

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

www.attorneygeneral.nd.gov (701) 328-2210

Drew H. Wrigley
ATTORNEY GENERAL

CRIME LABORATORY DIVISION 2641 East Main Avenue Bismarck, ND 58501 (701) 328-6159

MEMORANDUM

TO:

Law Enforcement Agencies and State's Attorneys

FROM:

Jennifer Penner, Crime Laboratory Division Director

DATE:

September 5, 2023

RE:

Acceptance of Evidence Involving Military Subjects

The ND Crime Laboratory has recently shared directives regarding the submission of criminal evidence from cases involving subjects (victims and suspects) serving full-time in the active military. The ND Crime Laboratory would like to clarify the policy on the submission of criminal evidence from cases involving military subjects. The ND Crime Laboratory will accept cases involving military subjects if the case is charged or is going to be charged and prosecuted by an associated State's Attorney's Office. If the crime has occurred on a military base/location and is being investigated and prosecuted solely by the military police and prosecutorial office, the evidence from those distinct cases should be submitted to the appropriate federal laboratory for testing (i.e., Armed Forces Medical Examiner System, 115 Purple Heart Drive, Dover Air Force Base, DE, 1-302-346-8648). If the crime is not being charged or prosecuted by the State's Attorney's Office but is being investigated or charged solely by the military police, the evidence from these cases should be handled through military channels and sent to the appropriate federal laboratory for testing.

Following these guidelines will ensure that the evidence is sent to the appropriate laboratory that should be involved in the testing process for cases involving military related subjects. Please contact the ND Crime Laboratory if you have further questions regarding this matter.