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IN THE COURT MARTIAL

held at

MILITARY COURT CENTRE, CATTERICK

on the

9th day of 2026

in the case of

REX

V

30310556 Able Rate Reece Lee Nicholls

Joint Support Unit, Northwood

JUDGE ADVOCATE

Judge Large

Judge Advocate General

SENTENCING REMARKS

JUDGE ADVOCATE: AB Nicholls, what I am going to do now is give you the reasons for the sentence we are going to pass so you understand, I hope, why we have passed that sentence. Then the President will ask you to stand up and he will pass the sentence on you, okay?

You are 30 years old. Served in the Navy for 7 plus years. When you committed these offences, you were going through a difficult time in your life. You were drinking far too much. When in drink you sent the complainant a total of 40 images and 2 videos of your genitals to obtain sexual gratification

and being reckless as to whether the complainant, a fellow female submariner, would be caused alarm, distress or humiliation.

You committed the offence on two days. One in March and one in April this year. Through accompanying messages, you expressed some regret for your actions, although you persisted in them. We have read two references about you, one from WO1 Brockbank. One from Petty Officer Farah, they commented on your respectful and conscientious nature. They speak of the merits to the service and yourself in your retention in the Royal Navy.

We treat you as a person of previous good character. We have read the very full pre-sentence report and listened with care to everything that Ms Devans-Tamakloe has said on your behalf today. We note that at the moment you are currently receiving care as a voluntary inpatient from Brockton House, at St George's Hospital in Stafford. We genuinely hope the conclusion of this case will assist you in moving on with your life.

This is a sexual offence. The court has to have regard to the Judge Advocate General, that is me, my guidance on sexual offending. Particularly, Section 6 of Part 2 which reads as follows:

> "Dismissal will be appropriate in all but the most exceptional cases. Service personnel have little choice where and with whom they serve. They may live in close confines."

You know that as a submariner.

> "With only a curtain or, if on operations, nothing separating them from others. They may share facilities including ablutions and social spaces. They work, eat and socialise together. Sexual offending undermines the bond of trust which must exist between those who serve together, affects morale and ultimately operational effectiveness."

The victim of these offences was a female colleague with whom you served in HMS Audacious. She knew, she liked you, until she received the messages and photos. She told the Court she was shocked, upset and worried about receiving the messages and images from you. This is a classic case of the breach of trust which exists between service personnel, and it is certainly serious enough for you to have to be dismissed from His Majesty's Service.

Thereafter we have a number of options including a sentence of service detention. Giving you full credit for your guilty pleas, and having considered the issue with care, we conclude that a service

community order of 12 months will be most appropriate. Accompanied by a probation requirement and 200 hours of unpaid work.

You must attend appointments for that work when you are required to do so. You must complete the work to a high standard. You must attend the probation service when they want to speak to you. Otherwise, you will be brought back to court and re-sentenced and you could be sent to prison.

We also see merit in you being subject to an alcohol abstinence monitoring requirement for 120 days to ensure you do not resort to alcohol as you resettle into civilian life. That is monitored closely. Any alcohol in your body will result in breach of proceedings being taken in the civilian courts.

I make it clear this sentence reflects your guilty plea and all the other mitigating factors we have heard about you. You get full credit for your guilty plea. As a result of being sentenced to a service community order for 12 months, you will be subject to the notification requirements of the Sex Offenders' Register for 5 years. You may be disqualified from working with children, you will be told about that in due course.

SENTENCE

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD: AB Nicholls. You are to be dismissed from His Majesty's Service and subject to a service community order for 12 months. Attached to the order will be a probation requirement, an unpaid work requirement for 200 hours, an alcohol abstinence monitoring requirement for 120 days.