

HIB Number: 000949

Subject: DEATH OF A JUNIOR SAILOR
Comment:
Action Area CN

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION - NOT TO BE FORWARDED

HOT ISSUE BRIEF

ISSUE: DEATH OF A JUNIOR SAILOR

SENSITIVITY: Medium – Incident could attract negative media attention.

KEY ISSUES:

- On 16 December 2011, the Commanding Officer HMAS *Watson* was advised by New South Wales police of the death of a male junior sailor currently posted to HMAS *Watson*.
- The sailor was found deceased in a Maroubra park early this morning by a civilian jogger and later identified by his civilian flatmate.
- HMAS *Watson* Command is initiating necessary reporting.
- The sailor's next-of-kin reside in the [REDACTED] district.
- The New South Wales Police have unsuccessfully attempted to contact the next-of-kin.
- Navy has engaged a Royal Australian Air Force Chaplain from RAAF Williamtown to provide assistance in the notification process.
- Chaplaincy support is being provided to personnel at HMAS *Watson*.
- A Quick Assessment is being initiated.

Contact Officer:		CMDR L.D. van Stralen		W: 02 9359 4508	M: [REDACTED]
Authorised by:	CDRE A.J.M Smith	W: 02 93594459	M: [REDACTED]		

Date issued: 16 December 2011

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

TALKING POINTS

- **I have been advised of a report of the death of a Navy sailor currently serving at HMAS Watson.**
- **I understand the New South Wales Police are investigating the matter and it would be inappropriate for me to comment at this point.**
- [REDACTED] **The death of any of our service personnel is a great tragedy and with this coming so close to Christmas my thoughts and condolences are with the family and friends of the sailor.**

Contact Officer: **CMDR L.D. van Stralen** **W: 02 9359 4508** **M:** [REDACTED]

Authorised by: **CDRE A. Smith** **W: 02 9359 4459** **M:** [REDACTED]

PA Clearance by: **John Anderson** **W: 02 6127 1950** **M:** [REDACTED]