



UNITED STATES
AIR FORCE ACADEMY

MILITARY JUSTICE TRANSPARENCY BULLETIN

August 2026 — September 2026

Approved by the Staff Judge Advocate

The information in this bulletin is intended to provide USAFA personnel a concise summary of discipline across USAFA and should not be interpreted as directing commanders or supervisors to take any particular action in future cases, as all cases are unique. This edition covers cases completed in August and September 2026. The bulletin will be published bi-monthly and specifically include all disciplinary actions involving allegations of sexual misconduct in accordance with DAF guidance. This information will also be accessible at: <https://www.usafa.edu/transparency-bulletin/>

Due to Privacy Act protections, names are only included for courts-martial resulting in a guilty verdict since courts are public hearings.

If you have questions or suggestions for improvement, please direct them to your chain of command.

Sincerely,

Colonel Nathan Mayenschein
USAF Academy Staff Judge Advocate

TRAINING / TRENDS

Due Process: What It Means and Why It Matters

Due process is a constitutional principle that protects individuals when the government takes action that may affect their life, liberty, or property. The Fifth Amendment applies to actions by the federal government, including the military; the Fourteenth Amendment applies the same general protection to state governments. In simple terms, due process requires the government to use fair procedures before depriving a person of a protected interest.

At its core, due process generally requires notice of the proposed action and its basis, along with a meaningful opportunity to be heard. It does not guarantee a particular result or prevent adverse action when warranted. Instead, it helps ensure the decision-maker has accurate information and that the affected person has a fair chance to respond before a final decision is made.

The process required is not identical in every situation. It generally increases with the seriousness of the potential deprivation, the risk of an erroneous decision under the procedures used, and the government's interest in efficient administration. In practical terms, more serious potential consequences ordinarily call for more robust procedural protections. Depending on the action, those protections may include written notice, an opportunity to submit matters, consultation with counsel, a personal appearance, presentation of evidence or witnesses, or review by an impartial decision-maker.

Cadets and Airmen should carefully read any notice of adverse action, meet applicable suspense dates, and seek advice early when facing possible disciplinary or administrative action. The specific rights, timelines, and available options depend on the process involved.

This is the first in a series on military due process. The next edition will address nonjudicial punishment under Article 15, UCMJ. Future editions will address cadet disenrollment and administrative discharge actions, courts-martial, and other administrative processes.

UPCOMING COURTS-MARTIAL

As a reminder, an accused is innocent of all charges unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. All courts-martial are held in the USAFA Courtroom (2nd Floor, Harmon Hall, within the Legal Office) and are open to the public. If the courtroom is full, individuals may view the proceeding from an overflow room.

CASE NAME	CHARGES	DATE
<i>None scheduled at this time.</i>		
<i>For more information about upcoming cases across the Air Force, visit the AF JAG Corps Public Docket: https://legalassistance.law.af.mil/AMJAMS/PublicDocket/docket.html</i>		

COURTS-MARTIAL RESULTS

No courts martial completed during this reporting period.

DISCHARGE BOARD RESULTS

Although many discharges/disenrollments may occur via written notification and response, in some cases a discharge board is warranted. The additional due process measures of a board is required in cases involving non-probationary officers, NCOs, Airmen with > 6 years of service, or when seeking a service characterization of Under Other Than Honorable (UOTHC). An UOTHC characterization is reserved for serious misconduct and typically results in a loss of most military/VA benefits. A Board of Inquiry/Discharge Board provides additional procedural standards, to include an impartial panel (similar to a jury), a neutral legal advisor, and the presence of counsel for the government, victim, and respondent.

No discharge boards completed during this reporting period.

NONJUDICIAL PUNISHMENT

Nonjudicial punishment (NJP) is a tool through which a commander offers an accused the opportunity to have their case decided by the commander or to demand a trial by court-martial. If the individual chooses to accept the NJP, it is not an admission of guilt, but rather a decision to have the commander decide guilt and, if appropriate, punishment. The punishment options in NJP are more limited than at a court-martial and depend on the rank of the commander and the accused. For cadets and officers, punishment is limited to forfeiture of pay, reprimand, and restriction. For enlisted, punishment may also include reduction in rank and/or extra duty. Punishments may also be suspended, which essentially acts as a probationary period in which the punishment will be removed after a period of time if the individual complies with the terms of the suspension.

