UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS

UNITED STATES

v.

Staff Sergeant UNA D. WHITE United States Air Force

ACM S31047

20 June 2007

Sentence adjudged 7 December 2005 by SPCM convened at Sheppard Air Base, Texas. Military Judge: Mary M. Boone.

Approved sentence: Bad-conduct discharge and confinement for 6 months, forfeiture of \$823.00 pay per month for 6 months, and reduction to E-1.

Appellate Counsel for Appellant: Colonel Nikki A. Hall, Lieutenant Colonel Mark R. Strickland, Major John N. Page III, and Captain Kimberly A. Quedensley.

Appellate Counsel for the United States: Colonel Gerald R. Bruce, Major Matthew S. Ward, and Captain Donna S. Rueppell.

Before

FRANCIS, SOYBEL, and BRAND Appellate Military Judges

PER CURIAM:

The appellant was convicted, contrary to her pleas, of three specifications of wrongful use of marijuana, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ, 10 U.S.C. § 912a. Her approved sentence consists of a bad-conduct discharge, confinement for 6 months, forfeiture of \$823.00 pay per month for 6 months, and reduction to the grade of E-1.

The appellant submitted a clemency package which included, among other things, a letter from her commander. The subsequent addendum to the staff judge advocate recommendation listed the attachments to the appellant's clemency request, including the commander's letter, and requested the convening authority initial the right hand corner of each submission. During appellate review, the commander's letter was found to be missing from the record of trial. The appellant avers error in the post-trial processing because of the missing letter. In response to the error raised by the appellant, the government provided an affidavit from the staff judge advocate and the commander's missing letter which contains the convening authority's initials in the upper right-hand corner.

We review post-trial processing issues de novo. United States v. Sheffield, 60 M.J. 591, 593 (A.F. Ct. Crim. App. 2004) (citing United States v. Kho, 54 M.J. 63, 65 (C.A.A.F. 2000)). Prior to taking final action, the convening authority must consider clemency matters submitted by the accused under Rule for Courts-Martial (R.C.M.) 1105. R.C.M. 1107(b)(3); United States v. Craig, 28 M.J. 321, 324-25 (C.M.A. 1989). The United States is permitted to "enhance the 'paper trail' and show that the information was indeed transmitted to and considered by the convening authority." United States v. Blanch, 29 M.J. 672, 673 (C.M.A. 1989). We find the convening authority considered the appellant's entire clemency submission prior to taking action.

The approved findings and sentence are correct in law and fact, and no error prejudicial to the substantial rights of the appellant occurred. Article 66(c), UCMJ, 10 U.S.C. § 866(c); *United States v. Reed*, 54 M.J. 37, 41 (C.A.A.F. 2000). Accordingly, the findings and sentence are

AFFIRMED.

OFFICIAL

MARTHA E. COBLE-BEACH, TSgt, USAF Court Administrator