

Memo Dated 6 Dec 18 From Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic - 5830 – SER N011/284

2.b. States: Further endorsement is considered unnecessary.

That it is final. That means that they are done and satisfied with this investigation. This is the first issue with all of this. This investigation is inaccurate, filled with lies, contains very short statements from witnesses or potential witnesses, it was thrown together, not back up by facts, missing the parent's interviews, and an attempt to conceal the truth to save the ones who are responsible for AEAN Caserta's murder.

3. AEAN Caserta was suffering from a number of stressors

All of AEAN Caserta's stressors were caused by HSC-28 and the hostile work environment they created. The hostile environment was NOT a likely factor it WAS the whole reason he died by suicide. The hostile environment is standard operating procedure for HSC-28 and they teach and endorse the hostile environment they created. The disciplinary review board was being done by AE1 Jared Brose, NC1 Remmy Spence, Master Chief Pete Larette, Chief Shelah Hennard, Chief Delasandro all because of a driver's license that they claim they are entitled to. This couldn't be further from the truth. You do not need a driver's license to join the Navy, you do not need one to be an electrician in the Navy, you do not need one to be in HSC-28, you do not need one to sell candy, you do not need one to launch helicopters or work on them, and you do not need one to stand duty. More importantly, HSC-28, the Navy, or anyone is not entitled to AEAN Caserta's driver's license period. I told CMC David Tokarski this and he argued with me right up to the exact second, HSC-28 murdered our son. I will talk more about this which will be backed by facts on the driver's license ordeal later in the breakdown of this report.

How can someone approve the finding of facts without the truth backed by facts? A Naval officer conducted this investigation, the Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer signed off on it, then the Commodore. All three Naval officers claim there is a finding of facts. That is a lie and all three of these officers are trying to conceal the truth. This is total disrespect for AEAN Brandon Caserta and in particularly us, his parents. They have been and are currently putting us through mental anguish that is more than wrong it is cruel. I, his father, am a 22-year retired Navy Senior Chief and have been disrespected as a person and as a Navy Senior Chief by all of this and everyone who murdered my son.

Commodore A. M. Worthy signs off on this without even verifying the facts himself and takes HSC-28's Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer's word for it. Commodore Worthy does this in spite of the fact that on 06/24/2018 there was another suicide in one of his squadron's, and three weeks prior to that there was another one. The only difference between the three is that AEAN Caserta's Commanding Officer leaked the news without permission from us and the other two never made the media. No suicide training had been done in spite of the two prior suicides occurring. One is too many, two is

disgraceful, three is just unacceptable and criminal. Had proper suicide training been held on the morning of 6/25/2018 or after the first suicide, AEAN Caserta would still be alive today.

Memo Dated 10 Jul 18 – From Commanding Officer HSC-28 -5800 Ser N00/242

1. The date of AEAN Caserta's death is wrong. AEAN Caserta was murdered on 6/25/2018 not 6/30/2018. I guess his death is not very memorable to Commanding Officer Whitmer.

The Commanding officer initiates and assigns an investigation into AEAN Caserta's death on 7/10/2018. He was killed and murdered by him on 6/25/2018. The delay is because he has everyone coving up and getting their stories straight to completely cover up the truth and facts with their own versions.

Memo Dated 2 Oct 18 – To Commanding Officer, HSC-28 – 5830

### **Preliminary Statement**

- 1) This investigation is incomplete and has been from the start. None of AEAN Caserta's friends were ever talked to and many of them are in the Navy in different commands. They didn't even interview us, his parents. AEAN Caserta's personal effects were tarnished by sending command personnel to pack up his room. They were the fox guarding the hen house and any pictures are deemed tarnished because of the fact that the command is the guilty party in all this. They also stole money and other things out of his room. Pictures being taken by the thieves are not evidence nor are they of use in this investigation since the guilty party took the pictures.
- 2) All reasonable evidence and information have been collected, and all requirements of references was consulted in the finding of facts.

This is an outright lie. No one ever talked to us, his parents, his friends outside the command who are in the Navy, or his personal friends at home. Two of his best friends are Phoenix Police Officers and no one talked to them. Both police officers attended AEAN Brandon Caserta's funeral and helped us with the entire mess that HSC-28 created. Both Police officers were Brandon's age. Almost all of AEAN's Brandon Caserta's true friends attended his funeral. Some were active duty from all over the United States. All of them helped us through all this and all are outraged over what this command did to him. AEAN Caserta's command helped with absolutely nothing.

As a matter of fact, here is what they really did. They leaked his death to the news media. They told the entire command not to ever talk to us and threatened them with jail time bad evaluations and anything else they can threaten them with if they talked to us. HSC-28 held a memorial service without our permission and didn't invite us to it.

They refused to let AEAN Caserta's friends who are in the Navy and outside of the command attend the memorial. The Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer, told the command that we were not invited because we were mourning and that not talking to us will help us with the grieving process. He also told them he submitted our names to the gate so we couldn't get onto the Norfolk Naval Base. He stated we were bad people and that I'm retired Navy, and that I was going to get them back for Brandon's murder. He wrote a letter to us that arrived at the end of July that said the attendance was not mandatory but everyone came to it.

We talked to many sailors who said they weren't there. Not one officer from HSC-28 called to give their condolences, never offered any assistance, never helped us with anything period. As a matter of fact, they deliberately delayed and ignored all things that had been required of them to do. Then, they tried to blame the local Phoenix causality assistance team here for it. That local causality assistance team had been so outstanding to us and went above and beyond to help us. They did nothing but great honest things. The command to this day blames them. They didn't do anything wrong and it was a ploy to, again, make us suffer mental anguish so that they could cover up the fact that they murdered our son. HSC-28 knew the local casualty team was assisting us and because they forwarded all e-mails and conversations with us to the proper authorities to help us with what questions we had, the command deliberately found a way to blame them to get them to stop and keep them from helping us. It worked for a week or two until I called the Navy Bureau. This alone proves that the command was covering up everything and anyone who could ruin it for them they removed from the situation. The problem was the people they kept removing are the same people who were helping us get through all this.

### **FINDING OF FACT**

- 1) AEAN Caserta did not drop on request from special Warfare Training. First of all, again, the dates are wrong. He left SEAL Special Warfare Training at the end of April early May 2016. He was at home in Phoenix from later May until early June 2016. He had to go to urgent care and the emergency room for his pneumonia while home. It would be hard for him to be at Special Warfare in July /August 2016. He did not go directly to Norfolk, Virginia from Coronado, California. He went to Pensacola first for several months to a school for the AE rating.

Here is the true story of what happened. He had leg pain and went to medical for it. He was told it was shin splints; was refused x-rays. He tried to work through it, but he knew something was wrong. He went back to medical and they denied him x-rays, again, because it was shin splints **(sound familiar he has been denied to go to medical many times while he was in the Navy in particular by this command)**. He told them he has had them before and worked through them. He said this is not shin splints. They didn't care. He went back and finished the training for the day. Early the next morning when he had a boat(raft) on his shoulder he collapsed.

They threw him into a pickup truck, took him to the bell and rang it for him. He finally went to medical on another base and x-rays were taken. He had a broken tibia in 4 places. He was running 20 miles a day with a broken leg. And, oh by the way, he had pneumonia. The day AEAN Caserta collapsed, is the same day the seal recruit was drowned by the staff there. We, Brandon's parents, were there at the time with him. I wanted to go talk to the SEALs about AEAN Caserta because it was unfair what they did. AEAN Caserta wouldn't let me because he said Special Warfare is a small community and if forced to do something will blackball him and he wouldn't make it anyway. I reluctantly honored his wishes. The ratings that were given to AEAN Caserta were GS, AN, SN, FN, and AE. He picked AE and we were right outside of the place he did this at. He talked it over with us before he chose it. He only had those choices and that was it. They transferred him to Pensacola, FL with a severely broken leg and pneumonia. They said they didn't have room to keep him in San Diego, CA.

- 4) No one ever noticed AEAN Caserta was depressed and if they did, they didn't do anything. AEAN Caserta went to the Chaplin on his own. He went there because his girlfriend broke up with him. NC1 Remmy Spence is lying that he took him. I'm sure the Chaplin records can prove this; however, I know exactly why he went. This story will come up again later in the report. I will elaborate on it and explain it in detail.
- 5) AE1 Jared Brose stated that AEAN Caserta was a hard worker and always volunteered to help with whatever was needed. You will read this time and time again. He was the best and hardest worker in the command. This is important because this is another reason the command killed AEAN Caserta. They betrayed him and allowed AE1 Brose and many others to abuse him in spite of him being the best and hardest worker in the command.
- 6) AEAN Caserta did work on his qualifications. There is no Navy requirement for him to get the said qualification and many people take a while to get it if your name isn't AEAN Caserta. He was the poster board for initiative, and this is a direct slam to make him look bad just as the command wanted her to.
- 7) AEAN Caserta did not like how he was treated by others. Many of his true friends have received texts from AEAN Caserta that everyone in the command hates him. His animosity toward the Navy is simple. He had a broken leg during SEAL training and was kicked out of the Special Warfare for it. He was denied medical treatment many times. He had a broken leg and pneumonia. Would you have animosity toward the Navy too? His PC qualification was always on track and, I will say this again, it is **not** a Navy regulation for him to get this qualification nor is it a qualification for his direct job as an Aviation Electrician. Many sailors leave HSC-28 without it. Besides, as you will see, he was leaving this command; he didn't need the qualification. The aircraft he was going to be on is a plane. The equipment he was going to school for was in the plane. He was going to school to track and find enemy submarines. It would be hard to

be a plane captain when your equipment is in the plane and you are in the plane when it takes off. This is fact and no one can dispute this.