Failing to Obey Lawful Order and Disorderly Conduct: An Airmen First Class received nonjudicial punishment for disobeying a no contact order and got into a physical altercation on base. The punishment included a reduction in rank to Airman, forfeiture of \$1,348.00 pay per month for one month, and a reprimand.

Larceny: A cadet received nonjudicial punishment for stealing two OCP uniforms from a Base Exchange. The punishment included a restriction to the limits of USAFA for 30 days and a reprimand.

* Disenrollment/discharge action may be initiated following completion of NJP process. Those actions will be reflected in the next section (Discharges/Disenrollments), but may not appear until the next report due to the time of completion of those actions.

DISCHARGE / DISENROLLMENTS

Airmen and cadets are subject to disenrollment/discharge if they engage in conduct inconsistent with military service. As an analogy to the civilian sector, these decisions are the equivalent of an employer terminating an employee or in the case of cadets, a university removing a student. For non-committed and non-prior enlisted cadets, a disenrollment decision automatically results in discharge from the military. For committed cadets, after disenrollment the SECAF determines whether the cadet will serve their commitment via enlisted service (ADSC), monetary recoupment, ROTC, or whether the service commitment is waived. All individuals discharged from the military will receive a service characterization of either Entry Level (< 180 days), Honorable, Under Honorable Conditions (General) or Under Other than Honorable Conditions (UOTHC). Cadets also receive a rating between 1 and 5, which is used to determine whether they should be considered for other commissioning programs.

The rating system is as follows:

- 1 – Highly recommend;*
- 2 – Recommend as average;*
- 3 – Should not be considered w/o weighing needs of the service against reasons for disenrollment;*
- 4 – Physical/medical;*
- 5 – Definitely not recommend;*
- 6 – Entry Level/Cadet not at Academy long enough for another rating.*

As of the date of this bulletin, the approximate rate for monetary recoupment is \$70,000 per year of attendance at USAFA.

Misconduct:

One enlisted member was discharged under DAFI 36-3211, paragraph 7.38, for a pattern of misconduct. The member received a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge characterization. The member received three Letters of Reprimand, one Letter of Admonishment, and one Record of Individual Counseling for multiple instances of late reporting, dereliction of duty, and failure to report for mandatory appointments.

One enlisted member was discharged under DAFI 36-3211, paragraph 7.39, for serious misconduct. The member received a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge characterization. The member received two Letters of Reprimand and a promotion withhold for separate off-base incidents. The misconduct included operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated and being involved in a rollover accident, as well as criminal trespass and mischief after damaging an intimate partner's vehicle during a dispute.

One enlisted member was discharged under DAFI 36-3211, paragraph 7.38, for a pattern of misconduct. The member received a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge characterization. The member received four Letters of Reprimand, one Letter of Counseling, and was placed on a UIF and Control Roster for off-base assault, multiple failures to report and late reporting, failure to obey an order, disrespect toward an NCO, and alcohol-related misconduct in the dormitory.

One cadet was involuntarily disenrolled for engaging in an unprofessional relationship with a fourth-class cadet. The cadet was disenrolled with an Honorable discharge characterization and a rating of 3 on the DD Form 785. The cadet did not incur an ADSC.

Conditions that Interfere with Military Service

One enlisted member was discharged under DAFI 36-3211, paragraph 7.11.2, for a condition that interfered with military service. The member received an Honorable discharge characterization.

Summer Training Deficiency

Two cadets were involuntarily disenrolled for summer training deficiencies. One cadet was disenrolled with an Honorable discharge characterization and a rating of 3 on the DD Form 785. One cadet was disenrolled with an Entry-Level discharge and a rating of 5 on the DD Form 785. Neither cadet incurred an ADSC.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESULTS

In accordance with DAFI 51-201, Administration of Military Justice, all legal offices are required to publish the results of disciplinary actions taken in response to allegations of sexual misconduct, to include sexual assault and sexual harassment. The following summary includes only UCMJ or Adverse Administrative Actions taken for allegations of sexual misconduct during this period.

The results are also accessible at: <https://www.usafa.edu/transparency-bulletin/>

DISCLAIMER: The information provided is to foster transparency and promote deterrence amongst Airmen and Guardians. It should not be misconstrued as a mechanism to count cases of sexual misconduct, because it could result in double counting data.

Results of Courts-Martial: N/A

Nonjudicial Punishment: N/A

Administrative Actions: N/A