

Mr Michael Manthorpe, PSM
Defence Force Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Mr Julian Knight
Port Phillip Prison
PO Box 376
LAVERTON VIC 3028

Your Ref: D-2020-100030

16 March 2023

Email to: defenceforce.ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Dear Ombudsman,

I wish to lodge a fresh complaint pursuant to the *Ombudsman Act 1976* (Cth) and the *Ombudsman Regulations 2017* (Cth), regarding the bastardization I was subjected to whilst a junior staff cadet at the Royal Military College, Duntroon, during January-May 1987.

I notified you of my intention to do this in letters dated 2 January 2020, 9 February 2020 and 24 January 2021, as confirmed by letters from your office to me dated 28 January 2020, 8 April 2020 and 30 March 2021.

This complaint follows on from my submission to the Defence Abuse Response Taskforce ("DART") dated 26 November 2013 (Submission No 906049). I contemporaneously make an application for a reparation payment to the Defence Abuse Reparation Scheme ("DARS").

The only action taken by the DART in response to my submission was to refer my complaints of physical assaults by senior staff cadets to the ACT Police. Even though I made a formal signed statement of complaint to the ACT Police on 11 December 2014, no charges were laid against my alleged assailants.

Please note that my renewed complaint also contains a complaint in relation to how my original complaint was handled by the DART.

My renewed complaint relates to the same period of service; namely my service as a staff cadet at the Duntroon from 13 January to 10 July 1987. During this period, I was a 3rd Class cadet in 45 Section, 15 Platoon, Kokoda Company. My company OC was Major Todd W. Vercoe, and the company drill sergeant was Sergeant Craig A. Jorgenson. The Commandant of the Duntroon at this time was Major-General Murray P. Blake.

After making my submission to the DART and my application to the DARS, I prosecuted the following civil proceedings in the ACT:

- ***In the Matter of Julian Knight*** (ACT Magistrates Court Case No CI 44 of 2014)
- ***In the Matter of Julian Knight*** (ACT Supreme Court Case No SC 262 of 2014)
- ***Knight v ACT*** (ACT Court of Appeal Case No ACTCA 21 of 2015)
- ***Knight v Commonwealth, Thorp & Reed*** (ACT Supreme Court Case No SC 176 of 2014)

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The first three proceedings concerned my unsuccessful application for crimes compensation in the ACT. The fourth proceeding was for leave to file a personal injuries claim out of time in the ACT. All of these proceedings concerned injuries I sustained as a result of bastardization I was subjected to by senior staff cadets. All of these proceedings were unsuccessful. The final judgment in the personal injuries claim was reported as ***Knight v Commonwealth*** [2016] FCA 1160; ***Re Knight*** (2014) 292 FLR 389.

I also sought to re-open the criminal proceeding ***ACT Police v Knight*** (ACT Magistrates Court Case No CC 3792 of 1987), but the ACT DPP declined to reinstate the charges laid against me in 1987 but withdrawn at my request in the ACT Magistrates Court on 16 February 1995.

I have attached a completed *Reporting Abuse in Defence Reporting Form* with a detailed statement.

Your investigation of my complaint would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



JULIAN KNIGHT

Email: PPPGovernmentFunctions@au.g4s.com