

Support Army Spc Alexis Hutchinson

Military trial for single mom unable to find care for baby

In a shocking disappointment, Fort Stewart, GA Army officials filed four separate court martial charges against Specialist Alexis Hutchinson, a single mother of a one-year-old son who missed deployment in early November 2009 when her childcare plan fell through at the last minute.

On November 6, 2009, Alexis was arrested when she missed her plane to Afghanistan because she was taking care of her infant son Kamani. When she reported the following day, the Army removed her son from her and arrested her.

In anticipation of going overseas, in early October 2009 Alexis flew to California and left her son with her mother Angelique Hughes of Oakland, CA, as per her Army family care plan. However, after a week of caring for then 11-month-old Kamani, Ms. Hughes realized that she was unable to take care of the infant in addition to her other duties to a special-needs daughter, an ailing mother, and an ailing sister. Ms. Hughes immediately contacted her daughter and the military chain of command that she was not able to care for Kamani as planned.

The Army initially gave Alexis an extension of time to find someone else to care for her son. In the meantime, her mother brought Kamani back to Georgia. A few days before Alexis was scheduled to deploy, however, the extension was revoked. She was told that she would immediately deploy, and Kamani would be placed in the local county foster care system. Any option that would put Kamani in government custody carried the risk of Alexis permanently losing parental rights. Faced with that dilemma, Alexis chose not to abandon her son.

The military had Alexis arrested the following day and put Kamani in the county foster care system until his grandmother retrieved him and cared for him temporarily until his mother returned for the holidays. Both Alexis and her son are currently at Hunter Army Airfield, GA awaiting special court martial, a one year prison sentence, and a bad conduct discharge.



Alexis and Kamani Hutchinson

"They told me because I missed movement I'm going to jail. . . I started crying a lot and I tried to explain that I just want an extension, I just need time, that I need someone to take care of my child. They said that they didn't care. . . That was the worst thing I have ever gone through, to have my child taken from me." – **Spc Alexis Hutchinson**

"I am disappointed in the Army's decision to go ahead with filing charges. . . The situation tends to show that the Army is not able to effectively and humanely counsel Army families in this situation. An infant and his mother were forcibly separated, when other options were available to the commander." – **Attorney Rai Sue Sussman** (Alexis' lawyer)

HOW TO HELP

1. **Sign the petition** – Reverse side, or online at couragetoresent.org
2. **Donate to Alexis' defense** – Online at couragetoresent.org/alexis OR Send check or money order to Courage to Resist, 484 Lake Park Ave #41, Oakland CA 94610. Please note that your tax-deductible donation should be earmarked for "Alexis Hutchinson's defense."
3. **Contact your congressperson** and ask for an investigation into this outrage. Members of the Congressional Government Oversight and Reform Committee are especially important regarding Alexis' situation.



US Army: Drop the Charges Against Alexis Hutchinson!

Military trial for single mom unable to find childcare

Courage to Resist will print and mail this letter on your behalf.

We will also CC President Obama and the commanding general of US Army FORSCOM

***“I appeal to you to find a compassionate resolution to a difficult situation.
Please drop the charges against Spc. Hutchinson.”***

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillip
Deputy Commanding General—Rear
3rd Infantry Division (M)
42 Wayne Place, Suite 200
Fort Stewart, GA 31314-5000

CC
General Charles Campbell
CG, US Army FORSCOM
1777 Hardee Avenue SW
Fort McPherson, GA 30330-1062

CC
President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Phillip,

I am shocked and disappointed that four separate court martial charges have been brought against Specialist Alexis Hutchinson, a single parent with a one-year old son, who missed deployment in early November 2009 when her childcare plan fell through at the last moment, due to circumstances beyond her control.

In anticipation of deployment in early October 2009, Spc Hutchinson did travel to California and left her son Kamani with her mother Angelique Hughes in Oakland, California, as per her Army family care plan.

After caring for Kamani for a week, Ms. Hughes realized that she was unable to care for the infant in addition to her other duties to a special-needs daughter, an ailing mother, and an ailing sister. Ms. Hughes immediately contacted her daughter and her Ft. Stewart chain of command to inform them that she was simply unable to care for Kamani as planned. Ms. Hughes returned Kamani to her mother at Ft. Stewart.

The Army initially allowed for an extension of time to find another option; however, the extension was revoked. Spc Hutchinson understood that that Kamani would be taken away from her and placed in the county foster care system. Facing the real risk of permanently losing her parental rights, Spc Hutchinson admittedly was AWOL for approximately 24 hours and missed her unit's deployment.

I appeal to you to find a compassionate resolution to a difficult situation. Please drop the charges against Spc. Hutchinson.

Signature _____

Print name _____ Email _____

Street address _____

City / State / Zip _____