<i>Cleared by:</i> <i>(Group/Service)</i>			11 May 11
<i>Cleared by:</i> <i>(Public Affairs)</i>			11 May 11
<i>Ministerial Action</i> <i>(tick one)</i>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	For Information <input type="radio"/>
<i>Forwarded to / Cleared by:</i>			