

NOT FOR PUBLICATION UNTIL RELEASED BY  
THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

STATEMENT OF

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BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY PERSONNEL

OF THE

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

ON

WHITE SUPREMACY IN THE MILITARY

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

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The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) protects U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps operational readiness and current and future warfighting capabilities from being degraded by terrorism, foreign intelligence activities, or criminal activity. NCIS' ability to collect, process, and provide timely, high-quality and actionable information to the senior leaders of the Department of Navy and its military commanders, through investigations, operations, and source networks, ensures NCIS remains a critically relevant and essential element of the Department's continued success. The Director, NCIS, reports directly to the Secretary of the Navy and oversees a global presence of civilian special agents and professional staff.

With regard to domestic extremism, over the course of Fiscal Year 2018, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service experienced an increase in the number of domestic extremism related reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) involving Department of Defense-affiliated personnel. In response to these referrals, and to more accurately reflect the scope of the incidents, NCIS established the unique case category *Domestic Terrorism* for investigative and operational reporting purposes. NCIS generally defines domestic terrorism as terrorism perpetrated by individuals and groups inspired by or associated with primarily U.S.-based movements that espouse extremist ideologies of a political, religious, social, racial, or environmental nature.

NCIS investigates crimes associated with domestic extremist organizations when there is an apparent Federal violation, identified violent extremist ideology, and an active service member or current Department of Navy civilian employee who has expressed an aspiration to further the identified violent ideology by threats, acts of violence, or other enabling criminal activity. For instances in which a crime is suspected, a general crimes investigation under the appropriate case category for the crime is initiated. NCIS does not pursue investigations of Department of Navy-affiliated individuals who simply make statements indicating they share the beliefs or a subset of the beliefs held by domestic extremist groups unless information exists indicating their activities meet this threshold. In investigations where it is determined crimes are not evident, information is passed to appropriate commands for administrative actions deemed appropriate by the commands involved.

The predication for domestic terrorism investigations typically comes from command complaints; other investigative agency referrals; or tips. For example, NCIS maintains formal information sharing agreements with the FBI on terrorism matters. These same well-established channels serve as the primary method of information sharing on domestic terrorism matters involving active duty service members or current Department of Navy employees. NCIS is currently conducting multiple Domestic Terrorism investigations, all involving racially motivated extremism, on or affecting personnel under the purview of the Department of the Navy.