McKeon Statement on Misconduct Aboard the USS Wyoming

WASHINGTON – Following news of a serious incident of sexual harassment aboard the USS Wyoming, Rep. Howard P. “Buck” McKeon (R-CA) Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee made the following statement:

"While the investigation is still pending, the news of misconduct on the USS Wyoming is unwelcome and unacceptable. It is not just a setback for the USS Wyoming, but for the Navy and the nuclear enterprise. This is sexual harassment and cannot be tolerated. The Navy must treat sexual harassment seriously, if we’re to also know they’re treating sexual assault seriously.

"With an investigation pending, I hope the silence from Navy Leadership and the decision to deploy the boat with the command team in place is not a sign that the Navy is being quick to dismiss the gravity of this incident. I expect the CNO and Secretary Mabus to take a hard look at the command climate on the USS Wyoming and take action if warranted.

"This comes after the Pentagon released a report on sexual assault in the military. The report shows some encouraging signs of progress by DOD and the military services, however incidents like this make it clear that we cannot take our eye off the ball.”

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