



Naval Criminal Investigative Service

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Sailor Sentenced to 23 Months of Confinement for Advocating Supremacist and Extreme Doctrine, Larceny, Firearms Offenses

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class James Charles Hart was sentenced during a general court-martial yesterday to 23 months of confinement after pleading guilty to violating a lawful order by advocating supremacist and extreme doctrine, illegally possessing a firearm and ammunition on base, larceny, and illegally dealing in firearms. He also received a dishonorable discharge and a reduction in rank to E-1.

NCIS and the San Diego FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force initiated an investigation in January 2021 based on a tip that Hart, assigned previously to the USS Lake Erie (CG-70), posted to social media advocating for acts of violence against military members and law enforcement. The investigation determined Hart used social media to express his support for the siege at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, and advocate for violence against Navy personnel and assets. A search of his barracks room resulted in the discovery of a loaded handgun, ammunition, and multiple stolen gas masks. A review of his phone resulted in the discovery of evidence that Hart illegally sold a firearm.

“Petty Officer Hart betrayed his oath to the Navy and deserves to be held fully accountable for his hateful and criminal actions,” said Special Agent in Charge Joshua Flowers of the NCIS Southwest Field Office. “NCIS is dedicated to protecting Navy and Marine readiness from being degraded by criminal activity. This conviction should serve as a warning that NCIS, the FBI, and our partners will fully investigate any and all criminal threats advocating violence against the Department of the Navy.”

“Mr. Hart’s case is a prime example of the breadth and depth of the work done on the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Forces,” said Special Agent in Charge Suzanne Turner of the FBI’s San Diego Field Office. “The FBI and our partner agencies will use all available investigative tools in all available venues to prosecute these crimes. I want to specifically thank the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Department of Defense for their leadership and collaboration to quickly identify and mitigate the threat and for holding Mr. Hart responsible for his actions.”



NCIS is a federal law enforcement agency that investigates felony crime, prevents terrorism, and protects secrets for the U.S. Department of the Navy. NCIS employs approximately 2,000 personnel, including 1,000 federal special agents, in 41 countries and 191 locations around the world. NCIS also assigns special agents to serve as task force officers at FBI Joint Terrorism Task Forces across the country.

To learn more about NCIS, visit www.ncis.navy.mil and follow NCIS on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. To learn more about the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force, visit www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism/joint-terrorism-task-forces.

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