



THE U.S. ARMY  
JUDGE ADVOCATE  
GENERAL'S CORPS

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U.S. ARMY



ARMY JAG





# YOUR FIRST FOUR YEARS

The Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) is a different kind of law firm. Since its founding in 1775, the JAG Corps mission has been to represent the legal interests of Soldiers and the U.S. Army with unmatched strength, courage, character and commitment, and unsurpassed knowledge of the law.

In your first four years in the JAG Corps, you will work for an organization that values your contributions. You will be exposed to a broad spectrum of legal practice. You will know your job truly makes a difference in our Army, our nation, and our world.

## IMMEDIATE EXPERIENCE

Judge Advocates gain immediate experience during their first four years. Every assignment presents an opportunity for advocacy. The JAG Corps provides early litigation experience, with most Judge Advocates practicing in the courtroom within their first three years.

## DIVERSITY OF PRACTICE

A diverse practice provides a Judge Advocate a broad base of knowledge. Typically, Judge Advocates rotate legal disciplines every one to two years, and move to a different installation every two to three years.

## POSITIVE WORK ENVIRONMENT

Leadership, physical fitness, diversity, and collegiality are priorities in the JAG Corps. Although new Judge Advocates have autonomy in the execution of their work, every Army legal office operates as a team. New Judge Advocates receive assistance from their peers and have multiple levels of mentorship and supervision. Supervisors are deeply invested in the development and growth of Judge Advocates as both officers and attorneys. The JAG Corps relies on the contributions of those with differing opinions and perspectives, valuing the diverse backgrounds and experiences of all Judge Advocates.

# A PROUD LEGACY OF SERVICE

The Army JAG Corps has a proud legacy of service across our country and around the world. Whether you just heard about the JAG Corps or have always known you wanted to be a Judge Advocate, whether you seek an Active Duty commission working full time in uniform or you already have a civilian career and aspire to serve on a part-time basis in the Reserve Component, the JAG Corps has a place for you.

Some Judge Advocates serve for four years, while others serve more than twenty years and earn a full retirement. No matter how you serve, the JAG Corps will challenge you like never before and will open the door to a world of opportunities. We invite you to learn more about the JAG Corps, its unique place in the legal profession, and how to apply for opportunities in the JAG Corps.





# EVERY FIRM HAS A FOUNDER OURS WAS A FOUNDING FATHER

The Army JAG Corps was founded by General George Washington on July 29, 1775, shortly after he took command of the Continental Army. Since that time, the JAG Corps has played a key role in the events that shaped our nation and our world. The JAG Corps is one of our country's largest firms with more than 4,500 full-time and part-time lawyers.

Judge Advocates helped draft and implement President Lincoln's Order Number 100, also known as the Lieber Code and an early codification of the laws of war. Judge Advocates prosecuted war criminals in Europe and Japan at the close of World War II. Army Judge Advocates have been prosecuting the "trial of the century" for centuries.

A Judge Advocate drafted the armistice ending the Korean Conflict, an Armistice that remains in force today. Today's Judge Advocates serve the nation and practice law at home and abroad, in courtrooms and on the battlefield. Judge Advocates, particularly junior attorneys, have written a modern chapter as they forged relationships with attorneys and judges in Iraq and Afghanistan, served as counsel before Military Commissions, advised commanders while under fire, assisted the Department of Justice in cases of national significance, and provided legal support to fellow Soldiers.





# IMMEDIATE EXPERIENCE IN DIVERSE PRACTICE AREAS

Judge Advocates practice in multiple areas throughout the U.S. and abroad during their career.

## CRIMINAL LAW

Commanders and other leaders rely on Judge Advocates for all kinds of advice about appropriate disciplinary actions. In addition to advising commanders, Judge Advocates may be prosecutors or defense counsel before courts-martial, Special Assistant U.S. Attorneys, and government or defense appellate counsel. Judge Advocates also represent victims of sexual assault during the court-martial process.