- 8) Again, wrong dates as usual. In October 2017 he received orders to go to Aircrewman school as an Avionic Warfare Operator (AWO). Everyone wishes he would have had orders to leave in November 2017. He would be alive today. He was leaving on 18 February 2018. His bicycle accident happened on 9 November 2017 and he broke his collar bone. Those orders were canceled in January by NC1 Spence and he was told once he was fit for duty, he just needed to let the Navy counselor know and he would get new orders and be gone within weeks. The command canceled his orders when he could have healed on the other end waiting for school to start. They sent him to the same area, Pensacola, with a broken leg and a pneumonia. This is the first of many times personal greed clouded this command's judgment to keep the best worker in the command. The problem was the Commanding Officer at the time was Commander Thomas and he always asked AEAN Caserta when he was getting his new orders and leaving. Every time he saw AEAN Caserta he asked this. Apparently, no one told him what plan they had to keep AEAN Caserta. I want to point out, too, that, at this time, Commander Duane Whitmer was the Executive Officer. I also want to point out that Commander Thomas attended AEAN Caserta's memorial service. He even came up to the podium and said many nice things about him from what I'm told. Apparently, they didn't stop him from coming to the service like they did us and many of AEAN Caserta's friends who are stationed in Norfolk.

**Why would anyone want to sabotage AEAN Caserta from getting orders to go aircrewmembers and leave the command when he has no initiative? However, you will transfer AE1 Jared Brose who the command placed back in charge after being kicked off of deployment and helped murder AEAN Caserta like yesterday. So, if you murder someone you leave and not go to Captain's Mast. If you are the hardest, best worker in the command and have no initiative, they keep you.**

- 9) No comment, as this may be true.

- 10) AEAN Caserta was assigned to the ARO again to sell candy after he broke his collarbone. He was on light limited duty from November 2018 to March 2018. He had already sold candy for 6 months and now he had to do it again. He has been in the Navy at this point for over 2 years and in his current command for one year and has done nothing but sell candy. As for his qualifications, he couldn't work on them and he was told he didn't have to because he was on light limited duty. They could have put him to work elsewhere but they will say they couldn't. That would be a lie. He could have gone to the electrician workshop and helped them with inside things. While he was selling candy, he became the go to person and the expert there. **Not surprising for the best and hardest worker in the command. They sent him, with a duty driver, to Sam's Club all the time to buy more items for the Geedunk. They gave him a credit card to purchase the items with**

**another person's name on it. This person had transferred out of the command several years ago. So, a duty driver can bring him to buy candy, but not to go to medical.**

- 11) AEAN Caserta did voice his dissatisfaction with others about the command. The said individuals backed to him. That is missing in this biased report. He was **very** unhappy in this command because they called him a BUD's dud and other derogatory statements and name calling. A BUD's dud is a person who didn't make it through Navy SEAL training. Less than .000000001 percent of the Navy could pass the SEAL physical fitness test to even get a SEAL contract. AEAN Caserta made it to week 3 in the SEAL training. Hundreds had failed out by then. He was running 20 miles a day on a broken leg with pneumonia. You speak of fit and tough. Everyone talked bad about the command and no one did anything about it. I don't have the enclosures, they kept that from this report, but I assure you that it is both ways. AE1 Brose on a daily basis would tell AEAN Caserta to "go make yourself useful somewhere else". How can you like the command under those circumstances? He was berated, humiliated, bullied and intimidated every single day since the day he checked into that command.
- 12) As for AEAN Caserta rerating, he was already approved and he had orders, but he got hurt. He was cleared by a doctor in March 2018. He went up to the Command Career Counselor NC1 Spence and told him. He also told the Commanding Officer, Commander Thomas when Commander Thomas asked him, he said NC1 submitted the fit for duty clearance.
- 13) All I can say at this point is the command knew AE1 Brose had issues for a long time and deliberately put him in charge of young sailors who he just took full advantage of and bullied, berated and abused them. AEAN Caserta's death by suicide was due to not only LPO Brose but because he lost faith in the entire command's leadership.

**AEAN Brandon Caserta was driven to suicide by his command which is murder. The failure to act properly and judiciously makes the U.S. Navy and HSC-28 accessories to the murder of Brandon. More than one person in Brandon's chain of command gave Brandon nothing but indifference when they ignored the situation. They were protecting the perpetrators to continue a campaign of despicable bullying, berating and intimidation that pushed him to the brink. Brandon was a death by suicide because he lost all confidence due to poor leadership in his command.**

**By putting AE1 Brose, a known abusive leader, who bullies, threatens, makes fun of, belittles, blackmails, intimidates, berates and many other traits of how not to be in life. The above threshold of the definition of murder is met.**

- 14) The anger management really worked well. If anything, it made him worse.
- 15) AEAN Caserta was not delinquent in any qualifications. The PQS system reset itself back to zero and all the progress he had been working on was erased. Before the system

reset, AEAN Caserta was 72% complete on his PC qualification. He did not go on leave for 2 weeks. He on leave for 10 days (May 22 – May 31, 2018). He was saving time for Christmas so he took only 10 days on purpose. This is another indicator he was fine when he came home and went back. He had already made plans for Christmas with his friends and family. This is exactly why this report was thrown together and signed off on without any fact verification or validation. No one even bothered to review AEAN Caserta's personnel file to get the facts for this report. This investigation and report has been thrown together and that is completely unacceptable and demeaning.

- 16) As I pointed out to you already, AEAN Caserta is not required by the Navy to obtain this qualification in the timeframes they wanted it done. The PQS system reset his qualifications to zero with nothing completed. In mid-June he was to have them completed and board ready. The Counseling Chit done on 18 May 2018, states he has 180 days to complete this qualification. Why would he be delinquent on this qualification if he has 180 days to complete it? As for EMI, he was coming in at 7 in the morning and getting back to his room at 9pm on those 3-4 days. Can you imagine doing this yourself for a qualification you don't need? Remember, he was leaving. Only the commanding officer can sign off on EMI, and he didn't.

Putting him on EMI was done illegally and if by some chance it wasn't, he was not behind on anything since he was not required to do this and had 180 days to complete it. The Plane Captain is in charge on the tarmac and is responsible for everyone and everything to include the safety of all. Now would you force someone to hurry up with this qualification in a matter of days when people take many years to get it? Yes, some get it quickly. The group that was on the flight line when AEAN Caserta died by suicide didn't even try and stop him and they ran away. They didn't even try and give him first aide. Again, would you hurry someone to get this qualification? Apparently, the training program they have in place is subpar and is not proper due to them not keeping the areas safe and preventing this from happening.

- 17) AEAN Caserta had gone to medical many times before on base and off base. He always had a ride. So, the duty driver was not the only one who could drive him. Plus, I'm positive the medical he was going to that day was the local base one. He also never went to medical when a lot of work was outstanding. If we look at his medical appointment sheets, they show he missed many because, again, he was the best and the hardest worker in the command. This appointment AE1 Brose knew about. It was the last appointment needed to complete a physical he didn't even need to get to go aircrewman. They were making him get another physical and do all the paperwork over again for their personal greed. I will prove this over and over again and it is factual and back by true evidence. So, this losing two people garbage is made up so is the lack of AEAN Caserta telling someone he had an appointment. Couldn't spare the manpower is a lie. LPO AE1 Brose used to tell AEAN Caserta to make himself useful somewhere else all the time. This is factual just ask others they will verify this.

18) Again, he didn't need the qualification to go Aircrewman. He didn't even need to do a new physical nor did he need their endorsement. He already had it and it was good for a year starting from October 2017 to October 2018. So, the prioritizing was a lie and a ploy to get him to qualify on something he did not need. Why would the best and hardest worker in the command need more merit? Why would he need anything if he is the best of the best? He is a command dream junior sailor. NC1 Spence sided with AE1 Brose on this one because he didn't have a choice or so he says. He threatened and blackmailed AEAN Caserta about the Aircrewman rerate to help AE1 Brose and Master Chief Pete Lerette get AEAN Caserta Plane Captain qualified so they could deploy him. He was leaving! Why would they even try to deploy him? This was all about personal greed, period.

I want to point out that, to this point, AEAN Caserta was "friends" with NC1 Spence, was going aircrewman, and did not need to do a complete package all over again and resubmit it. AEAN Caserta did it anyway because he trusted NC1 Spence and he told him he had to redo it all. So, they refuse to let him go to medical, they threaten to take away his dream of going aircrewman if he doesn't get the qualification he didn't need, his friend, NC1 Spence, turns on him and threatens, blackmails, and lies to him about having to do another complete package. This happened all on the same day. This was just the beginning of what the rest of that day and his last few days he was alive he had to deal with. Here was, again, by talking to everyone, the best and hardest worker in the command who volunteered for everything to include washing helicopters, cleaning floors, bathrooms, outside decks whatever they needed done and HSC-28 treated him like this.

