

FACT SHEET: Preliminary Hearing in death of CSS3 Angelina Resendiz

Sept. 16, 2025

(Developed by CNRMA Public Affairs)



GENERAL

Preliminary hearing for a Norfolk based Sailor charged in the death of Culinary Specialist Third Class (CSS3) Angelina Resendiz. Resendiz went missing from her barracks room on Naval Station Norfolk May 29. Her body was found nearly two weeks later.

DETAILS

- **Convening Authority**
RADM Stephen D. Barnett, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic
- **Preliminary Hearing Official**
CDR John F. Butler, JAGC, USNR
- **Trial Counsel**
CDR Lauren A. Mayo, JAGC, USN
LT Chris B. Dempsey, JAGC, USN
- **Defense Counsel**
LCDR Clifton E. Morgan III, JAGC, USN
LCDR Amanda M. Serfess, JAGC, USN
- **What is an Article 32 Investigation?**
A pretrial investigation pursuant to Article 32, UCMJ, that is required before referring a case to General Court-martial (GCM), unless waived by the accused. Like a civilian preliminary hearing, the purpose is to consider the form of the charges and make a recommendation to the convening authority as to the disposition of the charges. The Article 32 investigation provides an accused far greater procedural protection than a civilian grand jury, as the accused has the right to have counsel present, to be present himself throughout the proceedings, the right to cross-examine all government witnesses and to present evidence in his own behalf.