

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Suspect in Navy Stabbing Charged

Norfolk, Va. (CNRMA) – The sailor accused of the June 6 stabbing of another sailor at the Naval Support Activity Hampton Roads Portsmouth Annex was charged by the Navy Wednesday, July 23 with attempted murder and two counts of aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon.

Harwell has been held in pre-trial confinement since being turned over to Navy custody by Federal agents June 12.

An Article 32 hearing for Harwell is tentatively scheduled for Aug. 18.

The victim of the assault, Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin D. Powell, was released last month from the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth.

Agents say Harwell fled after stabbing Powell in a barracks room June 6. After the assault, agents say Powell exited the barracks and made his way to the Navy Exchange area for help. NCIS agents said they believe another service member may have assisted Harwell in leaving the installation before the gates were closed, driving him to Virginia Beach where he was apprehended at an oceanfront hotel later in the afternoon by Navy, local and federal officials.

Agents say there was enough time for Harwell to leave the base before the incident was reported. Emergency services received the report of the stabbing at 8:33. Two minutes later, at 8:35 a.m., the gates to the installation were closed and personnel ordered to shelter in place for more than eight hours while Navy, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies conducted a room-by-room search on the installation for the suspect.

Further details of the investigation have not been released.

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