

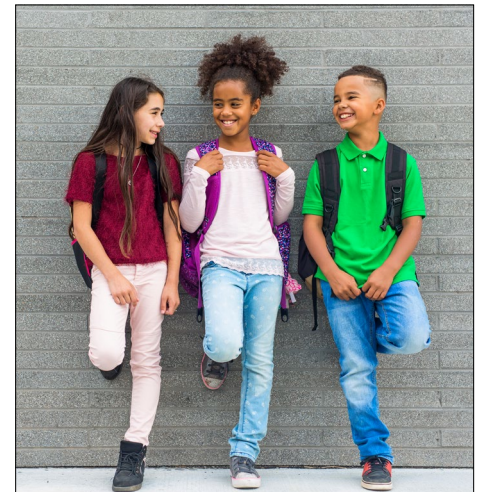


Key Message

Military installations subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction often handle juvenile offenses through the federal court system. Adopting policies that allow for concurrent jurisdiction can open the door to state resources and juvenile courts, offering better solutions, including more rehabilitative approaches, tailored to address crimes and misdemeanors of juvenile offenders.

Discussion Points

1. Without the option for state and local courts to have concurrent jurisdiction, cases involving juveniles are placed under the jurisdiction of adult courts – where access to juvenile-focused interventions is absent. This means sentencing tends to be harsher and often limits a juvenile’s future due to criminal records.
2. Policymakers can modernize their framework to allow the military installation to retrocede or transfer jurisdiction – which helps prevent gaps or uncertainties – in efforts to enhance the state’s ability to increase access to justice for juveniles.
3. State law could also include a mechanism for the federal government to transfer its jurisdiction to the state on a case-by-case or installation-by-installation basis, ensuring that each situation is handled with the utmost care.
4. Granting state authorities the ability to enforce laws, with respect to civilian family members of service members, opens opportunities for more suitable, youth-focused approaches.
5. A voluntary memorandum between military installation leadership and state and local officials defines the working relationship that supports our children, youth and families. This agreement outlines how concurrent jurisdiction will work in practice, ensuring that once enabled by state law, there is a clear, effective partnership in place.



Historically, the federal government obtained exclusive jurisdiction over land by agreement with the owning state or maintained jurisdiction after forming a new state. However, as military installations welcome more civilians, the need to shift from exclusive to concurrent jurisdiction becomes evident.