

MEDIA ADVISORY

Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office

Fort Bragg, NC 28310-5000
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July 16, 2012

Release Number 11232

MEDIA ADVISORY: Sgt. Adam Holcomb trial to begin July 24

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – The court martial of Sgt. Adam Holcomb, a Soldier assigned to 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division from Fort Richardson, Alaska, is scheduled for July 24 at 9 a.m., at the Fort Bragg courthouse. The case is docketed through July 27.

Holcomb has been charged with negligent homicide, reckless endangerment, communicating a threat, assault, two specifications of maltreatment of a subordinate, dereliction of duty, and four specifications of violating a lawful general regulation in connection with the death of Pvt. Danny Chen in Afghanistan Oct. 3, 2011.

If convicted of these charges, the maximum punishment is 17 years and 9 months of confinement, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, reduction in rank, and a dishonorable discharge from the U.S. Army.

Seven other Soldiers from 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division also face charges relating to Chen's death and will be tried by courts-martial in the coming months.

Note to media: News media interested in covering the trial must confirm planned attendance with the Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office no later than Friday, July 20, by calling 910-396-5620 or Benjamin.e.abel.civ@mail.mil. Media entering Fort Bragg must possess valid, government issued identification and have that identification to enter the post. An escort from the Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office will depart Stryker Golf Course promptly at 8:15 a.m., July 24, 2012, enroute to the court house.

Gallery space is limited within the court room. No still or video recording equipment is authorized within the courtroom and cell phone use is prohibited. An area outside of the courthouse will be set aside for video and still camera crews – this area has limited to no shade. Media in attendance are advised to bring shades, water, sun protection and other comfort measures due to the heat and humidity at Fort Bragg in summer months. Wireless internet access is not available at the courthouse and must be provided by the individual reporters in attendance.

***** Members of the media who are not U.S. citizens must contact the Fort Bragg Public Affairs Office with full name, nationality and valid passport number no later than noon, Wednesday, July 18, by calling 910-396-5620 or Benjamin.e.abel.civ@mail.mil. Access to the installation cannot be guaranteed if this information is not provided by the stipulated time and date.**

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NEWS RELEASE: Sgt. Adam Holcomb trial to begin July 24

The following restrictions and guidelines from the U.S. Army Trial Judiciary Rules of Court will be maintained by court officers during the course of the trial:

Prohibitions

Eating and drinking are not permitted in the courtroom during open sessions (except water or other non-alcoholic beverage in an unmarked opaque container for the trial participants). Chewing gum and tobacco products are not permitted in the courtroom at any time. Absent prior approval by the judge, passing notes or whispering over the bar between trial participants and the gallery is prohibited. Photographs, video and sound recordings (except those by the detailed court reporter or otherwise authorized by the military judge), and radio and television broadcasts shall not be made in or from the courtroom during any trial proceedings. Cell phones, radios, pagers, iPods, BlackBerrys, and similar devices are not allowed in the courtroom unless they are completely turned off. No explosives, flammable liquids, caustic materials, or other hazardous materials will be brought into the courtroom without the judge's prior approval. Firearms or weapons, except when used as exhibits or otherwise explicitly authorized by the judge (e.g., civilian law enforcement personnel or courtroom security officers), are not permitted in the courtroom (see also Rules 15.6, 30 and 31). A copy of Rule 6.3 will be posted near the entry of the courtroom and inside the courtroom.

Spectators

General. Spectators are encouraged to attend courts-martial and shall be permitted to observe all trial proceedings, unless otherwise determined by the judge. While no age restrictions apply as to who may be a spectator, no one will be permitted to disrupt the dignified, formal atmosphere of the court-martial. The bailiff will advise parents to consider the nature of expected testimony before bringing young children into the courtroom as spectators, as testimony in some cases may unavoidably be graphic, vulgar, and/or obscene.

Restrictions. Spectators may enter and leave the courtroom during open sessions but will not be permitted to disturb or interrupt court proceedings by their conduct. Spectators will not indicate or demonstrate in any manner agreement or disagreement with testimony, procedures or results at a trial, nor will their appearance or attire be permitted to detract from the dignity of the proceedings or to create a disruption. Spectators will not sleep or engage in loud whispering.

Sanctions. Spectators who violate these rules may be excluded from the courtroom, held in contempt, or both. A copy of Rule 10 will be posted near the entry to the courtroom and inside the courtroom to place spectators on notice of these rules.

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