

Quick Facts 🔤 🖍

— National Defense Offenders –

Fiscal Year 2022

- IN FY 2022, 64,142 CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE U.S. SENTENCING COMMISSION.
- ▶ 190 INVOLVED NATIONAL DEFENSE OFFENSES.¹
 - NATIONAL DEFENSE OFFENSES DECREASED BY 13.2% SINCE FY 2018.



Most Common Guidelines for National Defense Offenders²



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Offender and Offense Characteristics

- 87.9% of national defense offenders were men.
- 55.0% were Hispanic, 24.3% were White, 12.2% were Black, and 8.5% were Other races.
 - 80.5% of offenders in cases involving the unauthorized exportation of arms were Hispanic.
 - 42.1% of offenders in cases involving support to terrorism were White.
 - 58.8% of offenders in cases involving exports controls and financial transactions supporting terrorism were White.
- Their average age was 36 years.
- 69.7% were United States citizens.
- 72.3% had little or no prior criminal history (Criminal History Category I);
 - 15.8% received a terrorism adjustment under USSG §3A1.4 and were assigned to Criminal History Category VI.
- The top five districts for national defense offenders were:
 - Southern District of Texas (36);
 - District of Arizona (35);
 - Western District of Texas (23);
 - Eastern District of New York (14);
 - Northern District of Alabama (13).

USSG §3A1.4 Sentencing Adjustment for Terrorism

- Over the past five years, 151 offenders received an enhanced sentence through application of the terrorism adjustment at USSG §3A1.4:
 - ♦ 88.1% were men.
 - 50.0% were White, 22.7% were Black, 21.3% were Other races, and 6.0% were Hispanic.
 - Their average age was 35 years.
 - 70.9% were United States citizens.
 - ◊ 27.3% of non-citizen offenders were from the Middle East; 22.7% were from Central Asia; 18.2% were from South Asia; 15.9% were from Europe; and 6.8% were from Latin America.

Punishment

- 77.9% of national defense offenders were sentenced to prison.
- The average sentence was 47 months.
 - The average sentence for offenders who received a terrorism adjustment under USSG §3A1.4 was 188 months.
 - The average sentence for offenders convicted of unauthorized exportation of arms was 25 months.
 - The average sentence for offenders convicted of support to terrorism was 153 months.
 - The average sentence for offenders convicted of export controls and financial transactions terrorism was 18 months.



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Sentences Relative to the Guideline Range

- Of 65.8% of national defense offenders sentenced under the Guidelines Manual:
 - 61.0% were sentenced within the guideline range.
 - 22.0% received a substantial assistance departure.
 Their average sentence reduction was 65.1%.
 - 13.8% received some other downward departure.
 Their average sentence reduction was 52.7%.
 - 3.2% received an Early Disposition Program (EDP) departure.³
 Their average sentence reduction was 59.0%.
- 34.2% received a variance; of those offenders:
 - 98.4% received a downward variance.
 Their average sentence reduction was 62.1%.
 - 1.6% received an upward variance.⁴
- The average guideline minimum and the average sentence imposed decreased over the past five years.
 - The average guideline minimum decreased from 100 months in fiscal year 2018 to 76 months in fiscal year 2022.
 - The average sentence imposed decreased from 60 months in fiscal year 2018 to 47 months in fiscal year 2022.



Sentence Imposed Relative to the Guideline Range FY 2022



Average Guideline Minimum and Average Sentence (months)



¹ National defense cases include cases in which the offender was sentenced under USSG Chapter Two, Part M (Offenses Involving National Defense and Weapons of Mass Destruction) or under other guidelines which involve criminal conduct threatening to national defense. National defense cases also include cases in which the offender received a sentencing enhancement under USSG §3A1.4 (Terrorism).

 $^{\rm 2}\,$ Cases with incomplete sentencing information were excluded from the analysis.

³ "Early Disposition Program (or EDP) departures" are departures where the government sought a sentence below the guideline range because the defendant participated in the government's Early Disposition Program, through which cases are resolved in an expedited manner. See USSG §5K3.1.

SOURCE: United States Sentencing Commission, FY 2018 through FY 2022 Datafiles, USSCFY18-USSCFY28. categories with fewer than three cases.

⁴ The Commission does not report the average for categories with fewer than three cases.