

Military Justice

The military operates its own judicial system. It uses the Imperial Manual of Courts Marshal (IMCM) which contains a wide variety of crimes many unique to the military, plus the Universal Laws of War (LOW). Service members that violate these rules are subject to a Chapter 32 investigation. A crime will be investigated by the service investigative agency and if grounds are present the charge sheet is sent to the Court Marshal Convening Authority (CMCA) for formal filing. The CMCA is generally the highest general or admiral in the member's chain of command. Lesser charges can be handled by the member's immediate commander under an Article 15 Administrative Punishment, often called a Captain's Mast in the Imperial Navy.

The member under investigation has many of the rights of his civilian counterpart. The right to counsel, the right to remain silent and the right to present their story to a court marshal. Each branch of the military operates a Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps which is responsible for all military judges and lawyers (and both the prosecution and defense attorney's). Once the service member is arrested he or she is provided a defense counsel. The defense counsel can be a JAG officer or a request can be made to appoint a specific officer that does not even have to be a lawyer. Once the specifications are filed a court marshal is convened. A court marshal comes in three flavors: Summary, Special or General.

A Summary Court Marshal is assigned when charges involve imprisonment for less than one year. A military judge hears the case alone and renders punishment as determined by the IMCM, which generally involves assignment to a base or naval stockade and a loss of one rank and benefits.

A Special Court Marshal requires a military judge along with a three member panel of officers and senior NCOs appointed by the court. The panel determines the facts and the military judge determines the punishment. The punishment can not be over five years in a military prison and/or a bad conduct discharge.

A General Court Marshal also requires a military judge along with a five member court marshal panel composed of officers and senior NCOs appointed by the court. Again, the panel determines the facts and the military judge adjudicates issues of law and renders punishment. The maximum punishment can be a dishonorable discharge, life in prison, or even the death penalty, dependent upon the charges.

There are many charges listed under the IMCM (some are uniquely military):

- Treason
- Espionage
- Sabotage
- Mutiny
- Endangerment of Command
- Desertion
- Contempt Towards Officials
- Insubordination
- Cruelty and Maltreatment of Prisoners
- Dereliction of Duty
- Misconduct before the Enemy
- Conduct Unbecoming an Officer or NCO
- Unauthorized Absence (often called AWOL or UA)

Disobeying a Lawful Order by a Superior Officer or NCO
Disrespect towards a Superior Officer or NCO
Missing a Movement
Theft of Military Property
Disorderly Conduct
Assault upon a Superior Officer or NCO
Illegal Disclosure of a Password, Code or Countersign
Drunk on Duty
Behavior Contrary to Good Order and Discipline
Aiding the Enemy
Loss of a Military Weapon
Malingering
Dueling
Misconduct of a POW
Subordinate Compelling Surrender
Fraudulent Enlistment, Appointment or Separation