

Statement by the Honorable Ray Mabus  
Secretary of the Navy  
Washington Navy Yard JAGMAN Press Conference  
Washington, D.C.  
18 March 2014

On September 16<sup>th</sup> of last year, the entire Navy family suffered a devastating tragedy at the Washington Navy Yard. For more than a decade, as a military organization, we have experienced the pain of combat losses. Six months ago we lost 12 patriots who made the same sacrifice in the service of their nation, this time here at home. It is with the memory of those nine men and three women in mind that today we are releasing the results of our investigation into the shooting. In all of this, our first concern has been for those lost and wounded, and their families. Over the past few days, Navy liaisons who have been with the families all along reached out individually to provide them with this information.

Immediately following the attack we conducted a number of rapid reviews and assessments of our bases and our policies. Based on these reviews we have already made changes to improve physical security and force protection at our bases. Our units have completed self-assessments to ensure their own compliance, and our Departmental leadership engaged directly with Commanding Officers around the world to stress their role in protecting our military and civilian personnel.

Where we identified issues with the security clearance processes that involve changes to broader government policy, we forwarded those recommendations through DoD to the appropriate agencies and departments. We worked closely with the reviews set up in the Department of

Defense, which Secretary Hagel explained, and with the broader government-wide review, supporting them with the information we developed. We will implement as quickly as possible the recommendations laid out by Secretary Hagel, including the continuous evaluation program for security clearances. I want to thank Secretary Hagel for his unwavering support for Navy and our entire Navy family throughout, and for ensuring that DoD's internal and independent reviews built on the Navy's efforts.

I appointed Admiral John Richardson to conduct an official, comprehensive investigation in accordance with the Judge Advocate General Manual, or JAGMAN, into the circumstances surrounding the Navy Yard shooting, to include a review of the policy and programs in place and how well that guidance was executed.

There are 11 major findings and 14 recommendations made in the JAGMAN report which Admiral Richardson will speak to. I accepted all recommendations and they are being implemented. I also directed that additional actions be taken to strengthen the Department of the Navy's contractor requirements and to provide greater oversight on how a Sailor or Marine's performance is evaluated and reported. A more detailed list of actions the Department has taken, recommended by our reviews and investigations, has been made available to you. I want to thank Admiral Richardson and his staff. They put in very long hours and did an excellent job working against a short deadline.

I'd like to once again express my gratitude to the First Responders for their prompt reaction and critical actions that day. The Naval Support Activity Washington Naval Security Force, NCIS

agents, and local and federal law enforcement agencies responded to the active shooter situation with complete dedication and commitment to help the men and women at the Washington Navy Yard. They ran toward danger to protect their fellow Americans, a brave and selfless action.

In the aftermath of the attack, it was important that our response was timely, strong and responsive. I authorized immediate support services for the fallen and wounded, their families, the people at Building 197 and those elsewhere on the Washington Navy Yard, and our entire Navy family. The outpouring of support from the local community and from across the nation, was overwhelming and deeply, deeply appreciated.

I appointed the Washington Navy Yard Task Force, led by Assistant Secretary of the Navy Denny McGinn, to ensure that support was comprehensive and continuous. This Task Force will be in existence as long as needed to make sure anyone in need has what is needed. Those who have participated in this response have been magnificent, including the Casualty Assistance Calls Officers who have worked directly with the families since very soon after the event.

Those who were working at the Navy Yard that awful day have been magnificent too. Only two days after this searing event, I went back to the Navy Yard and an overwhelming majority of people were back at work making sure that we continue to have the world's finest Navy. Those who were wounded have also returned to work.

We expect our Sailors and Marines to go into harms' way. But even in a theater of war, the danger posed by an insider threat is insidious. In an office building in our Nation's Capitol, it is

almost incomprehensible. But sadly, as we saw, it can be real. We cannot completely eliminate the threat, but we can and will guard against these kinds of events by addressing these findings, even if doing so would not have prevented this attack. Because it might prevent a future one. That is one objective of these reviews and investigations. A parallel and equally powerful reason is to provide answers to our Navy family. It is for them that we conducted a clear-eyed and thorough look at how their loved ones, colleagues, friends came to face such terrible danger that day. It is for them that, going forward, we will do everything within our power to safeguard their security.