

THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS



2015 Annual Report

FROM
THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
TO THE
AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

WISDOM · VALOR · JUSTICE





**REPORT OF
THE AIR FORCE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL
TO
THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
2015 ANNUAL MEETING**



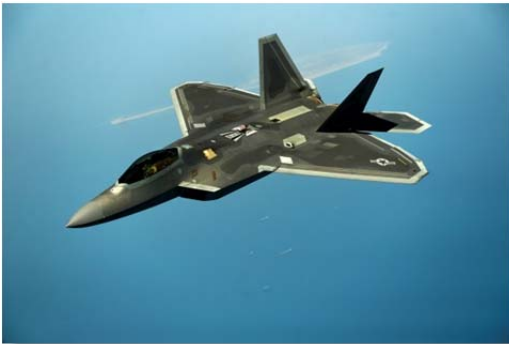
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The Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps



Introduction



An F-22 Raptor over the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility

The mission of the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) is to deliver professional, candid, independent counsel and full spectrum legal capabilities to command and the warfighter. Today's JAG Corps members are involved at every level of military operations. Whether supporting deployed Airmen flying combat sorties, commanders exercising court-martial convening authority, or family members on the home front, JAG Corps members provide world-class legal support and advice – anywhere, any time.

The Air Force JAG Corps



Lt Gen Chris Burne, The Judge Advocate General

The JAG Corps is led by The Judge Advocate General (TJAG), a position held by a lieutenant general. By statute, TJAG is the legal advisor to the Secretary of the Air Force and to all officers and agencies of the Department of the Air Force. He directs all judge advocates in the performance of their duties and is responsible for their professional development. This past year, the Senate confirmed a new TJAG, Lt Gen Chris Burne, and Deputy Judge Advocate General (DJAG), Maj Gen Jeff Rockwell. CMSgt Larry Tolliver took over as the Senior Paralegal Manager, completing the JAG Corps leadership team.

JAG Corps Priorities

The JAG Corps provides legal advice and counsel. It also advocates, mediates, negotiates, and litigates in support of Air Force mission requirements. The JAG Corps is focused on providing a balanced and driven approach to meet today's dynamic national security, budgetary, and legal environment. In particular, the JAG Corps has prioritized military justice transformation and outreach, mission-oriented counsel, JAG Corps personnel development, and support of Airmen families.

The JAG Corps plays a crucial role in the military justice system as it prosecutes and defends cases under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Government counsel prosecute crimes and

advise investigators and commanders at all levels on the process, procedure, and disposition of criminal cases. Specially appointed Judge Advocates also defend Airmen accused of misconduct, and represent victims of specified offenses, giving these victims an unprecedented voice in the process. There has been a historic level of interest in the military justice system, to include multiple panels and review groups. The JAG Corps is cooperating with these various groups while at the same time proactively engaging with Air Force senior leaders, members of Congress, and judge advocates of other services, in collaborating to develop smart structural changes to the military justice system with a keen focus and special emphasis on combating sexual assault.

With the onset of significant changes to the military justice system, the JAG Corps has energized its efforts in educating commanders, Airmen, and the general public on the critical importance of the military's disciplinary system in accomplishing the Air Force mission to fly, fight and win in air, space, and cyberspace. One new effort, our Senior Officer Legal Orientation course, trains newly assigned Air Force wing and group commanders on critical aspects of Military Justice and other legal challenges they will face as the leaders in charge of our Airmen and installations.



JAG Corps members celebrating their swearing in to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar

In 2014, the Air Force needed to steeply reduce its number of personnel. To accomplish the reduction, force shaping boards made extremely finite quality determinations. This process resulted in a loss of some 80 JAG captains from two year groups. However, recognizing the JAG Corps' critical mission and increasing role in the response to sexual assault, Air Force leadership eliminated any involuntary separation of its JAGs in the rank of major. In fact, in 2015, new officer slots from captain to lieutenant colonel were added to the Corps, primarily to fill gaps in the growing practice area of military justice and victim's counsel.

The JAG Corps continues to expend significant efforts to ensure members have the best possible educational and professional development opportunities, including advanced legal degrees and focused career vectoring for our enlisted force. The JAG Corps is also ensuring excellence by improving the inspection system. By preparing tomorrow's leaders today to succeed in a dynamic and adapting Air Force, our JAG Corps members will have the professional skills, confidence and leadership capabilities to conquer any challenge they face.

The JAG Corps continues to focus on its support of Airmen and their families. For example, the revolutionary Special Victims Counsel began providing services to child victims in the last year. In addition to supporting all Airmen, the JAG Corps is renewing its focus on our JAG Family. It is redoubling efforts to provide smooth transitions for our personnel who transfer from one assignment to another. The JAG Corps senior leaders and spouses are also reaching out to encourage the members and their families to utilize support networks. A stronger JAG Corps and Air Force family will empower Airmen to accomplish the mission.

JAG Corps Organization

The Total Force JAG Corps is made up of over 4,300 judge advocates, civilian attorneys, enlisted and civilian paralegals, and civilian support personnel. Of this total, over 1,200 are judge advocates on active duty and nearly 500 are civilian attorneys. Additionally, over 850 are paralegals on active duty and over 300 are civilian paralegals, court reporters, and other administrative staff. Over 1,400 are judge advocate and paralegal members of the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The JAG Corps continues to draw from the best and brightest law school graduates and young attorneys, selecting only a tenth of those who apply.

The majority of the JAG Corps work is performed at legal offices located at Air Force installations and deployed locations around the world. These offices work for commanders and provide legal advice and support to them and their staffs; administer military justice and other legal programs; and provide a wide variety of personal and civil law-related legal services to the base population. This report reveals some of the work done by these legal offices in the section highlighting each Air Force Major Command

There are also several legal offices assigned to Headquarters Air Force in Washington D.C. These offices support the Secretary and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force. Another component of the JAG Corps is our “field operating agency”: the Air Force Legal Operations Agency (AFLOA), consisting of a worldwide network of legal offices engaged in specialty legal practices. AFLOA is the parent command for approximately 25% of our worldwide JAG Corps personnel and is responsible for supervising the administration of military justice, senior trial counsel (prosecutors), defense counsel, special victim’s counsel, and appellate counsel. AFLOA has oversight of 11 field support centers; civil litigation counsel; the Air Force JAG School; and the Air Force Legal Information Services Directorate. The headquarters staff, along with the members of AFLOA, provide strategic planning and resource management, litigation expertise in military justice and civil law, and offer extensive education and training to the field. These offices also collect the macro-level data used in the strategic planning process. Their diverse missions are featured in the Headquarters and AFLOA Directorates section of this report, as they provide a top-level view of the JAG Corps.



