



# Phantom Justice: May 2024



## Courts-Martial

On 14 May 2024, at a general court-martial convened at Fort Cavazos, TX, SPC Austin C. Lacey-Lidster, U.S. Army, was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of wrongful possession of child pornography in violation of Article 134, UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge. The sentence was consistent with the terms of a plea agreement.

On 20 May 2024, at a general court-martial convened at Fort Cavazos, TX, SPC Freddy D. Sanchez, U.S. Army, was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of four specifications of rape of a child, two specifications of sexual abuse of a child, one specification of obstructing justice, and three specifications of wrongful possession of child pornography in violation of Articles 120b, 131b, and 134, UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 85 years, and to be discharged from the service with a dishonorable discharge. The sentence was consistent with the terms of a plea agreement.

On 30 May 2024, at a special court-martial convened at Fort Cavazos, TX, PFC Christopher J. Echler, U.S. Army, was convicted by a military judge, pursuant to his pleas, of one specification of child endangerment and one specification of domestic violence in violation of Articles 119b and 128b, UCMJ. The military judge sentenced the accused to be confined for 50 days and to be discharged from the service with a bad-conduct discharge. The sentence was consistent with the terms of a plea agreement.

## CG-Level Separations

None

### III Armored Corps Military Justice Actions:

- **DWI GOMORs: 2**
- **Misconduct GOMORs: 7**
- **Article 15s: 24**
- **DV Administrative Separations: 0**
- **Administrative Separations for sex-related offenses: 0**
- **Courts-Martials for sex-related offenses: 2**
- **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.*