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FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



ANNEX 1-04 LEGAL SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS

MISSION READINESS OF JAG CORPS PERSONNEL

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The mission requirements of a location determine legal services needs. To achieve the level of [judge advocate generals](#) (JAG) mission readiness needed, [staff judge advocates](#) (SJA) should first determine what is required to: support operations controlled, supported, or executed at or from the home station; prepare expeditionary legal support capabilities that are postured within their offices; and prepare to integrate legal support personnel identified to augment their offices. Therefore, the mission readiness of any JAG activity should be evaluated in terms of home station operations, expeditionary legal support, and home station augmentation.

Expeditionary Legal Support

Expeditionary legal support includes the services provided to support forward-deployed forces. Expeditionary legal support consists of the personnel and equipment available to satisfy expeditionary requirements. This requires SJAs to understand their deployment contribution and availability. Expeditionary legal support also includes legal services provided through reachback. Reachback requires that home station resources (e.g., experts in various fields of practice, host-nation advisors, information, equipment) be prepared and available to support forward-deployed forces through the chain of command.

Essential Level of Services and Contingency Mitigation Planning

Each JAG activity determines the essential level of services to fulfill mission requirements by taking mission essential tasks and mandatory performance standards into account. Therefore, SJAs should closely monitor the essential levels of service provided by their activity. They need to plan accordingly for potential changes (possibly caused by deployments or emergencies resulting in minimum manning or minimal resource situations). Forward planning of JAG activities should alleviate possible repercussions and assure full-time mission-essential task accomplishment.

JAG Mission Readiness Preparation

Although not an exhaustive list, JAGs and paralegals may participate in any or all of the following activities to prepare for support operations:

- ✦ Continuing legal education through civilian, joint, and multinational sources.
- ✦ Professional education through Air Force, joint, and multinational sources.
- ✦ Military engagement activities with domestic and foreign agencies and activities.

- ✦ Comparative law studies and interactions with host-nation legal representatives.
 - ✦ Joint and multinational exercises and training.
 - ✦ Operations planning involvement to direct, control, and sustain Air Force operations.
 - ✦ Evaluation of legal principle application to missions, weapons systems, and tactics.
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