An F-35A Lightning II gets ready to land Sept. 13, 2013, at Hill AFB, Utah. This was the first F-35 to land at Hill AFB.

JAG Corps Reserve

The Air Reserve Component (ARC) Advisor to TJAG (JAR) provides counsel to TJAG on all matters pertaining to the ARC’s 994 judge advocates and 423 paralegals. The active duty confidence in the Air Reserve Component is at an all-time high, as exemplified at the highest levels when, during March through May 2014, Maj Gen Robert Kenny, Mobilization Assistant to The Judge Advocate General, was appointed as Performing the Duties of The Judge Advocate General (PDOT). He performed flawlessly, moving the JAG Corps forward through complex legal issues involving sequestration, reduced financing and manpower, nuclear enterprise,

religious freedom and other constitutional issues. Further, in May 2015, Maj Gen Dixie Morrow, Mobilization Assistant to the Deputy Judge Advocate General, reached her one-year anniversary on active duty performing as the Commander of Air Force Legal Operations Agency. Maj Gen Morrow continues to perform with distinction in that position.



**Maj Gen Dixie Morrow,
Commander, Air Force Legal
Operations Agency**

In addition, ARC members in the Air National Guard, Traditional Reserve Unit Program, and the Individual Mobilization Augmentee Program significantly contributed to active duty offices throughout the year. For example, Reserve support helped meet statutory timelines and significantly reduce a backlog of outstanding disability claim cases for disabled veterans. Finally, the ARC achieved 100% JAG manning within all three categories of the Air Reserve Component for the first time in decades, at a time when unfilled positions were being "harvested" to meet personnel reduction requirements. The ARC of the JAG Corps was able to avoid losing any of the 941 authorized JAG positions, enabling all three categories to provide experienced legal support. Part of the ARC's success was due to capturing significant JAG skill sets through the accession of 65 of the 83 JAG Captains involuntarily separated from active duty due to the previously discussed active duty force shaping.

HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE AND AFLOA DIRECTORATES

The following sections of this report will provide more detailed information about the directorates providing legal support to Headquarters Air Force, as well as the directorates providing legal support and operations to the field.

Professional Development Directorate

Calendar year 2014 was extremely busy for the Professional Development Directorate (JAX), as the Directorate implemented several force shaping programs designed to reduce JAG Corps' manning to meet congressionally mandated end-strength requirements. These force shaping measures resulted in the loss of eleven colonels and six lieutenant colonels from a Selective Early Retirement Board (SERB) and 83 captains from a Force Shaping Board (FSB). Although three year groups of majors were originally targeted to meet a Reduction in Force Board (RIF), Air Force senior leadership decided to remove these select judge advocates from the RIF after the JAG Corps successfully demonstrated the immense impact these experienced judge advocates had in supporting mission objectives, thus saving 38 experienced judge advocates from being involuntarily separated.

In March 2015, the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) directed an increase in manpower authorizations for the JAG Corps to meet increasing and evolving mission requirements in the military justice system. In total, SecAF directed the addition of 58 officer billets and 15 enlisted paralegal billets to be allocated to the JAG Corps to provide critical manpower for key trial participants, including additional Special Victims' Counsel (SVC), Senior Special Victims' Counsel, Special Victims' Paralegals, senior prosecutors, senior defense counsel, and military judges. Further, this manpower increase also facilitated the return of 37 officer positions to base

legal offices, which were transferred to the Special Victims' Counsel Division in 2013 to stand up the SVC program. This increase in resources was designed to be a permanent investment in the long-term sustainment of the SVC program and to enhance the effectiveness of the military justice system and the Air Force's ability to combat sexual assault.

Strategic Plans and Programs Directorate

In February 2015, the Strategic Policy Directorate and the Plans and Programs Directorate were merged to form the Strategic Plans and Programs Directorate. This aligns with the recently produced Air Force Strategic Master Plan that seeks to place strategy at the head of the programming and budgeting process. This new Directorate is charged with developing a JAG Corp strategic planning process that is fully integrated with Air Force planning. In support of overall Air Force priorities, it will translate the JAG Corps vision into measurable goals and objectives to better support the decision-making process enabling senior leadership to better prioritize limited resources.

The newly minted Strategic Plans and Programs Directorate has also been tasked with developing a lessons learned process – collecting observations from around the JAG Corps, validating and archiving them, and, where necessary, turning them into actionable tasks to address capability gaps in the provision of legal services

With sexual assault continuing to be a priority for the Air Force, the Air Force recently added additional authorizations to address this issue. The Strategic Plans and Programs Directorate supported this initiative by aggressively pursuing operations and maintenance funds to sustain this increase in manpower through the Air Force Corporate Process.

Inspections and Standardization Directorate

Last summer, TJAG directed the Inspections and Standardization Directorate (JAI) to implement sweeping changes to the Article 6 Inspection process. The inspection checklist was greatly streamlined, with many items eliminated altogether and other items moved under the new Air Force Inspection System (AFIS). The Article 6 Inspection's focus is military justice, leadership, and training, while the focus of AFIS is on the remaining functions of a base legal office. Together, our combined inspection systems provide an unparalleled opportunity to evaluate how effectively JAG Corps professionals deliver legal services throughout the Air Force.

JAI conducted 55 JAG Corps inspections across eight MAJCOMS and one DRU consistent with the direction of The Judge Advocate General (TJAG), with the aim of increasing the readiness and capabilities of legal professionals, while continuously improving the quality and consistency of legal services. For example, after identifying the need for more sophisticated Victim-Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) training across the Corps, a new Distance Education (DE) course was created to improve understanding of program requirements. Significantly more Victim-Witness Assistance Programs across the Air Force now meet important requirements.



The Deputy Judge Advocate General speaks to a group of students at the JAG School

Operations and International Law Directorate

The Operations and International Law Directorate (JAO) was a significant contributor to the first Department of Defense (DOD) Law of War Manual, published 12 June 2015, particularly drafting the chapters on air and space warfare, and on cyberspace. The Manual is the product of a multi-year effort of the DOD Law of War Working Group, and is designed to be a DOD-wide resource on the international law principles governing armed conflict. The Manual is available electronically at:

http://www.dod.mil/dodgc/images/law_war_manual15.pdf.



A B-2 deployed to the UK air refueling from a KC-135 Stratotanker

Members of JAO were also instrumental in the development and issuance of Deputy Secretary of Defense Policy Memorandum 15-002, "Guidance for the Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems," dated 17 February 2015. During drafting, JAO attorneys played a key role in protecting Air Force equities and advocated for Air Force interests. This policy memorandum ensures that the use of unmanned aircraft systems in domestic operations, training, exercises, and testing is in accordance with U.S. law and policy.