## INTERNATIONAL LAW

With Army personnel stationed around the world, questions of international law regularly arise. Judge Advocates interpret and apply foreign, comparative, and domestic law affecting overseas intelligence activities, security assistance, counter-drug operations, stability

operations, and rule of law activities. Judge Advocates serve as the liaison to the host or allied nation legal authorities.

## OPERATIONAL LAW

Operational law encompasses the law of war and all domestic, military, foreign, and international law affecting the conduct of military operations. Judge Advocates support humanitarian relief operations to full-scale combat. While deployed, Judge Advocates respond to legal questions about rules of engagement, targeting, intelligence law, and detainee operations. Judge Advocates support the commander's military decision-making process and the conduct of operations with planning, advice and analysis.

## ADMINISTRATIVE LAW

Judge Advocates provide legal advice to commanders and staff based on statutes, regulations, and judicial decisions. This practice involves many specialized legal areas, including military personnel law,

government information practices, investigations, labor relations, civilian employment law, military installation management, regulatory law, intellectual property law, and government ethics.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Judge Advocates provide legal advice to Soldiers, dependents, and retirees on personal legal issues such as estate planning, adoption, divorce, landlord-tenant disputes, and taxes. While serving overseas, Judge Advocates learn and apply the laws of host nations like Germany, Korea or Italy.

## CIVIL LITIGATION

Judge Advocates work with the Department of Justice to investigate and prepare cases affecting the Army for trial. Judge Advocates interview witnesses, conduct depositions, craft arguments, and draft pleas, motions, and briefs at the trial and appellate level. Judge Advocates negotiate settlements and argue cases before administrative judges and federal courts.

## LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW

Judge Advocates advise managers of the Army's civilian workforce on all aspects of hiring, firing, rating, and disciplining employees and negotiate bargaining agreements. Judge Advocates represent the Army in administrative hearings before numerous labor-related authorities.

## CONTRACT AND FISCAL LAW

Judge Advocates review contracts for services, supplies and materiel, construction, research and development, and much more. Judge Advocates litigate contract disputes and advise contracting officers and boards about procurement procedures, bid protests, contract terminations, and appeal disputes.



## TORT LAW

Judge Advocates investigate, adjudicate, and negotiate property, personal injury, and medical malpractice tort claims filed against the Army. Judge Advocates also assert and recover monetary damages from third-party tortfeasors who injure Army personnel and damage Army property.

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

The Environmental Law Division serves as chief environmental counsel to Army staff. Judge Advocates serve in one of two sections: compliance and policy or litigation. Judge Advocates in the





litigation section represent the Army's interests in state, federal, and local courts, and advises senior Army leadership on environmental policy.

## **FUTURE ASSIGNMENTS**

Judge Advocates build upon the knowledge learned in each substantive area of practice through each assignment. Multiple leadership opportunities and positions exist in each practice

area. Additionally, experienced Judge Advocates may serve on faculty at the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School, the U.S. Military Academy, and other military schools. Opportunities may also include assignment as a military judge, special prosecutor, hospital legal advisor, legislative liaison, or service at an embassy.





# BENEFITS OF SERVICE

Benefits for Active Duty Judge Advocates include:

## FINANCIAL BENEFITS

- ★ Enter the Army as an officer at an advanced pay grade
- ★ Receive a promotion six to eight months after being commissioned
- ★ Receive a pay raise every one to two years
- ★ Receive a substantial tax-free housing and subsistence allowance each month
- ★ Low-cost life insurance coverage
- ★ Student loan repayment of up to \$65,000 (subject to yearly Congressional authorization)
- ★ Opportunity to receive the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- ★ Thrift Savings Plan with government contribution upon entry. An additional annuity vests after 20 years of service.
- ★ Retention bonus of up to \$60,000 after your first four year commitment (subject to yearly Congressional authorization)
- ★ Active Duty service may qualify for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program (U.S. Department of Education)

Visit [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) for further financial information.

