IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

UNITED STATES Appellee	**MOTION FOR EXTENSION (9)**
v.	Docket No. ARMY 20240180
Staff Sergeant (E-6) **STEVEN P. NOBLES,** United States Army, Appellant	Tried at Fort Johnson, Louisiana, on 6 June 2023, 5 September 2023, and 2-5 April 2024, before a general court-martial convened by the Commander, Headquarters, Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Johnson, Colonel Maureen Kohn, Lieutenant Colonel Scott Hughes, and Colonel Javier Rivera-Rosario, military judges, presiding.

TO THE HONORABLE, THE JUDGES OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

COME NOW the undersigned appellate defense counsel, pursuant to Rules 23 and 24 of this court's Rules of Appellate Procedure, and move this court to grant appellant's Motion for Extension of Time. The undersigned appellate defense counsel request a 30–day extension of time until 18 March 2026 to file a Brief on Behalf of Appellant. The Brief on Behalf of Appellant is currently due on 16 February 2026. Pursuant to Rule 24.1(b), the undersigned counsel assert:

1. On 5 April 2024, a general court-martial consisting of both officer and enlisted members convicted appellant, contrary to his pleas, of one specification of conspiracy and two specifications of sexual assault, in violation of Articles 81 and

120, Uniform Code of Military Justice [UCMJ]. (Charge Sheet; R. at 955). The same day, the military judge sentenced appellant to be reduced to the grade of E-1, to be confined for 6 years, to forfeit all pay and allowances, and to be dishonorably discharged. (R. at 991-92).

2. On 26 April 2024, the convening authority took no action on the findings or sentence. (Action). On 5 June 2024, the military judge entered judgment. (Judgment). This court docketed appellant's case on 21 February 2025. (Referral).

3. Appellant's electronic record of trial is 2,596 pages, including 992 transcript pages. Appellant is in confinement and consents to this extension.

4. First undersigned counsel, CPT Eli Creighton, currently has twenty–six (26) cases pending in front of this court. In the past month, CPT Creighton has submitted multiple, substantive briefs with this court and CAAF to include: *United States v. Askins,* USCA Dkt. No. 26-0002 and Dkt. No. 26-0014 (the CAAF recently ordered initial briefing and supplemental briefing on the two granted cases); *United States v. Natividad,* USCA Dkt. No. 26-0063; and *United States v. Rice,* No. 20240586. The Defense Appellate Division is currently operating at 61% manning strength while cases continue to be assigned. Defense Appellate Division was not staffed during the Federal holidays from 1–4 January and 16–19 January 2026.

5. Civilian appellate defense counsel, Mr. Joshua Hill, has completed his initial draft of the appeal. A hard copy of the appeal has been mailed to appellant for review, and appellate defense counsel have requested a phone call with appellant to discuss the contents of the brief. In addition to appellant's case, Mr. Hill currently also represents active-duty clients in *United States v. Gordon* (SPCM, USMC), *United States v. Hyder* (GCM, USN), *United States v. Morales* (SPCM, USMC), and an appellate client in *United States v. Chatman* (Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals), and various clients pending administrative appeals to their services' respective administrative/correction boards.

6. Consistent with Army Reg. 27-26, Rules of Professional Conduct for Lawyers, the undersigned counsel request additional time to adequately consult with the appellant regarding his appeal and to fulfill counsels' ethical obligation to represent his interests.

WHEREFORE, appellate defense counsel respectfully request this court grant the instant motion.

[redacted]

PANEL NO. 4

MOTION FOR EXTENSION (9)

GRANTED: [redacted] FINAL

DENIED: _____

DATE: 11 February 2026

Eli M. Creighton
Captain, Judge Advocate
Defense Appellate Counsel
Defense Appellate Division

[redacted]

Joshua A. Hill
Civilian Appellate Counsel

[redacted]

CERTIFICATE OF FILING AND SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing was electronically filed with the Army Court and Government Appellate Division on February 9, 2026.

[redacted]
MELINDA J. JOHNSON
Paralegal Specialist
Defense Appellate Division