19) I called NC1 Spence; but he didn't answer. I told him as a friend, yes, we were "self-made friends" because he called me looking for Brandon when the Chaplin was looking for AEAN Caserta in 2017 regarding an appointment that had been changed. The Chaplin tasked NC1 Spence to find him and tell him the new time. We talked for a long time. He told me he would take care of AEAN Caserta and we hit it off because I had also been a Navy counselor in the Navy. I just had many jobs above his and I was an expert in the field. He asked me why Brandon was seeing the Chaplin. I told him it was personal and had nothing to do with the command. That's all I told him. So, if he referred AEAN Caserta to the Chaplin or as he says brought him to the Chaplin why did he ask me why Brandon was seeing him?

AEAN Caserta had broken up with his girlfriend and sought out the Chaplin to talk to him about it. NC1 Spence wouldn't know this because I didn't tell him. So, his statement is an outright lie like so many others in this report. I later spoke with NC1 Spence after Brandon got his orders to aircrewman school in October -November 2017 timeframe and the first thing out of his mouth was I told you I would take care of your son for you. I left him a message after they wouldn't let AEAN Caserta go to medical. I told him that was wrong, and they couldn't do that. I told him to help AEAN Caserta with this and that I will go to the commanding officer if I have to about all this. Then I received a text from

AEAN Caserta. It says "NC1 Spence is involved in all this". I then sent NC1 Spence a text saying please tell me you are not involved in all this. I have these texts. I also have the outgoing calls to him. The next thing I know, my cell phone is ringing with a call from the Norfolk area code. It was Master Chief Lurette who claimed to be the Command Master Chief. That position is the senior enlisted advisor for the command and that person worked directly for the commanding officer.

This counseling session happened because Maintenance Master Chief Lurette called me and we talked. He was rude and told me there are 50 chiefs in this command. He was mad that he was calling me. He claimed to be the Command Master Chief. He kept saying you called my NC. We discussed AEAN Caserta's package for Aircrewman, being denied medical, the candy selling, the plane captain qualification and many other things. He told me he heard AEAN Caserta was afraid of aircraft. I told him that was not true. I even sent a text out to AEAN Caserta and asked him and he said no. I have this text as evidence. Mast Chief Lurette defended everything. He even said AE1 Brose better not be abusing people again and that he would put an end to it and send him to Captain's Mast. When we discussed the plane captain qualification, he claims it would do the Navy good. He also said AEAN Caserta is useless to him because he does not have that qualification and he can't deploy him. No wonder AEAN Caserta felt useless in that command. I'm sure if Master Chief Lurette told me that he was useless, can you imagine all the things he told AEAN Caserta to his face?

He said people had to do two deployments because of AEAN Caserta. That's a lie and again AEAN Caserta was leaving. As far as doing the Navy good, wouldn't it do the Navy good if everyone ate better, lost weight, and worked out more? As I said before, it is obvious that they had no intention of AEAN Caserta going aircrewman or transferring. Master Chief Lurette told me AEAN Caserta was lying about him not being able to go to medical. He claimed he talk to AEAN Caserta and helped him out and he said he had my back and called me brother at least 10 times. I told him I would talk to AEAN Caserta about the qualification and he will stay on track as he always has. That is why AEAN Caserta was receptive about it all because we launched a plan to do as they wanted and get him out of there. As for AEAN Caserta leaving his office unshaken, that is wrong. He was mad that he got yelled at and Master Chief Lurette was spitting on him by accident that shows how mad Lurette was. AEAN Caserta said the conversation was one way. Master Chief Lurette didn't let AEAN Caserta talk.

There were many errors in the one-sided conversation such as the computer resetting his qualifications and the fact that he wasn't delinquent and of course how AE1 Brose was treating him. For the record, if I had known he wasn't the Command Master Chief as he said he was, I **never** would have spoken to him. He lied to me, because he didn't want me to call Command Master Chief Tokarski and spill the beans on his plot to keep AEAN Caserta in the command and force him to get the plane captain qualification overnight and deploy him. I have the text from AEAN Caserta telling me I didn't talk to the Command Master Chief and I gave this text to the IG and told NCIS about it. As for

the endorsement after completing plane captain qualification, AEAN Caserta didn't need an endorsement; he already had one. That was the secret that they kept from us.

They knew this and that is why NC1 Spence went to Master Chief Lurette and had him call me. NC1 Spence told him I was going to call the Commanding Officer, Duane Whitmer, and I was a Navy Counselor and that I would expose their plan to keep AEAN Caserta from going. Well, unfortunately, it worked. I believed and trusted Master Chief Lurette. I really thought he was the Command Master Chief as he said he was. Who would impersonate someone he wasn't unless he had something to hide? The Command Master Chief is the only one who could say "I have 50 chiefs in this command" and "my NC1" and it would be true. Now, for the record, if Master Chief Lurette had really meant if AEAN Caserta got Plane captain qualified he would sign off on him going aircrewman then why did he tell me AEAN Caserta was useless to him without it and people had to do two deployments because he wasn't plane captain qualified. Again, AEAN Caserta was leaving. I trusted Master Chief Lurette and it cost me my son's life. How did he **not** contribute to the murder of my son? He is as guilty as anyone. He lied in this statement, to NCIS, to the IG, to the Command Investigating officer, to me and my wife, and did absolutely nothing he said he would. If he had fixed and removed AE1 Brose, AEAN Caserta would still be alive. He was told by me that AE1 Brose was mistreating AEAN Caserta. I told Master Chief Lurette, word for word, that I was concerned about the welfare and well-being of my son. That was the first thing I said just like I did when I spoke to the real Command Master Chief, Tokarski.

20) How can you counsel and send someone to a disciplinary review board for having a driver's license and you have no evidence that he does?

21) I'm putting this driver license to rest right here and now. This is long and is the exact conversation I had with Command Master Chief Tokarski on the first phone call to him on 6/25/2018. Here is exactly what happened: AE1 Brose was furious with AEAN Caserta after he got in trouble for denying and letting him go get medical care. He goes in the ASM system and mysteriously finds out that AEAN Caserta had an ID Number in the computer under his Command information. He runs to Chief Hennard and Master Chief Lurette and complains. They tell him to go to AEAN Caserta and have him write his full name, address, date of birth and social security on a piece of paper. AEAN Caserta complies not knowing why he needed to do that because he always does as others ask with no questions. AE1 Brose never told him what it is for and it is something you cannot ask someone for no reason. That's a fact.

AE1 Brose goes to the workshop and starts looking up AEAN Caserta's information in the Arizona DMV website to see if he has a driver's license. Nothing comes up. Then somehow a chief from Arizona, Chief Delasandro, gets involved and now seven people are involved standing in front of this computer while Chief Delasandro inputs AEAN Caserta's information. There are five chiefs and two 1st Class Petty officers who are watching and being a part of this. Chief Delasandro asks AEAN Caserta if he has ever

moved AEAN Caserta says he did. He has him write down the new address. His information comes up with his old address. It is free to change your address in the state of Arizona so no fee is required, but it costs \$12 to change the mailing address. They wanted a new updated driver's license sent to the command. Chief Delasandro puts all the information in and asks AEAN Caserta for \$12. He says "I do not have \$12". Chief Delsandro asked him if he has a credit card, AEAN Caserta said he did not but I have a debit card. Chief Delasandro then says give it to me, grabs it out of AEAN Caserta's hand, inputs the information and prints out a receipt, hands it to AEAN Caserta and says "looks like you have a driver's license". The address change would have been free. He made him pay for a replacement driver's license. This driver's license, to this day, has never been returned to us and was sent to the command with AEAN Caserta's name on it. The DMV never received it back to this day.

Someone in HSC-28 stole it. Here is why: They violated every privacy act rule in the book. They forced him to pay for something he didn't need or want. They took and used his debit card without his permission. This is all in text to me with an email timeline to back it up along with a copy of the receipt he was given. I want to point out that no one knows for sure if it is a driver's license and it was not valid if it was even a driver's license at this point. So how could he be going to a disciplinary review board for having a driver's license, malingering, and failing to maintain one? AEAN Caserta had 10 days by Arizona law from when he went to basic training to change his address period. He moved eight times in over two and a half years while in the military. In the state of Arizona and Virginia it is the state law that you must have and maintain car insurance to drive any vehicle, period. As for the government is self-insured, that is true but you are still required to have a valid driver's license, car insurance and know how to drive. AEAN Caserta did not drive and has never ever driven by himself and there is not one person in the world who can say he ever drove by himself. He never had car insurance and surely has never driven a van yet alone an 18-passenger one. You cannot make someone drive period.

