

**TITLE 10 - ARMED FORCES**  
**Subtitle A - General Military Law**  
**PART II - PERSONNEL**  
**CHAPTER 31 - ENLISTMENTS**

**§ 502. Enlistment oath: who may administer**

(a) **Enlistment Oath.**— Each person enlisting in an armed force shall take the following oath:

“I, XXXXXXXXXXXX, 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.

**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.

**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.

**Effective Date of 1962 Amendment**

Section 3 of Pub. L. 87–751 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].”