

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 17:29  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] VADM (Ret.) Branch  
**Signed By:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @navy.mil

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 09, 2017 10:38 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] VADM (Ret.) Branch

**\*\*FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/PRIVACY ACT SENSITIVE \*\***

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Please see attached. The first attachment fulfills the CDA's requirement to dispose of a case and will be transmitted to CNP and NAVIG. The second attachment (nonpunitive letter) will be kept a personal matter between the ADM Davidson and VADM Branch and will not be forwarded or become a part of any official departmental records. Please let me know if you have any questions.

V/R

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

**\*\*FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/PRIVACY ACT SENSITIVE/PRIVILEGED\*\***

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 09, 2017 8:54 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] VADM (Ret.) Branch

Good day (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

You can send both letters to me and I'll make sure he receives them.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Kind regards,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> On Sep 8, 2017, at 6:03 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

>

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> ADM Davidson talked with VADM Branch this afternoon to inform him of his decision to substantiate four allegations against him. VADM Branch may have already given you the details, but the substantiated allegations pertained to:

- > 1. The gift of a dagger on or about 19 February 2000.
- > 2. The gift of a dinner event at the (b)(7)(A) in Hong Kong on 4 June 2005.
- > 3. The gift of a Singapore coffee table book on or about 23 September 2005.
- > 4. The gifts of cigars on multiple occasions over the years.

>

> There were 10 other allegations that were unsubstantiated.

>

> I have a Nonpunitive Letter to deliver to VADM Branch. Does he want me to transmit that to him directly or through you? Also, I have a copy of the CDA letter to the IG closing reporting the disposition that I can send as well. Please let me know how VADM Branch would like to proceed.

> Thanks.

> V/R

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

>

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> **\*\*FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY/PRIVACY ACT SENSITIVE/PRIVILEGED\*\***

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> -----Original Message-----

> From (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> Sent: Tuesday, August 15, 2017 10:11 AM

> To (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] VADM (Ret.) Branch

>

> Thanks much for the update (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

>

> Best.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

>





(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NOTE: This e-mail is from a law firm, The Law Office of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) P.A., and is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you are an existing client, the attorney-client privilege protects this email. If you have received this email by mistake, please reply to let me know and then delete the email. I do not waive any client's privilege by email delivered in error.

On Jul 20, 2017, at 5:41 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
We have been working on the case, but it has generated an additional allegation. As with before, we would like to offer VADM Branch the opportunity to comment. Please see the attached request. If you need additional time beyond the 25th of July, just let me know.

Thanks.

V/R

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Sent: Tuesday, July 18, 2017 12:41 PM  
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] VADM (Ret.) Branch

Good day (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Just following up to see if you thought we are still looking at a July timeframe for this matter?

Many thanks,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



> Been a bit over a month since we last spoke so just wanted to touch base and see if you were at liberty to share any update on the expected timeframe?

> Kind regards,

> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> NOTE: This e-mail is from a law firm, The Law Office of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), P.A., and is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you are an existing client, the attorney-client privilege protects this email. If you have received this email by mistake, please reply to let me know and then delete the email. I do not waive any client's privilege by email delivered in error.

> On May 12, 2017, at 7:18 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> Received, thank you. As mentioned on our phone call, I would anticipate at least several weeks before the CDA is briefed on this matter. Factoring in deliberation time, please allow at least 30 days for a reply. If you have not heard from me by that time, feel free to contact me for an update.

> V/R

> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

> -----Original Message-----

> From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
> Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 5:38 PM  
> To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
> Subject: [Non-DoD Source] VADM (Ret.) Branch

> Good day (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



THE LAW OFFICE OF

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE:  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FLORIDA

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

TELEPHONE

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

FAX

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

May 3, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

U.S. Fleet Forces Command  
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250  
Norfolk, VA 23551

Re: Vice Admiral Ted Branch, USN (Ret.)

Dear (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

I represent VADM (Ret.) Branch in connection with the Glenn Defense Marine Asia investigation. I have received your letter dated April 26th to my client and we are reviewing the same and will provide input by your requested due date of May 12th.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

THE LAW OFFICE OF

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE:  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FLORIDA

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

TELEPHONE

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

FAX

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

May 11, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

U.S. Fleet Forces Command  
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250  
Norfolk, VA 23551

Dear (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Please accept the below responses submitted on behalf of my client, Vice Admiral Ted Branch, U.S. Navy (Ret.), in response to your letter of April 26, 2017.

