

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2014-022

RCMP Cole Harbour

July 4, 2014

Ronald J. MacDonald, QC

Director

December 17, 2014

Facts

On July 4, 2014, SiRT was contacted by the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) and advised of a possible domestic violence incident involving Cst. Natasha Dantiste, a 46-year-old member of the Cole Harbour RCMP. The alleged victim was Cst. Dantiste's spouse.

On July 4, a male went to HRP's East Division office and made allegations against Cst. Dantiste. HRP referred the matter to SiRT who then assumed jurisdiction for the investigation under authority of the *Police Act*.

The SiRT investigation was completed on October 1, 2014. During the investigation, SiRT interviewed one police witness, and reviewed file materials containing notes and reports of 11 others. In addition to the complainant, four civilian witnesses were also interviewed.

On August 26, 2014, Cst. Dantiste was charged with one count of assault concerning matters alleged to have occurred between July 1, 2010, and December 31, 2013, and one count of uttering a threat alleged to have occurred between July 1, 2010, and March 31, 2014.

Relevant Legal Issues

An assault is committed whenever a person intentionally applies force against another without their consent. The offence of uttering a threat is committed whenever a person utters words, intended to be taken seriously, that threaten to cause death or bodily harm to any person. Any offence must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt before the accused can be found guilty.

Conclusion

This report is filed to meet the requirements of the *Police Act*, which mandates that the SiRT Director file a public summary of an investigation within three months of its completion. However, this matter is currently before the courts, returning to Dartmouth Provincial Court on December 17, 2014 for plea. In accordance with SiRT policy, this report will not discuss the facts of the matter in any further detail. To do otherwise might compromise the fair trial interests of the accused. The Serious Incident Response Team Regulations under the *Police Act* state that the Director may choose to provide a supplemental summary of the investigation at the conclusion of the prosecution.