Attorneys from JAO worked with other directorates to develop an overseas assignment policy for families with same gender spouses potentially adversely impacted by Status of Forces Agreement interpretations or host nation laws.

Finally, concerning the Ebola virus, JAO identified the appropriate legal basis for, and coordinated USAF support to, Center for Disease Control's evacuation of three American citizens from Africa to the United States (transiting USAF military facilities overseas and within the United States). In addition, JAO attorneys ensured the balanced protection of individual rights and federal interests integral to the legal implementation of Department of Defense's post-deployment isolation policy following return of USAF personnel from Ebola virus areas.

Administrative Law Directorate

This past year, the Administrative Law Directorate (JAA) provided the subject matter expertise on a number of significant and high profile issues. JAA prepared Secretary of the Air Force policy allowing nonprofit non-Federal entities (NFE), who provide services to Airmen and their families, to establish an official presence on Air Force installations in return for office space, utilities, communications and IT support. The new policy gives installation commanders the maximum discretion when it comes to selecting among the various NFEs who might seek base access, to select those that provide the highest level of service to Airmen and their families for the least footprint.

In addition, JAA provided extensive legal advice and input to the Air Force's new Community Partnership Program Office. This office has responsibility for implementing the Air Force's participation in Intergovernmental Support Agreements (IGSA) for the sharing of local

resources, at the installation level, with State and local governments, such as aviation operations, fire and emergency services, utility infrastructure, and community quality of life programs.



Air Force Firefighters

JAA also revamped the Air Force's release policies concerning Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) requests for Air Force records in support of their representation of their clients involving alleged sexual assaults. This initiative resulted in significantly greater and more timely access by SVCs and victims to records concerning alleged misconduct by Airmen facing non-judicial punishment and courts-martial for sexual assaults.

Finally, JAA attorneys prepared a Secretary of the Air Force policy letter and supporting legal review extending Air Force SVC legal assistance to all Air Force Reserve (AFR) and Air National Guard (ANG) members who are victims of sexual assault. Now, SVC legal assistance is available to AFR and ANG victims as long as a nexus exists between the assault and their military service.

Community Legal Services Directorate

The Community Legal Services Directorate (CLS) stood up on 28 May 2013, incorporating three Divisions, which seek to represent individual client interests through one-on-one attorney representation. These three practice areas became the following: Office of Airmen's Counsel (CLSA), Community Legal Issues Division (CLSL), and Special Victims' Counsel Division (CLSV).

Office of Airmen's Counsel (CLSA)

The Office of Airmen's Counsel (OAC), is responsible for independent legal representation of all active duty (including USAFA Cadets), ANG, USAF Reserve & temporarily medically retired Airmen being processed through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System. In 2014 and the first half of 2015, lawyers at the Office of Airmen's Counsel represented 2,617 Airmen through the Disability Evaluation System, representing clients at Formal Physical Evaluation Boards, in Secretary of the Air Force-level appeals, and in Veteran's Administration Reconsideration actions. This important work meets congressional requirements to take care of Airmen who may have been disabled due to their service in the Air Force.



Participants in the 2015 Warrior Games, featuring athletes who compete in Paralympic-style events for their Services

This important work meets congressional requirements to take care of Airmen who may have been disabled due to their service in the Air Force.

One example of the thousands of Airmen assisted by the OAC is a Technical Sergeant (E-6) Military Working Dog Trainer. While conducting a foot patrol in Afghanistan, the Airman was severely injured by an IED explosion. Physicians were forced to amputate his leg above the knee and he required extensive rehabilitation at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. The Airman, who had served for over 14 years, requested a return to active duty. The Formal Physical Evaluation Board denied his request. With the assistance of OAC, he appealed to the

Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council (SAFPC). The SAFPC ruled in the Airman's favor and he will be returned to active duty to serve as an instructor at the Security Forces technical school at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

Community Legal Issues Division (CLSL)

Both the Air Force Legal Assistance and Tax Programs have proudly continued successful partnerships with the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP) and the Tax Section to help deliver outstanding support for Airmen and their families. Military legal assistance practitioners serve the needs of over 100,000 clients annually in addition to filing approximately 45,000 free tax returns each tax year for Airmen and military retirees. Additionally, the Air Force Legal Assistance Program and the LAMP committee's Military Pro Bono Project teamed to provide pro bono services to 59 junior enlisted Airmen since the beginning of 2014, valued at over \$330,000 in legal fees.



One story from Grand Forks AFB in North Dakota was published in an article entitled "How the Military Pro Bono Project Saved My Family," and shows the profound impacts pro bono attorneys obtained through the ABA Military Pro Bono Project can have on Airmen and their families. The Project is a case referral program for junior enlisted active-duty members with civil legal problems, and places these cases with pro bono attorneys. The Project matched a Staff Sergeant (E-5) with a volunteer attorney who took action to terminate the parental rights of her children's estranged, incarcerated biological father. After this, adoption proceedings commenced establishing parental rights for her husband. The Military Pro Bono Project was a "godsend" that allowed her family to close one dark chapter of their lives and open a new, brighter one.



Members of the JAG Corps receiving the Federal Service Award from the Department of Justice for implementation and administration of the SVC Program

Special Victims' Counsel Division (CLSV)

During the past year, the Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) Program continued to increase its manpower and areas of practice. In 2014, there were 28 Special Victims' Counsel (SVCs) and 9 Special Victims' Paralegals (SVPs) at 20 locations. Since the beginning of 2015, the SVC Program grew to include four Senior SVCs (SSVCs), 30 SVCs, and 11 SVPs at 24 locations worldwide. In the next year, the program will expand to include a lieutenant colonel military deputy, 6 SSVCs, 50 SVCs, and 26 SVPs at 45 locations. The SSVCs and the military deputy fill an important need for management and mentorship as the program expands.

In 2014, the SVC Program's client base continued to develop to include minor children and the Reserve Component members. Since the start of fiscal year 2015, SVCs represented 312 clients including 44 children ranging 5 to 17 years old. The SVC Program created victim impact surveys, which are questionnaires that clients can submit after their SVC's representation concludes. The surveys show that 90% of victims were extremely satisfied with their SVC and 99% of victims would recommend to someone to have an SVC. Additionally, in FY14, SVCs represented 86% of the victims who made unrestricted reports.

In 2014 the SVC Program was recognized by the Department of Justice with the Federal Service Award. When presenting the award, the Deputy Attorney General noted that SVCs "have become beacons of hope for so many other who have endured shock and deep sadness in the face of too many incidents involving violence and loss." Federal News Radio broadcasted an interview with the Chief of the SVC Program, Lt Col Andrea deCamara, where she emphasized the Program's focus on empowering victims and giving a voice to their choice.