Now for what I told AEAN Caserta and Command Master Chief Tokarski, I explained what I have said so far. I said AEAN Caserta does not drive. I told him AEAN Caserta has never driven alone and that his driver's license is used as an ID purposes only. That is factual truth with no deception period. CMC Tokarski argued with me. Since he was arguing about something that he was out of line with and couldn't possibly even win the argument, I informed CMC Tokarski that it is not a requirement to join the Navy to have a driver's license, it is not a requirement to have a driver's license to be in his command, it is not a requirement to have one to be an electrician, to sell candy or to launch helicopters. Then I stated that the Navy did not pay for the license and no one in the Navy or HSC-28 is entitled to his driver's license.

I went on to say AEAN Caserta is not going to any disciplinary review board without me being there and that I represent him, and he is to go to base legal right now. I told him I will get an attorney for AEAN Caserta and I'm going to be there tomorrow or the next

day at the latest. CMC Tokarski then told me all this goes away if AEAN Caserta goes to medical and claims to be claustrophobic. He also said he had already sent some assistant Senior Chief to tell AEAN Caserta if he goes to medical and claims to be claustrophobic all this goes away. I told him AEAN Caserta is not claustrophobic and if anything, he may have a driving phobia. I pointed out to him that he cannot make AEAN Caserta drive because it is a safety hazard and people in the command could be killed. There was no way he could be a duty driver period. He doesn't want to drive and never has alone ever. Many people his age in modern America do not drive. Especially since Lyft and Uber came into the picture. Years before this when AEAN Caserta told us he doesn't want to drive I thought he was crazy. I even talked to my college professors about it. Everyone I talked to have the same issues with their children.

They told me this is common and to understand that when he is ready someday, he will probably drive. That day hadn't come. We even sent him to a very high dollar driving school in hopes that it would change his mind. It didn't and so we were out \$2,000. After completing and graduating from the school, he was entitled to getting an Arizona driver's license. He never drove any automobile by himself his entire life. He went to week three in Navy SEAL Training. He was not claustrophobic. A driver's license is not a requirement to be in the Navy, HSC-28, or his job. As a matter of fact, no one is required to show or tell anyone they have a driver's license other than if they are asked by a police officer. It is a private matter and no one's business.

Let's talk about why what I said is not in this investigation. I cannot believe they even put what they did in it. It is worse than admitting what they did. They do not want anyone to know what they were doing to AEAN Caserta. Like I have said to everyone who cared about AEAN Caserta, would you want to tell your boss, the Navy, NCIS, and IG that you were trying to bring a young sailor to captain's mast and it caused him to do what he did? HSC-28 literally murdered AEAN Caserta. When the media gets ahold of this story, and someday they will, the Navy will have a PR nightmare worse than they have ever seen. Think about this, they did not believe him that he did not drive, and they certainly did not believe me. HSC-28 did not care about whether he could drive or not, safely. They were going to bring him to captain's mast because they felt he was a liar and that they were going to make him drive an 18-passenger van. HSC-28 felt they were entitled to his driver's license, they stole money from him to get one which violated his rights and privacy. They wouldn't let him go to legal or medical. AEAN Caserta dies and they cover up and fabricate information not even caring that we most likely have texts, e-mails, a picture of the DMV receipt, the fact that he told his parents and his old roommate everything that was going on. Actually, HSC-28 was really taking AEAN Caserta to a Disciplinary Review Board for malingering. I have this in text and AEAN Caserta told me on the phone. Malingering is not mentioned in this report at all and I was told many times that many believed him that he didn't drive or know he had a driver's license. If that was true, then why is he dead? They never said to AEAN Caserta they believed him or to me. He would be alive if they did.

On the 22 June 2108 Counseling Chit, it was all typed out. The counselor recommended a Disciplinary review board without even hearing or, in this case, reading AEAN Caserta's side of the story. This is against every Navy policy out there. You are innocent until proven guilty and how can you be pre-recommended for something without you having any chance to explain your side of the story? A disciplinary review board is not the place to explain your side of the story for the first time. I have been on and in charge of 100's of these boards and it does not work that way. You cannot even set one up without just cause. Having a driver's license and not ever driving alone is not just cause. If someone wants to twist this then let's put it to rest. If AEAN Caserta had a driver's license it was no one's business nor are they entitled to his driver's license period.

The Arizona DMV database indicated AEAN Caserta did have a driver's license, but it was expired. No one in the Navy or his command had any right to enter an online database and punch in any person's personal information to see anyone's driver's license. AEAN Caserta never gave permission for anyone to do this. It violated his rights, his privacy, and most of all extremely unethical and against the law period. Remember, this was the best and hardest worker in the command and not one person was looking out for AEAN Caserta's well-being, welfare, career development, mentoring, nothing, just an illegal DMV search. If AEAN Caserta had a mentor as the command requires which is to be an E-7 or above, he could have gone to that person and he could have asked for help. It's hard to do when the command never assigned anyone to him.

Lack of a valid driver's license. He didn't t have a lack of anything. He is not required to have a driver's license. Since it's not a requirement to be in the Navy, at HSC-28, or his rating it would be hard to have a lack of a valid driver's license. A valid invalid driver's license would be wrong state, wrong type, whatever words they want to use, if you do not drive, it is a non-issue and nonstarter period.

22) The Assistant Squadron Duty Officer spoke to AEAN Caserta, during the last days of his life. She stated he didn't sound right. He did not respond to her queries. That's a lie ask anyone and look at this investigation AEAN Caserta always did as he was told. He always showed respect and always answered all questions when asked. She said she didn't think he would harm himself. How could she possibly know this since she didn't take the time to find out what was wrong with him? It was her duty to seek him out personally if she felt something was not right with him. She just dismissed him like everyone else in that command. No one cares about their sailors at all and this proves it. Everything that is learned, comes from the top down. If the Commanding Officer doesn't care, why should anyone else.

23) First of all, AEAN Caserta only e-mailed Kristen and Miki who were the only two on deployment that he emailed. The other person he texted was Katrina Carden who was on nights. Secondly, on June 2, 2018, AEAN sent a text message to Miki that said, "What's the objective of life?" He did not send this the weekend of June 23-24. The email that is referenced that was sent out is only talked about because they want to

show that AEAN Caserta planned this out and had made his mind up. What is left out of this statement is the fact that he also told them that "I'm royally FUCKED now by the command. I can't go crewmen anymore". Which proves HSC-28 took that option way from him. What they fail to tell you is that he sent a text message to Katrina Carden who he left all the letters for on her desk on June 25 that states, word for word, **Unless things don't go right. Then I'll have to give it to you later. If you honestly prefer that, then I will do it.** This means he was not sure what he was going to do if anything at all. AE1 Brose, CMC Tokarski, Chief Hennard, NC1 Spence, Chief Delasandro or any one of them or a combination of them after this text put him over the edge on a point of no return. We have been told AE1 Brose was seen arguing with AEAN Caserta right before he died by suicide. We also know that AEAN Caserta told people on the flight line that he was hungry and was going to get something to eat.

He disappeared for 40 or more minutes, he did not leave the building that anyone knows of. No one, to this day, knows what he did, where he went, **but we do know from the medical examiner's report that he had an empty stomach so he did not eat.** No one to this day had even looked into the matter and this 40-minute disappearance is very important and most definitely shows the command is covering this up. That 40 minutes will answer the biggest question in everyone's minds. What would cause a twenty-one-year-old young man to jump into a turning helicopter rear rotor blade, miss and do it again. The command knows what they did and are coving it up and trying to make everyone believe on the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2018 he had completely made his mind up. This is untrue by the texts sent to us that the command has never seen but NCIS has had from day one. Also, I want it to be known that someone used his fingerprint to get in his phone when he was already dead. That phone belongs to me. What did they do to it and what did they erase add or mess with?

- 24) The time these items were placed on Katrina's desk is unknown. They do not want you to know the exact time. There is evidence that it was put there later in the day. Maybe during the 40-minute disappearance or after what happened during that time, he was forced to go do what he did. By the command saying it was early morning it is trying to convince people that he had this all planed out. Who would drop off boxes of letters and gifts at 7am in the morning and dies by suicide at 3:34 pm? He could have done it right after he dropped them off that morning.

Why would he work all day long in a command who hates him and made it impossible for him to like and function in? HSC-28 did not care about him, they didn't look out for his wellbeing or welfare, they didn't believe him, nor appreciate all his hard work, and you expect us to believe he worked hard all day knowing he was going to kill himself for sure? No way, there is more evidence to support he was not sure what he was going to do. The letters do not say how he was going to die or when. This command trapped him and broke him that day and he felt he didn't have a choice. The people in HSC-28 drove him to choose death by suicide because he lost all confidence in leadership and for the

way he was treated. HSC-28 murdered him and they do not want to take any responsibility for it.

