



SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
1000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

MAY 04 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
COMMANDERS OF THE COMBATANT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Withholding and Designation of Initial Disposition Authority for All Cases Related to Acts Allegedly Committed by U.S. Military Personnel Supporting the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena, Colombia

Pursuant to my general court-martial convening authority under Article 22 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Rules for Courts-Martial 306, 401, and 601, I hereby withhold initial disposition authority from all commanders within the Department of Defense with respect to any alleged offenses committed by U.S. military personnel arising out of their temporary duty in Cartagena, Colombia, in support of the April 2012 Summit of the Americas. I designate the Commander, United States Southern Command as the initial disposition authority for all such cases.

Commander, United States Southern Command shall be responsible for determining initial disposition in each individual case, to include whether further action is warranted and, if so, whether the matter should be resolved by court-martial, non-judicial punishment, or adverse administrative action. Following initial disposition, the Commander, United States Southern Command, may forward any individual case to a subordinate commander for disposition.

This action is effective immediately.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John M. McHale", is written over a horizontal line.

