

SEXUAL ASSAULT



Blue Border Message Sexual Assault Case Completed

1. At a recent Court-Martial, a Soldier assigned to Fort Sill, was found guilty of two specifications of sexual assault, in violation of Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. It was alleged that a Fort Sill Soldier sexually assaulted a civilian female at her home off-post. Due to the sexual assault taking place off Fort Sill, local civilian prosecutors had jurisdiction in the case. The local prosecutors assessed the case and eventually declined to prosecute. Commanders, working with their Fort Sill military prosecutors, made the independent decision to prosecute the case through the military justice system. At trial, a military judge found the Soldier guilty and sentenced him to confinement for one year and four months; reduction to Private (E-1); and a Dishonorable Discharge. Further, the Soldier was required to register as a sex offender.

2. The sexual assault occurred at the victim's home. The Soldier met the victim through a mutual friend. The Soldier, the mutual friend, and the victim would hang out weekly. One night the Soldier went to the victim's home under the guise of wanting to discuss his personal problems. Once there, the Soldier and the victim began to drink alcohol and listen to music. After awhile, the Soldier told the victim that she needed to pick up the pace with her drinking, and they began taking back-to-back shots.

3. The victim eventually became so intoxicated that she could no longer continue drinking. She lost control of her movements and told the Soldier she had too much to drink. The Soldier then picked up the victim and started to kiss her. She told him to stop and that she needed to go to sleep. Instead of allowing the victim to go to sleep, the Soldier carried her to the bathroom and locked the door. He then placed the victim on the sink, pulled down her underwear, and proceeded to sexually assault her in the bathroom.

4. This case highlights a common misconception that only strangers commit sexual assaults. Most sexual assault cases prosecuted at Fort Sill involve casual friends. Soldiers must remain vigilant in the mission to eliminate sexual assault and continue to be aware, train, educate, intervene, prevent, and report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. G. Rossi", is written over the typed name.

JOHN G. ROSSI
Major General, US Army
Commanding

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