

the alleged sex-related offense were considered by the convening authority in making the referral decision.

“(b) SEX-RELATED OFFENSE DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘sex-related offense’ means any of the following:

“(1) Rape or sexual assault under subsection (a) or (b) of section 920 of title 10, United States Code (article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

“(2) Forcible sodomy under section 925 of such title (article 125 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

“(3) An attempt to commit an offense specified in paragraph (1) or (2) as punishable under section 880 of such title (article 80 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

“(c) REVIEW OF CERTAIN CASES NOT REFERRED TO COURT-MARTIAL.—

“(1) CASES NOT REFERRED FOLLOWING STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE RECOMMENDATION FOR REFERRAL FOR TRIAL.—In any case where a staff judge advocate, pursuant to section 834 of title 10, United States Code (article 34 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), recommends that charges of a sex-related offense be referred for trial by court-martial and the convening authority decides not to refer any charges to a court-martial, the convening authority shall forward the case file to the Secretary of the military department concerned for review as a superior authorized to exercise general court-martial convening authority.

“(2) CASES NOT REFERRED BY CONVENING AUTHORITY UPON REQUEST FOR REVIEW BY CHIEF PROSECUTOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In any case where a convening authority decides not to refer a charge of a sex-related offense to trial by court-martial, the Secretary of the military department concerned shall review the decision as a superior authority authorized to exercise general court-martial convening authority if the chief prosecutor of the Armed Force concerned, in response to a request by the detailed counsel for the Government, requests review of the decision by the Secretary.

“(B) CHIEF PROSECUTOR DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term ‘chief prosecutor’ means the chief prosecutor or equivalent position of an Armed Force, or, if an Armed Force does not have a chief prosecutor or equivalent position, such other trial counsel as shall be designated by the Judge Advocate General of that Armed Force, or in the case of the Marine Corps, the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

“(d) REVIEW OF CASES NOT REFERRED TO COURT-MARTIAL FOLLOWING STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE RECOMMENDATION NOT TO REFER FOR TRIAL.—In any case where a staff judge advocate, pursuant to section 834 of title 10, United States Code (article 34 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), recommends that charges of a sex-related offense should not be referred for trial by court-martial and the convening authority decides not to refer any charges to a court-martial, the convening authority shall forward the case file for review to the next superior commander authorized to exercise general court-martial convening authority.

“(e) ELEMENTS OF CASE FILE.—A case file forwarded to higher authority for review pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) shall include the following:

“(1) All charges and specifications preferred under section 830 of title 10, United States Code (article 30 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

“(2) All reports of investigations of such charges, including the military criminal investigative organization investigation report and the report prepared under section 832 of title 10, United States Code (article 32 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice), as amended by section 1702.

“(3) A certification that the victim of the alleged sex-related offense was notified of the opportunity to express views on the victim’s preferred disposition of the alleged offense for consideration by the convening authority.

“(4) All statements of the victim provided to the military criminal investigative organization and to

the victim’s chain of command relating to the alleged sex-related offense and any statement provided by the victim to the convening authority expressing the victim’s view on the victim’s preferred disposition of the alleged offense.

“(5) The written advice of the staff judge advocate to the convening authority pursuant to section 834 of title 10, United States Code (article 34 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice).

“(6) A written statement explaining the reasons for the convening authority’s decision not to refer any charges for trial by court-martial.

“(7) A certification that the victim of the alleged sex-related offense was informed of the convening authority’s decision to forward the case as provided in subsection (c) or (d).

“(f) NOTICE ON RESULTS OR REVIEW.—The victim of the alleged sex-related offense shall be notified of the results of the review conducted under subsection (c) or (d) in the manner prescribed by the victims and witness assistance program of the Armed Force concerned.

“(g) VICTIM ALLEGATION OF SEX-RELATED OFFENSE.—The Secretary of Defense shall require the Secretaries of the military departments to develop a system to ensure that a victim of a possible sex-related offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice is given the opportunity to state, either at the time of making an unrestricted report of the allegation or during the criminal investigation of the allegation, whether or not the victim believes that the offense alleged is a sex-related offense subject to the requirements of this section.”

§ 835. Art. 35. Service of charges; commencement of trial

(a) IN GENERAL.—Trial counsel detailed for a court-martial under section 827 of this title (article 27) shall cause to be served upon the accused a copy of the charges and specifications referred for trial.

(b) COMMENCEMENT OF TRIAL.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), no trial or other proceeding of a general court-martial or a special court-martial (including any session under section 839(a) of this title (article 39(a)) may be held over the objection of the accused—

(A) with respect to a general court-martial, from the time of service through the fifth day after the date of service; or

(B) with respect to a special court-martial, from the time of service through the third day after the date of service.