The Judge Advocate General's School



Lady Justice greets students and faculty at the JAG School

The Judge Advocate General's School (JAG School), located at Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, is the educational hub of the Air Force JAG Corps. JAG School faculty directed and taught 76 JAG School resident and distance learning courses over the last year, reaching more than 2,600 students. In addition, JAG School instructors taught at Air University centers and schools and other courses throughout the Department of Defense, totaling 215 events, 709 faculty hours, and instructing more than 15,500 students.

While most of the JAG School's resident courses were held in the Dickinson Law Center on Maxwell Air Force Base, many courses were at regional sites throughout the United States and the world. There were nine offerings of the TRIALS program – Training by Reservists in Advocacy and Litigation Skills. In addition, JAG School faculty taught at five offerings of the Intermediate Sexual Assault Litigation Course. The Annual Survey of the Law – the

JAG School's largest and most complex course – was held this year in Chicago, providing required legal training to more than 550 Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard judge advocates and paralegals.

New course offerings at the JAG School in the past year include: (1) the Senior Officer Legal Orientation; (2) the Administrative Legal Investigations Course; (3) distance learning offerings of the Ethics Counselor Course; and (4) two offerings of the Victim and Witness Assistance Course, a new distance learning opportunity for Air Force JAGs and paralegals. The JAG School also reestablished its Teaching Methodologies Course, "JAGTM" for short, where newly assigned attorney faculty receive instruction in fundamental principles of Instructional Systems Design, curriculum development, teaching methods, evaluation of student performance, and assessment of instructional effectiveness.

One example of the top-notch instruction provided at the JAG School is the Special Victims' Counsel Course (SVC Course). The JAG School hosts the premier SVC Course open to victims' rights attorneys and paralegals from all of the services. This joint course includes training from national experts in the fields of victims' rights, neurobiology of trauma, and representing minors. Professor Meg Garvin, Executive Director of the National Crime Victim Law Institute and clinical law professor at the Lewis and Clark School of Law in Portland, Oregon regularly attends the course, teaching



Students attending a recent JAG School course

students about legal developments in the law and basic victim representation techniques. She brings civilian experience representing crime victims, providing expertise from the national organization that leads on victims' rights law. Students leave the course with the skills and motivation needed to represent clients in these sensitive cases.

In the past year, the JAG School published two updated print editions of key manuals: (1) *The Military Commander and the Law*, a sought-after tool for legal professionals and commanders alike; and (2) *Air Force Operations and the Law*, a guide for navigating legal issues associated with combat and combat support operations, as well as military operations within the borders of the United States. In addition, the School published two editions of *The Reporter*, a legal professionals' magazine, which won best web-based publication in Air Education and Training Command.

The Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals

The Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals (JAH) has jurisdiction over (1) all trials by court-martial where the sentence includes confinement for 12 months or longer, a punitive discharge, dismissal of a commissioned officer or cadet, or death; (2) all cases forwarded to the Court for review by TJAG under Article 69(d), UCMJ; (3) certain Government appeals of orders or rulings of military trial judges that terminate proceedings, exclude evidence, or concerning the disclosure of classified information, pursuant to Article 62(a), UCMJ; (4) petitions for new trial referred to the Court by TJAG, pursuant to Article 73, UCMJ; and (5) petitions for extraordinary relief under the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651.



The Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals

Oral argument may be heard in a case when either the appellant or appellee requests it or when the Court orders it sua sponte. One particular decision of note was *U.S. v. Lovely*, 73 M.J. 658 (A.F. Ct. Crim. App. 2015)—an infant death case—which, inter alia, delved into whether or not Article 31 rights advisements are required for someone who investigators do not subjectively believe is a suspect. The court held that even when an investigator subjectively believes someone

is not a suspect the court must also determine whether the investigator objectively should have suspected the individual of the offense. Applying this objective standard, the court in *Lovely* found that one statement, which was made “while all possibilities were reasonably open” regarding the cause of the infant’s death, did not require rights advisement. However, the court further determined a subsequent statement, where investigators had more information, did require rights advisement.

The Trial Judiciary

Over the past year, Air Force trial judges assigned to the Trial Judiciary Division (JAT) presided over 756 courts-martial and 177 pretrial hearings worldwide. In order to improve its judges’ performances, JAT launched the first-ever Judicial Performance Review (JPR). The web-based system allowed courts-martial stakeholders and practitioners to provide anonymous feedback to the Chief Trial Judge about the trial judges. The JPR ensured Air Force judges remained courteous, competent, and candid.

JAT also completed the first comprehensive review of the Air Force’s rules of practice in five years. The revised rules incorporated recent changes in the law and integrated Special Victims’ Counsel (SVC). The Air Force led the way in the implementation of an SVC Program, and has likewise led the way in standardizing how to enable SVCs to communicate with the tribunal. The judiciary also updated the service’s decade-old trial script. The new script implemented current law and tailored litigation practice to meet service-specific needs.

Judiciary Directorate

The United States Air Force Judiciary (JAJ) is responsible for the administration of military justice across the Air Force. JAJ performs its mission through the work of its five divisions: Military Justice, Government Trial and Appellate Counsel, Trial Defense, Appellate Defense and Clemency, Corrections and Officer Review.

Military Justice Division (JAJM)

The Military Justice Division (JAJM) supports the field in military justice matters and drafts and implements Air Force military justice policy. In 2014, JAJM’s Relief and Inquiries Branch answered more than 35 high-level inquiries from the White House, members of Congress, and the Secretary of the Air Force. JAJM action officers reviewed more than 150 applications to the Board of Corrections of Military Records (BCMR) on military justice issues, providing the BCMR with an evaluation, including an interpretation of each request, an opinion of each applicant’s contentions, and recommendations for disposition. The Division performed more than 32 post-trial reviews for TJAG under Article 69(a), UCMJ, and reviewed three applications for relief under Article 69(b).

In addition, JAJM reviewed legislative proposals impacting military justice and programs to support victims of crime, including the AF Special Victims’ Counsel and Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs. It provided recommendations to the Judiciary, TJAG, the Chief of Staff and the Secretary of the Air Force on how the provisions would impact the AF and military justice practice. JAJM also plays a major and direct role in policy level conversations. JAJM supported, and directly participated in, multiple engagements with

Congressional members and staff over the last year. The former Chief of the Division, Col Mike Lewis, testified before the members of the House Armed Services Committee Military Personnel Subcommittee regarding the Air Force's prosecution of sexual assault crimes.

