

From: RADM Michael H. Miller, USN  
To: Secretary of the Navy

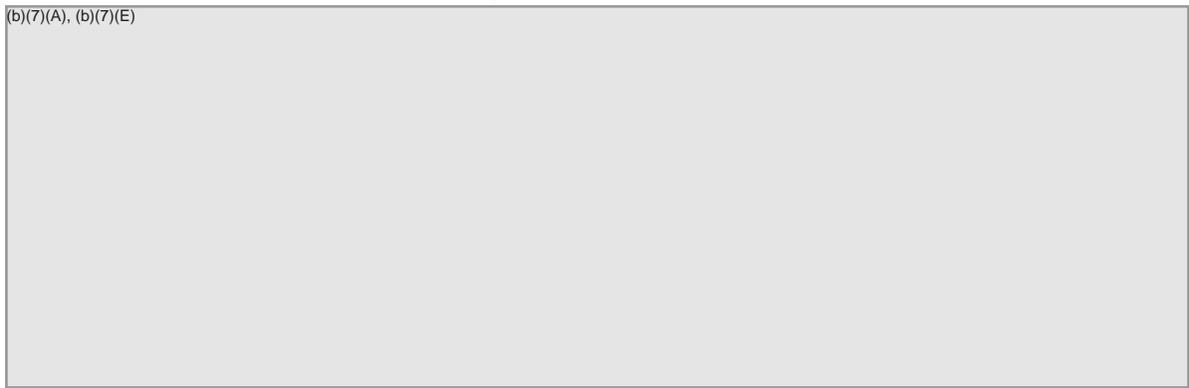
Subj: SUBMISSION IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARIAL LETTER OF  
CENSURE

1. I fully accept responsibility for my actions and only offer this response to explain the facts and circumstances addressed in the Letter of Censure.

2. I understand the significance and importance of ethics and positive leadership while in command. I have strived to set the example for my officers and crew throughout my forty-year Navy career and during my five command tours. I regularly engaged Staff Judge Advocate's assigned to my staffs during my career to ensure my actions were ethical and proper. I sought ethics advice and ensured my staff was trained and aware of potential ethics issues. I attempted to obtain the facts and encouraged my personal staff to seek clarification and ascertain the facts in relation to the acceptance of gifts and other ethical issues throughout my career.

3. It should be noted that the Reagan Strike Group staff had no influence in the selection of ports or husbanding agents during their time in Seventh Fleet area of responsibility. The schedule and husbanding agents for the Reagan Strike Group were coordinated with the Seventh Fleet staff. I extended courtesies to Mr. Francis like I would have for any other foreign official visitor interacting with a visiting Carrier Strike Group. I felt it part of my duties and there was no intent to foster a long-term relationship for personal gain. I had no intent to assist Mr. Francis or his company to procure additional business with the United States Navy. I have not fostered any friendship with Mr. Francis for the past nine years beyond coordinating a tour of the Naval Academy while I was assigned there.

(b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(E)



5. Over the span of the deployment, I had given Mr. Francis five checks in the amount of \$4,603 for compensation for a camera, a model, three chairs, and three dinners. I fell short in properly assessing the fair market value of these items and dinners, but there was no attempt to hide my actions nor was there a reckless disregard for the ethics regulation. The chairs and model were presented to me as unsolicited gifts and I attempted to assess fair market value for items that are unique and wrote Mr. Francis personal checks to cover them. Refusing these gifts would have made a cleaner record, but was logistically difficult. Regardless, I attempted in each instance to meet the requirements for the acceptance of each of these gifts and dinners.

6. I have strived to serve honorably every day of my forty-plus year career. I accept responsibility for my actions but ask that my career be judged not based on these isolated incidents but rather on my honorable service over the span of forty years. Since 2006, I have served honorably on the US Fleet Forces staff, the CNO/SECNAV staff as the Chief of Legislative Affairs, and for the past four years as the Superintendent of the United State Naval Academy.

7. I have the greatest respect for your leadership and agree that I should have used better judgment in my interactions with Mr. Francis. I fully intended to comply with my ethical responsibilities and to avoid any actual or perceived lapses. I agree that I should have been more diligent in verifying the fair market values for what I received and for what I personally paid. I know now that I should have avoided any personal interaction whatsoever with Mr. Francis. I offer my sincere apology for this entire episode and will rely on your fairness and integrity regarding my case.

VIR



M.H. Miller  
RADM USN