

Case Summary
Office of the Judge Advocate General

DEFENDANT: CPL Woodfine

TYPE OF PROCEEDING: General Court Martial

DATE OF TRIAL: 17 August 2026

VENUE: Court Martial Facility, Fyshwick, ACT

Charges and plea

	Statement of Offence	Plea
Charge 1	<i>Defence Force Discipline Act 1982</i> (DFDA), section 34 Assaulting a subordinate	Not Guilty
Charge 2	DFDA, subsection 61(3) and <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> (ACT), subsection 60(1) Act of indecency without consent	Not Guilty
Charge 3	DFDA, subsection 60(1) Prejudicial conduct	Not Guilty
Charge 4	DFDA, section 34 Assaulting a subordinate	Not Guilty
Charge 5	DFDA, section 34 Assaulting a subordinate	Not Guilty
Charge 6	DFDA, section 34 Assaulting a subordinate	Not Guilty

Pre-Trial: Closed hearing and non-publication orders

Application made:	Yes. The prosecution applied under the <i>Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1991</i> (ACT), section 50 for the hearing to be closed during the evidence of the complainant based on the nature of Charge 2.
Determination:	The application was unopposed and was granted.

Trial: Facts and legal principles

The defendant was a mature aged Corporal Recruit Instructor at Kapooka, the home of the Australian Soldier. The victim had only been a recruit for a matter of weeks in her initial training, when the defendant committed the offences against her. Over a four day period he sought her out on the ranges and in training classes, touching her inappropriately. Charge 1 was assaulting a subordinate by touching. The most serious offence, Charge 2 - Act of Indecency, involved him sending her two roommates out of the room and whilst under the pretext of adjusting the victim's pack in preparation for a pack march, he made a suggestive remark and indecently touched her. Charge 3 concerned gesturing to her to meet him after lights out and waiting around in the foyer for upwards of half an hour. Charge 4 was a further charge of assaulting a subordinate during a night vision goggle training session by touching. Charge 5 and Charge 6 were further charges of assaulting a subordinate. He pleaded not guilty before a General Court Martial and denied the acts. He was convicted of the first four offences after trial and not guilty of the last two.

- *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.*

Findings

	Finding
Charge 1	Guilty
Charge 2	Guilty
Charge 3	Guilty
Charge 4	Guilty
Charge 5	Not Guilty
Charge 6	Not Guilty

Sentencing: Facts and legal principles

The General Court Martial found the offending involved such a breach of trust, a large age difference and rank and power imbalance, that the need for general deterrence and maintenance of service discipline meant that only a sentence of dismissal and civilian imprisonment and reduction in rank was appropriate.

Punishments and orders

Charge 1	Dismissal
Charge 2	Imprisonment for 90 days with a non-parole period of 45 days; Dismissal
Charge 3	Dismissal
Charge 4	Reduction in rank to LCPL, seniority to date from 27 August 2026
Charge 5	Not applicable
Charge 6	Not applicable

Outcome on automatic review

The Reviewing Authority's decision on automatic review was handed down on 16 September 2026.

	Conviction	Punishments / Orders
Charge 1	Upheld	Punishment of dismissal upheld
Charge 2	Upheld	Punishment of 90 days imprisonment and punishment of dismissal upheld
Charge 3	Upheld	Punishment of dismissal upheld
Charge 4	Upheld	Punishment of reduction in rank upheld
Charge 5	Not applicable	Not applicable
Charge 6	Not applicable	Not applicable

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Outcome on petition

The Reviewing Authority's decision on petition was handed down on 13 October 2026.

	Conviction	Punishments / Orders
Charge 1	Upheld	Punishment of dismissal quashed. New punishment: Reduction in rank with seniority dated to 27 Aug 26.
Charge 2	Upheld	Punishment of dismissal upheld. Punishment of 90 days imprisonment quashed.
Charge 3	Upheld	Punishment of dismissal quashed. New punishment: Reduction in rank with seniority dated to 27 Aug 26.
Charge 4	Upheld	Punishment of reduction in rank upheld.
Charge 5	Not applicable	Not applicable.
Charge 6	Not applicable	Not applicable.

Final punishments and orders

Charge 1	Reduction in rank to LCPL, seniority to date from 27 Aug 26.
Charge 2	Dismissal.
Charge 3	Reduction in rank to LCPL, seniority to date from 27 Aug 26.
Charge 4	Reduction in rank to LCPL, seniority to date from 27 Aug 26.
Charge 5	Not applicable.
Charge 6	Not applicable.

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