

USSOUTHCOM United States Southern Command Media Statement



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Charges preferred on Army Captain James Yee

MIAMI, FL - U.S. Army Chaplain Captain James Yee, assigned to Joint Task Force (JTF) Guantanamo (GTMO) at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, has been charged today with violations of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). He is charged with two specifications of failing to obey a lawful general order in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Specifically, Yee is charged with taking classified material to his home, and wrongfully transporting classified material without the proper security containers or covers.

The charges against Yee have been forwarded to the Commander, JTF-GTMO, who exercises Special Court-Martial Convening Authority over him. The JTF Commander has authority to dispose of the case as he deems appropriate. Options include dismissing the charges, referring them to a special court-martial, or directing a pretrial investigation under Article 32 of the UCMJ. The time and location of any proceedings that may be conducted have not been determined at this time. The Army continues to investigate Yee's conduct, and if warranted, additional charges could be forthcoming.

Yee was on temporary duty at Guantanamo Bay for ten months serving as Chaplain. He was apprehended at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Florida, on September 10th and held since on pretrial confinement.

Yee has been assigned two attorneys from the Army's Trial Defense Service: MAJ Stephen Scot Sikes and CPT Charmaine E. Betty-Singleton. Yee has the right to retain civilian defense counsel to represent him at no government expense.

The investigation is ongoing and no further details are available at this time. More information may be found at <http://www.southcom.mil/>

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