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United States Southern Command News Release



Points of Contact:

United States Southern Command
3511 NW 91st Avenue, Miami, FL 33172-1217
LTC Bill Costello (305) 496-3812
FAX (305) 437-1241

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

YEE PUNISHMENT DISMISSED ON APPEAL

MIAMI – U.S. Army General James T. Hill, Commander, United States Southern Command, acting as the appellate authority for nonjudicial punishment imposed on Chaplain James J. Yee dismissed the Article 15 and the written reprimand Yee received as punishment.

Yee's defense counsel was informed of the decision but not present for the announcement.

On March 22, Yee was found guilty of adultery and pornography charges and issued a written reprimand for his misconduct by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Geoffrey D. Miller, then the Commander of Joint Task Force-Guantanamo.

Gen. Hill stated that although Chaplain Yee's misconduct was wrong, given the extreme notoriety of the case in the news media, further stigmatizing Chaplain Yee by denying his appeal would not serve a just and fair purpose.

Gen. Hill supported the actions taken by Maj. Gen Miller in the seven months since Yee was apprehended at a military airport in Jacksonville, Fla., including confining Yee in a military brig for 76 days.

"In my opinion, Major General Miller would have been derelict in his duties to protect our national security had he not placed Chaplain Yee in pretrial confinement and proceeded with the investigation, given the circumstances at the time and what he knew at the time," Hill said. "I believe in justice and I believe in fairness, and given all that has transpired, in all fairness I believe I have given Chaplain Yee justice," Hill concluded.

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