## FOCUS ON YOUR PERSONAL AND FAMILY LIFE

- ★ 30 days paid vacation and 10 paid federal holidays each year
- ★ Free medical and dental coverage for Soldiers and low cost medical and dental coverage for family members
- ★ Paid maternity leave for three months and 10 days paid paternity leave
- ★ Free gym and recreational activities on post



## AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE THE WORLD

- ★ Overseas assignments
- ★ Many assignments include regular travel
- ★ Travel worldwide at no cost on military flights
- ★ TSA Precheck® throughout their career

## CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION

The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) hosts more than 60 continuing legal education courses annually for Judge Advocates. Experienced Judge Advocates spend an academic year at TJAGLCS earning an ABA-approved Master of Laws degree in military law. Senior Judge Advocates are eligible to earn a civilian LLM in selected legal fields paid for by the Army.



## YOUR TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

All Active Duty and Army Reserve Judge Advocates attend training in two phases prior to beginning their first assignment.

### **DIRECT COMMISSION COURSE (DCC)**

The six week Direct Commission Course at Fort Benning, Georgia provides Judge Advocates with Soldier and leadership training. DCC prepares Judge Advocates for success by emphasizing leadership

skills, physical fitness, mental toughness, and tactical and technical proficiency through classroom instruction and hands-on Soldier training exercises. Judge Advocates participate in physical training, ruck marches, combat water survival skills and marksmanship training, land navigation, and obstacle courses. Judge Advocates leave DCC as confident and competent members of the profession of arms.

## JUDGE ADVOCATE OFFICER BASIC COURSE (JAOBC)

The ten-and-a-half-week Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course is held at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) in Charlottesville, Virginia. Through classroom instruction and practical exercises, Judge Advocates learn about substantive areas of law in addition to learning about the JAG Corps' organization, function, and mission.

Experienced Judge Advocates teach military criminal law, tort law, government contract and fiscal law, legal assistance, administrative law, and international and operational law. Judge Advocates continue their physical training amidst the beautiful scenery of Charlottesville. Home to one of the founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello overlooks the Blue Ridge Mountains and offers one of many great places to explore. New Judge Advocates leave JAOBC fully certified to practice military law.







## MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SERVE

### ARMY RESERVE

Serving in the Army Reserve in the JAG Corps is a perfect option for those who wish to maintain their civilian employment and serve their country. Almost forty percent of the Army JAG Corps serve part-time in the Army Reserve.

Army Reserve Judge Advocates practice in diverse areas. They may prosecute, defend or judge courts-martial, negotiate and review government contracts, act as counsel at administrative hearings, or provide legal advice in such specialized areas as international, labor, regulatory, patent or tax law, family law and estate planning, all while maintaining their civilian careers. Army Reserve Judge Advocates train and prepare for missions in the same manner as their Active Duty counterparts.

### TROOP PROGRAM UNIT

Army Reserve Judge Advocates are initially assigned to a Troop Program Unit (TPU) located near their home. A typical year in a TPU includes training one weekend a month and 15 days of continuous annual training. Army Reserve Judge Advocates earn pay and accumulate points toward Army Reserve retirement benefits.

### INDIVIDUAL MOBILIZATION AUGMENTEE PROGRAM

Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA) Judge Advocates are assigned to an Active Army unit and complete 12 days of annual training each year, while earning pay and retirement points. IMA Judge Advocates earn additional retirement points by completing Army correspondence courses or individually assigned legal tasks throughout the year.

## MOBILIZATION AND DEPLOYMENT

Army Reserve Judge Advocates have opportunities to serve on Active Duty for certain periods throughout their career. Army Reserve Judge Advocates mobilize and deploy in support of Army legal operations both in the U.S. and abroad.

## BENEFITS

Full-time federal benefits while you maintain a civilian career.

