

1997—Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title V, § 581(a)(2), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1760, added item 856a.

1996—Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title XI, §§ 1122(a)(2), 1123(b), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 463, 464, added items 857a and 858b.

1960—Pub. L. 86-633, § 1(2), July 12, 1960, 74 Stat. 468, added item 858a.

§ 855. Art. 55. Cruel and unusual punishments prohibited

Punishment by flogging, or by branding, marking, or tattooing on the body, or any other cruel or unusual punishment, may not be adjudged by any court-martial or inflicted upon any person subject to this chapter. The use of irons, single or double, except for the purpose of safe custody, is prohibited.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 56.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 855 | 50:636. | May 5, 1950, ch. 169, § 1 (Art. 55), 64 Stat. 126. |

The word “may” is substituted for the word “shall”.

§ 856. Art. 56. Maximum limits

The punishment which a court-martial may direct for an offense may not exceed such limits as the President may prescribe for that offense.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 56; Pub. L. 113-66, div. A, title XVII, § 1702(a)(1), (2)(A), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 959.)

AMENDMENT OF SECTION

Pub. L. 113-66, div. A, title XVII, § 1705(a)(1), (2)(A), (c), Dec. 26, 2013, 127 Stat. 959, 960, provided that, effective 180 days after Dec. 26, 2013, and applicable to offenses specified in subsection (b)(2) of this section committed on or after that date, this section is amended:

(1) by amending the section catchline to read as follows:

“§ 856. Art. 56. Maximum and minimum limits”;

(2) by inserting “(a)” before “The punishment”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

(b)(1) While a person subject to this chapter who is found guilty of an offense specified in paragraph (2) shall be punished as a general court-martial may direct, such punishment must include, at a minimum, dismissal or dishonorable discharge, except as provided for in section 860 of this title (article 60).

(2) Paragraph (1) applies to the following offenses:

(A) An offense in violation of subsection (a) or (b) of section 920 of this title (article 120(a) or (b)).

(B) Rape and sexual assault of a child under subsection (a) or (b) of section 920b of this title (article 120b).

(C) Forcible sodomy under section 925 of this title (article 125).

(D) An attempt to commit an offense specified in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) that is punishable under section 880 of this title (article 80).

See 2013 Amendment note below.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 856 | 50:637. | May 5, 1950, ch. 169, § 1 (Art. 56), 64 Stat. 126. |

The word “may” is substituted for the word “shall”.

AMENDMENTS

2013—Pub. L. 113-66 substituted “Maximum and minimum limits” for “Maximum limits” in section catchline, designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), and added subsec. (b).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2013 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 113-66 effective 180 days after Dec. 26, 2013, and applicable to offenses specified in subsec. (b)(2) of this section committed on or after that date, see section 1705(c) of Pub. L. 113-66, set out as a note under section 818 of this title.

§ 856a. Art. 56a. Sentence of confinement for life without eligibility for parole

(a) For any offense for which a sentence of confinement for life may be adjudged, a court-martial may adjudge a sentence of confinement for life without eligibility for parole.

(b) An accused who is sentenced to confinement for life without eligibility for parole shall be confined for the remainder of the accused’s life unless—

(1) the sentence is set aside or otherwise modified as a result of—

(A) action taken by the convening authority, the Secretary concerned, or another person authorized to act under section 860 of this title (article 60); or

(B) any other action taken during post-trial procedure and review under any other provision of subchapter IX;

(2) the sentence is set aside or otherwise modified as a result of action taken by a Court of Criminal Appeals, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, or the Supreme Court; or

(3) the accused is pardoned.

(Added Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title V, § 581(a)(1), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1759.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 105-85, div. A, title V, § 581(b), Nov. 18, 1997, 111 Stat. 1760, provided that: “Section 856a of title 10, United States Code (article 56a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), as added by subsection (a), shall be applicable only with respect to an offense committed after the date of the enactment of this Act [Nov. 18, 1997].”

§ 857. Art. 57. Effective date of sentences

(a)(1) Any forfeiture of pay or allowances or reduction in grade that is included in a sentence of a court-martial takes effect on the earlier of—

(A) the date that is 14 days after the date on which the sentence is adjudged; or

(B) the date on which the sentence is approved by the convening authority.

(2) On application by an accused, the convening authority may defer a forfeiture of pay or allowances or reduction in grade that would otherwise become effective under paragraph (1)(A) until the date on which the sentence is approved

by the convening authority. Such a deferment may be rescinded at any time by the convening authority.

(3) A forfeiture of pay or allowances shall be applicable to pay and allowances accruing on and after the date on which the sentence takes effect.

