



**U.S. COAST GUARD**  
**Sector San Francisco**

**INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**



**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET**

To: DOUG RABE  
Company/Vessel: CG HQ  
Fax Number: (202) 372-1907  
Phone Number: (202) 372-1031  
Re: DR. CALZA INTERVIEW

From: ROSE WHARTLEY  
Date: 4/18/08  
Total No. of pages including this one: 5  
Sender's Phone Number: (510) 437-3146  
Sender's Fax number: 510-437-3144

**Notes/Comments:**

COPIES OF 2 INTERVIEW SUMMARIES.

(R)

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Investigations Division, Bldg. 14, Coast Guard Island, Alameda, CA 94501

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|   |  |                                     |              |                            |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF<br>HOMELAND SECURITY<br>U.S. COAST GUARD<br>CGHQ-5133 (Rev. 3-03)   |  | <b>MEETING OR TELEPHONE SUMMARY</b> |              | FILE NO.<br>3095030        |
|   |  | DATE<br>1/9/08                      | TIME<br>1400 |                            |
| <b>SUBJECT</b><br>CAPTAIN JOHN COTA ANNUAL PHYSICALS  |  |                                     |              |                            |
| ATTENDING   |  | REPRESENTING                        |              | REFERENCE (Phone No. etc.) |
| 1. Dr. Calza  |  |                                     |              |                            |
| 2. LTJG Hopper  |  | Sector San Francisco                |              | 510-813-9636               |
| 3. Captain French   |  | National Maritime Center            |              |                            |
| 4. Mr. Crooks   |  | Sector Hampton Roads                |              | 757-668-5540               |
| <b>COMMENTS</b><br><p>Captain French, Mr. Crooks and LTJG Hopper interviewed Dr. Calza by conference call on Wednesday, 1/9/08. Hopper was present in Calza's office and Crooks and French called in by telephone. Calza is a primary care physician in a practice with five other physicians, who also perform pilot physicals, and treats primarily adults. He is not an occupational medical specialist, nor is he board certified in any other discipline. He was in the Air Force for a period of time and did some work with recruiting physicals in the Vietnam era, but he was not a flight surgeon. He has some past experience in emergency medicine. Calza has never been designated as a FAA medical examiner. He has performed two or three physicals per year for commercial drivers. Calza stated that he follows the criteria on Form CG-719K when performing physicals, and that he is familiar with the form as he has performed 10-20 mariner physicals (mostly San Francisco Bay Pilots) per year for 15-20 years. He does not have a copy of NVIC 2-98 and cannot recall reading it or seeing a reference to it on the CG-719K. Calza stated that the San Francisco Bar Pilots do not have a medical consultant on retainer and that he "thinks" they have written medical guidelines, but he does not have a copy. He does not provide a copy of the CG-719K form to the pilot association. Calza does not see pilots as patients, although he has treated some of their dependents in the past. Calza stated that he is familiar with the duties and physical demands of being a pilot, particularly getting on and off ships away from a pier. He understood the importance of mental acuity and cognitive ability for a pilot. He estimated that he has found a pilot unfit for duty four times over the 15-20 years he has been doing the physicals, mostly for heart problems. Calza spends one to two hours with each pilot, interviewing them about changes in their health and any new medications they are taking, including supplements and over-the-counter medications. He stated he does a complete "drug work-up." Calza vividly recalled his last physical with Cota. He stated that the interview was "adversarial," something he had never experienced before. He stated that Cota reported for the first time that he suffered from migraines and had taken medication for them over the years, which upset Calza because he had not revealed that before. It made Calza probe deeper into Cota's sleep apnea, another newly reported condition. Calza said he did not determine when Cota was first treated for it. [Calza admitted he did not know how to handle sleep apnea or alcohol dependence with respect to pilot physicals.] At one point, while discussing whether Cota had been hospitalized for treatment of depression, Cota became agitated and left the office, stating he needed to consult his attorney. He returned later to continue the interview. Calza stated that he very pointedly warned Cota that he should not take Darvon, Lorazepam, or Provigil within 24 hours of working, and that Cota assured him that he did not.</p> |  |                                     |              |                            |
| <b>ACTION OR FOLLOW-UP REQUIRED</b><br>Obtain pharmacy records, AA, sleep studies, and pilot association medical records for Cota.<br>Interview pilot association about medical evaluation process for state pilots.  |  |                                     |              |                            |
| SIGNATURE J. R. Crooks  |  | DATE 1-10-08                        |              |                            |
| INFORMATION   |  |                                     |              |                            |

