



# Department of Defense

## Military Commission Instruction No. 7

April 30, 2003

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SUBJECT: Sentencing

- References:
- (a) Military Commission Order No. 1 (Mar. 21, 2002)
  - (b) Military Order of November 13, 2001, "Detention, Treatment, and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism," 66 F.R. 57833 (Nov. 16, 2001)
  - (c) Section 113(d) of Title 10 of the United States Code
  - (d) Section 140(b) of Title 10 of the United States Code
  - (e) Military Commission Instruction No. 1, current edition

### 1. PURPOSE

This Instruction promulgates policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for matters related to sentencing of persons with regard to whom a finding of guilty is entered for an offense referred for trial by a military commission appointed pursuant to references (a) and (b).

### 2. AUTHORITY

This Instruction is issued pursuant to section 7(A) of reference (a) and in accordance with references (b), (c), and (d). The provisions of reference (e) are applicable to this Instruction.

### 3. AVAILABLE SENTENCES

- A. *General.* Reference (a) permits a military commission wide latitude in sentencing. Any lawful punishment or condition of punishment is authorized, including death, so long as the prerequisites detailed in reference (a) are met. Detention associated with an individual's status as an enemy combatant shall not be considered to fulfill any term of imprisonment imposed by a military commission. The sentence determination should be made while bearing in mind that there are several principal reasons for a sentence given to those who violate the law. Such reasons include: punishment of the wrongdoer; protection of society from the wrongdoer; deterrence of the wrongdoer and those who know of his crimes and sentence from committing

the same or similar offenses; and rehabilitation of the wrongdoer. In determining an appropriate sentence, the weight to be accorded any or all of these reasons rests solely within the discretion of commission members. All sentences should, however, be grounded in a recognition that military commissions are a function of the President's war-fighting role as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States and of the broad deterrent impact associated with a sentence's effect on adherence to the laws and customs of war in general.

- B. *Conditions of Imprisonment.* Decisions regarding the location designated for any imprisonment, the conditions under which a sentence to imprisonment is served, or the privileges accorded one during any period of imprisonment should generally not be made by the commission. Those decisions and actions, however, may be appropriate subjects for recommendation to the person making a final decision on the sentence in accordance with Section 6(H) of reference (a).
- C. *Prospective Recommendations for Sentence Modification.* A sentence imposed by military commission may be accompanied by a recommendation to suspend, remit, commute or otherwise modify the adjudged sentence in concert with one or more conditions upon which the suspension, remission, commutation, or other modification is contingent (usually relating to the performance, behavior or conduct of the Accused). Unless otherwise directed, a decision or action in accordance with such a recommendation will be effected by direction or delegation to the Appointing Authority by the official making a final decision on the sentence in accordance with Section 6(H) of reference (a).

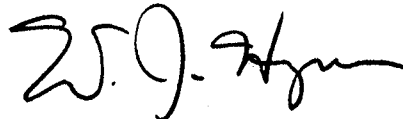
#### 4. SENTENCING PROCEDURES

- A. *General.* Reference (a) permits the military commission substantial discretion regarding the conduct of sentencing proceedings. Sentencing proceedings should normally proceed expeditiously. In the discretion of the Presiding Officer, as limited by the Appointing Authority, reasonable delay between the announcement of findings and the commencement of sentencing proceedings may be authorized to facilitate the conduct of proceedings in accordance with Section 6(B) of reference (a).
- B. *Information Relevant to Sentencing.* Section 6(E)(10) of reference (a) permits the Prosecution and Defense to present information to aid the military commission in determining an appropriate sentence. Such information may include a recommendation of an appropriate sentence, information regarding sentence ranges for analogous offenses (e.g., the sentencing range under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines that could be applicable to the Accused for the most analogous federal offenses), and other relevant information. Regardless of any presentation by the Prosecution or Defense, the military commission shall consider any evidence admitted for consideration prior to findings regarding guilt. The Presiding Officer may limit or require the presentation of certain information consistent with references (a) and (b).

- C. *Cases Involving Plea Agreements.* In accordance with Section 6(A)(4) of reference (a), after determining the voluntary and informed nature of a plea agreement approved by the Appointing Authority, the military commission is bound to adjudge findings and a sentence pursuant to that plea agreement. Accordingly, the Presiding Officer may exercise the authority granted in Section 6(E) of reference (a) to curtail or preclude the presentation of information and argument relative to the military commission's determination of an appropriate sentence.
- D. *Special Duties.* In cases involving plea agreements or recommendations for certain conditions of imprisonment or prospective sentence modification, the Prosecution and Defense shall provide whatever post-trial information or recommendation as is relevant to any subsequent decision regarding such condition or suspension, remission, commutation, or other modification recommendation associated with the sentence.

**5. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Instruction is effective immediately.



William J. Haynes II  
General Counsel of the Department of Defense