(4) In this subsection, the term “convening authority”, with respect to a sentence of a court-martial, means any person authorized to act on the sentence under section 860 of this title (article 60).

(b) Any period of confinement included in a sentence of a court-martial begins to run from the date the sentence is adjudged by the court-martial, but periods during which the sentence to confinement is suspended or deferred shall be excluded in computing the service of the term of confinement.

(c) All other sentences of courts-martial are effective on the date ordered executed.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 56; Pub. L. 90-632, §2(24), Oct. 24, 1968, 82 Stat. 1341; Pub. L. 98-209, §5(f), Dec. 6, 1983, 97 Stat. 1400; Pub. L. 102-484, div. A, title X, §1064, Oct. 23, 1992, 106 Stat. 2505; Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title XI, §§1121(a), 1123(a)(1), (2), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 462-464.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

| Revised section | Source (U.S. Code) | Source (Statutes at Large) |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 857(a) | 50:638(a). | May 5, 1950, ch. 169, §1 |
| 857(b) | 50:638(b). | (Art. 57), 64 Stat. 126. |
| 857(c) | 50:638(c). | |

In subsection (a), the word “may” is substituted for the word “shall”.

In subsection (b), the word “begins” is substituted for the words “shall begin”.

In subsection (c), the word “are” is substituted for the words “shall become”.

AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-106, §1121(a), amended subsec. (a) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (a) read as follows: “No forfeiture may extend to any pay or allowances accrued before the date on which the sentence is approved by the person acting under section 860(c) of this title (article 60(c)).”

Subsecs. (d), (e). Pub. L. 104-106, §1123(a)(1), (2), redesignated subsecs. (d) and (e) as section 857a(a) and (b), respectively, of this title.

1992—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 102-484 added subsec. (e).

1983—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 98-209 substituted provision that no forfeiture may extend to any pay or allowances accrued before the date on which the sentence is approved by the person acting under section 860(c) of this title, for provision that whenever a sentence of a court-martial as lawfully adjudged and approved included a forfeiture of pay or allowances in addition to confinement not suspended or deferred, the forfeiture could apply to pay or allowances becoming due on or after the date the sentence was approved by the convening authority, and that no forfeiture could extend to any pay or allowances accrued before that date.

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-632 inserted reference to deferral of sentence of confinement.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 90-632 inserted reference to deferral of sentence of confinement.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 90-632 added subsec. (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1996 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 104-106, div. A, title XI, §1121(b), Feb. 10, 1996, 110 Stat. 462, provided that: “The amendment made by

subsection (a) [amending this section] shall apply to a case in which a sentence is adjudged by a court-martial on or after the first day of the first month that begins at least 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act [Feb. 10, 1996].”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1992 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 102-484 effective Oct. 23, 1992, and applicable with respect to offenses committed on or after that date, see section 1067 of Pub. L. 102-484, set out as a note under section 803 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1983 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 98-209 effective first day of eighth calendar month beginning after Dec. 6, 1983, but not to apply to any case in which the findings and sentence were adjudged by a court-martial before that date, and the proceedings in any such case to be held in the same manner and with the same effect as if such amendments had not been enacted, see section 12(a)(1), (4) of Pub. L. 98-209, set out as a note under section 801 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 90-632 effective first day of tenth month following October 1968, see section 4 of Pub. L. 90-632, set out as a note under section 801 of this title.

§ 857a. Art. 57a. Deferment of sentences

(a) On application by an accused who is under sentence to confinement that has not been ordered executed, the convening authority or, if the accused is no longer under his jurisdiction, the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the command to which the accused is currently assigned, may in his sole discretion defer service of the sentence to confinement. The deferment shall terminate when the sentence is ordered executed. The deferment may be rescinded at any time by the officer who granted it or, if the accused is no longer under his jurisdiction, by the officer exercising general court-martial jurisdiction over the command to which the accused is currently assigned.

(b)(1) In any case in which a court-martial sentences a person referred to in paragraph (2) to confinement, the convening authority may defer the service of the sentence to confinement, without the consent of that person, until after the person has been permanently released to the armed forces by a State or foreign country referred to in that paragraph.

(2) Paragraph (1) applies to a person subject to this chapter who—

(A) while in the custody of a State or foreign country is temporarily returned by that State or foreign country to the armed forces for trial by court-martial; and

(B) after the court-martial, is returned to that State or foreign country under the authority of a mutual agreement or treaty, as the case may be.

(3) In this subsection, the term “State” includes the District of Columbia and any commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(c) In any case in which a court-martial sentences a person to confinement and the sentence to confinement has been ordered executed, but in which review of the case under section 867(a)(2) of this title (article 67(a)(2)) is pending, the Secretary concerned may defer further serv-