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823.	23.	Who may convene special courts-martial.
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AMENDMENT OF ANALYSIS

*Pub. L. 114-328, div. E, title LXIII, §§ 5541(2)(A), (C), 5542, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2965, 2967, provided that, effective on the date designated by the President, not later than the first day of the first calendar month beginning two years after Dec. 23, 2016, with implementing regulations prescribed by the President not later than one year after Dec. 23, 2016, and with provisions relating to applicability to various situations, this analysis is amended by striking items 825a and 829 and inserting the following new items:*

Sec.	Art.	
825.	25a.	Number of court-martial members in capital cases.
829.	29.	Assembly and impaneling of members; detail of new members and military judges.

*See 2016 Amendment note below.*

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328, div. E, title LXIII, § 5541(2), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2965, added item 825 relating to number of court-martial members in capital cases and item 826a, substituted “Assembly and impaneling of members; detail of new members and military judges” for “Absent and additional members” in item 829, and struck out former item 825a “Art. 25a. Number of members in capital cases”.

2001—Pub. L. 107-107, div. A, title V, § 582(b)(2), Dec. 28, 2001, 115 Stat. 1124, added item 825a.

1968—Pub. L. 90-632, § 2(8), Oct. 24, 1968, 82 Stat. 1336, substituted “Military judge of a general or special court-martial” for “Law officer of a general court-martial” in item 826.

**§ 822. Art. 22. Who may convene general courts-martial**

(a) General courts-martial may be convened by—

- (1) the President of the United States;
- (2) the Secretary of Defense;
- (3) the commanding officer of a unified or specified combatant command;
- (4) the Secretary concerned;
- (5) the commanding officer of an Army Group, an Army, an Army Corps, a division, a separate brigade, or a corresponding unit of the Army or Marine Corps;
- (6) the commander in chief of a fleet; the commanding officer of a naval station or larger shore activity of the Navy beyond the United States;
- (7) the commanding officer of an air command, an air force, an air division, or a separate wing of the Air Force or Marine Corps;
- (8) any other commanding officer designated by the Secretary concerned; or

(9) any other commanding officer in any of the armed forces when empowered by the President.

(b) If any such commanding officer is an accuser, the court shall be convened by superior competent authority, and may in any case be convened by such authority if considered desirable by him.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 44; Pub. L. 99-433, title II, § 211(b), Oct. 1, 1986, 100 Stat. 1017; Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title X, § 1057(a)(2), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3440; Pub. L. 114-328, div. E, title LV, § 5181, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2899.)

AMENDMENT OF SUBSECTION (a)(6)

*Pub. L. 114-328, div. E, title LV, § 5181, title LXIII, § 5542, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2899, 2967, provided that, effective on the date designated by the President, not later than the first day of the first calendar month beginning two years after Dec. 23, 2016, with implementing regulations prescribed by the President not later than one year after Dec. 23, 2016, and with provisions relating to applicability to various situations, subsection (a)(6) is amended by striking “in chief”. See 2016 Amendment note below.*

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
822(a) .....	50:586(a).	May 5, 1950, ch. 169, § 1
822(b) .....	50:586(b).	(Art. 22), 64 Stat. 115.

Subsection (a)(2) is substituted for the words “the Secretary of a Department”.

In subsection (a)(4), the words “continental limits of the” are omitted, since section 101(1) of this title defines the United States to include the States and the District of Columbia.

In subsection (a)(6), the words “any other commanding officer” are substituted for the words “such other commanding officers as may be”.

In subsection (b), the word “IF” is substituted for the word “When”. The words “if considered” are substituted for the words “when deemed”.

AMENDMENTS

2016—Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 114-328 struck out “in chief” after “the commander”.

2006—Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 109-163 struck out “a Territorial Department,” before “an Army Group”.

1986—Subsec. (a)(2) to (9). Pub. L. 99-433 added pars. (2) and (3) and redesignated existing pars. (2) to (7) as (4) to (9), respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2016 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 114-328 effective on the date designated by the President, not later than the first day of the first calendar month beginning two years after Dec. 23, 2016, with implementing regulations prescribed by the President not later than one year after Dec. 23, 2016, and with provisions relating to applicability to various situations, see section 5542 of Pub. L. 114-328, set out as a note under section 801 of this title.