As you may be aware, my client has previously acknowledged attending dinners with Leonard Francis and receiving a letter opener as a gift. In hindsight, and with the information regarding Mr. Francis' efforts to pervert the contracting system, this might appear unacceptable. At the time, however, my client and others (b)(7)(A)

(b)(7)(A) My client attended dinners and events at official functions in every port as part of the naval diplomacy and ship of state mission although he acknowledges that most such events were not of the same scale as those hosted by Mr. Francis.

The following additional information is provided in response to the specific items noted in your letter. Your items are noted in bold type followed by our response.

**You engaged in inappropriate behavior by accepting the gift of a prostitute from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 19 February 2000 and on or about 5 July 2005;**

My client did not accept a gift of a prostitute from GDMA or Mr. Francis.

**You accepted the gift of a dinner at the (b)(7)(A) in Kuala Lumpur from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 19 February 2000;**

**You accepted the gift of a dinner and drinks at the (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(A) in Hong Kong from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 5 June 2005;**

**You accepted the gift of a dinner at the [REDACTED] (b)(7)(A) in Kuala Lumpur from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 3 July 2005;**

As mentioned above, my client acknowledges attending a few dinners and having drinks with Mr. Francis during port visits although he does not remember the exact dates and locations. At the time, my client did not consider these events to be gifts. He perceived them to be part of his official duties. My [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) for the Kuala Lumpur port visit in 2000. My client has no recollection of ever going to a place [REDACTED] (b)(7)(A) We have researched the [REDACTED] (b)(7)(A)

**You accepted the gift of a discounted hotel room from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source; specifically, a discounted hotel room at the [REDACTED] (b)(7)(A) [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in Hong Kong in August 2005;**

My client did not accept a room in Hong Kong in August 2005 [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Hong Kong on the 2005 cruise. The ship was in Hong Kong in June 2005, not August. While on deployment, my client stayed in the hotels the husbanding agent suggested. My client always paid what he was told the room rate was and he never solicited or knowingly accepted any discount. If the room rate was offset by a third party, my client was not aware of it.

**You accepted the gift of a coffee table book from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 1 August 2005; and**

My client does not recall ever receiving a coffee table book.

**You, on divers occasions, accepted tangible gifts such as cigars, wine, champagne, pewter letter opener or Keris dagger, Selangor Pewter tea set, and a pewter mug from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source.**

From time to time my client did receive incidental, souvenir-type gifts of inconsequential value. As noted above, he does recall receiving a six-inch letter opener shaped like a dagger but this item was not ornate or exquisite and did not have any significant value to his knowledge. My client also recalls receiving cigars for the wardroom but he did not view them as intended for him personally. He accepted wine and champagne only in association with dinners he attended and he has no knowledge of a tea set or pewter mug.

**You engaged in an inappropriate relationship with [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in 2001; and**

My client did not have an inappropriate relationship [REDACTED] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in 2001.

**You engaged in inappropriate behavior with**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(A)

**onboard the USS NIMITZ sometime between 9 August 2005 and 16 August 2005**

My client does remember (b)(7)(A) band comprised of five or six men and women that performed in Bahrain and believes some of them were married to each other. Along with several others, my client did go to a nightclub a couple times while in port in Bahrain and he invited the band to tour the ship one day. All the band members, male and female, came for the tour and there was no inappropriate activity involved.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input. If you have further questions or concerns I may assist with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

**Sincerely,**

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

THE LAW OFFICE OF

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE:

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
FLORIDA

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

TELEPHONE

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

FAX

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

July 25, 2017

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

U.S. Fleet Forces Command  
1562 Mitscher Avenue, Suite 250  
Norfolk, VA 23551

Dear (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Please accept the below response submitted on behalf of my client, Vice Admiral Ted Branch, U.S. Navy (Ret.), in response to your letter dated July 18, 2017, requesting information on why my client did not list Leonard Francis as a foreign contact on his 2009 SF-86, National Security Questionnaire.