25) At 1500 which is 3pm is not the time he took his own life. It was approximately 1534. We have texts coming and going with him at 1500 and beyond. They can't even put in this report the right times and dates of things. I have pointed this out all over this report. Paying attention to detail is what any investigation requires and better yet is what from day one the Navy teaches you. As I have pointed out and proven with factual evidence, this command ignored paying attention to detail and that is another reason AEAN Caserta is dead. Even when he is dead, they continue to disrespect him and blame him for all of their unacceptable actions, practices, unsatisfactory training, and lack of training, lies, abusive and hostile work environment that was standard operating procedure for them. Again, this behavior is taught and comes from the top. Commander Whitmer is ultimately responsible for this because he did not condone what was going on in his own command. AE1 Brose is a product of the Commanding Officer's training program. It was taught to him and encouraged by the leadership in this command. **The command climate control surveys before this were horrible and no one did anything.** AE1 Brose and others were identified in them.

The Commanding Officer and the leadership in the command did nothing about the treatment, the bullying and the abusive leadership. Yet you see in this investigation there were no complaints against AE1 Brose since he was kicked off deployment for doing the exact things he continued to do. The Command Climate survey tells them AE1 Brose was still doing what he did before. The survey was weeks before all this happened. AEAN Caserta also put in the Commanding Officer's suggestion box an in-depth complaint. It was put in a week before this happened and AEAN Caserta took a picture of it on his phone. Weeks before this happened, command climate surveys were conducted and many of them had bad reviews with details about AE1 Brose and others. So, we know of four plus times that evidence proves AE1 Brose had not changed one bit since being kicked off DET 4 and going to Anger Management and was allowed to continue to do what he always had. I told Master Chief Lurette, I told CMC Tokarski, AEAN Caserta put it in the Commanding Officer's suggestion box, stated it on his command survey, in his letters to us and others. Everything but the letters was known before he died and the Commanding Officer and his leadership did nothing. That means they supported and taught it.

A hostile work environment with no way out. Then the day before AEAN Caserta died, a sister Helicopter Squadron in Norfolk had a suicide, three weeks prior to that there was another suicide in another sister squadron of HSC-28 in Norfolk. No training was conducted after either of the first two. There was no media attention on either one of those suicides and both Commanding Officers were relieved. HSC-28's Commanding Officer who teaches and supports an abusive and hostile work environment is still in charge acting like nothing happened, taking no responsibility for it at all and putting all the blame on AE1 Brose. Commander Whitmer, Commander, Prouty, Command Master

Chief, Tokarski, Chief Delasandro, Chief Hennard, NC1 Spence and AE1 Brose should ALL be held accountable due to the lack of leadership, training, decision making, caring, and most of all for them murdering of one of their sailors they were entrusted with. Loss of confidence can't even begin to justify why this commanding officer and his leadership he put in place should be relieved and put in jail for all this.

26) I did call Command Master Chief Tokarski. I never said anything about AEAN Caserta not responding to my calls. I called about my son's welfare and wellbeing and how the command was treating him. In particular, about the treatment from AE1 Brose and NC1 Spence. I talked about the aircrewman situation, Master Chief Lerette lying to me about who he was and him not doing anything about AE1 Brose when I, in fact, told him he was threatening my son, abusing him, blackmailing him, and many other issues. I called to clear up and put a rest to the Disciplinary Review Board and the driver's license. CMC Tokarski was very combative and argumentative with me. He said a Disciplinary Review Board is nonjudicial punishment. I told him AEAN Caserta does not drive and has never driven by himself. I also told him he has never had car insurance either. I said he will not be going to any board without me present. I also told him since I tried explaining the driver's license issue to him and he was arguing with me. I told him it is not a requirement to have a driver's license to be in the Navy, to be in the Command, to be a Navy Electrician, and neither you nor the Navy are not entitled to his driver's license. He seemed to think otherwise. I told him I was coming out and that I represent AEAN Caserta and he will not go to a board or sign anything going forward and to get him and keep away from AE1 Brose, NC1 Spence, Chief Hennard, and Master Chief Lerette until I get there.

I told CMC Tokarski I'm having AEAN Caserta run 3 chits, one to go to legal, one to go talk to the Commanding Officer, and one to go to the Equal Opportunity Officer on the base. I have the texts to AEAN Caserta about this and he was still alive. I said the call didn't go as well as I thought it would, but that he was going to call me back. If CMC Tokarski went and talked to AEAN Caserta when I called him on this call, AEAN Caserta would still be alive. This is a fact. Thirty minutes went by before he called me back. I thought he was doing as I asked. During that time, we received a text from AEAN Caserta saying "Just know that I love you". We didn't understand it and thought it was because CMC Tokarski went and talked to him and told him what the actual plan was that I told him what was going to happening and that they believe him about the driver's license. CMC Tokarski cost us valuable time and we had no chance to save AEAN Caserta because we trusted CMC Tokarski and those 30 minutes of time ruined everything.

CMC Tokarski then told me all this goes away if AEAN Caserta goes to medical and claim that he is claustrophobic. He said he told his senior chief who fills in for him to go tell AEAN Caserta early that morning. I told him AEAN Caserta is not claustrophobic and if anything may, have a driving phobia but not claustrophobia. He repeated it four times about being claustrophobic. He told me he had to go and would call me back in ten

minutes. I thought he was going to get AEAN Caserta and tell him that everything was fine or give the request chits to him. I also could not figure out what part of AEAN Caserta does not drive he couldn't understand. I also told him there isn't a person on the planet who can say they saw him drive because he didn't.

CMC Tokarski called me back 30 minutes later and continued to argue with me about the driver's license and the claustrophobic idea he had. I told him that he is asking AEAN Caserta to lie and that wasn't going to happen. I told him he couldn't be an aircrewman if he lied and said he was claustrophobic yet alone many other things in the Navy or in civilian life. If it was true, that would be different. I asked if he had a mentor assigned in the command as required by Navy regulations and the Command regulations. He said no. I asked what is wrong with you why do you not believe him he doesn't drive and surly he cannot make him drive especially in a full-size truck and an 18-passenger van. I reminded him that I'm coming out to clear all this up and again to send him to legal and to the Base Equal Opportunity Officer. He said "what?" then he said, "repeat that" then he said, "I got to go" and hung up. It was a strange ending. We sent AEAN Caserta texts and tried to call him all day long after that. It turns out I was on the phone with CMC Tokarski when AEAN Caserta died by suicide on the second call. CMC Tokarski and the command did a press release without our permission before we had even been notified of his death. They did this on purpose and the next day they corrected it and again it ran without our permission. The other two suicides didn't make the media and my son's did before we even knew he was dead.

The call stated in this investigation has absolutely no details in it and I just told you the true story about the call. CMC Tokarski left all the information out on purpose. The evidence shows in texts and other things that what I said is true and accurate. As a matter of fact, look at one of the counseling chits in this investigation it says he is claustrophobic in type which means his chief, Shelah Hennard, put that in it before he signed it. Someone lined it out. I assume it was either AEAN Caserta or Chief Hennard. I'm sure AEAN Caserta would not sign it without it being removed because it wasn't true. No one can say it was put there by mistake; it was done on a computer and printed out ahead of time. So, on 22 June 2018 they already were messing with him to go to medical and lie and tell them he is claustrophobic. AEAN Caserta never mentioned the claustrophobia stuff to us. I talked to AEAN Caserta for over 2 hours on the night of the June 22<sup>nd</sup> and during late afternoon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. We also texted all day on the 24<sup>th</sup>. Nothing was said about claustrophobia. What we do know is it wasn't said on the 25<sup>th</sup> and we find this strange. We actually told him to do as the command wanted and if he went to medical to see if they felt he possibly could be claustrophobic but that was just to get him away from everyone in the command until we arrived there. We sent the text to go to medical for this. We didn't know he was already dead. The text proves that CMC Tokarski did indeed try and get AEAN Caserta to lie and say he was claustrophobic and wanted me to also tell him to lie and do it.

- 27) Now the time of death is correct. The investigator never verified, proof read or corrected anything in the report. He just wrote to suit him and the command to cover all this up.
- 28) The fox guarding the hen house takes the boxes of evidence and locks them up. Who knows what he did with them or if he took anything from it and the locked door was a nice touch; we will never know if it is true. They should not have touched anything.
- 29) Apparently, Taylor Cousins deserves no privacy in this report; her name wasn't blacked out. As for the contents, we will never know if this is everything or not. The command got to it before NCIS. I have demanded everything in these boxes to be sent to me immediately to include his phone and computer. To this day, we have only been given a copy of the letter he wrote to us and nothing else. We do have the phone and computer but that literally took an act of congress to get. Since AEAN Caserta left two boxes for Katrina Carden wanting her to give out, she never had custody of it, all of it belongs to us by default and the fact that we were the beneficiaries of his estate. They need our permission to touch any of this and to take it. They never asked and did as they wanted just like they always do.
- 30) This is a deceitful lie and couldn't be further from the truth. AEAN Caserta did blame HSC-28 and the chain of command, that is a fact. As for the Special Warfare, I will translate it for you since the command is trying to cover all this up. He did get dropped from SEALs Special Warfare; he did not drop on request. He was very disappointed in that. I told the story about it earlier in this rebuttal. However, what he is saying is if the rerating process had been proper in the Navy after someone drops out or gets dropped from the Special Warfare Program, they should get a choice on what job they can do in the Navy as anything that interests them that he qualifies for.

