



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
COMMANDER U.S. THIRD FLEET
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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92147-5004

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5830
Ser N00/038
15 Feb 22

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CAPT (b) (3) (A), (b) (6), USN ltr 5830 of 4 Feb 22

From: Commander, U.S. THIRD Fleet
To: Commander, Naval Air Forces

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES
SURROUNDING THE 31 AUGUST 2021 AVIATION MISHAP THAT OCCURRED
ONBOARD USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72)

1. Endorsed and forwarded in accordance with reference (a), concurring with the findings of fact, opinions, and recommendations.
2. First and foremost, I extend my deepest condolences to the families and friends of LT Bradley Foster, LT Paul Fridley, AWS2 James Buriak, HM2 Sarah Burns, and HM3 Bailey Tucker. Their tragic deaths remind us of the dangerous duties our aircrew perform on a daily basis in the service of our nation, and our duty to continually improve our equipment and procedures to reduce risk.
3. In furtherance of this duty and as noted in the investigation, the Navy took immediate steps to reduce the risk of another tragedy. The Navy directed both a modification to spindle pry bar assemblies and found replacements of all damper hoses throughout the Fleet as warranted. Implementation of the recommendations in the Engineering Investigation and their incorporation into the Aviation Mishap Report is required to continue the tireless work to provide for the safety of our aircrew. These modifications, Fleet-wide replacements, and review of equipment and procedures reflect both the urgency and unrelenting desire to ensure the safety of our fellow Sailors.
4. My point of contact in this matter is CDR (b) (6), (b) (3) (A) JAGC, USN who may be reached via email at: (b) (6), (b) (3) (A) or COMM: (b) (6), (b) (3) (A)

S. T. KOEHLER