**§ 823. Art. 23. Who may convene special courts-martial**

(a) Special courts-martial may be convened by—

- (1) any person who may convene a general court-martial;
- (2) the commanding officer of a district, garrison, fort, camp, station, Air Force base, aux-

iliary air field, or other place where members of the Army or the Air Force are on duty;

(3) the commanding officer of a brigade, regiment, detached battalion, or corresponding unit of the Army;

(4) the commanding officer of a wing, group, or separate squadron of the Air Force;

(5) the commanding officer of any naval or Coast Guard vessel, shipyard, base, or station; the commanding officer of any Marine brigade, regiment, detached battalion, or corresponding unit; the commanding officer of any Marine barracks, wing, group, separate squadron, station, base, auxiliary air field, or other place where members of the Marine Corps are on duty;

(6) the commanding officer of any separate or detached command or group of detached units of any of the armed forces placed under a single commander for this purpose; or

(7) the commanding officer or officer in charge of any other command when empowered by the Secretary concerned.

(b) If any such officer is an accuser, the court shall be convened by superior competent authority, and may in any case be convened by such authority if considered advisable by him.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 44.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
823(a) .....	50:587(a).	May 5, 1950, ch. 169, § 1 (Art. 23), 64 Stat. 115.
823(b) .....	50:587(b).	

In subsection (a)(7), the words “Secretary concerned” are substituted for the words “Secretary of a Department”.

In subsection (b), the word “If” is substituted for the word “When”. The words “if considered” are substituted for the words “when deemed”.

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

For transfer of authorities, functions, personnel, and assets of the Coast Guard, including the authorities and functions of the Secretary of Transportation relating thereto, to the Department of Homeland Security, and for treatment of related references, see sections 468(b), 551(d), 552(d), and 557 of Title 6, Domestic Security, and the Department of Homeland Security Reorganization Plan of November 25, 2002, as modified, set out as a note under section 542 of Title 6.

**§ 824. Art. 24. Who may convene summary courts-martial**

(a) Summary courts-martial may be convened by—

(1) any person who may convene a general or special court-martial;

(2) the commanding officer of a detached company, or other detachment of the Army;

(3) the commanding officer of a detached squadron or other detachment of the Air Force; or

(4) the commanding officer or officer in charge of any other command when empowered by the Secretary concerned.

(b) When only one commissioned officer is present with a command or detachment he shall be the summary court-martial of that command or detachment and shall hear and determine all

summary court-martial cases brought before him. Summary courts-martial may, however, be convened in any case by superior competent authority when considered desirable by him.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 45.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
824(a) .....	50:588(a).	May 5, 1950, ch. 169, § 1 (Art. 24), 64 Stat. 116.
824(b) .....	50:588(b).	

In subsection (a)(4), the words “Secretary concerned” are substituted for the words “Secretary of a Department”.

In subsection (b), the words “only one commissioned” are substituted for the words “but one” for clarity. The word “considered” is substituted for the word “deemed”.

**§ 825. Art. 25. Who may serve on courts-martial**

(a) Any commissioned officer on active duty is eligible to serve on all courts-martial for the trial of any person who may lawfully be brought before such courts for trial.

(b) Any warrant officer on active duty is eligible to serve on general and special courts-martial for the trial of any person, other than a commissioned officer, who may lawfully be brought before such courts for trial.

(c)(1) Any enlisted member of an armed force on active duty who is not a member of the same unit as the accused is eligible to serve on general and special courts-martial for the trial of any enlisted member of an armed force who may lawfully be brought before such courts for trial, but he shall serve as a member of a court only if, before the conclusion of a session called by the military judge under section 839(a) of this title (article 39(a)) prior to trial or, in the absence of such a session, before the court is assembled for the trial of the accused, the accused personally has requested orally on the record or in writing that enlisted members serve on it. After such a request, the accused may not be tried by a general or special court-martial the membership of which does not include enlisted members in a number comprising at least, one-third of the total membership of the court, unless eligible enlisted members cannot be obtained on account of physical conditions or military exigencies. If such members cannot be obtained, the court may be assembled and the trial held without them, but the convening authority shall make a detailed written statement, to be appended to the record, stating why they could not be obtained.

(2) In this article, “unit” means any regularly organized body as defined by the Secretary concerned, but in no case may it be a body larger than a company, squadron, ship’s crew, or body corresponding to one of them.

(d)(1) When it can be avoided, no member of an armed force may be tried by a court-martial any member of which is junior to him in rank or grade.

(2) When convening a court-martial, the convening authority shall detail as members thereof such members of the armed forces as, in his opinion, are best qualified for the duty by reason of age, education, training, experience,