He didn't get anything offered to him he wanted to do and, remember, he had a broken tibia in 4 places and could not walk at this time. His point is twofold. If the process was different and he had a choice, he would have **never** been in HSC-28. Which means he wouldn't have been put in the abusive, hostile environment he was stuck in. Furthermore, he would be still alive. He also tasked us to get the rerating process changed and we will after we honor his wishes and get the justice he asked us to get for him due to what HSC-28 did to him. Any other interpretation of this is a lie and is not based on facts. HSC-28 murdered him and he tells you this many times. He reached out for help, we tried to help him, he did an anonymous letter and in a command climate survey. He told all his friends outside of HSC-28, who are his true friends. Two of them are **Phoenix Police Officers his age**. Those two are our, self-proclaimed by them, sons. Unlike HSC-28 and his so-called friends in that command, they are all devastated and have helped us through this the best they can considering they are just as devastated. They want to help, honor and get justice for their best friend.

AEAN Caserta had been in HSC-28 for over two years. He came home four times to include the month prior to when he died by suicide. He always got recharged at home and all his true friends always said it was his safe zone. He loved it at home. Was he depressed? He was no more depressed than everyone else in HSC-28. How could they not be? It is a command that trained and taught the abusive and hostile environment that it has and it comes from the top leadership. AEAN Caserta had his own room at home, a video game room, large amounts of money in the bank, was always welcomed home, could live at home forever with no money needed, the fittest in HSC-28, he looked fantastic and had everything going for him. He smiled all the time. AEAN Caserta's true friends said he had a Magic Johnson smile. He had many girlfriends, and was smart. He was the greatest son in the world and so easy to love. He always did as he was told and always accepted people for who they were, he didn't care if they liked him or not, he was always there for everyone who needed him. He was a blackbelt in karate and had unshakable discipline and confidence. If you want to read about him go to [www.dignitymemorial.com](http://www.dignitymemorial.com), search obituaries for his name. He had no reason to die. HSC-28 murdered him.

- 31) This is a true fact. He wanted out of HSC-28 due to being in the command for over two years selling candy and working on a flight line, and not being an electrician which he was trained to be, and being in an abusive, hostile environment. He was already selected to be an aircrewman and he did want to be one. Let's say he didn't want to and what the investigator says is true. He was going to reenlist in the Navy for 6 years and not get a bonus for it to go Aircrewman. Just to get out of the command. That's how bad it is there. Had they not blackmailed him, lied to him and made him do his package illegally over again, he would have been gone. He would be alive today. He had no true idea if he would love Aircrewman, but he wanted to take the challenge. However, he wanted out of that abusive, hostile environment that badly to reenlist for 6 years with no bonus. He did have another option, he could have gone back to SEAL training. His 2-year mark was up in April 2018. He chose to go Aircrewman. As a career counselor and his father, it was to do something more suited to his liking and to get out of HSC-28.

Everyone knew he hated it there because of how he was treated. He was the best and the hardest worker in the command and hated it there. If you really think about what I just said then you have the true answer. What is sad, factually, is the Commanding Officer knew all about AE1 Brose, Master Chief Lerette, CMC Tokarski, NC1 Spence, Chief Hennard, Chief Delasandro and many others. He was the Executive Officer before he became Commanding Officer. This command investigator did not go to AEAN Caserta's prior Commanding Officer CDR Thomas because he loved and respected AEAN Caserta. He would only have great things to say about AEAN Caserta. CDR Thomas protected him and had his career development, well-being, and was so proud to send AEAN Caserta to Aircrewman school. AEAN Caserta was his hardest, best worker at his command and the American blue Jacket at his finest period. Yes, they had been abusing AEAN Caserta from the day he arrived, but AEAN Caserta knew Commander Thomas had his back and everyone knew it.

They would have never tried to do the plane captain, driver's license, blackmailing, threatening him while Commander Thomas was in the command. What former Commanding Officer goes to a memorial service for a 21-year-old? He made that much of an impact on Commander Thomas by working hard, smiling all the time, and being the best and hardest worker in the command. We are told three people spoke at AEAN Caserta's memorial service one of them was Commander Thomas. There are approximately 300 people in HSC-28 and three people talked, and one was his former Commanding officer and one was the Chaplain, who we heard did a horrible job. We have the CD of the service which arrived three months after the fact. I'm sure it's on it.

32) These references are very clear and not vague at all. We, his parents, knew he put the command suggestion in weeks prior, I told Master Chief Lerette, Master Chief Tokarski, NC1 Spence that AEAN Caserta told just about everyone how bad it was there and how much he hated it there. They treated him like garbage and he was the best and hardest worker in that command till the day they murdered him. The command did ruin his life. They didn't believe him, they wanted to bring him to Captain's mast over a driver's license when he didn't even drive. They were using this to keep him from going aircrewman. They were making him work from 7am till 9pm every night to get the qualification he didn't need. They had no right to send him to a disciplinary review board; it was criminal what they did to him. I told them he didn't drive and they still wanted to ruin his life. They had no entitlement to his driver's license and don't forget they felt so strongly about the entitlement they stole and committed many crimes to be able to steal it when it arrived at the command. As I write this I'm crying because I have to live with the fact that I tried to do the right thing and let the command know all this was wrong and they murdered him because they feel they are God. How hard is to tell the truth? This investigation is a joke; they know it and now so do you.

33) I talked about the rating conversion above in detail. I will get this fixed after I honor my son's wishes and get justice for him. He is right, if he had been able to do something he wanted to do, he would have never been in HSC-28 let alone in the abusive, hostile environment, and having AE1 Brose in charge of him, a failed LPO, who was allowed by the chain of command to continue to do what he does best, berate, belittle, abuse, threaten and bully everyone under him. The command endorsed this and AE1 Brose thrived in this environment. AEAN Caserta did not do what he did because of the "lingering" effects of the SEAL program. He did what he did because of HSC-28's abusive and hostile environment. The only reason why this investigator even put this statement in here is to try to throw the blame to what happened to him in BUD's and take the blame off HSC-28. The letter he left us comes from the heart and is the factual truth from the person going through it. He says word for word:

**I want as many people as possible fired, kicked out, and/or at the very least lose rank. I do not want a military funeral I've done nothing in the military to be proud of. Ruin these people's lives as much as they ruined mine. While you are at it, attack the berate**

**process because if that changed to any rate someone qualifies for not as many people in the future will suffer the fate I have.**

That explains it and is interpreted by me in the above rebuttal perfectly and the way it was meant to. There is no excuse whatsoever this command and its investigator could possibly say to convince anyone it wasn't their fault period.

- 34) We have never read this letter but again read the above, it is his way of telling Commander Duane Whitmer this would never have happened if that process was different and I surely wouldn't have been in your abusive and hostile environment that you allowed if the process was different. He is blaming the commanding officer and the Navy for allowing all this to happen to him. We found a letter in his personal stuff that the command, and NCIS missed we gave it to NCIS. It is talking about the same issues except it says, "I run 20 miles a day on a broken leg and this is how you treat me".

The letter states word for word, "I'm not living like this anymore. Fuck this command, fuck the Navy!! If the rerate process was better than it is, we all wouldn't be in this mess, but I'm tired of living a failure's life day in day out. It's hell for me every day here. Why should I get punished for getting injured in Seal training then get denied medical? I was only running 20 miles a day on a broken leg, silly me, I was fine. I'm done. It's not worth it to live like this anymore."

You cannot blame anyone other than HSC-28. He spells it out. He then says "we all wouldn't be in this mess". He isn't talking about anything other than being in HSC-28, due to no fault of his own, and what they were doing to him. The Commanding officer, CDR Whitmer, Executive Officer CDR Prouty, the Department Head, Master Chief Tokarski, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Hennard, Chief Delasandro, AE1 Brose, and NC1 Spence are guilty and someone needs to hold all of them accountable for what they did and didn't do.

- 35) That is a fact that AE1 Brose is not a leader. He should not have been mentoring impressionable young sailors. The Command allowed him to be this way, that is on them. AE1 Brose was fired and kicked off of deployment and Master Chief Lerette put him back in charge like nothing ever happened. He is very abusive in front of others to include the CDR Whitmer, CDR Prouty, CMC Tokarski, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Hennard, NC1 Spence and many others and not one E-4 and above did anything. That tells us the command supported, encouraged, taught and promoted the abusive and hostile community that AE1 Brose thrived in. This meets the definition of the murder requirement. As I said, the anonymous letters had been put in there before the incident. AEAN Caserta lost all confidence in the leadership of HSC-28 and was forced into his death by suicide. The command got together with the said guilty parties and started their cover up because they knew they had been exposed by AEAN Caserta and me, his father, a retired Navy Senior Chief, and would get the answers he needed to do as his son tasked him with and to hold everyone involved in this accountable for what they did

and didn't do. As for the anonymous letters, they had been submitted before and after the incident. They are lying to cover up they knew. They didn't care at all and now they have grieving parents who have questions and not getting any answers and HSC-28 is trying to cover this up.

