



JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS ORGANIZATION

Last Updated: 28 Dec 2016

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 judge advocate generals (JAs) 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 JAs assigned or attached to, or performing duty with, military units to give independent legal advice to commanders.

In addition, the staff judge advocate (SJA) or legal officer of any command is entitled to communicate directly with the SJA or legal officer of a superior or subordinate command, or with TJAG.

The Air Force's Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps organization includes the following personnel:

- ✦ TJAG and Deputy Judge Advocate General.
- ✦ All other Air Force officers designated as JAs.
- ✦ Paralegals and those assigned duties in JA offices at any level of command.
- ✦ Civilian attorneys and legal services civilians supporting the JAG Corps mission.
- ✦ Air Force Reserve Component officers designated as JAs.
- ✦ Air Force Reserve Component enlisted personnel in the paralegal services career field and those assigned duties in JA offices at any level of command.

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

Air Force Legal Operations Agency (AFLOA)

AFLOA is a field-operating agency comprised of more than 800 military and civilian attorneys, paralegals, and support personnel worldwide. AFLOA provides the Air Force 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 JA 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 support to field commanders.

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 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 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, environmental or labor issues.

Staff Judge Advocate

The **SJA** is the senior JA 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 must 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 JAs to give independent legal advice.