JAJM maintains the file repository for all courts-martial records of trial. The Appellate Records Branch processes all records of trial undergoing appellate review, distributing necessary copies, and preparing correspondence directing actions taken by appellate courts. The Branch processed over 598 records of trial during the year, closed nearly 246 cases, transferred over 211 cases to the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals (AFCCA) and the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (CAAF) and processed over 225 decisions of the AFCCA and CAAF. JAJM also annually processes over 520 functional requests for information and 138 requests for court records under the Freedom of Information and Privacy Act.



Clemency, Corrections, and Officer Review Division (JAJR)

The Clemency, Corrections and Officer Review Division (JAJR) serves as TJAG's representative on the Air Force Clemency and Parole Board. This board reviews cases of long-term prisoners, i.e., those with approved sentences of a year or more, for consideration of clemency, parole, and mandatory supervised release. The board also considers whether to revoke parole when parole conditions are violated, and reviews the applications of members for potential Return to Duty. The board took approximately 375 actions during the reporting period, including 119 parole decisions, and 39 mandatory supervised release actions. The Air Force's parole revocation rate is very low, and comprises less than 10% of those on parole or mandatory supervised release.

During this past reporting period, JAJR reviewed eight cases for special clemency under Article 74(b), UCMJ. Of those reviewed, only three contained circumstances that JAJR felt worthy enough to warrant the Secretary's attention. Case analyses and recommendations were supplied in those cases, and the Secretary granted clemency by way of substituting administrative discharges for two adjudged, approved and affirmed punitive discharges. The upgraded characterization will provide substantially more veteran's benefits and improve other opportunities for the individuals involved in those two special cases.

Trial Defense Division (JAJD)

The Trial Defense Division (JAJD) has 187 defense counsel and paralegals operating at 69 worldwide locations, providing zealous, ethical, and professional representation to Airmen in 562 courts-martial, 4,860 nonjudicial punishment actions, and 3,250 administrative discharge actions. Counsel from JAJD continued their advocacy out of the courtroom by testifying before congressionally appointed boards to study and recommend changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) on multiple occasions. JAJD team members were front and center in the fight to ensure that proposed changes to the UCMJ did not jeopardize the rights of individual

accused Airmen to a fair justice system, and protecting their rights at every stage in the process. Among those testifying were Lieutenant Colonel Julie Pitvorec, Chief Senior Defense Counsel, as well as Major Andrea Hall and Major Will Babor, who are both Senior Defense Counsel.

The Government Trial and Appellate Counsel Division (JAJG)

Senior Trial Counsel (STC) with the Government Trial and Appellate Division (JAJG) successfully prosecuted two high profile murder cases – one involving the starvation death of a child and another involving strangulation – securing sentences of life in confinement in one case and 40 years confinement in the other. STCs are also currently preparing to prosecute the Air Force’s first capital murder case in 10 years. In addition, STCs successfully prosecuted nearly 100 sexual assault cases.

Appellate counsel with JAJG successfully defended convictions in several murder cases. In *United States v. Witt*, following a successful motion for reconsideration by the government, the AFCCA upheld the first death penalty sentence in the Air Force in over 20 years for the murder of a Senior Airman and his civilian wife and the attempted murder of another Senior Airman on Robins Air Force Base, Georgia. The AFCCA also upheld the first imposition of a sentence that included life in confinement without the possibility of parole in *United States v. Cron*, for the murder of a Technical Sergeant (E-6) near Kadena Air Base, Japan.



Captain Brian Adams during a sexual assault mock trial, at Kunsan AB, South Korea

Civil Law and Litigation Directorate

The Civil Law and Litigation Directorate (JAC) defends Air Force interests in civil litigation, excluding contract litigation, in various forums, including local, state, federal administrative bodies, federal district courts, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and federal appellate courts. JAC includes three divisions: Claims and Tort Litigation (JACC), General Litigation (JACL), and Environmental Law and Litigation (JACE).

Claims and Tort Litigation Division (JACC)

The Claims and Tort Litigation Division (JACC) continued to serve the Air Force and its Airmen, by providing world-class advice, adjudication, and advocacy in its many areas of practice: general torts, Claims Service Center, Accident Investigation Boards, aviation and admiralty, foreign claims, and medical law. One highlight was the Medical Cost Reimbursement Program (MCRP), which oversaw the recoupment of the cost of medical care rendered to Air Force beneficiaries (active duty, retired members, and their eligible dependents) as a result of injuries or illnesses caused by third parties. The eight MCRP Regional Offices collected an astounding \$34 million between January 2014 and June 2015.

General Litigation Division (JACL)

The General Litigation Division has almost 1200 cases of all types remaining open with over \$170M at risk. The Labor Law Field Support Center (LLFSC) successfully defended the Air Force in over 100 cases before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Merit

System Protection Board, and the Federal Labor Relations Authority. The Secretary of Defense was forced to furlough most civilian employees within the DOD as a result of the initial sequester in 2013. As a result of the efforts of the LLFSC, the Air Force remains unbeaten, with the Secretary of Defense's furlough decision upheld in over 1900 litigated cases to date with over \$62 million at risk.

From January 2014 to June 2015, the Litigation Support Center processed 2.1 terabytes of data (in excess of 720,000 documents) and hosted 17 databases enabling JAC and JAQ litigation teams to review, redact and produce data to satisfy discovery requirements. Conducting these services in-house saved the Air Force \$1.1 million.

Environmental Law and Litigation Division (JACE)

The Environmental Law and Litigation Division (JACE) works to preserve and protect air, land, and other precious natural and cultural resources central to the successful performance of the Air Force Mission. JACE helps Air Force clients comply with environmental laws, seeks resolutions to environmental issues impacting the mission, and defends the Air Force against legal challenges that threaten mission accomplishment. JACE helped the Air Force quadruple the size of the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) by expanding the military operating area airspace over 15 million acres of property in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming and Montana, making it the largest training airspace in the continental United States. PRTC will provide Air Force pilots and personnel with adequate airspace to perform the critical training they need in conditions that more closely resemble combat missions, and save more than \$21 million per year in flight hours. The PRTC is particularly important to preserving the readiness of the B-1 Bomber crews at the 28th Bomb Wing of Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota, who formerly had to travel to Utah or Nevada for comparable training.



The B-1B is deployed to Andersen AFB, Guam, but is from the 28th Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, SD

Acquisition Law and Litigation Directorate

The Acquisition Law and Litigation Directorate (JAQ) came into existence on October 1, 2010, and serves as the strategic level headquarters element supporting the Air Force in its pursuit of acquisition excellence. While JAQ provides acquisition advice to TJAG, the Air Staff, and to the Secretariat, it also oversees all Air Force commercial litigation and serves as the functional manager for over 325 acquisition attorneys and paralegals. JAQ consists of three divisions: Acquisition Law, Plans and Programs, and Acquisition Litigation.

