

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 105-118, §583(3), as amended by Pub. L. 107-273, amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) read as follows:

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the term ‘grave breach of the Geneva Conventions’ means conduct defined as a grave breach in any of the international conventions relating to the laws of warfare signed at Geneva 12 August 1949 or any protocol to any such convention, to which the United States is a party.”

1996—Pub. L. 104-294 renumbered section 2401 of this title as this section.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-366, §6(b)(2), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2635, provided that: “The amendments made by this subsection [amending this section], except as specified in subsection (d)(2)(E) of section 2441 of title 18, United States Code, shall take effect as of November 26, 1997, as if enacted immediately after the amendments made by section 583 of Public Law 105-118 [amending this section] (as amended by section 4002(e)(7) of Public Law 107-273).”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 107-273, div. B, title IV, §4002(e)(7), Nov. 2, 2002, 116 Stat. 1810, provided that the amendment made by section 4002(e)(7) is effective Nov. 26, 1997.

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 104-192, §1, Aug. 21, 1996, 110 Stat. 2104, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘War Crimes Act of 1996’.”

IMPLEMENTATION OF TREATY OBLIGATIONS

Pub. L. 109-366, §6(a), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2632, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The acts enumerated in subsection (d) of section 2441 of title 18, United States Code, as added by subsection (b) of this section, and in subsection (c) of this section [enacting section 2000dd-0 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare], constitute violations of common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions prohibited by United States law.

“(2) PROHIBITION ON GRAVE BREACHES.—The provisions of section 2441 of title 18, United States Code, as amended by this section, fully satisfy the obligation under Article 129 of the Third Geneva Convention for the United States to provide effective penal sanctions for grave breaches which are encompassed in common Article 3 in the context of an armed conflict not of an international character. No foreign or international source of law shall supply a basis for a rule of decision in the courts of the United States in interpreting the prohibitions enumerated in subsection (d) of such section 2441.

“(3) INTERPRETATION BY THE PRESIDENT.—

“(A) As provided by the Constitution and by this section, the President has the authority for the United States to interpret the meaning and application of the Geneva Conventions and to promulgate higher standards and administrative regulations for violations of treaty obligations which are not grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.

“(B) The President shall issue interpretations described by subparagraph (A) by Executive Order published in the Federal Register.

“(C) Any Executive Order published under this paragraph shall be authoritative (except as to grave breaches of common Article 3) as a matter of United States law, in the same manner as other administrative regulations.

“(D) Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the constitutional functions and responsibilities of Congress and the judicial branch of the United States.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) GENEVA CONVENTIONS.—The term ‘Geneva Conventions’ means—

“(i) the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (6 UST 3217);

“(ii) the Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded, Sick, and Shipwrecked Members of the Armed Forces at Sea, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (6 UST 3217);

“(iii) the Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (6 UST 3316); and

“(iv) the Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, done at Geneva August 12, 1949 (6 UST 3516).

“(B) THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION.—The term ‘Third Geneva Convention’ means the international convention referred to in subparagraph (A)(iii).”

Executive Documents

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13440

Ex. Ord. No. 13440, July 20, 2007, 72 F.R. 40707, which interpreted the Geneva Conventions Common Article 3 as applied to a program of detention and interrogation operated by the Central Intelligence Agency, was revoked by Ex. Ord. No. 13491, §1, Jan. 22, 2009, 74 F.R. 4893, set out as a note under section 2000dd of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare.

§ 2442. Recruitment or use of child soldiers

(a) OFFENSE.—Whoever knowingly—

(1) recruits, enlists, or conscripts a person to serve while such person is under 15 years of age in an armed force or group; or

(2) uses a person under 15 years of age to participate actively in hostilities;

knowing such person is under 15 years of age, shall be punished as provided in subsection (b).

(b) PENALTY.—Whoever violates, or attempts or conspires to violate, subsection (a) shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both and, if death of any person results, shall be fined under this title and imprisoned for any term of years or for life.

(c) JURISDICTION.—There is jurisdiction over an offense described in subsection (a), and any attempt or conspiracy to commit such offense, if—

(1) the alleged offender is a national of the United States (as defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22))) or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States (as defined in section 101(a)(20) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20)));¹

(2) the alleged offender is a stateless person whose habitual residence is in the United States;

(3) the alleged offender is present in the United States, irrespective of the nationality of the alleged offender; or

(4) the offense occurs in whole or in part within the United States.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN HOSTILITIES.—The term “participate actively in hostilities” means taking part in—

(A) combat or military activities related to combat, including sabotage and serving as

¹So in original. An additional closing parenthesis probably should precede the semicolon.

a decoy, a courier, or at a military checkpoint; or

(B) direct support functions related to combat, including transporting supplies or providing other services.

