

Version
as at 28 October 2021



Armed Forces Discipline Act 1971

Public Act 1971 No 53
Date of assent 12 November 1971
Commencement see section 1(2)

Contents

	Page
Title	15
1 Short Title and commencement	15
2 Interpretation	16
3 Special provisions relating to the interpretation, etc, of Part 2	28
4 Extraterritorial operation of this Act	29
5 Active service	29
5A Transitional, savings, and related provisions	30
5B Act binds the Crown	30
Part 1	
Jurisdiction	
6 Persons in the Navy, the Army, and the Air Force	30
7 Provisions of Act may be modified, etc, in relation to certain classes of persons <i>[Repealed]</i>	33
8 Members of the Armed Forces attached to forces of another country remain subject to this Act	33
9 Members of other forces attached to Armed Forces under section 23A of Defence Act 1990	33

Note

The Parliamentary Counsel Office has made editorial and format changes to this version using the powers under subpart 2 of Part 3 of the Legislation Act 2019.

Note 4 at the end of this version provides a list of the amendments included in it.

This Act is administered by the Ministry of Defence.

10	Volunteers	34
11	Trainees	34
12	Prisoners of war	35
13	Spies, etc	35
14	Commanding officer in relation to prisoners of war and spies	36
15	Application of Act to passengers in HM ships, aircraft, and vehicles	36
16	Certain civilians closely associated with Armed Forces subject to this Act	36
17	Certain persons sentenced under this Act to remain subject to this Act	38
18	Trial and punishment of person who has ceased to be subject to this Act	39
19	Status and rank of person deemed to be subject to this Act when imprisoned or detained	40
20	Limitation of time within which charges may be dealt with summarily or tried under this Act	41
21	Person may not be tried under this Act and under the civil law in respect of same act or omission	43
22	Persons cannot be tried under this Act for offences already disposed of	45

Part 2 Offences

Offences involving treachery, cowardice, and looting

23	Aiding the enemy	45
24	Communication with the enemy	47
25	Unauthorised disclosure of information	47
26	Spying in ships or establishments abroad	48
27	Seduction from duty or allegiance	48
28	Cowardly behaviour	48
29	Offence to create alarm or despondency	49
30	Offences in relation to capture by the enemy	49
31	Looting	50

Offences involving mutiny

32	Mutiny	50
33	Failure to suppress or report mutiny	50

Offences involving guard duty, violence, and insubordination

34	Offences by or in relation to a person on guard duty or on watch	51
35	Violence to a superior officer	52
36	Insubordinate behaviour	52
37	Obstruction of provost officers	52
38	Disobeying a lawful command	53

39	Failure to comply with written orders	53
40	Failure to comply with directions given by the captain of a ship or aircraft	53
41	Ill-treatment of person of lower rank	54
42	Cruel or disgraceful conduct	54
43	Fighting or causing a disturbance	54
	<i>Offences relating to arrest and escape from custody</i>	
44	Resisting arrest	54
45	Escape from custody	55
45A	Failure to answer bail	55
46	Permitting the escape of prisoners	55
	<i>Desertion, absence, and malingering</i>	
47	Desertion	56
48	Absence without leave	57
49	Avoidance of duty	57
50	Malingering	57
	<i>Offences involving alcohol and drugs</i>	
51	Drunkenness and being under the influence of drugs	57
52	Being in possession of alcohol in a ship, establishment, camp, or base	58
	<i>False statements, documents, and corruption</i>	
53	False statements on appointment or enlistment	58
54	Official corruption	59
55	Falsification of service documents	59
56	False statement in order to obtain benefit	60
	<i>Offences relating to property</i>	
57	Stealing service property or property of comrade	60
58	Receiving service property or property of comrade	61
59	Unlawful possession of service property or property of comrade	61
60	Conversion of vehicles, etc	61
61	Destruction of or damage to service property or property of comrade	62
62	Loss of service property	62
63	Improper disposal of decorations and issued property	63
	<i>Offences involving ships, aircraft, vehicles, etc</i>	
64	Losing or hazarding a ship, aircraft, or armoured fighting vehicle	63
65	Dangerous acts or omissions	63
66	Inaccurate certification	64
67	Offences in relation to the driving of vehicles	64

Offences relating to judicial proceedings, etc

68	False accusation	65
69	Delay or denial of justice	65
70	Offences relating to proceedings of military tribunal or court of inquiry	66
71	False evidence	67

Miscellaneous offences

72	Endangering the health of members of the Armed Forces	67
73	Conduct prejudicial to service discipline	68
74	Offences against the civil law of New Zealand	69

Parties, accessories, and attempts

75	Parties to the commission of offences against this Act	70
76	Attempts to commit offences against this Act	71
77	Accessories after the fact	72

Part 3**Jurisdiction of Court Martial and punishment of offenders**

78	Jurisdiction of Court Martial	72
79	Court Martial to pass 1 sentence only	73
80	Discretion of Court Martial as to punishment	73
81	Consent of Governor-General required before sentence of death can be carried out <i>[Repealed]</i>	73
81A	Effect of period spent in custody before being sentenced	74
82	Dismissal from service and reduction in rank	74
83	Maximum term of detention	75
84	Reduction in rank and forfeiture and stay of seniority of service	75
85	Punishment by fine	76
86	Compensation for loss of or damage to property	76
87	Restitution of property	77
87A	Suspension of compensation and restitution orders made by Court Martial, etc	79

Part 4**Arrest and search**

88	Arrest without warrant	80
89	Arrest under warrant	81
89A	Arrest of members of visiting forces	81
90	Arrest of spies, etc, abroad	82
91	Arrest of person unlawfully at large	82
92	Arrest of deserters and absentees	83
92A	Arrest of deserters from other armed forces	83
93	Detention in civil custody of arrested persons	84
93A	Detention in service custody of person charged by civil authority	84
93B	Detention in service custody of members of visiting force	85

93C	Police not to deliver custody of arrested person without consent of Minister of Justice in certain cases	86
94	Reasonable force may be used to arrest or search	86
95	Search in connection with suspected offence	86
96	Searches to prevent smuggling, etc	87
97	Customary powers of search not affected	88
98	Search of person in service custody, etc	88
99	Disposal of property taken in search	88
100	Duty of persons arresting	89
101	Delay in dealing with person after arrest	89
101A	Judge Advocate General may grant bail pending trial	90
101B	Issue of warrant to arrest person absconding or breaching bail condition	91
101C	Person arrested under warrant for absconding or breaching bail condition must be brought before Judge Advocate General	92
101D	Restrictions in relation to midshipmen, officer cadets, and chaplains	92

Part 4A

Director of Military Prosecutions

101E	Appointment of Director of Military Prosecutions	93
101F	Functions and duties of Director of Military Prosecutions	93
101G	Power of Director of Military Prosecutions to direct investigation	94
101H	Power of Director of Military Prosecutions to stay proceedings	94
101I	Director of Military Prosecutions to perform functions and duties, and exercise powers, independently of ministerial control and of command	94
101J	Director of Military Prosecutions must report annually to Attorney-General on performance of functions and duties, and exercise of powers	94
101K	Director of Military Prosecutions must act under general supervision of Solicitor-General	95
101L	Delegation of functions, duties, or powers of Director of Military Prosecutions	95

Part 5

Investigation and summary trial of charges

Subpart 1—General provisions

102	Investigation of charges	96
102A	Commanding officer must determine whether offence is specified offence	96
103	Disposal of charges by commanding officers	97
104	Disposal of charges by superior commanders	97
105	Disposal of charges by detachment commanders	97
106	Disposal of charges by subordinate commanders	98