JAQ is TJAG's lead in supporting the Air Force's acquisition workforce and Air Force senior leaders' acquisition goals. In 2014, JAQ oversaw multiple complex litigation efforts including the successful settlement and voluntary dismissal with prejudice of the Space-X protest that had the potential to halt the Air Force's \$10 billion space lift capability. JAQ also aggressively moved forward with further implementation of the extended debriefing program, which seeks to prevent speculative bid protests by providing a thorough debriefing to unsuccessful offerors,

beyond what the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) requires. One highly successful extended debriefing involved the potential protest of a \$915 million Space Fence procurement. After receiving the extended debriefing, the unsuccessful offeror was satisfied it had received a fair evaluation and notified the Air Force it would not be protesting the award, thus allowing performance on this critical contract to move forward. JAQ also provided key support in 2014 to four Air Force Enhanced Use Lease (EUL) projects. EULs are long-term agreements under 10 U.S.C. § 2667 between the Air Force and public entities or private developers to lease non-excess Air Force property in exchange for cash or in-kind consideration.

Commercial Law and Litigation Directorate

This past year, the Commercial Litigation Field Support Center (JAQC) trial attorneys defended and resolved over 350 cases with contract values exceeding \$32 billion and \$201 million in potential liabilities. In April 2015, JAQC defended USSOCOM against \$100 million in contractual breach claims for the alleged public disclosure of technical data related to multispectral low light imaging systems (Night Vision) at a 2005 conference.



JAQ personnel participate in a multi-disciplinary contingency contracting exercise sponsored by the Joint Staff

In 2014, the Contract Law Field Support Center (JAQK) provided vital support to Air Force and joint acquisition efforts. Of note, JAQK oversaw the Air Force legal support to the Operational Contract Support Joint Exercise 2015 (OCSJX15), a multi-disciplinary contingency contracting exercise sponsored by the Joint Staff. JAQK also served as advisor to the source selection team on a \$600 million Foreign Military Sales source selection for the Royal Saudi Arabia Air Force F-15 fleet modernization, enabling a critical anti-terror partner. JAQK advocated for suspension/debarment of 78 non-responsible contractors and paired with Department of Justice to recover \$400,000 from a contractor supplying faulty foreign-made boots to the warfighter.

Legal Information Services Directorate

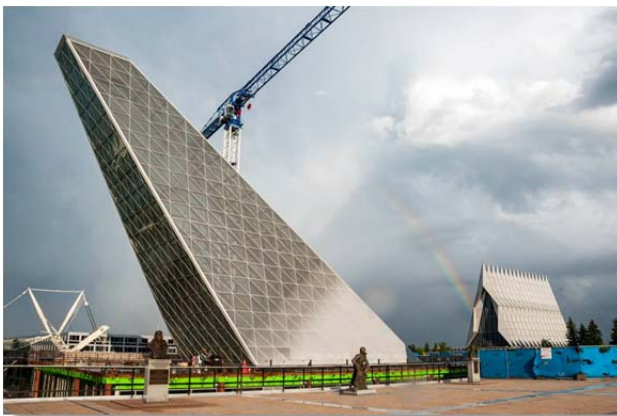
The Legal Information Services Directorate (JAS) is the DOD executive agent for the Federal Legal Information Through Electronics (FLITE) system. It provides a broad range of information technology solutions to the Air Force and DOD legal communities that enhances case, knowledge, and content management, encourages collaboration, and facilitates decision-making dominance.

In 2015, JAS worked to develop a program to automate the certification of Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) training requirements for specified JAG Corps personnel. The SAPR First Responder Training Certification Program provides a centralized and electronic means for JAG Corps members to certify compliance with the first responder training requirements, in accordance with new DOD requirements. In 2014, JAS deployed the Air

Force JAG Corps' On-Line Accessions Program fully digitizing the application, interview, and selection board review processes, saving countless hours at legal offices and JAX and eliminating the need for hard-copy files.

This past year the JAG Corps partnered with the Army, Marine, and for the first time, the Navy JAG Corps in a joint acquisition for computer assisted legal research services. The resulting contract to Lexis-Nexis provides unlimited usage legal research database subscription services for nearly 18,000 account users, providing dollar savings of nearly 16% for the Air Force and approximately 40% for the Department of Defense overall, in comparison to prior existing separately negotiated contracts.

U.S. Air Force Academy



The newly constructed Center for Character and Leadership Development at USAFA

A driving force behind cutting-edge cadet and faculty research programs, the U.S. Air Force Academy Legal Office enabled numerous collaborations with other government agencies and commercial enterprises. It crafted a unique Memorandum of Understanding to codify a donor recognition policy that averted a potential work stoppage on the multi-million dollar Center for Character and Leadership Development. The office went the extra mile and pursued a long-term legislative fix on behalf of the institution that resulted in the first of its kind draft donor recognition legislation. On the legislative front, the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act saw the realization of a huge effort assisting in

the statutory authorization of the Air Force Academy Athletic Corporation, which legitimized fundraising efforts and raised millions of dollars towards mission-critical construction, base enhancements, and cadet athletic programs. Finally, the office helped to launch the Academy's first Partnership Intermediary Agreement, which resulted in lucrative public-private partnerships in support of today's cadets, who will be tomorrow's innovative Air Force leaders.



MAJOR COMMANDS

Legal offices generally operate at two levels – wing or base level and higher headquarters. About 90 offices are at the wing level; their sizes range from 10 or fewer to 60 or more people. Higher headquarters legal offices are located at the Numbered Air Forces (NAFs) and Major Commands (MAJCOMs). In addition to supporting their commanders, these higher headquarters offices exercise professional supervision over the legal offices within their NAF and MAJCOM.

Air Combat Command

Air Combat Command (ACC) legal professionals provide support to America's combat air forces. ACC is the lead agent responsible for organizing, training, equipping and maintaining combat-ready forces for rapid deployment and employment, while ensuring strategic air defense forces are ready to meet the challenges of peacetime air sovereignty and wartime air defense. ACC legal offices seized opportunities to align their legal services to support organizational change and operations in a constrained fiscal environment. The legal support provided within ACC was world-class. For example, the legal office at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona, provided volunteer income tax assistance to more clients than any other office in the Air Force except for one: processing 4700 tax returns and garnering \$5.6 Million in refunds. Tax assistance is just one aspect of the important legal assistance provided at every Air Force wing to keep Airmen ready to deploy, and focused on operations while deployed.



Two F-15E Strike Eagles wait to receive fuel en route to Red Flag at Nellis AFB, NV. Red Flag is the Air Force's premier air-to-air combat training exercise.

