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Subject: OUTCOME OF GENERAL COURT MARTIAL – LIEUTENANT COMMANDER  
J. JONES

Comment:  
Action Area DNMC

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## **HOT ISSUES BRIEF**

### **ISSUE: OUTCOME OF GENERAL COURT MARTIAL – LIEUTENANT COMMANDER J. JONES**

**SENSITIVITY: High.** Media closely following the case. Navy  
reputational Issues

#### **KEY ISSUES:**

- On 10 November 2010, a female crew member alleged that Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Jones had committed acts of indecency against her over a period of eight months onboard HMAS *Sirius*. Ministerial Submission FCMIN 046-10 dated 16 December 2010 advised.
- A General Court Martial commenced on 29 November 2011 which included nine counts of 'an act of indecency without consent', with a number of alternate charges.
- The Court Martial handed down their verdict on 13 December 2011. LCDR Jones has been found guilty of seven counts of an 'act of indecency without consent' and one count of 'attempted destruction of service property'.
- Sentencing will commence at 2:00pm on 13 December 2011, with a sentence likely to be imposed on 14

December 2011. The conviction and punishment will be subject to automatic legal review.

- The accused and complainant and accused continue to receive divisional, psychological, legal and medical support throughout this period.

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**Date issued: 13 December 2011**

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## **TALKING POINTS**

- A Naval Officer has been convicted by a General Court Martial on seven counts of an act of indecency without consent and one count of attempting destruction of service property.
- A punishment has not yet been awarded to the Officer, and it is inappropriate to comment further while the sentencing process remains underway.
- The majority of Navy's people are professional, hardworking members of society. They do the right thing and Australians can be proud of what they do in this nation's interest. But we can not afford to drop our guard.
- The New Generation Navy program is designed to inform and educate Navy people of every rank on behaviour and their responsibilities towards their duties and towards each other.

- I believe the fact that this matter was able to be reported, and then pursued to a successful prosecution reflects positively upon Navy and the significant changes that have taken place under the New Generation Navy program.

- We are doing all we can to ensure that the sailor who came forward is being offered all the care and support she may need.

- A Court Martial follows procedures similar to a civilian court. The Panel of the President and four members is selected impartially. They may be likened to the jury in a civilian trial whereas the Judge Advocate may be likened to the judge.

- The verdict is legally binding. The process is designed to equate as closely as possible to a civilian trial.

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