While Admiral Branch admits that he answered Section 19 of his 2009 SF-86 in the negative regarding having any contact with foreign nationals during the preceding 7 years, he did so without any intent to deceive as he did not believe the answer was false in any regard. The question asks whether he had "close and/or continuing contact" with any foreign national within the last 7 years with whom (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) were "bound by affection, influence, and/or obligation." Admiral Branch did not believe that his contact with Leonard Francis was close or continuing or that (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) were in any way bound by affection, influence or obligation to him. Admiral Branch recalls receiving an occasional Christmas card from Mr. Francis' company but viewed his contact with Mr. Francis as purely professional in nature. The only other potential contact Admiral Branch recalls having with Mr. Francis was one occasion when Mr. Francis was in San Diego and a group of Naval officers (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) went to dinner with him. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(A) During his deployments to the Western Pacific over the years as both a carrier Executive Officer and Commanding Officer, Admiral Branch had professional contact with numerous individuals who were not United States citizens in the course of performing his official duties. These individuals included foreign dignitaries, government officials, and various agents and contractors. Admiral Branch also did not list these individuals on his SF-86 for the same reasons he did not list Leonard Francis.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input. If you have further questions or concerns I may assist with, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 01, 2018 17:28  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] VADM (Ret.) Branch  
**Attachments:** 2017\_05\_11\_17\_35\_26.pdf  
**Signed By:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@navy.mil

FYSA

-----Original Message-----

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] VADM (Ret.) Branch

Good day (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Please find the attached letter we discussed earlier in the week.

Kind regards,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

NOTE: This e-mail is from a law firm, The Law Office of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) P.A., and is intended solely for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. If you are an existing client, the attorney-client privilege protects this email. If you have received this email by mistake, please reply to let me know and then delete the email. I do not waive any client's privilege by email delivered in error.



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
 COMMANDER  
 U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND  
 1582 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250  
 NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5800  
 Ser CDA/ 177  
 18 July 2017

From: Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command  
 To: VADM Ted Branch, USN (Ret)  
 Via: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) VADM Ted Branch

Subj: OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING ADDITIONAL ALLEGATION

Ref: (a) Your letter of 11 May 17

1. Thank you for reference (a), in which you responded to Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA) Consolidated Disposition Authority (CDA) questions regarding certain matters referred by the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ). In addition to the allegations of which you were previously informed, the CDA has recently reviewed credible evidence that:

In 16 October 2009, while serving as the Commander, Carrier Strike Group One, you, with the intent to deceive, signed an official record, to wit: a Form SF-86 National Security Questionnaire, which record was false in that it failed to disclose your contacts with Leonard Francis over the proceeding seven years, and was known by you to be false.

2. This serves as your opportunity to provide any desired input regarding this allegation. Any comments, additional information, or necessary context for this allegation will be considered by the GDMA CDA before reaching any final conclusions about the matter listed above.

3. Please provide any response no later than 25 July 2017. Should you have any questions or need additional time, please contact Captain (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) or

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @navy.mil.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

COMMANDER  
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND  
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250  
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5800  
Ser CDA/120  
26 Apr 2017

VADM (Ret.) Ted Branch

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Dear VADM (Ret.) Branch,

The Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA) Consolidated Disposition Authority (CDA) Legal Staff has reviewed credible evidence that, while serving as the Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ and the Executive Officer, USS STENNIS:

- You engaged in inappropriate behavior by accepting the gift of a prostitute from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 19 February 2000 and on or about 5 July 2005;
- You accepted the gift of a dinner at the (b)(7)(A) in Kuala Lumpur from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 19 February 2000;
- You accepted the gift of a dinner and drinks at the (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(A) in Hong Kong from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 5 June 2005;
- You accepted the gift of a dinner at the (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(A) in Kuala Lumpur from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 5 July 2005;
- You accepted the gift of a discounted hotel room from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source; specifically, a discounted hotel room at the (b)(7)(A) for you and your wife in Hong Kong in August 2005;
- You accepted the gift of a coffee table book from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 1 August 2005; and
- You, on divers occasions, accepted tangible gifts such as cigars, wine, champagne, pewter letter opener or Keris dagger, Selangor Pewter tea set, and a pewter mug from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source.

There is also additional information that was developed during the GDMA investigation that, while serving as the Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ and the Executive Officer, USS STENNIS:

- You engaged in an inappropriate relationship with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in 2001; and
- You engaged in inappropriate behavior with (b)(6), (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C) onboard the USS NIMITZ sometime between 9 August 2005 and 16 August 2005.

This serves as your opportunity to provide any desired input regarding these allegations or interactions. Any comments, additional information, or necessary context for these interactions will be considered by the GDMA CDA before reaching any final conclusions about the matters listed above.

Please provide any response no later than 12 May 2017. Should you have any questions or need additional time, please contact (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) or (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @navy.mil.