(2) **ARMED FORCE OR GROUP.**—The term “armed force or group” means any army, militia, or other military organization, whether or not it is state-sponsored, excluding any group assembled solely for nonviolent political association.

(Added Pub. L. 110-340, §2(a)(1), Oct. 3, 2008, 122 Stat. 3735.)

CHAPTER 119—WIRE AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS INTERCEPTION AND INTERCEPTION OF ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sec.

2510.	Definitions.
2511.	Interception and disclosure of wire, oral, or electronic communications prohibited.
2512.	Manufacture, distribution, possession, and advertising of wire, oral, or electronic communication intercepting devices prohibited.
2513.	Confiscation of wire, oral, or electronic communication intercepting devices.
[2514.	Repealed.]
2515.	Prohibition of use as evidence of intercepted wire or oral communications.
2516.	Authorization for interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications.
2517.	Authorization for disclosure and use of intercepted wire, oral, or electronic communications.
2518.	Procedure for interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications.
2519.	Reports concerning intercepted wire, oral, or electronic communications.
2520.	Recovery of civil damages authorized.
2521.	Injunction against illegal interception.
2522.	Enforcement of the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act.
2523.	Executive agreements on access to data by foreign governments.

Editorial Notes

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-141, div. V, §105(b), Mar. 23, 2018, 132 Stat. 1224, added item 2523.

1994—Pub. L. 103-414, title II, §201(b)(3), Oct. 25, 1994, 108 Stat. 4290, added item 2522.

1988—Pub. L. 100-690, title VII, §7035, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4398, substituted “wire, oral, or electronic” for “wire or oral” in items 2511, 2512, 2513, 2516, 2517, 2518, and 2519.

1986—Pub. L. 99-508, title I, §§101(c)(2), 110(b), Oct. 21, 1986, 100 Stat. 1851, 1859, inserted “AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS” in chapter heading and added item 2521.

1970—Pub. L. 91-452, title II, §227(b), Oct. 15, 1970, 84 Stat. 930, struck out item 2514 “Immunity of witnesses”, which section was repealed four years following the sixtieth day after Oct. 15, 1970.

1968—Pub. L. 90-351, title III, §802, June 19, 1968, 82 Stat. 212, added chapter 119 and items 2510 to 2520.

§ 2510. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) “wire communication” means any aural transfer made in whole or in part through the use of facilities for the transmission of communications by the aid of wire, cable, or other

like connection between the point of origin and the point of reception (including the use of such connection in a switching station) furnished or operated by any person engaged in providing or operating such facilities for the transmission of interstate or foreign communications or communications affecting interstate or foreign commerce;

(2) “oral communication” means any oral communication uttered by a person exhibiting an expectation that such communication is not subject to interception under circumstances justifying such expectation, but such term does not include any electronic communication;

(3) “State” means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States;

(4) “intercept” means the aural or other acquisition of the contents of any wire, electronic, or oral communication through the use of any electronic, mechanical, or other device.¹

(5) “electronic, mechanical, or other device” means any device or apparatus which can be used to intercept a wire, oral, or electronic communication other than—

(a) any telephone or telegraph instrument, equipment or facility, or any component thereof, (i) furnished to the subscriber or user by a provider of wire or electronic communication service in the ordinary course of its business and being used by the subscriber or user in the ordinary course of its business or furnished by such subscriber or user for connection to the facilities of such service and used in the ordinary course of its business; or (ii) being used by a provider of wire or electronic communication service in the ordinary course of its business, or by an investigative or law enforcement officer in the ordinary course of his duties;

(b) a hearing aid or similar device being used to correct subnormal hearing to not better than normal;

(6) “person” means any employee, or agent of the United States or any State or political subdivision thereof, and any individual, partnership, association, joint stock company, trust, or corporation;

(7) “Investigative or law enforcement officer” means any officer of the United States or of a State or political subdivision thereof, who is empowered by law to conduct investigations of or to make arrests for offenses enumerated in this chapter, and any attorney authorized by law to prosecute or participate in the prosecution of such offenses;

(8) “contents”, when used with respect to any wire, oral, or electronic communication, includes any information concerning the substance, purport, or meaning of that communication;

(9) “Judge of competent jurisdiction” means—

(a) a judge of a United States district court or a United States court of appeals; and

¹ So in original. The period probably should be a semicolon.