



Research
Services

RESEARCHING COURT-MARTIAL RECORDS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT ST. LOUIS

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Kayla Dawkins
Reference Archives Specialist
National Archives at St. Louis
kayla.dawkins@nara.gov

Katherine Terry
Reference Archives Technician
National Archives at St. Louis
katherine.terry@nara.gov

“Researching Court-Martial Records at the National Archives at St. Louis” serves as an entry point for researchers interested in military court records held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). Sometimes sensitive in nature, records of court-martial provide context that can reflect shifts in societal standards, norms, and perspectives throughout decades of history. These important archival records are open to the public by Executive Order.

Due to limitations on the scope of the presentation, this handout has been created as a supplement exploring where to find all available U.S. court-martial records. Where digital copies of records can be found online in the National Archives Catalog, the National Archives Identifier (NAID) and link are noted.



“A Court Martial In Progress At A U.S. Bomber Station At Bassingbourne, England. 20 June 1943.”
National Archives at College Park, Still Picture Branch. NAID: [204883540](https://www.archives.gov/naid/204883540).

U.S. ARMY

1800–1917

These files are located at the National Archives at Washington, DC. Prior to 1812, they are fragmentary and incomplete. To either request a digital copy of a record or view them in person, email archives1reference@nara.gov.



Court Martial Case Files, December 1800–October 1894

NAID: 301659

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/301659>

1917–1976

General court-martial records and special court-martial records resulting in bad conduct discharges are at the National Archives at St. Louis. For information about obtaining copies of these files, please email stl.archives@nara.gov. If planning to view records in person at the St. Louis, MO, facility, email stlarr.archives@nara.gov to schedule an appointment.



Court Martial Case Files, 1917–1938

NAID: 5916929

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5916929>



Army General Courts-Martial Records of Trial, 1939–1976

NAID: 12459579

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/12459579>

After 1976

General court-martial records are in the custody of the Army. To access these records, send your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) or Privacy Act (if you are the veteran) request to:

Office of Clerk of Court
U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals
ATTN: JALS-CCZ
9275 Gunston Road, Building 1450
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5546

U.S. NAVY

1799–1867

Court-martial records from this time period are available on Fold3.com for a subscription fee. You can also access Fold3 for free from any NARA facility.

1866–1951

These files are located at the National Archives at Washington, DC. To either request a digital copy of a record or view them in person, email archives1reference@nara.gov.



FULLY AVAILABLE ONLINE

Card Index to U.S. Navy General Court Martial Files, 1900–1951

NAID: 5080503

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5080503>



PARTIALLY AVAILABLE ONLINE

Records of Proceedings of General Courts Martial, 1866–1951

NAID: 2143324

<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2143324>

1951–1976

General court-martial records are at the National Archives at St. Louis. For information about obtaining copies of these files, please email stl.archives@nara.gov. If planning to view records in person at the St. Louis, MO, facility, email stlarr.archives@nara.gov to schedule an appointment.

After 1976

General court-martial records after 1976 are in the custody of the U.S. Navy's Office of the Judge Advocate General. To request an individual court-martial case file, please submit a signed FOIA or Privacy Act (if you are the veteran) request to:

Office of the Judge Advocate General
Military Justice Administration (Code 40)
1254 Charles Morris Street
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5124

Instructions on how to submit a request are available on their FOIA page at <https://www.jag.navy.mil/foia>.

U.S. AIR FORCE

1947–1976

To obtain copies of these court-martial records, send your FOIA or Privacy Act (if you are the veteran) letter to:

Air Force Records Manager
Department of the Air Force
1800 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330

You can also email daf.records@us.af.mil.

After 1976

The Air Force has custody of closed court-martial trials after 1976, but a FOIA request is necessary to retrieve them. Visit <https://www.compliance.af.mil/Library/Handbook> for more information on submitting FOIA requests.

If you are seeking records on yourself, this is a Privacy Act request. You will need to provide proof of identity. At this time, all Privacy Act requests must be submitted by mailing/faxing the appropriate Requester Service Center. You also may request a fee waiver. Visit <https://www.privacy.af.mil/Home/How-To-Make-A-Privacy-Act-Request> for more information on submitting Privacy Act requests.

To submit these requests, write to:

Air Force Legal Operations Agency (AFLOSA/JAJM)
1500 West Perimeter Rd.
Ste. 1130
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762

U.S. MARINE CORPS

1799–1867

Court-martial records from this time period are available on Fold3.com for a subscription fee as part of their series of digitized Navy Courts Martial Records. You can also access Fold3 for free from any NARA facility.

1866–1951

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1951–1976

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Office of the Judge Advocate General
Military Justice Administration (Code 40)
1254 Charles Morris Street
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5124

Instructions on how to submit a request are available on their FOIA page at <https://www.jag.navy.mil/foia>.

U.S. COAST GUARD

Before 1974

Court-martial files are located at the National Archives at Washington, DC. These also include records of Deck Courts, which are a type of military court that is similar in many respects to a court-martial. To either request a digital copy of a record or view them in person, email archives1reference@nara.gov.

After 1974

These records are in the custody of the U.S. Coast Guard. For general court-martial records after 1974, please send FOIA or Privacy Act (if you are the veteran) requests to:

ATTN: Records Manager
U.S. Coast Guard Stop 7710
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20593-7710

U.S. SPACE FORCE

2019–present

The Air Force has custody of closed Space Force court-martial trials, but a FOIA request is necessary to retrieve them. Visit <https://www.compliance.af.mil/Library/Handbook> for more information on submitting FOIA requests.

If you are seeking records on yourself, this is a Privacy Act request. You will need to provide proof of identity. At this time, all Privacy Act requests must be submitted by mailing/faxing the appropriate Requester Service Center. You also may request a fee waiver. Visit <https://www.privacy.af.mil/Home/How-To-Make-A-Privacy-Act-Request> for more information on submitting Privacy Act requests.

To submit these requests, write to:

Air Force Legal Operations Agency (AFLOSA/JAJM)
1500 West Perimeter Rd.
Ste. 1130
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762