



All Hands Messages

28 September 2007: Email from Admiral Allen to All Hands on Recent Racial Incidents at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy: Where I Stand

To the Men and Women of the Coast Guard:

Many of you are aware of two recent racial incidents at the Coast Guard Academy, the first in which a noose was discovered in the personal belongings of a cadet aboard EAGLE. A few weeks later, a second one was found in the Academy Assistant Civil Rights Officer's office.

This is a serious matter. The Coast Guard Investigative Service has launched a full criminal investigation to help identify anyone who may have been responsible, so that they may be held accountable. This type of racist conduct, like other forms of discrimination, runs counter to our Core Values and will not be tolerated. Nor will it ever go unchallenged.

The Coast Guard's mission is to be a lifesaver and guardian. We help people when they need us most, and we protect and defend the Constitution. It is inconceivable to me to ignore that when it comes to our own people. It is contrary to our organizational ethos, core values, and what the public expects from us. I will not tolerate it, and you should not tolerate it.

I will be meeting with Academy cadets, faculty and staff next week to reiterate my personal commitment to the respectful treatment of all. I'm pleased that Congressman Elijah Cummings, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, will accompany my Director of Civil Rights, Ms. Terri Dickerson, and me to the Academy.

Admiral Thad Allen