36) AEAN Caserta submitted the same information a week prior to his death. The command climate survey was prior to all the above and no one did anything about it. AE1 Brose would call AEAN Caserta a BUD's DUD on a daily basis. He would also say to AEAN Caserta, "Why don't you go make yourself useful somewhere else." These comments were said in front of everyone and he would throw packages on the floor when AEAN Caserta would receive them. The entire command knew and they lied in this investigation and said they didn't know. This also is grounds to fire, remove, Court Marshall, and put in jail all of the said individuals directly responsible for his death.

37) Third time being counseled on June 27, 2018. AE1 Brose murdered AEAN Caserta and he gets a counseling chit for criticizing and belittling AEAN Caserta after his death? And now they want to get rid of him? Why was that not done two years ago? Now suddenly everyone is "offended" by his comments. AEAN Caserta thought his death would free him from this. He can't even rest in peace.

38) We did reach out for answers. AEAN Caserta told us in his letter to. He gives us names of good people in the command that he trusted. He wanted to leave them money and gifts. When I say money, I mean he had an investment that could be promising sooner than later we are talking big money. Every one of them turned their backs on us after we talked to them. They said they are going with the command on all this. I told them all he is dead. This is about a death not theft or something. They didn't care. The command threatened them with jail time, bad evaluations, and their careers if they talk to us again. NCIS told us the only reason people talk to me to begin with is because they felt sorry for me. Nice thing to say to a retired Navy Senior Chief. We deserve answers. We are 3,000 miles away and we knew the command murdered him.

As for a general consensus, I didn't know that the investigating officer and Commanding Officers had degrees in Psychiatry and Psychology. I'm a retired Navy Counselor and have higher credentials than both of them combined. Threatening is one of the things that they murdered AEAN Caserta with so extending it to all was easy and encouraged in this command's abusive and hostile environment. Think about what a Commanding Officer and his command could say to people for them to not to help their friends' parents through this, forgo inheritance of money, his trust, Katrina, Kristen and Miki read their letters and knew the command was responsible and to do the right thing and talk to us. I do want to say this was worse than wrong. Again, it was cruel to us and fits right in with how this command operates.

## OPINIONS

- 1) No one cared if AEAN Caserta was sad or depressed. The abuse he and other junior sailors received daily was enough for them to know what was going on. AEAN Caserta's SEAL Special Warfare Training was over two years prior to this, he obvious knew how to deal with it. As a matter of fact, Aircrewman is in the Special Warfare category in the Navy, but the investigating officer must not know this. AEAN Caserta was going back to Special Warfare and he was getting out of the command. What a great mix for someone who had moved on. It doesn't get any better than that. The investigating officer states that it is hard to delineate between the normal grumblings of enlisted sailors, and true cries for help and noticeable depression and anxiety. This should not even be an issue. If the chain of command cared about their sailors, enlisted or officers, they would be able to tell who are noticeably depressed and have anxiety or crying out for help. No one in HSC-28 even tried to see who fell into these categories; therefore, proves without a doubt they don't care about their sailors.
- 2) As told earlier, NC1 Spence did not take AEAN Caserta to the Chaplin and he was not there about the Navy it was because of the breakup with his girlfriend. He may have talked about the SEALs and other issues but NC1 Spence did not set it up. Also, NC1 Spence knew AEAN Caserta was scared, depressed and mad over the Aircrewman and driver's license issue and the DRB. I told him myself about the Aircrewman and asked him to help until I found out he was involved in threatening and blackmailing AEAN Caserta. He is a liar and his lies got AEAN Caserta in this stranglehold to begin with. Had NC1 Spence really talked to the Community Manager, AEAN Caserta would have been out of the command in April 2018. This is fact and undisputable. He knew Brose was abusing AEAN Caserta. He witnessed it time and time again.

I will give NC1 Spence one compliment. He did, in the past prior to the events of what transpired the week of June 18-25, defend AEAN Caserta against AE1 Brose. However, him turning his back on AEAN Caserta and myself really hurt AEAN Caserta's feelings. I mean really hurt his feelings. AEAN Caserta and I trusted NC1 Spence and NC1 Spence was a work friend and the highest-ranking person AEAN Caserta was friends with. AEAN Caserta was devastated over NC1 Spence's betrayal. NC1 Spence not only knew this he didn't care. NC1 Spence worked directly for the Executive Officer Trevor Prouty and, technically the Commanding Officer, and could have done a lot to help AEAN Caserta. He truly turned his back on AEAN Caserta. This event was heartbreaking to AEAN Caserta period. AEAN Caserta never went to the Chaplin twice that we know of. I do know he said the Chaplin was useless. My experience is they usually are but I never told my son this. I did text NC1 Spence and told him he and the command will be held accountable for their actions for what they did and didn't do. He did fall in both categories and never responded to me. It states in this investigation that he blames himself, well, he should. He was a contributing factor and he knows it. Again, his actions meet the murder requirement definition.

- 3) AEAN Caserta was never assigned a mentor, NC1 Spence, who AEAN Caserta thought he could go to, turned his back on him, AE1 Brose from day one had bullied, belittled, called him names and Chief Hennard didn't care about the best and hardest worker in the command. I was helping him so was his mom. We feel we failed him with this command but we didn't want him getting retaliated against for having me help him so I did what I could under the circumstances. If the command would have done what they are paid to do, he would be alive. Look at his letter and read what he wrote about us. He wasn't alone; he was trapped in an abusive and hostile environment and everywhere he turned they just didn't care. The counseling and all the events that HSC-28 put him through that week should have never happened the way it did. I talked to Master Chief Lurette and he told me he had my back and would take care of my son. He called me brother 10 or more times. I have the incoming call logged in by phone and AEAN Caserta's phone along with texts AEAN Caserta and I exchanged over the call not to mention I talked to my son on the phone also later that day. Actually 9pm; he had EMI. As for the other stuff, as I stated before, the Navy is not entitled to anyone's driver's license and AEAN Caserta did not need the Plane Captain qualification. He certainly, didn't need the command to put him on EMI (Extra Military Instruction) and punish him when he was the hardest and best worker in the command.
- 4) Yes, this is true. It was wrong and cruel for AE1 Brose's behavior, but no one cared, and no one did anything to stop it. It was not life or death to get the plane captain qualification; like I said he didn't need it. They knew this and didn't care. AEAN Caserta **always** did as he was told, even when he was growing up. He was a model sailor and they all just let him get taken advantage of, lied to, blackmailed, belittled, cheated, abused, threatened, called names, spit on, and many other things the abusive and hostile environment the command created and endorsed.
- 5) Where did this item go? It appears someone deleted this item.
- 6) AEAN Caserta probably did display warning signs. We entrusted HSC-28 to care for the wellbeing and the welfare of him and they betrayed our trust not to mention AEAN Caserta's. They put him through so much in just two days. He had lost trust and confidence in everyone around him and not one person from HSC-28 wanted to reach out and help him. Everyone knew what AE1 Brose, NC1 Spence and Chief Hennard was putting AEAN Caserta through Thursday and Friday June 21 and 22. You can't tell me that not one person in that command saw that he was hurting. We don't understand why ANYONE would allow that kind of treatment in the first place. I never gave the command permission to read AEAN Caserta's letters. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that they tarnished the evidence and stole things they wanted to. Here's what I do know. He didn't have a hostile environment at home or by us. The command did all that by themselves.

AEAN Caserta did everything right and was a model sailor, the best and hardest worker in the command. The abusive and hostile environment the command created and

allowed forced him to die by suicide. He sent them a message. That message is look at what you made me do. Suicide is a private, silent killer. Almost everyone does it in privacy. He had a bottle of oxy codon from his shoulder injury. He refused to take drugs. Why didn't he use it? Why didn't he die by suicide at home, his safe zone? He didn't want to do what he did. HSC-28 forced his hand. In this investigative report it shows blame toward one person and that person is AE1 Brose. No one else did anything wrong. If you read this you now know beyond a doubt that everyone named in this rebuttal, murdered him. Anyone at any time could have helped him. They could have said this license thing is not anything to worry about. They could have sent him to Navy defensive drivers' school. They could have actually rolled up their sleeves and taught him to drive. No, they had to crucify him, and they had no legal right to do what they did; none that's a fact. AE1 Brose pushed plane captain qualifications on him when there are others who don't even have it and they don't get treated like AEAN Caserta. He was leaving to fly in aircrafts. You can't launch a plane if your job is in the plane and ride in it. No one cared about him and they didn't want to. They murdered the hardest working sailor in the command and now are trying to cover it up. Only in the military could this possibly happen. It's all about the leadership worrying about their own careers. They should be held accountable for what they did and didn't do. There is no honor in lying and treating people the way they do. AEAN Caserta saved future suicides. If it wasn't him it would have been someone else with the hostile work environment created by HSC-28.

