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**MEDIA ADVISORY: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, July 17, 2025

**FT. BLISS SOLDIER PLEADS GUILTY TO 2023 DEADLY MASS SHOOTING OUTSIDE BAR**

EL PASO, Texas (07/17/2025) – A Ft. Bliss soldier accused of shooting and killing a couple during a fight outside of an East-Central El Paso bar, has pleaded guilty one day before his murder trial was set to begin.

Andrew James Williams, 22, entered a guilty plea to Murder, Attempted Capital Murder of Multiple Persons, and Attempted Capital Murder/Obstruction or Retaliation. The plea hearing was held Thursday, July 17, in the 384th District Court with Judge Patrick M. Garcia presiding.

On July 13, 2023, a fight broke out among a group in the parking lot of the Ditzzy Duck Bar, off of Airway Boulevard. James Nicholson, 26, his girlfriend Alexa Retana, 27, and a group of their friends and family were on the bar's patio when an argument started. The argument then escalated into a physical altercation, involving both groups. Surveillance video from a nearby bar shows Williams holding a handgun and opening fire on the group. Nicholson and Retana died on the scene, and four people in their group were wounded. Williams and his group drove off, but were apprehended while trying to enter Ft. Bliss.

Judge Garcia ordered Williams to serve three concurrent life sentences in a Texas state prison facility. Williams waived his right to appeal as a part of the plea agreement.

The families of both Nicholson and Retana, along with several victims of the shooting, delivered victim impact statements as Williams stood in the jury box.

District Attorney James Montoya and Assistant District Attorney Linda Estrada represented the State of Texas in the prosecution of this case. DA Montoya is reserving comment on its outcome until the conclusion of the court proceedings for Williams' co-defendant.

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