

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 15, §333; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title X, §1076(a)(1), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2404; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title X, §1068(a)(1), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 325; renumbered §253, Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, §1241(a)(2), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2497.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
333 .....	50:203.	R.S. 5299.

The words “armed forces” are substituted for the words “land or naval forces of the United States”. The word “shall” is substituted for the words “it shall be lawful for \* \* \* and it shall be his duty”.

## DERIVATION

Act Apr. 20, 1871, ch. 22, §3, 17 Stat. 14.

## AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328 renumbered section 333 of this title as this section.

2008—Pub. L. 110-181 amended section generally, substituting provisions directing the President to suppress certain insurrections and domestic violence in a State for provisions authorizing the President to employ the armed forces during a natural disaster or terrorist attack or to suppress an insurrection in a State and requiring notice to Congress during the exercise of such authority.

2006—Pub. L. 109-364 amended section catchline and text generally, substituting provisions authorizing the President to employ the armed forces during a natural disaster or terrorist attack or to suppress an insurrection in a State and requiring notice to Congress during the exercise of such authority for provisions directing the President to suppress certain insurrections and domestic violence in a State.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2008 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title X, §1068(d), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 326, provided that: “The amendments made by this section [amending this section and sections 334 and 12304 of this title and repealing section 2567 of this title] shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act [Jan. 28, 2008].”

§ 254.<sup>1</sup> Proclamation to disperse

Whenever the President considers it necessary to use the militia or the armed forces under this chapter, he shall, by proclamation, immediately order the insurgents to disperse and retire peaceably to their abodes within a limited time.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 16, §334; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title X, §1076(a)(2), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2405; Pub. L. 110-181, div. A, title X, §1068(a)(2), Jan. 28, 2008, 122 Stat. 325; renumbered §254, Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, §1241(a)(2), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2497.)

## HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
334 .....	50:204.	R.S. 5300.

The words “militia or the armed forces” are substituted for the words “military forces” for clarity and to conform to sections 331, 332, and 333 of this title.

## DERIVATION

Act July 29, 1861, ch. 25, §2, 12 Stat. 282.

<sup>1</sup> Another section 254 is set out in chapter 9A of this title.

## AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328 renumbered section 334 of this title as this section.

2008—Pub. L. 110-181 struck out “or those obstructing the enforcement of the laws” after “insurgents”.

2006—Pub. L. 109-364 inserted “or those obstructing the enforcement of the laws” after “insurgents”.

## PROC. NO. 3204. OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

Proc. No. 3204, Sept. 23, 1957, 22 F.R. 7628, commanded all persons in the State of Arkansas who were obstructing the enforcement of orders of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas relating to enrollment and attendance at public schools, particularly Central High School at Little Rock, Arkansas, to cease and desist therefrom and to disperse forthwith.

## PROC. NO. 3497. OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Proc. No. 3497, Sept. 30, 1962, 27 F.R. 9681, commanded all persons in the State of Mississippi who were obstructing the enforcement of orders entered by the United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit to cease and desist therefrom and to disperse and retire peaceably forthwith.

## PROC. NO. 3542. UNLAWFUL OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE AND COMBINATIONS IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Proc. No. 3542, June 11, 1963, 28 F.R. 5707, commanded the Governor of the State of Alabama and all other persons who were obstructing the orders of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama relating to the enrollment and attendance of Negro students at the University of Alabama to cease and desist therefrom.

## PROC. NO. 3554. OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Proc. No. 3554, Sept. 10, 1963, 28 F.R. 9861, commanded all persons obstructing the enforcement of orders entered by the United States District Courts in the State of Alabama relating to the enrollment and attendance of students in public schools in that State to cease and desist therefrom and to disperse and retire peaceably forthwith.

## PROC. NO. 3645. OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA

Proc. No. 3645, Mar. 23, 1965, 30 F.R. 3739, commanded all persons engaged or who may engage in domestic violence obstructing the enforcement of the laws and the judicial order approving the right to march along U.S. Highway 80 from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama commencing during the period from Mar. 19, 1965 to Mar. 22, 1965 and terminating within 5 days of the commencement to cease and desist therefrom and to disperse forthwith.

## PROC. NO. 3795. OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

Proc. No. 3795, July 26, 1967, 32 F.R. 10905, commanded all persons engaged in domestic violence and disorder in Detroit, Michigan, and obstructing the enforcement of the laws to cease and desist therefrom and to disperse forthwith.

## PROC. NO. 3840. OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN THE WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA

Proc. No. 3840, Apr. 9, 1968, 33 F.R. 5495, commanded all persons engaged in acts of violence threatening the Washington Metropolitan Area and obstructing the execution of the laws to cease and desist therefrom and to disperse forthwith.

PROC. NO. 3841. OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Proc. No. 3841, Apr. 9, 1968, 33 F.R. 5497, commanded all persons engaged in violence in and about the City of Chicago and obstructing the enforcement of the laws to cease and desist therefrom and to disperse forthwith.

PROC. NO. 3842. OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

Proc. No. 3842, Apr. 9, 1968, 33 F.R. 5499, commanded all persons engaged in acts of violence and obstructing the enforcement of the laws in and about the City of Baltimore to cease and desist therefrom and to disperse forthwith.

§ 255. Guam and Virgin Islands included as “State”

For purposes of this chapter, the term “State” includes Guam and the Virgin Islands.

