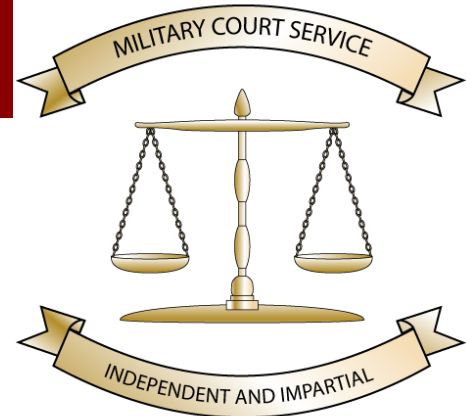


MILITARY COURT SERVICE SJEG UPDATE

March 2023

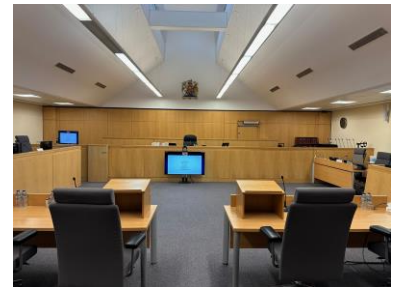


Section 28 Recording Technology

MCS have secured the funding to deliver a new Military Court capability for the pre-recording of evidence from complainants.

Both section 22a and 28 of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999 is the supporting legislation to the Service Courts which allows witnesses to pre-record their cross examination before trial, regardless of the offence.

This spares them the potential trauma of attending the trial in person, and in the presence of the accused. The system will integrate into the recently installed court Evidential Presentation System across all four court rooms. Director MCS is seeking to go live during September 2023.



Changes to legislation

On the 1st January 2023, the MCS seamlessly embraced the changes to both the Armed Forces Act and Service Court Rules relating to the introduction of six-person boards, OR7 ranks as eligible members, and the legal requirement to support the presence of at least one man and one woman on a Court Martial Board. This is a testament to the hard work and preparation of all the staff across both court centres and from the support of all three services in providing the resources for these outputs.

MCS Website

After some detailed training and an examination of standards, MCS now have the capability to directly manage their Gov.UK website. This was seen as a vitally important capability to ensure court information is always current, relevant, and accurate as a public facing information platform. MCS have commenced the receipt of Section 85A of the Courts Act 2003 applications via the website for those wishing to observe proceedings remotely.

Tri-Service Boards

From 12th June 2023, MCS will begin preparing for a formal evaluation of Tri-service Boards for the Court Martial and Summary Appeal Court.

The courts will commence with the constitution of boards whilst maintaining a single Service capability. Work will continue to refine the outputs of the evaluation period which is scheduled to run for a six-month period from 1st September 2023.

In-court Cloud application for proceedings

A long awaited in-court digital case management system will soon be live in the Military Courts.

MCS have worked tirelessly to meet a Service Justice Review recommendation covering the need to deliver an in-court digital case management system with a collaborative in court access capability for Judges, Advocates, and Court Staff. Whilst there was an aspiration to adopt the Ministry of Justice, Common Platform, this has not proved possible, but an excellent alternative has been identified to deliver these outputs.