- ★ Enter the Army as an officer at an advanced pay grade
- ★ Receive a promotion approximately twelve months after being commissioned
- ★ Receive a pay raise every one to two years
- ★ Low-cost life insurance coverage
- ★ Student loan repayment of up to \$30,000 or a \$10,000 lump sum bonus (subject to yearly Congressional authorization)
- ★ Opportunity to receive the Post-9/11 GI Bill
- ★ Thrift Savings Plan with government contribution upon entry. An additional annuity vests after 20 years of service.
- ★ Low-cost medical and dental coverage for themselves and their family members
- ★ Travel worldwide at no cost on military flights
- ★ TSA Precheck® throughout their career
- ★ Opportunity to attend continuing legal education courses

## NATIONAL GUARD

Judge Advocates in the National Guard serve part time in their home states. National Guard Judge Advocates may expect to mobilize and deploy with their state units in support of state or U.S. Army missions. For more information on National Guard opportunities, visit [www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO).



# YOUR NEW OFFICE AWAITS

Judge Advocates work wherever there are Soldiers who need legal support. Listed below are some of the Army major installations where Judge Advocates are currently serving.

## NORTHEASTERN AREA

Fort Drum, Watertown, NY  
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY

## WASHINGTON, DC AREA

Fort Belvoir, VA (near Alexandria)  
Fort McNair, Washington, DC  
Fort Meade, MD (near Baltimore)

## MID-ATLANTIC AREA

Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD (near Baltimore)  
Fort Eustis, VA (near Williamsburg)  
Fort Lee, Petersburg, VA (near Richmond)

## SOUTHEASTERN AREA

Fort Benning, Columbus, GA  
Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, NC  
Fort Campbell, KY (near Clarksville, TN)  
Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, CO  
Fort Gordon, GA (near Augusta)  
Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC  
Fort Knox, KY (near Louisville)  
Fort Leavenworth, KS (near Kansas City)  
Fort Leonard Wood, MO (near Springfield)  
Fort Riley, KS (near Manhattan)  
Fort Rucker, AL (near Ozark)  
Fort Sill, Lawton, OK  
Fort Stewart, GA (near Savannah)  
Redstone Army Arsenal, Huntsville, AL

## SOUTH/SOUTHEAST AREA

Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX  
Fort Hood, Killeen, TX  
Fort Huachuca, AZ (near Tucson)  
Fort Polk, LA (near Leesville)  
Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX  
White Sands Missile Range, NM (near Las Cruces)

## WEST COAST AREA

Fort Irwin, CA (near Barstow)  
Fort Lewis, WA (near Tacoma)  
Presidio of Monterey, Monterey, CA

## NON-CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

Alaska  
Hawaii

## OVERSEAS

Germany  
Italy  
Japan  
South Korea

Army Reserve Judge Advocates serve at the above locations and additional installations and locations throughout the United States and overseas.







## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

All Active Duty and Army Reserve applicants must meet the following criteria at the time of entry into the JAG Corps. Interested applicants do not need to possess these qualifications in order to apply. Law students may apply as early as their final fall semester of law school.

- ★ Be physically and mentally fit
- ★ Be of good moral standing and character
- ★ Demonstrate leadership potential and a record of proven scholastic ability
- ★ Meet security clearance requirements
- ★ Be a U.S. citizen (dual citizenship is not allowed)
- ★ Hold a J.D. from an ABA-accredited law school
- ★ At the time of entry onto active duty, be admitted to the bar of the highest court of any State, Territory, Commonwealth, or the District of Columbia

### AGE REQUIREMENTS

- ★ **Active Duty:** Be under the age of 42 at the time of entry into the JAG Corps. Years of prior commissioned military service will increase the age limit.
- ★ **Army Reserve:** Be under the age of 33 at the time of entry into the JAG Corps. Years of prior commissioned military service will increase the age limit. Waivers for those exceeding age limitations are considered in meritorious cases.

