

Case Summary
Office of the Judge Advocate General

DEFENDANT: WOFF Goodrich

TYPE OF PROCEEDING: Defence Force Magistrate

DATE OF TRIAL: 21 July 2025

VENUE: Holsworthy Barracks, NSW

Charges and plea

	Statement of Offence	Plea
Charge 1	DFDA, s. 60(1) Prejudicial conduct	Guilty
Charge 2	DFDA, paragraph 33(a) Assaulting another person in public place	Withdrawn

Pre-Trial: Closed hearing and non-publication orders

Application made:	No
Determination:	Not Applicable

Trial: Facts and legal principles

Nil, as the case proceeded by way of a guilty plea.

Findings

	Finding
Charge 1	Guilty
Charge 2	Not Applicable

Sentencing: Facts and legal principles

On 18 Mar 25, the offender failed to appear, as required, at a pre-trial hearing. Accordingly, the DFM directed the RMJ to issue a warrant for the arrest of the offender. On 10 Jul 25 the offender was arrested and held in custody at the Defence Force Correctional Establishment (DFCE), Holsworthy Barracks. On 17 Jul 25 the matter was fixed to proceed by way of a plea of guilty on 21 Jul 25.

Prior to being arraigned on 21 Jul 25, the Prosecuting Officer made applications to amend the particulars of Charge 1 and withdraw Charge 2. Both applications were not opposed and were subsequently allowed by the DFM. The offender then entered a plea of guilty to the amended Charge 1 and was convicted.

In relation to the charge itself, at approximately 1645h on 10 Apr 24, whilst stopped at a traffic light intersection in Penrith, NSW, the offender exited his vehicle wearing his RAAF General Purpose Uniform and walked over to the complainant's vehicle that was also waiting at the traffic lights. The offender opened the door of this vehicle and remonstrated with the complainant. No contact was made with the complainant and the offender did not say anything to the complainant. The interaction lasted no more than 45 seconds and was witnessed by another Defence member.

- *This summary is not intended to be a substitute for the reasons of the Service tribunal or to be used in any later consideration of the tribunal's reasons.*

The Prosecuting Officer submitted that the offender's conduct was objectively serious as it involved a civilian complainant and was committed in public while in uniform. A victim impact statement was tendered and read to the DFM.

In mitigation of penalty, the Defending Officer focused his submissions on the offender's 39 year career, including some 10 operational tours, plea of guilty, remorse, very limited conduct record that did not involve like offending and positive character references.

Taking into account the 12 days spent at DFCE and the plea of guilty to the least serious of the offences, the DFM held that the minimum punishments necessary to satisfy the sentencing principles of general deterrence and maintenance of discipline and good order in the Defence Force were a not insubstantial fine coupled with a severe reprimand.

Punishments and orders

Charge 1	To be fined the sum of \$1000.00. Such fine to be paid in one sum. To be severely reprimanded.
Charge 2	Not Applicable

Outcome on automatic review

The Reviewing Authority's decision on automatic review was handed down on 01 August 2025.

	Conviction	Punishments / Orders
Charge 1	Upheld	Upheld
Charge 2	Upheld	Upheld

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