



# CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER

FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



## ANNEX 1-04 LEGAL SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

### JAG CORPS ORGANIZATION

Last Updated: 4 March 2012

#### The Judge Advocate General

Under federal law, The Judge Advocate General (TJAG) is the legal advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF), the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (CSAF), and all officers and agencies of the Department of the Air Force. TJAG directs Air Force JAGs and paralegals in the performance of their duties.

Federal law also provides that no officer or employee of the Department of Defense may interfere with:

- ★ The ability of TJAG to give independent legal advice to the SECAF or CSAF.
- ★ The ability of JAGs assigned or attached to, or performing duty with, military units to give independent legal advice to commanders.

The Air Force JAG Corps organization includes the following personnel:

- ★ TJAG and Deputy Judge Advocate General (DJAG).
- ★ All other Air Force officers designated as JAGs.
- ★ [Airmen](#) in the paralegal services career field and those assigned duties in JAG offices at any level of command.
- ★ Civilian attorneys and legal services civilians supporting the JAG Corps mission.
- ★ Air Force Reserve Component officers designated as JAGs.
- ★ Air Force Reserve Component enlisted personnel in the paralegal services career field and those assigned duties in JAG offices at any level of command.

Commanders should note that, despite any temporary duties a JAG may be assigned, they retain their status as a JAG Corps member.

## **Air Force Legal Operations Agency**

AFLOA is a field-operating agency comprised of more than 800 military and civilian attorneys, paralegals, and support personnel worldwide. AFLOA provides TJAG with civil, commercial, and criminal law expertise and litigation support, as well as legal education and cutting-edge technological assets. The divisions of AFLOA, including the JAG School and the JAG corps field support centers (FSCs), provide direct legal services and support throughout the Air Force. The AFLOA commander ensures that FSCs regularly communicate with SJAs to maintain effective lines of communication and ensure support to field commanders.

### **Staff Judge Advocates**

The [staff judge advocate](#) (SJA) is the senior JAG assigned to provide legal advice to a court-martial convening authority (the Air Force commander with authority to convene general or special courts-martial). The convening authority is typically exercised by the installation or host unit commander. SJAs also provide legal advice and services to commanders of tenant units served by the host unit. The principal responsibility of the SJA is to provide full-spectrum legal services required by commanders and their staffs.

By law, commanders responsible for convening courts-martial should at all times communicate directly with the SJA in matters relating to the administration of military justice. By law, SJAs are authorized to communicate directly with the SJA of a superior or subordinate command or with TJAG. No officer or employee of the Department of Defense (DOD) may interfere with the ability of JAGs to give independent legal advice.

### **Field Support Centers**

FSCs are TJAG's primary vehicle for providing legal reachback support to field commanders through their SJA and JAG corps. FSCs provide added legal expertise concerning a particular legal issue by coordinating with, and acting through, a commander's SJA. As the commander's single focal point for all legal services, the SJA is solely responsible for identifying when a particular legal issue merits the additional legal expertise an FSC provides. If warranted, an SJA may seek FSC expertise in areas such as aircraft investigations, claims, government contracts, and environmental issues or labor issues.

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