Sincerely,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND  
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250  
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5800  
Ser CDA/201  
8 Sep 17

From: Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command  
To: Chief of Naval Personnel  
Naval Inspector General

Subj: ADVERSE INFORMATION ICO VADM TED BRANCH, USN (RET)

Ref: (a) SECNAV CDA Memo dtd 30 Sep 15  
(b) VCNO ltr 5800 Ser N09D/16U112936 of 29 Aug 16  
(c) 5 C.F.R. § 2635  
(d) DoD Instruction 1320.04

1. As the Consolidated Disposition Authority (CDA) for the Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA) matter per references (a) and (b), I reviewed evidence of possible misconduct against VADM Ted Branch, USN (Ret), while serving as Executive Officer, USS STENNIS (CVN-74) in 2000, Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) in 2005, Special Assistant, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in 2007, and Commander, Carrier Strike Group ONE (CSG-1) in 2009. Based on a preponderance of the evidence, I substantiated four of fourteen allegations against VADM Branch. The substantiated misconduct allegations occurred during USS STENNIS and USS NIMITZ port visits to Hong Kong and Singapore.

2. In relation to the unsubstantiated allegations:

a. On or about 19 February 2000, while serving as Executive Officer, USS STENNIS, VADM Branch attended a dinner in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, funded by GDMA, a prohibited source. Although VADM Branch attended this dinner, he (b)(7)(A) that attendance (b)(7)(A) Additionally, VADM Branch is alleged to have improperly accepted the gift of a Selangor Pewter tea set or beer mug, funded by GDMA, a prohibited source. There is insufficient evidence that VADM Branch received this gift. VADM Branch is also alleged to have improperly accepted the gift of a private party, to include drinks and the services of a prostitute, funded by GDMA, a prohibited source. There is insufficient evidence that VADM Branch attended the private party. Thus, the preponderance of the evidence does not support a violation of reference (c) for these allegations.

b. From on or about 3 June 2005 to on or about 7 June 2005, while serving as Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ, VADM Branch is alleged to have improperly accepted the gift of discounted lodging in Hong Kong, funded by GDMA, a prohibited source. There is insufficient evidence to establish that VADM Branch received the gift of discounted lodging. Thus, the preponderance of the evidence does not support a violation of reference (c) for this allegation.

Subj: ADVERSE INFORMATION ICO VADM TED BRANCH, USN (RET)

c. On or about 5 July 2005, while serving as Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ, VADM Branch

(b)(7)(A)

(b)(7)(A)

I determined VADM Branch held a reasonable mistake of fact that attendance (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(A) VADM Branch is also alleged to have improperly accepted the gift of a private party, to include drinks and the services of a prostitute, funded by GDMA, a prohibited source. There is insufficient evidence to establish that VADM Branch attended this private party. Also, on 11 July 2005, VADM Branch is alleged to have improperly endorsed Leonard Francis and GDMA with a Bravo Zulu message. Although VADM Branch did submit a Bravo Zulu message, VADM Branch lacked intent to show favoritism for one husbanding agent over another. Thus, the preponderance of the evidence does not support a violation of reference (c) for these allegations.

d. On divers occasions, while serving as Executive Officer, USS STENNIS and Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ, VADM Branch is alleged to have improperly accepted gifts of bottles of wine and champagne, funded by GDMA, a prohibited source. Although VADM Branch did consume wine and champagne at the dinners he attended, there is insufficient evidence to establish that VADM Branch received the bottles of alcohol as gifts. Thus, the preponderance of the evidence does not support a violation of reference (c) for this allegation.

e. On or about 2 May 2007, while serving as Special Assistant, Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, VADM Branch is alleged to have improperly accepted the gift of a ship model, funded by GDMA, a prohibited source. There is insufficient evidence to establish that VADM Branch received the gift of a ship model. Thus, the preponderance of the evidence does not support a violation of reference (c) for this allegation.

f. On or about 16 October 2009, while serving as Commander, CSG-1, VADM Branch is alleged to have violated Article 107 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, by signing the Questionnaire for National Security Positions (SF-86), an official record, containing a false official statement. The preponderance of the evidence supports that VADM Branch did not consider his personal relationship with Leonard Francis to be "close or continuing" and of such a degree that required reporting. Thus, the preponderance of the evidence does not support a violation of reference (c) for this allegation.

