

Nonjudicial Punishment (NJP)

NJP — also referred to as an Article 15, in reference to the Uniform Code of Military Justice which authorizes the action — is a tool that provides commanders with an essential and swift means of maintaining good order and discipline. A member must accept NJP as a forum for allegations of misconduct or demand trial by court-martial once NJP is offered by a commander. NJP is designed to promote behavioral changes in service members without the stigma that comes with a criminal conviction at trial. NJP lies between a Letter of Reprimand and a court-martial on the spectrum of the continuum of discipline, whose ultimate goal is to promote rehabilitation in service members to encourage them to adhere to standards.

The following NJPs were effectuated at Edwards AFB during the fourth quarter of 2024:

A Staff Sgt. (E-5) assigned to 163 CES attempted to climb a barrier, after consuming alcoholic beverages, causing them to fall and hit their head, while deployed, in violation of Article 92 (Failure to obey). The member was punished with a reduction to the grade of Senior Airman (E-4), forfeiture of \$1,598.00 per month for two months (suspended), and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman (E-4) assigned to 412 AMXS made repeated statements and jokes using indecent language which caused a hostile working environment in a violation of Article 134 for (Indecent language). The member was punished with a reduction to the grade of Airman First Class (E-3), forfeiture of \$1,340.00, and a reprimand.

A Staff Sgt. (E-5) assigned to 412 HCOS used THC-8 in violation of Article 92 (Failure to obey). The member was punished with a reduction to the grade of Senior Airman (E-4), forfeiture of \$1,598.00 per month for two months (suspended), and a reprimand.

A Senior Airman (E-4) assigned to 412 OSS failed to perform a proper inspection and signed an official record indicating that the inspection was performed properly in violation of Article 92 (Dereliction of duty) and Article 107 (Sign false official document). The member was punished with a reduction to the grade of Airman First Class (E-3) and a reprimand.

An Airman First Class (E-3) assigned to 412 SFS was not present at their duty location and left a loaded firearm unsecured in a gun rack in violation of Article 86 (Failure to go to place of duty) and Article 92 (Dereliction of duty). The member was punished with a reduction to the grade of Airman (E-2, suspended), 30 days restriction to base (suspended), 15 days extra duty, and a reprimand.

An Airman First Class (E-3) assigned to 412 SFS failed to operate their vehicle at a speed within posted speed limits and did not have proof of insurance in violation of Article 92 (Failure to obey). The member was punished with a forfeiture of \$396.00 and a reprimand.

A Staff Sgt. (E-5) assigned to 418 FLTS committed GTC fraud in violation of Article 92 (Failure to obey). The member received a reduction to the grade of Senior Airman (E-4, suspended) and a reprimand.

A Capt. (O-3) assigned to AFRL Detachment 7 assaulted two other junior officers in the presence of a group of individuals, including other junior officers, after consuming alcoholic beverages in violation of Article 128, Article 133 (Conduct unbecoming of an officer), and Article 134 (Drunk and disorderly). The member was punished with a forfeiture of \$3,745.00 (suspended) and a reprimand.

A Staff Sgt. (E-5) assigned to 320 CRS used THC-9 in violation of Article 112a (Wrongful use x2). The member was punished with a reduction to the grade of Senior Airman (E-4), forfeiture of \$1,533.00 per month for two months (suspended), and a reprimand.

Administrative Discharges

Involuntarily discharging a service member from the United States Air Force may be an appropriate action for a commander or civilian director to take when a member has demonstrated an inability to meet Air Force standards. Common bases for discharges include, but are not limited to: drug abuse, sexual assault, a civilian court conviction, or a series of minor misconduct. Discharges can result in one of three service characterizations: honorable, under honorable conditions (general), and under other than honorable conditions.

The following discharge action was completed during the fourth quarter of 2024:

An Airman First Class (E-3) assigned to 412 SFS was discharged for drug abuse. The member received a general service characterization.

Federal Magistrate Court

The federal magistrate court program is run in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office. Edwards Security Forces personnel are empowered to issue citations for traffic violations and criminal activities that occur on a federal reservation. Those actions are then prosecuted in Federal Magistrate Court by judge advocates with the 412 Test Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate appointed as Special Assistant United States Attorneys. This tool is primarily useful to ensure enforcement of standards for civilians, including military dependents, DoD employees, contractor employees, and any other civilian present on Edwards AFB or United States Air Force Industrial Plant 42 who commits traffic violations or misdemeanor crimes on our federal reservations. By contrast, violations of traffic laws and the criminal code by service members are addressed under the UCMJ.

Driving on and Department of Defense installation, including Edwards AFB and Plant 42, is a privilege. The expectation is that everyone will strictly adhere to the traffic laws on the installation. The Defense Department standard for miles allowed over posted speed limits on military installations is zero! In 2023, 412 SFS personnel issued over 1,300 traffic citations. Approximately 1,100 of those citations were issued to base affiliated civilians resulting in the imposition of nearly \$60,000 in fines. For the safety and security of everyone who lives and works on our installation, please follow the posted speed limit signs, make a full stop at stop signs, and don't drink and drive!

The following magistrate court citations were closed out during the fourth quarter of 2024:

56 civilians were cited for speeding.

They received an average fine of \$250.00.

9 civilians were cited for failing to stop at stop signs.

They received an average fine of \$264.00.

6 civilians were cited for not having their drivers' licenses in possession.

They received an average fine of \$253.00.

2 civilians were cited for expired registration.

They received an average fine of \$115.00.

A civilian was cited for following too close.

They were fined \$160.00.

A civilian was cited for driving under the influence of alcohol.

They were fined \$3,055.00.

Other Consequences for Driving Offenses

California law still applies on Edwards base housing; Kern County sheriff can and will enforce state law. Security Forces may suspend those who do not meet standards from driving on base, such as those who speed or commit other traffic infractions. Aggravated violations of standards, such as repeated offenses or speeding in a school zone, may result in a complete base driving ban by the Installation Commander.

The 412th Test Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Edwards AFB, CA, can be reached by phone at COMM 661-277-4310, DSN 312-277-4310, or by email at 412tw.ja.workflow@us.af.mil.