ACC gained the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance mission by standing up 25th Air Force and led efforts to organize, train, equip, and deploy legal professions to support Joint operations around the globe. Our legal offices expanded mission readiness by training commanders and other key leaders; promptly investigating aircraft accidents; expanding combat training and airspace opportunities; ensuring fair military justice; championing ethical conduct; supporting efforts to acquire and integrate combat capabilities; and optimizing ACC's Total Force and organizational structure to best accomplish the mission.

Air Education and Training Command

Air Education and Training Command (AETC) legal offices had another outstanding year of providing legal support to the First Command, responsible for all the recruiting and initial training of our Nation's Airmen. The Air Force Recruiting Service (AFRS) provided the needed legal support to ensure the recruitment of 34,924 enlisted members and 1,581 officers and spearheaded increased screening prerequisites for recruiters ensuring only the best in the AF become recruiters so the AF attracts the best recruits. AETC also provided legal support to all

Air Force Basic and Technical training, supporting the training of 185,000 of America's Airmen. They provided the legal support to 2,300 training courses at 103 locations world-wide. Finally our Air University legal teams provided legal support to the hundreds of Air Force ROTC detachments throughout the country as well as to all the Air Force Professional Military Education and degree granting schools.

One example of the tremendous work done by AETC legal offices is the support of the Air Force Security Assistance Training Squadron (AFSAT). Each year, AETC members train or facilitate training for more than 9,000 students from more than 142 nations. The scope of the training includes preparatory language and follow-on training, as well as flying, technical, medical and professional education. AETC's support of AFSAT's mission to execute international training and education programs presents unique legal issues. The legal mission includes areas of international law, operational law, and contracting. AETC lawyers consult with AFSAT regarding the development of concept of operations for foreign officer and enlisted training, review of letters of offer and acceptance (LOAs) with our international partners, and resolving legal roadblocks encountered in training foreign students in and outside the United States. Whether the training and education is performed organically or through an FMS training contract, this work includes the JAG Corps' involvement throughout requirements development, award and administration.



USAF instructor at the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, prepares students for their final exam in the Logistics course, JB San Antonio-Lackland, TX

Air Force Global Strike Command



An unarmed LGM-30G Minuteman III ICBM from AFGSC base F.E. Warren AFB, WY, is test launched at Vandenberg AFB, CA

Last year, the Secretary of the Air Force outlined robust new incentives and measures designed to transform and improve the Air Force's nuclear force, an initiative labeled the Force Improvement Plan (FIP). Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) is the Air Force's newest major command, and is responsible for all of its nuclear assets. The Air Force organizes, trains, equips and operates two legs of the nation's triad of nuclear deterrence: Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, and nuclear capable bomber aircraft. One of the Air Force's five strategic vectors in its Strategic Master Plan focuses squarely on providing strategic nuclear deterrence. The AFGSC legal professionals provide robust support to this command and directly facilitate its positive transformation. For example, one focus of the FIP is addressing the cultural issues that facilitated widespread cheating on tests, and a few incidents of officer drug use. The JAG Corps is providing full spectrum military justice support to reinforce good order and discipline across the nuclear force.

JAG Corps members also helped bolster nuclear missile field security, and thereby preserve U.S. strategic deterrence. First, legal advisors heavily assisted with the development of a new concept of operations to counter an unmanned aircraft system threat to the nuclear missile operations. Second, legal support helped eliminate contractual and environmental hurdles to the acquisition of helicopter refueling tanks at our missile alert facilities thereby increasing the range of our response helicopter force and ensuring a greater forward presence of missile security personnel.

Air Force Materiel Command

The Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) legal offices support a major command of 18,000 military and 60,000 civilian personnel that are responsible for developing cutting-edge technologies, weapon system testing, depot maintenance, and acquisition program execution. The command executes \$54 billion, or approximately 40 percent of the Air Force budget.

The legal practice is diverse but heavily concentrated in labor, government procurement, fiscal law and ethics. The civilians assigned to the command make up 45 percent of the Air Force total civilian employee population, including 70 percent of the unionized workforce. AFMC legal professionals handled approximately 400 Equal Employment Opportunity cases in 2014 as well as over 2,500 Merit Systems Protection Board cases related to the furloughing of civilian employees during 2013's budget sequestration.



The President and Airmen in front of Air Force One at JB Andrews, MD. AFMC legal professionals are supporting the presidential aircraft replacement program.

With respect to contract law support, AFMC attorneys and paralegals at several bases provide daily advice and counsel to some 4,400 acquisition programs, including several high-visibility acquisitions such as the new KC-46 tanker and the presidential aircraft replacement. To better support Program Executive Office clients responsible for major Air Force acquisitions, AFMC/JA reinstated a forum called Corporate Counsel Day. With over 160 participants from the government procurement bar, this event fostered dialogue between, academia, government attorneys and their corporate counsel counterparts to address emergent acquisition issues and facilitate dispute resolution.

Air Force Space Command

The Air Force Space Command (AFSPC) legal professionals are responsible for supporting the provision of military-focused space and cyberspace capabilities with a global perspective to the joint warfighting team. These JAG Corps members played an integral role in enabling early transmission of the civilian navigation (CNAV) Global Positioning System (GPS) signal. AFSPC legal professionals coordinated with the DOD Chief Information Officer and the Federal Aviation Administration regarding concerns that early transmission of the CNAV signal might expose the DOD or the Department of Transportation to increased liability in the event of an accident. The astute analysis of the issue under the Federal Tort Claims Act clearly

demonstrated that transmitting the signal would not increase the potential for liability and paved the way for early transmission of the signal.

AFSPC JAG Corps members ensured the deployment of two DOD microsattellites from the Japanese module of the International Space Station (ISS) was consistent with international law and the Japanese interpretation of the requirement in the Outer Space Treaty that outer space be used for peaceful purposes. After coordination with the Air Force General Counsel's office and the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Office, the AFSPC legal office issued an opinion concluding the DOD microsattellites may lawfully be deployed from the Japanese module of the ISS provided that Japan determines that such deployment is consistent with the "peaceful use" of its ISS element. It is the State with jurisdiction and control over the ISS element from which satellites are deployed that determines what is a "peaceful use" of its ISS element (module). Ensuring deployment of the DOD microsattellites was consistent with the Japanese interpretation of the law before the services were put on contract avoided a potential international incident and costly mission delays.