3. In relation to the substantiated allegations:

a. On or about 19 February 2000, while serving as Executive Officer, USS STENNIS, VADM Branch wrongfully accepted the gift of a Keris Dagger, from Leonard Francis and GDMA, both prohibited sources. VADM Branch acknowledged that he received the gift of a Keris Dagger, a gift with a value in excess of ethically permissible limits, and there is no evidence (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(A) following acceptance of the gift. I determined that none of the gift exceptions within reference (c) apply.

b. On or about 4 June 2005, while serving as Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ, VADM Branch wrongfully accepted the gift of a dinner, from Leonard Francis and GDMA, both prohibited sources. Information forwarded by the Department of Justice and Defense Criminal Investigative Service revealed that VADM Branch attended a dinner at the (b)(7)(A) in Hong Kong, along with other Officers and Mr. Francis. VADM Branch (b)(7)(A)

Subj: ADVERSE INFORMATION ICO VADM TED BRANCH, USN (RET)

(b)(7)(A) which was a gift in excess of ethically permissible limits. I determined that none of the gift exceptions within reference (c) apply.

c. On or about 23 September 2005, while serving as Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ, VADM Branch wrongfully accepted the gift of a Singapore coffee table book, from Leonard Francis and GDMA, both prohibited sources. Information forwarded by the Department of Justice and Defense Criminal Investigative Service revealed that VADM Branch received the book. VADM Branch did (b)(7)(A) which was a gift in excess of ethically permissible limits. I determined that none of the gift exceptions within reference (c) apply.

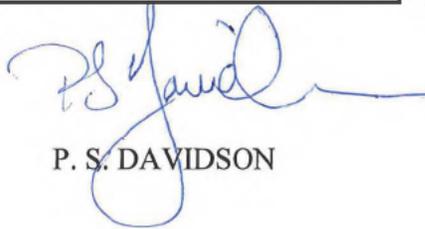
d. On divers occasions, while serving as Executive Officer, USS STENNIS and Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ, VADM Branch wrongfully accepted gifts of cigars from Leonard Francis and GDMA, both prohibited sources. Information forwarded by the Department of Justice and Defense Criminal Investigative Service revealed that VADM Branch received gifts of cigars on divers occasions. VADM Branch acknowledged that he received gifts of cigars and there is (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(A) which were gifts in excess of ethically permissible limits. I determined that none of the gift exceptions within reference (c) apply.

4. The substantiated findings above constitute adverse information in accordance with reference (d).

5. I personally addressed this with VADM Branch through administrative action and consider this matter closed. I considered all potential and appropriate remedies consistent with the evidence and findings of fact, including restitution and reimbursement. The CDA does not have the legal authority to require reimbursement or restitution for the value of gifts received.

6. Based on the evidence, I am not referring this matter to the Department of Defense Central Adjudication Facility (DODCAF).

7. My point of contact for this matter is (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) may be reached at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @navy.mil.



P. S. DAVIDSON

Copy to:

VCN  
CNP  
NCIS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
DCIS



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

COMMANDER  
U.S. FLEET FORCES COMMAND  
1562 MITSCHER AVENUE SUITE 250  
NORFOLK VA 23551-2487

5800  
Ser CDA/120  
26 Apr 2017

VADM (Ret.) Ted Branch

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Dear VADM (Ret.) Branch,

The Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA) Consolidated Disposition Authority (CDA) Legal Staff has reviewed credible evidence that, while serving as the Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ and the Executive Officer, USS STENNIS:

- You engaged in inappropriate behavior by accepting the gift of a prostitute from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 19 February 2000 and on or about 5 July 2005;
- You accepted the gift of a dinner at the (b)(7)(A) in Kuala Lumpur from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 19 February 2000;
- You accepted the gift of a dinner and drinks at the (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(A) in Hong Kong from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 5 June 2005;
- You accepted the gift of a dinner at the (b)(7)(A) (b)(7)(A) in Kuala Lumpur from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 5 July 2005;
- You accepted the gift of a discounted hotel room from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source; specifically, a discounted hotel room at the (b)(7)(A) for you and your wife in Hong Kong in August 2005;
- You accepted the gift of a coffee table book from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source, on or about 1 August 2005; and
- You, on divers occasions, accepted tangible gifts such as cigars, wine, champagne, pewter letter opener or Keris dagger, Selangor Pewter tea set, and a pewter mug from GDMA and/or Leonard Francis, a prohibited source.

There is also additional information that was developed during the GDMA investigation that, while serving as the Commanding Officer, USS NIMITZ and the Executive Officer, USS STENNIS:

- You engaged in an inappropriate relationship with the (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in 2001; and
- You engaged in inappropriate behavior with (b)(6), (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(A), (b)(7)(C) onboard the USS NIMITZ sometime between 9 August 2005 and 16 August 2005.

This serves as your opportunity to provide any desired input regarding these allegations or interactions. Any comments, additional information, or necessary context for these interactions will be considered by the GDMA CDA before reaching any final conclusions about the matters listed above.

Please provide any response no later than 12 May 2017. Should you have any questions or need additional time, please contact (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) or (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)