### SERVICE OBLIGATION

- ★ **Active Duty:** Active Duty Judge Advocates incur a four year Active Duty service obligation, followed by a four year period in the Individual Ready Reserve (an inactive, non-drilling military status).
- ★ **Army Reserve:** Army Reserve Judge Advocates incur an eight-year service obligation. This service obligation is spent drilling with an active Army Reserve unit and in the Individual Ready Reserve (an inactive, non-drilling military status).



# MORE THAN JUST A SUMMER JOB

## THE INTERN PROGRAM

Every summer, the Army JAG Corps hires approximately 70 second year law students to serve as legal interns in JAG Corps offices worldwide. For 60 calendar days, JAG Corps interns serve as temporary civil service employees working in a variety of legal areas. Interns do not incur a military service obligation by serving in the JAG Corps Intern Program.

Summer interns get to experience life in the JAG Corps firsthand. Interns fully integrate into each Army legal office and are valued members of the team. The internship is a great opportunity to learn more about the Army and to see if becoming a Judge Advocate is right for you.

## THE EXPERIENCE

Interns work under attorney supervision in virtually every practice area of the JAG Corps. Interns assist in the preparation of criminal and civil cases by conducting legal research, writing briefs and opinions, participating in investigations, and interviewing witnesses. Interns also assist Judge Advocates who counsel and represent Soldiers, their family members, and retirees in personal legal matters in family law, estate planning, landlord/tenant law, and military administrative law. Interns assist Judge Advocates and Army civilian attorneys who represent the Army and the United States in other areas such as federal tort claims, employment law, international law, and environmental law. Judge Advocates provide guidance and mentorship to interns throughout the internship.



## THE PLACES

Summer interns work in JAG Corps offices worldwide. Although interns must pay for their travel and lodging costs, receiving an assignment to an Army legal office provides an opportunity to experience a new community. See page 12 for more information on Army installations.

## INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- ★ Demonstrate leadership potential and a record of proven scholastic ability
- ★ Be of good moral standing and character
- ★ Be a U.S. citizen
- ★ Be a current J.D. student at an ABA-accredited law school
- ★ Students in a full-time, three-year program will apply during the fall of their 2L year to complete the internship the following summer. Students in non-traditional or dual-degree programs should apply during the fall prior to their last available summer before graduation from law school.
- ★ No age restrictions or physical fitness requirements

## HOW TO APPLY

See page 16 for information on application procedures.







# APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants interested in selection for Active Duty, the Army Reserve, or the Intern Program must submit an online application and conduct an interview prior to the application deadline.

## APPLY ONLINE

The application is available at [www.jagcnet.army.mil/apply](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/apply). Applicants must submit the following as part of the application:

- ★ A recent photograph in professional attire
- ★ Undergraduate and law school transcripts
- ★ Resume
- ★ A personal statement describing your interest in the JAG Corps
- ★ Letters of recommendation and writing sample (optional)
- ★ Certificate of good standing if licensed to practice
- ★ Prior military service documents (if applicable)

## CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW

All applicants must interview with an Army Judge Advocate designated as a Field Screening Officer (FSO). FSOs visit all ABA-accredited law schools each fall to conduct interviews. Current students should arrange an interview through their Career Services Office. Graduates should contact the FSO assigned to the law school located closest to them. Visit [www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO) for a list of available FSOs.

## APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications are considered by a selection board every fall. Visit [www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO) for updated application information.

## NATIONAL GUARD

If you are interested in applying for the National Guard, visit [www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO) for more information.

# **THE U.S. ARMY JAG CORPS**

**866-ARMY-JAG  
[www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/JARO)**

**WILL YOU ACCEPT THE  
CHALLENGE?**



WHERE WILL YOU  
BE IN YOUR FIRST  
FOUR YEARS?



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Connect with more at [goarmy.com/connect](http://goarmy.com/connect).

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