(Added Pub. L. 90-497, § 11, Sept. 11, 1968, 82 Stat. 847, § 335; amended Pub. L. 96-513, title V, § 511(1)(A), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2920; Pub. L. 109-163, div. A, title X, § 1057(a)(8), Jan. 6, 2006, 119 Stat. 3441; renumbered § 255, Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, § 1241(a)(2), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2497.)

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328 renumbered section 335 of this title as this section.

2006—Pub. L. 109-163 struck out “the unincorporated territories of” before “Guam”.

1980—Pub. L. 96-513 inserted “and Virgin Islands” after “Guam” in section catchline and inserted provision respecting applicability to the Virgin Islands.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1980 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 96-513 effective Dec. 12, 1980, see section 701(b)(3) of Pub. L. 96-513, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 90-497, § 11, Sept. 11, 1968, 82 Stat. 847, provided that this section is effective on date of enactment of Pub. L. 90-497, which was approved on Sept. 11, 1968.

CHAPTER 14—ARMING OF AMERICAN VESSELS

Sec. 261. During war or threat to national security.

AMENDMENTS

2016—Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, § 1241(a)(1), (o)(2), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2497, 2512, renumbered chapter 17 of this title “ARMING OF AMERICAN VESSELS” as chapter 14 and redesignated item 351 “During war or threat to national security” as item 261.

§ 261. During war or threat to national security

(a) The President, through any agency of the Department of Defense designated by him, may arm, have armed, or allow to be armed, any watercraft or aircraft that is capable of being used as a means of transportation on, over, or under water, and is documented, registered, or licensed under the laws of the United States.

(b) This section applies during a war and at any other time when the President determines that the security of the United States is threatened by the application, or the imminent danger of application, of physical force by any foreign government or agency against the United States, its citizens, the property of its citizens, or their commercial interests.

(c) Section 16 of the Act of March 4, 1909 (22 U.S.C. 463) does not apply to vessels armed under this section.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 16, § 351; Pub. L. 96-513, title V, § 511(12), Dec. 12, 1980, 94 Stat. 2921; renumbered § 261, Pub. L. 114-328, div. A, title XII, § 1241(a)(2), Dec. 23, 2016, 130 Stat. 2497.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
351(a) .....	50:481 (1st sentence, less 1st 7 words).	June 29, 1948, ch. 715, 62 Stat. 1095.
351(b) .....	50:481 (1st 7 words of 1st sentence and 2d sentence).	
351(c) .....	50:481 (less 1st and 2d sentences).	

In subsection (a), the wording of the special definition of “vessel” and “American vessel”, contained in section 16 of the Neutrality Act of 1939, 54 Stat. 12 (22 U.S.C. 456), is substituted for the words “any American vessel as defined in the Neutrality Act of 1939”.

In subsection (b), the words “or national emergency” are omitted, since the words of the source statute defining that term have been substituted for it.

In subsection (c), the words “(relating to bonds from armed vessels on clearing)” are omitted as surplusage.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 261 was renumbered section 241 of this title.

Another prior section 261, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 10, which named the reserve components of the armed forces, was repealed by Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, §§ 1661(a)(2)(A), 1691, Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2979, 3026, effective Dec. 1, 1994. See sections 10101 and 10213 of this title.

Prior sections 262 to 265 were repealed by Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, §§ 1661(a)(2)(A), 1691, Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2979, 3026, effective Dec. 1, 1994.

Section 262, acts Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 10; Dec. 1, 1967, Pub. L. 90-168, § 2(5), 81 Stat. 521, related to purpose of reserve components. See section 10102 of this title.

Section 263, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 11, related to basic policy for ordering Army National Guard of the United States and Air National Guard of the United States into Federal service. See section 10103 of this title.

Section 264, acts Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 11; Dec. 1, 1967, Pub. L. 90-168, § 2(6), 81 Stat. 521; Nov. 19, 1969, Pub. L. 91-121, title III, § 303, 83 Stat. 206; Oct. 20, 1978, Pub. L. 95-485, title IV, § 406(a), 92 Stat. 1616; Oct. 19, 1984, Pub. L. 98-525, title XIV, § 1405(7)(A), (B), 98 Stat. 2622, authorized Secretaries of each armed force to designate officers to be responsible for reserve affairs and assigned responsibility for providing personnel and logistic support for reserves. See sections 10203 and 18501 of this title.

Section 265, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 11, related to participation of reserve officers in preparation and administration of policies and regulations affecting reserve components. See section 10211 of this title.

Prior section 266 was renumbered section 12643 of this title.

Prior sections 267 to 270 were repealed by Pub. L. 103-337, div. A, title XVI, §§ 1661(a)(2)(A), 1691, Oct. 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 2979, 3026, effective Dec. 1, 1994.

Section 267, act Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 12, related to placement and status of members of Ready Reserve, Standby Reserve, and Retired Reserve. See section 10141(a), (b) of this title.

Section 268, acts Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 12; Sept. 2, 1958, Pub. L. 85-861, § 1(3), 72 Stat. 1437; Dec. 1, 1967, Pub. L. 90-168, § 2(8), 81 Stat. 522; Oct. 12, 1982, Pub. L. 97-295, § 1(5), 96 Stat. 1289, related to composition, organization, and structure of Ready Reserve. See sections 10142 and 10143 of this title.