



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY-MARINE CORPS TRIAL JUDICIARY
1250 10th St, SE, Ste 1300
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5140

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5500
Ser 52/67
18 Dec 24

**Subj: PROMULGATING ORDER: UNIFORM RULES OF PRACTICE BEFORE NAVY
AND MARINE CORPS COURTS-MARTIAL**

Encl: (1) NMCTJ Uniform Rules of Practice, dated 16 Dec 24

1. **Purpose.** To update the Uniform Rules of Practice (Uniform Rules) before the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary (NMCTJ).
2. **Applicability.** The Uniform Rules set forth in enclosure (1) apply to all circuits within NMCTJ, including all attorneys, court personnel, lawyers, witnesses, and spectators participating in or observing courts-martial proceedings.
3. **Cancellation.** These Uniform Rules are effective as of 18 December 2024. The 27 September 2021 edition of the Uniform Rules of Practice, NMCTJ, is canceled effective this date.
4. **Changes to the previous rules:**
 - a. The Uniform Rules remain substantially similar to the 27 September 2021 version. Minor modifications have been made throughout.
 - b. Significant modifications throughout include the implementation of the Navy Court-Martial Reporting System (NCORS), including new Rule 41.
 - c. Rules 4.1, 14.4, and 14.5 reflect significant changes based on the new requirement for trial judges to act as reviewing officers under R.C.M. 305.
 - d. Rule 7.4 outlines the requirements to safeguard Personally Identifiable Information (PII).
 - e. New Rule 17.1 outlines the bailiff requirements for contested courts-martial.
 - f. Rule 22.4 highlights the procedure for randomization of members.
 - g. Rule 31.5 has been removed.
5. **Action.** The Uniform Rules are a guide to the circuits of the NMCTJ and the participants practicing therein.
 - a. All rules set forth in the enclosure shall be followed by judges and other participants, whether military or civilian, practicing or otherwise participating or viewing special or general courts-martial within the Navy-Marine Corps area of responsibility. Local circuit rules may

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supplement but not contradict the Uniform Rules.

b. Circuit judges shall ensure copies of this promulgating order and the enclosure are provided to the Commanding Officers of Regional Legal Services Offices and Defense Service Offices, Directors of Law Centers, the Regional Office of Special Trial Counsel, Marine Regional Defense and Trial Counsel, and Victims' Legal Counsel within their circuit for further distribution to all military counsel under their command. Military defense counsel will furnish civilian defense counsel with copies of these rules. Trial counsel will furnish civilian victim's legal counsel with copies of these rules upon notice of appearance.



D. D. BUTLER
CAPT, JAGC, USN
Chief Trial Judge

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