



[ANNEX 1-04 LEGAL SUPPORT TO OPERATIONS](#)

OPERATIONS PLANNING

Last Updated: 4 March 2012

A commander, Air Force forces' (COMAFFOR) [judge advocate general](#) (JAG) corps personnel participate in [deliberate and crisis action planning](#) by assisting planners in the application of legal considerations and by recommending legally acceptable courses of action to the commander. They are responsible for providing legal advice to decision makers on the myriad of laws, policies, treaties, and agreements that influence or impact air, space, and cyberspace operations.

Deliberate Planning

Commanders should seek legal advice during each phase of the deliberate planning process to ensure legal considerations are addressed (see [Appendix B](#)). JAGs and paralegals have the following responsibilities during this process:

- ★ Ensure plans comply with relevant multilateral and bilateral international agreements, international law and domestic law, US government policy, and Department of Defense (DOD) guidance.
- ★ Prepare the appropriate appendices and annexes to plans.
- ★ Review the entire plan with a focus on areas with legal significance (e.g., legal authorities, targeting, fiscal considerations, host-nation support agreements, air navigation, use of force, and status of forces).
- ★ Review relevant supporting plans to ensure appropriate appendices and legal annexes are complete and provide the necessary guidance.
- ★ Ensure the amount and type of JAGs and paralegals have been identified to deploy in support of operations, or to support operations in-place.

JAGs and paralegals should be thoroughly familiar with the plans they are tasked to support, the unique legal issues for the supported operational area, and the capabilities of the employment locations they may be tasked to support. The mission of each employment location will uniquely impact legal readiness requirements. Therefore, mission success requires advanced planning by all JAGs and paralegals. See [Appendix B](#) for additional details about the legal support role in deliberate planning.

Crisis Action Planning

The responsibilities of JAGs and paralegals during crisis action planning are similar to those during deliberate planning; however, the time available for legal support planning is compressed. JAGs and paralegals should be familiar with the crisis action planning process and be able to address legal considerations in each phase of the process as outlined in [Appendix B](#).