(2) An objection under paragraph (1) may be raised only at the first session of the trial or other proceeding and only if the first session occurs before the end of the applicable period under paragraph (1)(A) or (1)(B). If the first session occurs before the end of the applicable period, the military judge shall, at that session, inquire as to whether the defense objects under this subsection.

(3) This subsection shall not apply in time of war.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 49; Pub. L. 90-632, §2(12), Oct. 24, 1968, 82 Stat. 1337; Pub. L. 114-328, div. E, title LVI, §5206, Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2908.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
835	50:606.	May 5, 1950, ch. 169, §1 (Art. 35), 64 Stat. 119.

The word “may” is substituted for the word “shall”. The word “after” is substituted for the words “subsequent to”.

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328 amended section generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The trial counsel to whom court-martial charges are referred for trial shall cause to be served upon the accused a copy of the charges upon which trial is to be had. In time of peace no person may, against his objection, be brought to trial, or be required to participate by himself or counsel in a session called by the military judge under section 839(a) of this title (article 39(a)), in a general court-martial case within a period of five days after the service of charges upon him, or in a special court-martial case within a period of three days after the service of charges upon him.”

1968—Pub. L. 90-632 inserted reference to a session called by the military judge under section 839(a) of this title (article 39(a)).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2016 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 114-328 effective on Jan. 1, 2019, as designated by the President, with implementing regulations and provisions relating to applicability to various situations, see section 5542 of Pub. L. 114-328 and Ex. Ord. No. 13825, set out as notes 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.

SUBCHAPTER VII—TRIAL PROCEDURE

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853.	53.	Findings and sentencing.
853a.	53a.	Plea agreements.
854.	54.	Record of trial.

¹ So in original. “Art.” probably should not appear.

AMENDMENTS

2019—Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title V, §532(b), Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1361, in item 837 substituted “Art. 37. Command influence” for “37. Unlawfully influencing action of court”.

2017—Pub. L. 115-91, div. A, title X, §1081(d)(19)(A), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1601, made technical amendment to Pub. L. 114-328, §5541(4). See 2016 Amendment note below.

2016—Pub. L. 114-328, div. E, title LXIII, §5541(4), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2966, as amended by Pub. L. 115-91,

div. A, title X, §1081(d)(19)(A), Dec. 12, 2017, 131 Stat. 1601, added item 853a and substituted “Opportunity to obtain witnesses and other evidence in trials by court-martial” for “Opportunity to obtain witnesses and other evidence” in item 846, “Refusal of person not subject to chapter to appear, testify, or produce evidence” for “Refusal to appear or testify” in item 847, “Contempt” for “Contempts” in item 848, “Admissibility of sworn testimony from records of courts of inquiry” for “Admissibility of records of courts of inquiry” in item 850, “Votes required for conviction, sentencing, and other matters” for “Number of votes required” in item 852, and “Findings and sentencing” for “Court to announce action” in item 853.

1986—Pub. L. 99-661, div. A, title VIII, §802(a)(2), Nov. 14, 1986, 100 Stat. 3906, added item 850a.

§ 836. Art. 36. President may prescribe rules

(a) Pretrial, trial, and post-trial procedures, including modes of proof, for cases arising under this chapter triable in courts-martial, military commissions and other military tribunals, and procedures for courts of inquiry, may be prescribed by the President by regulations which shall, so far as he considers practicable, apply the principles of law and the rules of evidence generally recognized in the trial of criminal cases in the United States district courts, but which may not, except as provided in chapter 47A of this title, be contrary to or inconsistent with this chapter.

(b) All rules and regulations made under this article shall be uniform insofar as practicable, except insofar as applicable to military commissions established under chapter 47A of this title.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 50; Pub. L. 96-107, title VIII, §801(b), Nov. 9, 1979, 93 Stat. 811; Pub. L. 101-510, div. A, title XIII, §1301(4), Nov. 5, 1990, 104 Stat. 1668; Pub. L. 109-366, §4(a)(3), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2631.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
836(a)	50:611(a).	May 5, 1950, ch. 169, §1 (Art. 36), 64 Stat. 120.
836(b)	50:611(b).	

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

In subsection (b), the word “under” is substituted for the words “in pursuance of”.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-366, §4(a)(3)(A), inserted “, except as provided in chapter 47A of this title,” after “but which may not”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 109-366, §4(a)(3)(B), inserted before period at end “, except insofar as applicable to military commissions established under chapter 47A of this title”.

1990—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 101-510 struck out “and shall be reported to Congress” after “as practicable”.

1979—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 96-107 substituted provisions authorizing pretrial, trial, and post-trial procedures for cases under this chapter triable in courts-martial, military commissions and other military tribunals, for provisions authorizing procedure in cases before courts-martial, military commissions, and other military tribunals.

§ 837. Art. 37. Command influence

(a)(1) No court-martial convening authority, nor any other commanding officer, may censure,