

1989—Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title V, § 501(a)(2), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1435, added item 513.

1985—Pub. L. 99-145, title XIII, § 1303(a)(4)(B), Nov. 8, 1985, 99 Stat. 738, substituted “enlistment” for “enlistments” in item 520b.

1984—Pub. L. 98-525, title XIV, § 1401(a)(2), Oct. 19, 1984, 98 Stat. 2614, added item 520b.

1982—Pub. L. 97-252, title XI, § 1114(b)(3), (c)(2), Sept. 8, 1982, 96 Stat. 749, 750, inserted “; compilation of directory information” in item 503, and added item 520a.

1980—Pub. L. 96-342, title III, § 302(b)(2), Sept. 8, 1980, 94 Stat. 1083, added item 520.

1968—Pub. L. 90-623, § 2(2), Oct. 22, 1968, 82 Stat. 1314, struck out “or national emergency” after “extension of enlistments during war” in item 506.

Pub. L. 90-235, § 2(a)(1)(C), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 755, re-designated item 501 as 502, and added items 501, 503 to 509, 518 and 519.

1962—Pub. L. 87-649, § 2(2), Sept. 7, 1962, 76 Stat. 492, added item 517.

1958—Pub. L. 85-861, § 1(9)(B), (C), Sept. 2, 1958, 72 Stat. 1440, struck out item 513 “Reserve components: promotions” and added item 516.

§ 501. Definition

In this chapter “enlistment” means original enlistment or reenlistment.

(Added Pub. L. 90-235, § 2(a)(1)(B), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 753.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Another section 501 was renumbered section 500a of this title.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 501 was renumbered 502 of this title.

§ 502. Enlistment oath: who may administer

(a) ENLISTMENT OATH.—Each person enlisting in an armed force shall take the following oath:

“I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.”

(b) WHO MAY ADMINISTER.—The oath may be taken before the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary of Defense, any commissioned officer, or any other person designated under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense.

(Aug. 10, 1956, ch. 1041, 70A Stat. 17, § 501; Pub. L. 87-751, § 1, Oct. 5, 1962, 76 Stat. 748; renumbered § 502, Pub. L. 90-235, § 2(a)(1)(A), Jan. 2, 1968, 81 Stat. 753; Pub. L. 101-189, div. A, title VI, § 653(a)(1), Nov. 29, 1989, 103 Stat. 1462; Pub. L. 109-364, div. A, title V, § 595(a), Oct. 17, 2006, 120 Stat. 2235.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
501	50:737.	May 5, 1950, ch. 169, § 8, 64 Stat. 146.

The words “or affirmation” are omitted as covered by the definition of the word “oath” in section 1 of title

1. The words “of any armed force” are inserted in the last sentence, since they are necessarily implied by their use in the source statute.

Editorial Notes

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Uniform Code of Military Justice, referred to in the oath, is classified to chapter 47 (§ 801 et seq.) of this title.

CODIFICATION

Another section 502 was renumbered section 500b of this title.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Pub. L. 109-364 designated existing provisions as subsec. (a), inserted heading, struck out concluding provisions which read as follows: “This oath may be taken before any commissioned officer of any armed force.”, and added subsec. (b).

1989—Pub. L. 101-189 struck out “or affirmation” after “This oath”.

1962—Pub. L. 87-751 substituted “support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same” for “bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America; that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against all their enemies whomsoever” and inserted “So help me God” in the oath, and “or affirmation” in text.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1962 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 87-751, § 3, Oct. 5, 1962, 76 Stat. 748, provided that: “This Act [amending this section and section 304 of Title 32, National Guard] does not affect any oath taken before one year after its enactment [Oct. 5, 1962].”

§ 503. Enlistments: recruiting campaigns; compilation of directory information

(a) RECRUITING CAMPAIGNS.—(1) The Secretary concerned shall conduct intensive recruiting campaigns to obtain enlistments in the Regular Army, Regular Navy, Regular Air Force, Regular Marine Corps, and Regular Coast Guard and the Space Force.

(2) The Secretary of Defense shall act on a continuing basis to enhance the effectiveness of recruitment programs of the Department of Defense (including programs conducted jointly and programs conducted by the separate armed forces) through an aggressive program of advertising and market research targeted at prospective recruits for the armed forces and those who may influence prospective recruits. Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44 shall not apply to actions taken as part of that program.

(3) PII regarding a prospective recruit collected or compiled under this subsection shall be kept confidential, and a person who has had access to such PII may not disclose the information except for purposes of this section or other purpose authorized by law.

(4) In the course of conducting a recruiting campaign, the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) notify a prospective recruit of data collection policies of the armed force concerned; and

(B) permit the prospective recruit to elect not to participate in such data collection.

(5) In this subsection, the term “PII” means personally identifiable information.