The Sodium Guidestar at the Air Force Research Laboratory's Starfire Optical Range, at Kirtland AFB, NM

Air Force Special Operations Command



An MC-130J Commando II from the 9th Special Operations Squadron, at Melrose Air Force Range, NM

The Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC) legal offices deliver professional, candid, independent counsel to special operations forces (SOF) commanders worldwide. AFSOC, which is headquartered at Hurlburt Field, Florida, provides SOF for worldwide deployment and assignment to regional Combatant Commands. In 2014, AFSOC's main focus continued to be on operations to deter, disrupt, and defeat terrorist threats. AFSOC also provided the oversight and processing of six Accident Investigation Boards (AIBs). Advice provided by AFSOC JAG Corps members was key to the completion of a major gift of land from the State of New Mexico, which increased the size and

capability of Cannon AFB. In continuing the resiliency of our Airmen, AFSOC attorneys were paramount in the establishment and institution of US Special Operations Command's (USSOCOM) innovative Preservation of the Family and Force and Integrated Delivery System programs. The establishment of these programs required the command to overcome several significant legal, ethical, and fiscal hurdles. Their success was recognized by Congress and resulted in a specific funding authority allowing them to continue. AFSOC led a team of military and civilian lawyers assigned to most of the Air Force Major Commands, USSOCOM, the Theater Special Operations Command Components, and the Office of the Air Force General Counsel Acquisition Division to collaborate on defining the legal parameters for the use of DOD contractor employees in the operational environment. Centered around a three-day workshop at

Hurlburt Field, the group broke down institutional stovepipes, came to consensus on the application of inherently governmental, personal services, and law of armed conflict concepts, and provided theater commanders with additional key legal authority for enabling military operations worldwide.

Air Mobility Command

The Air Mobility Command (AMC) legal offices support a major command of more than 133,700 personnel that is responsible for worldwide cargo and passenger delivery, air refueling and aeromedical evacuation. The command also transports humanitarian supplies to hurricane, flood, and earthquake victims both at home and around the world.



Service members bound for Liberia, to construct medical treatment units and train health care workers, in response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa

As part of US support to Iraq in its struggle against ISIS, mobility operations into Iraq increased dramatically with the bulk going to Irbil in the Kurdish autonomous zone. Due to political issues, the Government of Iraq sought to compel all US aircraft to land in Baghdad for inspection before flying to any follow on destinations. Working with all concerned parties, the AMC legal team was able to redirect the desire for inspections in favor of a less intrusive cargo manifest check. As a result, U.S. sovereign immunity over its military aircraft was protected, and ground time was minimized to protect aircrew members and reduce mission cost.

In support of efforts to combat the Ebola virus, Air Mobility Command planned and executed missions transporting Ebola-affected patients and mission personnel from the outbreak area to the United States via third countries. These third countries expressed concerns regarding containment of the disease and contemplated withdrawing diplomatic clearance for landing and overflight. Working with United States Transportation Command and the Headquarters Air Force, the JAG at the 618th Air Operations Center was able to craft solutions exempting aircrew from mandatory quarantine requirements and providing for sequestration of passengers upon landing in third countries. As a result, approximately 1,190 sorties carrying 5,724 passengers and 9,000 tons of cargo were executed without undue delay.

Pacific Air Forces

The Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) legal offices provide advice to a major command responsible for providing ready air and space power to promote U.S. interests in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. In September 2014, the PACAF legal office supported a Subject Matter Expert Exchange (SMEE) with military lawyers from the Indonesian National Armed Forces (*Tentara Nasional Indonesia* or TNI) by sending a judge advocate to Indonesia as part of a joint legal engagement team. This



PACAF/JA support to Joint Indonesian Subject Matter Expert Exchange

weeklong engagement focused on the military lawyer’s role in teaching and preserving the rule of law in both the military justice system and during the conduct of military operations. It also served as an opportunity to educate both sides on each country’s respective legal community organization, military justice system, and provision of legal support to military operations. The engagement directly furthered U.S. efforts to strengthen theater security cooperation through expanded country engagements, and was such a success that planning is underway for another engagement in late 2015.

In May 2015, PACAF deployed two attorneys with Joint Task Force (JTF) 505 in support of Operation Sahayogi Haat (Helping Hand). JTF 505 was activated in the wake of the devastating earthquake in Nepal, and was tasked to support the Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in ensuring swift and continued assistance to the government of Nepal. PACAF attorneys deployed with JTF 505 provided the legal support necessary to facilitate the airlift of more than 700 tons of cargo to aid the government and people of Nepal.



Members of PACAF/JA deploy in support of Operation Sahayogi Haat

Throughout 2014 and 2015, PACAF JAG Corps members supported the DOD’s cooperative efforts with China to develop an annex on standards of behavior covering air-to-air encounters by military of both countries. The annex will be part of an existing Memorandum of Understanding between the DOD and China’s Ministry of National Defense. These “Rules of Behavior for Safety of Air and Maritime Encounters” were developed as a confidence building measure between the two nations, announced after the November 2014 summit between Chinese President Xi Jinping and President Barack Obama. The development of an air-to-air annex is a result of mutual recognition by both countries of the need to enhance safety and reduce the risk associated with air-to-air encounters in order to strengthen regional peace and security.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe / Air Forces Africa

The legal offices for the U.S. Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA/JA) provide support to the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) and U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM), which is responsible for executing the Air Force’s EUCOM and AFRICOM missions with forward-based airpower and infrastructure to conduct and enable theater and global operations. In 2014, USAFE-AFAFRICA JAG Corps members were crucial in establishing the proper use of the USAF part of \$1 billion in European Reassurance Initiative (ERI) funds for the Baltic States, United Kingdom, and Poland. ERI is intended to reassure our allies of the US solemn commitment to their security and territorial integrity as members of the NATO alliance. Recent military actions have created



USAFE F-15s participate in an exercise in Estonia

uncertainty over Russia's intentions in the region. JAG Corps members have ensured USAF expenditures in support of ERI are consistent with international agreements and relevant fiscal laws.



A USAF JAG spends time with members of the Botswana Defense Force

USAFE-AFAFRICA JAGs played a central role in US AFRICOM's Defense Institution Building initiative to modernize Botswana's defense legislation. In a multi-phased engagement over 15 months, JAG teams supported representatives of the Botswana Defense Force (BDF) and Office of the Attorney General to undertake the first comprehensive legislative and regulatory rewrite since the 1970's.

Conclusion

The JAG Corps provides world-class legal advice and services to commanders, Airmen, and their families. Air and Joint Force commanders at all levels face increasingly complex legal and operational issues in carrying out military operations, and as legal wingmen, JAG Corps professionals stand at the ready to support them at every step. Airmen and their families deserve the highest quality legal services. The organizational structure of the JAG Corps, supported by our highly talented personnel, ensures we are providing those services in a thorough and responsive manner. Relying on our guiding principles of *Wisdom, Valor and Justice*, the Air Force JAG Corps will tackle our current and future challenges in the delivery of legal services to advance the Air Force mission and strengthen our national security.



The Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps



