

## Naval Academy

### Mid dismissed for sexual misconduct

By EARL KELLY, Staff Writer

A Naval Academy crew team member was dismissed from the school Friday for having what his attorney describes as consensual sex with a female midshipman, but the female was not punished for her part in the matter.

The midshipman's attorney, William Ferris, wrote a five-page letter to academy superintendent Vice Adm. Rodney P. Rempt on Feb. 22, asking Adm. Rempt to avoid treating his client unfairly, according to documents.

The letter mentions "multiple instances of intercourse" that took place sometime before Aug. 8, 2005 in a hotel room and in an automobile.

Both parties allegedly bragged about their exploits, witnesses told Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigators, but only the male was charged with using "obscene, profane, provoking, or improper language."

"From what I understand, the aforementioned unnamed female midshipman, also a (sophomore), engaged in virtually, if not precisely, the same misconduct as (the male), yet has received absolutely no punishment," wrote Mr. Ferris, a Naval Academy graduate.

Mr. Ferris was not available for comment yesterday but, according to his letter, both the male and female violated the academy's conduct code by engaging in underage drinking.

"She also, by all accounts, engaged in underage drinking and possession of alcohol with (the male) and apparently, unlike him, lied about the fact when she was interviewed," Mr. Ferris wrote.

The academy has a policy of counseling victims of sexual crimes about their own role in the event, when appropriate, to avoid similar situations in the future.

Citing privacy concerns, Naval Academy spokesman Cmdr. Rod Gibbons declined to discuss the case or say whether the female was being counseled.

Commandant Navy Capt. Bruce Grooms conducted an administrative hearing in the case on Feb. 2. Three members of the male midshipman's chain of command testified, and two recommended retaining him, since his academy career was free of infractions, according to the documents. The crew coach, Rick Clothier, and the team's officer representative, Lt. Kristopher Stonaker also recommended retention.

Mr. Clothier could not be reached for comment and Lt. Stonaker declined to discuss the case.

Capt. Grooms recommended to Adm. Rempt that the male be discharged.

This case comes soon after the academy's starting quarterback, senior Lamar S. Owens Jr., 22, was charged Feb. 21 with rape, indecent assault and conduct unbecoming an officer for allegedly having sex with a female midshipman in January in the academy's dormitory, Bancroft Hall.

In an unrelated case, another football player is being investigated for alleged sexual assault of a female midshipman in Washington, D.C., sources said.

These cases come while a court martial is pending against Lt. Bryan Black, an academy oceanography instructor accused of making sexually explicit comments in the presence of a female midshipman.

A federal task force reported last August that efforts by the Naval Academy and the Military Academy at West Point to fight sexual harassment and assault have been "sporadic and incomplete."

This most recent case, concerning the member of the academy's crew team, surfaces just before tomorrow's quarterly meeting of the school's Board of Visitors, some of whom have called for eradicating sexual harassment at the academy.

- No Jumps-

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