



Kurzinformation

Wearing military uniforms and medals

This paper answers the questions whether it is an offence in Germany to impersonate a member of the armed forces by wearing a uniform without permission and whether it is an offence for an individual to wear military medals or decorations that he/she has not been awarded.

In accordance with para 132a, subpara 1, no. 4 of the German *Criminal Code* (Strafgesetzbuch – StGB)¹ **wearing domestic or foreign uniforms, vestments or insignia** in Germany **without permission** is a punishable offence that can be sentenced by **imprisonment up to one year** or by a **fine**.

However, the Criminal Code does not cover the misuse of domestic or foreign medals or decorations. Thus, persons who wear military medals or decorations that they have not been awarded do not commit a crime.

But in accordance with para. 15 of the *Law on Titles, Medals and Decorations* (Gesetz über Titel, Orden und Ehrenzeichen – OrdenG)², **illegitimately wearing military medals or decorations is an administrative offence that can be fined**. In accordance with para. 15 of the Law on Titles, Medals and Decorations however, para. 15 is only applicable to those medals and decorations that have been either awarded by the Federal President or endowed with his permission.

Ende der Bearbeitung

¹ Criminal Code (Strafgesetzbuch – und StGB) in the version of the notification of 13 November 1998 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 3322) which was last changed by article 8 of the law on 26 July 2016 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1818). Retrievable in <https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/stgb/gesamt.pdf> (last retrieved August 2, 2016).

² Law on Titles, Medals and Decorations (Gesetz über Titel, Orden und Ehrenzeichen – OrdenG) in the revised version published in the Federal Law Gazette III no. 1132-1; this version was last changed by article 10 of the law on 19 February 2006 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 334). Retrievable in <http://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/bundesrecht/ordeng/gesamt.pdf> (last retrieved August 2, 2016).