\*EVIDENCE: E CN 3095030 #01 JRC

**CONVERSATION RECORD**

|                        |              |   |                      |                    |                   |                   |
|------------------------|--------------|---|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>           | <b>Time:</b> | <b>Location:</b>                                | <b>Visit:</b>        | <b>Conference:</b> | <b>Phone In:</b>  | <b>Phone Out:</b> |
| 09JAN08                | 1100         | 599 Sir Francis Drake, Greenbrae, Ca. Suite 205 |                      | Yes                |                   | 757 668-5509      |
| <b>Name:</b>           |              | <b>Position:</b>                                | <b>Organization:</b> |                    | <b>Phone No.:</b> |                   |
| Charles E. Calza       |              | M. D.   |                      |                    | 415 461-9585      |                   |
| <b>Vessel/Facility</b> |              | <b>Subject:</b>                                 |                      |                    |                   |                   |
|                        |              | Capt. John Cota's Physical Examination Report   |                      |                    |                   |                   |

**Summary:**

The following interview took place at the office of Dr. Charles E. Calza. I, LTJG Jacob Hopper, interviewed Dr. Calza in person, while Mr. Jerry Crooks and Capt. Arthur French were telephoned in and on speakerphone. This summary is in question and answer style format and is not verbatim. All questions and answers are summarized.

LTJG Jacob Hopper's questions:

1. Have you ever performed physical exams on Merchant Mariners or Coast Guard Licensed individuals?

Answer: I have performed approximately 10-20 of these exams on average for the last 15-20 years.

2. What criteria do you utilize to evaluate these patients?

Answer: I ran a recruit center during the Vietnam era, so I am familiar with criteria to evaluate people in similar status, like flight status. If I have questions about whether a Pilot is not fit, I call the Bar Pilot's Association to see about current issues. I also follow the criteria on the form given to me by the mariner.

3. Do you have a copy of the NVIC 98 (Navigational and Vessel Inspection Circular)?

Answer: No, I do not have a copy. I am not sure if I have seen that specific document.

4. How do you come to conclusions on Fit for Duty status of patients?

Answer: Any major changes in health would cause concern like heart issues, major injury, or drug review.

5. Are you aware of any Medical Waiver Guidance for alcohol or sleep disorders?

Answer: I don't know.

Mr. Jerry Crooks questions:

1. Do you understand the duties of the San Francisco Bar Pilots?

Answer: They get off small ships and onto large ships and vice versa. Hard task in the open ocean, very physical. The cognitive abilities of the pilot have to be very clear also.

2. Have you seen Mr. Cota as a personal physician?

Answer: No, just for Pilot physicals.

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Signature:

Date:

## CONVERSATION RECORD

3. Do you review the Pilot's job duties?

Answer: No, because they stay the same.

4. Have you ever found a Pilot not competent during a physical?

Answer: Yes, approximately 4.

5. What were the causes for the Pilot's incompetence?

Answer: Heart problems.

6. Who gives the physical form to the Bar Pilot's Association?

Answer: I personally give it to the Bar Pilot's Association. (Note: this form is a Bar Pilot's Association form and not the CG 719K Merchant Mariner Physical Examination Report, the CG 719K original goes with the Pilot.)

Captain Arthur French questions:

1. What is your specialty as a doctor?

Answer: Primary care.

2. Have you performed any physicals for any other DOT individuals?

Answer: No FAA physicals but some commercial drivers for their CDL.

3. Are you familiar with the guidelines for these physicals?

Answer: I look to the forms for guidance.

4. Did you read the Merchant Mariner Physical form and see that it required the NVIC 98 guidelines?

Answer: I did not see that.

5. What type of things do you call the Pilot's Association concerning Pilot physicals?

Answer: The last time that I called was concerning a heart condition of a patient.

6. What were your conversations with Mr. Cota?

Answer: I remember having a conversation with Mr. Cota that was adversarial during the last physical. I have not had this type of reaction during the last 15-20 years of doing these types of physicals. I told Mr. Cota that he cannot Pilot when using Provigil, Darvon or Lorazepam for a 24 hour period after taking any of these medications. Mr. Cota told me that he only used them sporadically. I thought Mr. Cota was clear about not taking the medications for a 24 hour period prior to working. I remember on one physical, I asked Mr. Cota about his depression and if he had been hospitalized in the past. Mr. Cota told me that he needed to talk to his lawyer and departed abruptly.

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Date:

## CONVERSATION RECORD

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7. Have you ever used a specialist to verify problems like sleep apnea?

Answer: I have used specialists in the past for heart conditions.

The conversation concluded at 11:48 PST.

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Signature:

Date:

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