

Interview notes with CDR Frank Loforti, Commanding Officer, HSC-25
Conduct via phone on 13 July 2019

CDR Loforti stated he took command of HSC-25 on 5 Oct 2018.

CDR Loforti was aware of the patches before the 28 May 2019 event.

CDR Loforti never gave formal approval of the patches.

CDR Loforti admits by never giving formal approval or disapproval and allowing the patches to be worn, he gave tacit approval for the patches to be worn.

CDR Loforti did not see the patch as political when he first saw it, but as a play on words.

CDR Loforti has prohibited the wear of the patch following the 28 May 2019 event. He did this because wanted to ensure the media/public could not misconstrue the message while the investigation was still on going. He wanted to remove any doubt and take a conservative approach given the current national media attention garnered by the patches.

CDR Loforti stated that LCDR (b) (6), Det 6 OIC is still in possession of the patches onboard USS WASP (LHD-1)

CDR Loforti admitted the guidance on the wear of morale patches is vague

When he first saw the patch, CDR Loforti believed it to be in good taste due to the patch not being sexual in nature, referencing drugs or other such subjects, and did not think of DODD 1344.10.

CDR Loforti stated he learned from this experience that he needs to revisit certain decisions he makes over time as the choice he made in the past might not be the same choice he would make now based on new information available. He stated he did not re-examine the patches or if they violated DODD 1344.10 prior to the 28 May 2019 event.

CDR Loforti discussed taking accountability for his lack of action regarding the patches given the current highly polarized political climate