### **Recommendations**

- 1) AE1 Brose was not the only one who created the hostile environment. Master Chief Tokarski, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Delasandro, NC1 Spence, Chief Hennard and CDR Whitmer allowed the abusive and hostile environment AE1 Brose created. They all need to be relieved immediately awaiting court martial. Anything less than that is unacceptable. CDR Whitmer should have resigned himself and if he didn't the commodore who is overall in charge of all the helicopter squadrons in the area should have done it for him. I wrote to the Commodore. He never responded so I assume he knows he is responsible for all three suicides and just chooses to look the other way. One is too many, three in a month and no one does anything. I guess it's the cost of doing business in the Navy. If AE1 Brose wanted a court martial, that would have been great. Since he is working for the Chaplin, doing nothing and is away from the command already this is a bunch of garbage. He should have already been court marshalled along with the said names above.
- 2) The command's training on suicide is not up to par. It is done to check a box. They didn't even hold it again since AEAN Caserta's death. Civilian psychiatrists or phycologists should be conducting suicide prevention like Lifeline. How can people in charge of the command give proper suicide prevention training when they are training you, they are saying if you need help let us know while they are shaking their heads no. They present it like it will ruin your career. The commanding officer should have brought Lifeline in immediately. The Chaplin is a joke. They do good things, but suicide prevention is not

one of them. There are too many issues and they are not properly trained to deal with certain things and to think like a civilian psychiatrist or psychologist, in particular, ones from a Veteran Center. They deal with all kinds of problems that any military establishment creates including how to handle an abusive environment. They don't place guilt or judge anyone.

No Captain's Mast, working with a Chaplin and routine suicide training by the command; that's the going rate for murder. I have never seen nor heard of any command operating like this. I have been in many commands in my 22 years. Some good and some bad but not like this. This Commanding Officer needs to be relieved and court marshalled immediately. He promotes an abusive and hostile environment and blames it on others. He is unprofessional and has repeatedly displayed conduct unbecoming of an officer. The leadership under him does the same thing. He is the ring leader of it and his entire command's leadership along with him is an embarrassment to the Navy. At any time, any of these people could have come forward and told the truth. They had their chance and chose to lie. They disrespected us, our family, AEAN Caserta, before and after death, his friends and many others. Not one person from the command attended AEAN Caserta's funeral here to include the Lieutenant from the command who was supposed to be there and present me with the flag. This investigation and its results are lies, a cover up, sloppy quality control, and unacceptable. I want the FBI to investigate all this, honor AEAN Caserta's wishes and get justice for him. He gave his life to expose the people who murdered him. It is the least we can do for him and to get justice for him

Not one good thing was said about AEAN Caserta by the investigating officer. He checks into the command in February of 2017. **By March 1, 2017 his first evaluation says Motivated sailor with unlimited potential for growth and success. Driven achiever, graduated from C school and immediately hit the ground running. AEAN Caserta has already started working diligently on his initial qualifications and has proved to be a valuable member of the work center. AEAN Caserta has proven to be a dependable and determined professional.**

Does this sound like a depressed sailor who was dropped from Seal training? He had been in the command a month and already was the best and hardest worker in the command. This proves he arrived exactly how the Navy wanted him to and the command over a 2-year period just ruined his life instead of being concerned about his welfare, wellbeing, career development, moral, and many other things. Better yet not one good thing is said about him in this report. The SEALs literally screwed AEAN Caserta over and he arrived in the command and proves to be a superstar in one month.

AEAN Caserta's 7 July 2017 Evaluation

Airman Caserta is a proven self-starter who requires minimal supervision and is willing to take on new responsibilities. Motivated assisted in the cleanliness and upkeep of 15 squadron spaces, maintaining cleanliness throughout the department while contributing

to overall safety of the command personnel. Team player instrumental in the daily inventory and sales of command merchandise, generating nearly \$3,000 a month in profit for morale, welfare and recreation events (selling candy). Driven work ethic adapts easily to changing priorities and workloads. Consistently strives to achieve personal goals by involving himself in training while improving mission readiness for the squadron. Airman Caserta is a dedicated individual who shows great ability and initiative. Highly recommended for retention and advancement to third class petty officer.

Look at the above and they say many times in this investigative report he had no intuitive. Remember those comments were made to make him look bad and take away from what the command really did. The investigating officer encouraged this and this is another reason this investigation is a lie and cover up.

From 1 July 2017 to November 5, 2017, he went to an advanced swimming school, put in a package to go aircrewman and was highly recommended for it by the commanding officer and others. He was accepted and received orders to Aircrewman School in October 2017. In November 2017 he fell off his bike and broke his collarbone. He went back to selling candy. He went home in December 2017 for Christmas. His orders were canceled by the command via NC1 Spence because of the collarbone was not completely healed. More importantly he wasn't fit for full duty yet. They could have arranged to transfer him with his collar bone the way it was. They said we will cancel these and once fit for duty you will be gone in 2-3 weeks after being found fit for duty.

He was found fit for duty at the end of March 2018. NC1 Spence and the others plot a plan to keep him in the command and make him do his entire Aircrew package over again and NC1 Spence never even talked to the community manager at the bureau about it. He told AEAN Caserta the Community Manager Senior Chief Bryant told him he had to do it all over again. That was a lie, never made sense and was confirmed by me directly when I called Senior Chief Bryant in July 2018. He had never heard from anyone in the command since the initial package submittal in September-October 2017. He never talked to NC1 Spence or anyone in the command even when they sent in the order cancelation, he never spoke to them. AEAN Caserta in April starts redoing everything all over again. He comes home on leave in May 2108. He goes back 31 May 2018. He tries to complete the package and the last thing he needs to do AE1 Brose wouldn't let him go to medical to do it. AE1 Brose knew if AEAN Caserta went there and completed it then he would be done and he would leave in a few weeks. I want to point out that you read AEAN's Caserta's evaluations they are glowing with words they put in there that totally contradicts their investigation. Not one bad thing is said about AEAN Caserta he heals from his collarbone gets a new package he didn't need done. Never had any declining performance and continued to maintain and be the hardest and best worker in the command up to the minute he died.

AEAN Caserta's performance or initiative never declined like they try and paint the picture of. He was fine until they pushed the plane captain qualification down his throat that he didn't need and certainly didn't need by June 15<sup>th</sup>, took away the aircrewman for no reason trying to keep him in a command that he was leaving, tried to bring him to captain's mast for malingering and other things over a driver license and because he didn't drive. All this in one week. He went from the best and hardest worker in the command to a dirt bag in days, that's how they tell the story. Look above, they are lying and they submitted the proof that he walked on water in the command in spite of being in an abusive and hostile environment that they created.

When you join the military and in many other stages in boot camp pre-seal, pre-buds, buds you fill out medical forms, have tests done, checked out over and over again to make sure you are healthy enough to go through and continue on to each of these stages in the Navy and SEALs. He also had 3 complete physicals while in HSc28. Not one piece of paperwork anywhere does it state he is claustrophobic. He wouldn't have been able to get as far as he did if he was. He factually was not claustrophobic, and the command wanted him to lie and say he was. Not one doctor ever said or thought AEAN Caserta was claustrophobic yet his command who was playing doctor wanted him to be. Look at what this 21-year-old who had nobody in the command looking out for him and no mentor which is required by Navy and his command regulation accomplished in this abusive and hostile environment without ever raising his voice and just doing everything they asked him to do without question. No one has one bad thing to say about AEAN Caserta and many good things to say that are in this report and if the FBI asks the questions properly like they are trained to do will hear this.

Best military bearing, runs to do everything quickly, does it right the first time, pays attention to detail, always volunteered for stuff, finished his work and went and help others not just in his work place but other places, bought candy and snacks for workers who said they were hungry, always on time, never late, uniform look like it came from the dry cleaners brand new in the wrapper every day. Always respected everyone to include the people who murdered him. He was caring, non-judgmental, looked out for others, helped everyone, found ways to improve and do things better, excelled in everything he did, smiled while he did all this, and many more things. Is this a depressed, unmotivated sailor, who the command should be doing what they did to? No way, they are thief's, lairs, crooks, abusive leaders, cheaters, belittling, threatening, blackmailing, and so much more. The abusive and hostile environment created by them was used to murder my son.

AEAN Caserta was fine until AE1 Brose came back from being kicked off deployment. When he came off leadership challenge, he was worse than before he left. Commander, Whitmer, Commander Prouty, CMC Tokarski, NC1 Spence, Master Chief Lerette, Chief Delasandro and Chief Hennard all allowed AE1 Brose to be the way he was. AE1 Brose was mad because he was kicked off deployment and took it out on AEAN Caserta.

They looked the other way and allowed his behavior to continue. AEAN Caserta did not ask to be under AE1 Brose; they assigned him to be under AE1 Brose. A known abusive and hostile leader oversaw impressionable young adults and ultimately, one of them was murdered.

### **WHAT WE WANT**

A proper and thorough investigation by all parties to include NCIS and IG

We want a criminal investigation done by the FBI

We want the following people held accountable and reassigned immediately while any and all investigations are being conducted to include NCIS and IG pending the results of said investigations:

Commodore, Captain Worthy

Commanding Officer, Commander Duane Whitmer

Executive Officer, Commander Trevor Prouty

Command Master Chief David Tokarski

Maintenance Master Chief Pete Lurette

NC1 Remmy Spence

Chief Delasandro

Chief Shelah Hennard

AE1 Jared Brose

We want everyone in that command to know that they can call and talk to us immediately

We want suicides to stop in the military