

Friday, August 1, 2008

**"The Execution Team will insert a large bore intravenous channel into the appropriate vein."**

1961 saw the last military execution in the United States. Now, George Bush, II, has broken that execution-free period in the military by approving the execution of Ronald A. Gray. Presidential approval is required to proceed with a military execution. Mr. Gray entered a guilty plea in state court to several rapes and murders; the crimes to which he admitted make the stomach turn and heave for days. Although his state court sentence involved consecutive life sentences, the military nevertheless proceeded with a trial(s), apparently based on the same criminal conduct to which he pled in state court; this sounds like a variation on the theme or the actual theme of the separate sovereigns doctrine. He was convicted at the military trial and sentenced to death. The above-listed title for this blog entry comes straight from the Army's 2006 procedures for military executions. Jumping off the pages of those guidelines is the disconnect between the dispassionate technocratic language and the state-run legalized murder that is the death penalty. Thanks to the Courts Martial blog ([here](#) and [here](#)) for posting on this story, as well as the CAAF blog ([here](#) and [here](#)). Here is the Washington Post article on the case. Jon Katz.

Posted by Jon Katz in Criminal Defense at 00:00