



1 December 2015

INDECENT LANGUAGE



COURT-MARTIAL: At a November 2015 Court-Martial in Kaiserslautern, Germany, a Staff Sergeant assigned to 39th Transportation Battalion pled guilty to, and was convicted by the Military Judge of, one specification of false official statement and one specification of indecent language.

SENTENCE: Confinement for 4 months and a bad-conduct discharge.

FACTS: In August 2015, the Staff Sergeant lured a sixteen year-old girl, who was his daughter's best friend, to his basement storage area by asking her if she wanted to make some extra money. Once he isolated her, he asked her how old she was and, upon learning she was of the age of consent, asked her if she "sucked dick." When she said, "No," he gave her forty dollars and told her she could keep it in case she changed her mind. Later, when he was questioned by CID, he denied that he had approached the girl and asked her any questions.

OBSERVATIONS: Members of the military community are held to a higher standard, and this includes what we say and to whom we say it. The UCMJ prohibits communicating any language that is grossly offensive to modesty, decency, or propriety, or shocks the moral sense because of his vulgar, filthy, or disgusting nature, or its tendency to incite lustful thought. Any language that seriously violates community standards could lead to punishment and, potentially, a discharge.

"Report all cases involving a minor to your local military law enforcement or Family Advocacy Program Office. Military members and adult dependents 18 years and older who have been sexually assaulted, may contact the Brigade Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, Victim Advocate, healthcare provider, CID, Staff Judge Advocate, Military Police, Behavioral Health, or Chaplain. They may also call the DoD Safe Helpline from Germany by dialing 537-SAFE (7233) or 0611-14-537-SAFE (7233). The telephone number is accessible via DSN, landline, and mobile, 24 hours a day."

For more guidance on reporting options and rights, visit

<https://www.safehelpline.org/>