



Phantom Justice: March 2022



Courts-Martial

On 11 March 2022, at a general court-martial convened at Fort Hood, Texas, SPC Jade Johnson, United States Army, was convicted by an enlisted panel, contrary to his pleas, of two specifications of abusive sexual contact in violation of Article 120, UCMJ. The accused was acquitted of one specification of abusive sexual contact and two specifications of sexual assault in violation of Article 120, UCMJ. On 12 March 2022, the military judge sentenced the accused to reduction to E1, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, a bad-conduct discharge, and to be confined for 9 months.

On 24 March 2022, at a special court-martial convened at Fort Hood, Texas, PFC Justin A. Pickens, United States Army, was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of two specification of larceny and one specification of false official statement in violation of Articles 121 and 107, UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to a Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD), reduction to E-1, and 108 days confinement (Charge 1: 2 months confinement; Charge 2: 15 days confinement; Additional Charge: 108 days confinement – all confinement sentences to be served concurrently). The sentence was consistent with the terms of a plea agreement.

On 25 March 2022, at a special court-martial convened at Fort Hood, Texas, PV2 Weston E. Bloom, United States Army, was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his plea, of one specification of desertion in violation of Article 85, UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to a Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD), reduction to E-1, and 60 days confinement. The sentence was consistent with the terms of a plea agreement.

Separations

- A SPC received a suspended separation (6 months) with a General discharge under Chapter 14-12c(2) for illegal drug use.
- Following an Administrative Separation Board's recommendation, a SGT was separated under Chapter 14-12c(2) with an Honorable discharge for illegal drug use.

III Corps Military Justice Actions:

- DUI GOMORs: 0
- MISCONDUCT GOMORs: 75
- Article 15s: 52
- DV Administrative Separations: 0
- Sex Crimes Administrative Separations: 0
- Sex Crimes Courts-Martial: 1
- Total Courts-Martial: 3

NOTE: Soldiers being separated administratively may receive one of three characterizations of service: Honorable, General, or Other Than Honorable (OTH). Anything less than an Honorable discharge may result in the loss of certain benefits and negatively affect employment and educational opportunities. References to "Chapter 14-12c" are to specific provisions within Army Regulation 635-200, Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations, related to separation for commission of a serious offense.

NOTE: Cases involving Soldiers accused of committing sexual assault or sexual contact offenses may be disposed of through the administrative separation process for a number of reasons. For example, survivors sometimes prefer the administrative separation process over participating in a court-martial.

NOTE: Officer eliminations are approved at Human Resources Command, whereas enlisted separations are approved at the local installation.

NOTE: A Chapter 10 is an administrative separation in lieu of trial by court martial.