

Lightning Justice!

On 12-14 September 2012, at a General Court-Martial, Specialist Michael J. Nord, 209th Aviation Support Battalion (Rear), Combat Aviation Brigade (Rear)(Provisional), was found guilty of abusive sexual contact, wrongful possession of methamphetamine, wrongful use of methamphetamine, and asking an NCO to take a urinalysis for him. A Panel of Officer and Enlisted Members sentenced him to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to forfeit all pay and allowances, to be confined for 5 years, and to be dishonorably discharged from the service.

Specialist Nord was close friends with the victim of his sexual misconduct whom he had known for over two years. On 17 July 2011, the victim asked SPC Nord to join her in celebrating her birthday at Kemoo Farms, a bar in Wahiawa, Hawaii. Specialist Nord agreed and they proceeded to Kemoo Farms that evening where they drank together until the establishment closed. They then proceeded to walk back to the victim's apartment. At this point the victim was extremely intoxicated, and was having trouble walking and standing up straight. Once they arrived at the apartment, Specialist Nord brought the victim to her bedroom, and while she was incapacitated, laid the top of her body face down over the side of her bed with her feet still on the ground, pulled down her pants and underwear, and began to sexually assault her.

The following morning, the victim was confused about what had happened. She knew she had been sexually assaulted, but could not recall all of the events clearly. After speaking with several friends, the victim reported the sexual assault to personnel at Triple Army Medical Center (TAMC). The TAMC properly notified the Schofield Barracks Criminal Investigation Division (CID). A subsequent Sexual Assault Forensic Examination conducted at Tripler AMC by a qualified nurse, along with a criminal investigation, helped prove that Specialist Nord was the perpetrator.

The events regarding Specialist Nord's drug related misconduct began in August 2012 when he was selected for a random urinalysis. Before providing a urine sample, Specialist Nord asked an NCO if he would provide a sample for him. The NCO promptly reported Specialist Nord who was thereafter interviewed by CID. After waiving his rights, Specialist Nord provided a statement to CID admitting to buying methamphetamine on 11 August 2011. Specialist Nord further admitted he smoked the drug on that same day.

Specialist Nord's case illustrates a common denominator that exists in many sexual assault cases—alcohol and drug abuse by the perpetrator or victim. You can reduce your chances of falling prey to a sexual predator by staying sober and steering clear of individuals who don't. Regardless of the circumstances, victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are strongly encouraged to report offenses. Please call the SAFE Line at (808) 624-SAFE (7233) for information and assistance. Victims can also report offenses to the chain of command, the military police, CID, a victim advocate, a chaplain, the inspector general or medical personnel.

The Commanding General, 25th Infantry Division, is committed to ensuring that victims receive the assistance, care, and support they need and deserve. Some studies indicate that many victims of domestic violence and sexual assault are reluctant to report offenses. Reporting these offenses is the best way to ensure that victims receive the support they need and that such crimes are not repeated. All offenses made known to the command will be properly investigated by law enforcement and, if appropriate, perpetrators will be prosecuted.