

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 20, 2014

The Honorable Mr. Jon T. Rymer  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Defense – Office of Inspector General  
4800 Mark Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500

Dear Mr. Rymer,

Several very serious allegations of wrongdoing in regard to the handling of sexual assault cases at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA) have recently come to our attention. The charges outlined in great detail by Staff Sergeant Brandon Enos in the attached memo are startling if true. We strongly believe the seriousness of these allegations warrant an independent investigation.

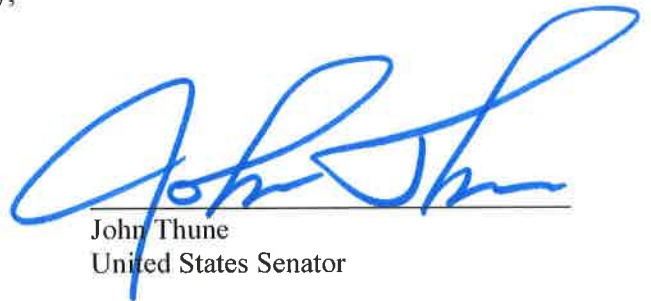
We are especially concerned by Staff Sergeant Enos' allegations that he was retaliated against by his superiors for his forceful efforts to investigate sex assaults committed by members of the USAFA football team. Furthermore, an independent investigation is required to get to the bottom of the facts concerning the circumstances surrounding the dismissal of former USAFA cadet Eric Thomas after his service as a confidential informant (CI) for the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) led to the successful prosecution of sexual assault cases.

In light of recent news reporting confirming the allegations in Staff Sergeant Enos' attached memo, there is ample cause for an investigation into whether egregious and illegal retaliatory action took place against Staff Sergeant Enos and Eric Thomas by members of the chain of command at the USAFA. We urge you to take on this case as an independent party, free of the clear conflicts of interest that the United States Air Force may have in investigating itself, and help restore transparency and accountability to our military and our institutions of higher education.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



John Thune  
United States Senator

Enclosed: memo from Staff Sergeant Enos