

USS *Hue City* (CG 66) Chiefs' Mess

In 2017, at the Lithuanian port town of Kaipeda, the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS *Hue City's* (CG 66) Chiefs' mess experienced several internal ethical failures. The careers of six Chiefs were ultimately ruined, and the functionality of the ship's enlisted leadership was rendered ineffective.

The breakdown began when a Senior Chief, while on liberty, reserved a hotel room in preparation for a night of partying. Before heading out to a bar, he allowed a Chief Sonar Technician, along with three other Chiefs, to use his hotel room as a rendezvous before they also headed out for the night. While at his chosen establishment, which was heavily populated by Sailors, the intoxicated STGC struck up a conversation with a Petty Officer Second Class. She too was under the influence of alcohol. Eventually, the PO2 and STGC made their way back to the Senior Chief's hotel room where they engaged in sexual intercourse.

Once the ship got underway, rumors about the liaison at the hotel room began to circulate in the Chiefs' mess. Tensions grew as the Chiefs' meetings aboard *Hue City* devolved to accusations and threats, creating an environment of distrust and uncertainty.

Following an anonymous tip, an investigation was launched, which prompted the STGC to confess what he had done. He also confirmed that other Sailors knew about it, including the Senior Chief who booked the hotel room. Disciplinary actions were taken against everyone involved.

The Chiefs' actions resulted in a domino effect. Shortly after the incident between the STGC and the PO2, another Chief was accused of fraternization, followed by an incident in which a Chief was charged with "drunk and disorderly" and "disrespecting an officer." This demonstrated a total ethical breakdown of USS *Hue City's* Chiefs Mess.