

# MILITARY JUSTICE SPOTLIGHT

A SUMMARY OF THE 45TH SPACE WING'S RECENT COURT-MARTIALS,  
NONJUDICIAL PUNISHMENTS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGES:  
1 JULY 2017 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2017

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**Did you know...Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2909**, prohibits Unprofessional Relationships. Relationships are unprofessional, “whether pursued on or off-duty, when they detract from the authority of superiors or result in, or reasonably create the appearance of, favoritism, misuse of office or position, or the abandonment of organizational goals for personal interests.” Unprofessional

relationships can exist between officers, between enlisted members, between officers and enlisted members, and between military personnel and civilian employees or contractor personnel. This AFI creates a duty for both officers and enlisted to maintain professional relationships with those with whom they work with, including civilian employees and contractors. When a person’s conduct falls short of that required by the AFI, that person can be punished under Art 92 of the UCMJ, regardless of rank. Importantly, even the appearance of an unprofessional relationship can constitute a violation of this AFI. Once a commander substantiates the existence of an unprofessional relationship between two or more of his/her subordinates that person has a number of tools at their disposal to address the problem. The tools range from verbal counseling to non-judicial punishment (Art 15).

## **Article 15, UCMJ**

A Major was offered an Article 15 for violating Article 111, Drunken Operation of a Vehicle, and Article 133, Conduct Unbecoming of an Officer and a Gentleman. For this misconduct, the Major received forfeitures of \$1,500.00 pay per month for two months and a reprimand.

## **Administrative Discharges**

An Airman Basic, with over five years of service, was administratively discharged for Failure to Meet Minimum Fitness Standards. The member had seven fitness assessment failures in 24 months. This member received an Honorable service characterization.

A Senior Airman, with over five years of service, was administratively discharged for Mental Health. This member received an Honorable service characterization.

A Staff Sergeant, with over fourteen years of service, was administratively discharged for Mental Health. This member received an Honorable service characterization.

A Staff Sergeant, with over eight years of service, was administratively discharged for Minor Disciplinary Infractions. This member received a General service characterization.