

SEXUAL ASSAULT



Blue Border Message

Soldier Found Guilty of Sexual Assault and Providing Alcohol to Minors

21 January 2015

1. At a recent Court-Martial, SPC Thomas Flesher (assigned to Fort Sill), was found guilty of multiple violations of the UCMJ, including sexually assaulting his teenage neighbor and providing alcohol to minors. The military judge sentenced him to six years confinement and a Dishonorable Discharge.
2. The allegations arose when the accused was stationed at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah in 2010. The Soldier was assigned to on-post housing and lived across the street from the victim. The Soldier became friends with the victim's teenage brother and expressed an interest in the victim soon after arriving in the neighborhood. Following a barbeque at the victim's home, the accused invited several people to his residence to smoke. During the course of the evening, SPC Thomas Flesher provided alcohol to two minors including the victim, who consumed enough alcohol to require assistance from her brother to walk back to their home across the street around midnight. Approximately an hour after the victim had left the offender's residence, the Soldier climbed through the victim's bedroom window and began to undress her while she was asleep. The victim woke up to SPC Thomas Flesher trying to take her pants off and then attempted to roll away while repeatedly telling him "No" and "Stop". The Soldier ignored her pleas and sexually assaulted the victim in her bedroom. When he was finished, he climbed out the window, leaving her distraught and bruised. SPC Thomas Flesher was found guilty of sexually assaulting the victim and providing alcohol to her and her younger brother.
3. Sexual assaults can be perpetrated by friends, strangers or family members. Victims may not come forward initially, or even scream for help during the attack, as was the case here. The sexual assault left the victim scared, confused, and feeling ashamed about what happened, all common responses to this type of trauma. The victim's best friend reported the assault, helping the victim conjure the courage to seek justice. Victims of sexual assault may be inclined not to come forward because of fear, anxiety, embarrassment, or other personal reasons. Soldiers and civilians must remain vigilant in the mission to eliminate sexual assault and continue to be aware, train, educate, intervene, prevent, and report.
4. Resources for adult victims of sexual assault are offered through Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Prevention (SHARP). Additional information can be found by visiting the SHARP Resource Center 2870 Craig Road or contacting the 24/7 hotline at 580-91-SHARP. Victims under 17 years of age can receive support through Family Advocacy Program/Social Work Services at 580-442-3084.

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