



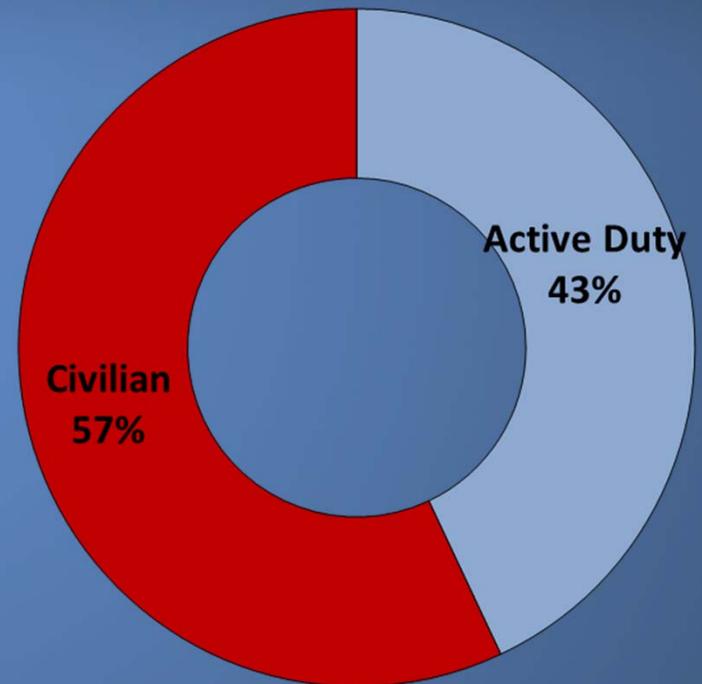
**National
Transportation
Safety Board**

VTS Watchstander Training and Qualification

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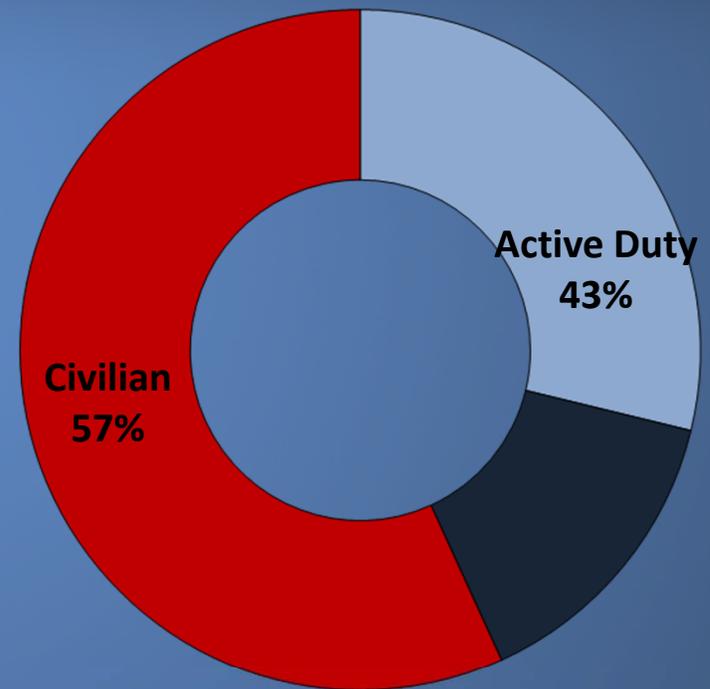
Coast Guard VTS System Workforce

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- Slightly more civilians than active duty
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Training and Qualification Process

- National VTS Certification Course
 - Classroom lectures
 - Simulator exercises
- Qualification at VTS center
 - Individualized training and self-study
 - Tests and practical exercises
 - On-the-job training on watchfloor
 - Ship rides

VTS Simulator Training at National Certification Course

- Simulated VTS workstation displays and traffic scenarios lacked realism
- Insufficient practice time in the VTS operator role
- Trainees wanted more practice applying navigation rules and the four traffic management activities

On-the-Job Training at VTS Centers

- Inconsistencies in mentor teaching abilities
- Expectations varied across mentors and watch sections
- Mentors had different interpretations of traffic management concepts and approaches
- Use of recently qualified watchstanders as mentors

Watch Supervisor Qualifications

- 22% of all watch supervisors indicated they had never worked as a VTS operator
- Proportion was greater among active duty supervisors (38%)
- Currently no formal guidelines or standards for the initial training and certification of watch supervisors



National Transportation Safety Board