



The Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps



Introduction

Our 2018 *National Defense Strategy* states, “[i]n support of the *National Security Strategy*, the Department of Defense will be prepared to defend the homeland, remain the preeminent military power in the world, ensure the balances of power remain in our favor, and advance an international order that is most conducive to our security and prosperity.” It follows that “[t]he Department of Defense’s enduring mission is to provide combat-credible military forces needed to deter war and protect the security of our nation.” In alignment with both strategies, our Air Force priorities are to restore readiness, cost-effectively modernize, drive innovation, develop exceptional leaders, and strengthen our alliances.

The Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps (AFJAGC or JAG Corps) legal professionals integrate in operations across the national defense and security strategies and Air Force priorities. The Corps' mission is to provide the Air Force, commanders, and Airmen with professional, full-spectrum legal support required for mission success in air, space, and cyberspace. From supporting operators flying combat sorties and defending our networks and assets in space and cyberspace and advising on acquisition reforms and modernization initiatives to providing counsel to commanders exercising court-martial convening authority and assisting Airmen and their families, JAG Corps professionals provide world-class legal support and advice throughout the Air Force and all levels of command.

The Air Force JAG Corps

The Judge Advocate General (TJAG), a position held by a lieutenant general, leads the JAG Corps and is, by statute, 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. At an investiture ceremony on 21 May 18, Lieutenant General Jeffrey A. Rockwell became the Air Force's 18th Judge Advocate General. Major General Charles L. Plummer became the Deputy Judge Advocate General (DJAG) that same day. In April 2018, Chief Master Sherry A. Bowes became the 17th Senior Paralegal Manager to TJAG.



Lt Gen Jeffrey A. Rockwell
The Judge Advocate General



Maj Gen Charles L. Plummer
Deputy Judge Advocate General



CMSgt Sherry A. Bowes
Senior Paralegal Manager to TJAG

JAG Corps Organization

The Total Force JAG Corps is comprised of over 4,300 personnel, including judge advocates (JAGs), civilian attorneys, enlisted and civilian paralegals, and civilian support personnel. Of this total, over 1,300 are JAGs serving on active duty and over 600 are civilian attorneys. Additionally, there are over 900 paralegals on active duty and over 300 civilian paralegals, court reporters, and other administrative staff. The Air Reserve Component (ARC), comprised of Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard, consists of almost 1,400 judge advocates and paralegals. The ARC, an indispensable component of the Total Force JAG Corps, makes invaluable contributions daily by providing operationally-trained and combat-ready JAGs and paralegals to help meet the Air Force's mission.

JAG Corps Airmen perform most of their work at legal offices located at Air Force installations and deployed locations around the world. These offices work for commanders and provide legal advice and



The new Judge Advocate General, Lieutenant General Jeffrey Rockwell participates in a recruiting event at the ABA SCAFL Judge Advocate panel in 2017 while the Deputy Judge Advocate General.

counsel; 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 highlights some of the work done by these legal offices in the Air Force Major Command section of this report.

In addition to installation legal offices, there are several legal offices assigned to Headquarters Air Force in the National Capital Region. These offices support the Secretary of Air Force and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force, in addition to supporting the Major Commands and offices in the field. 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 percent of our

worldwide JAG Corps personnel and is responsible for the administration of military justice, civil law and litigation. AFLOA leadership supervise senior trial counsel (senior prosecutors), defense counsel, special victims' counsel, and appellate counsel. AFLOA oversees field support centers, civil litigation counsel, The Judge Advocate General's School (JAG School) at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB), AL, and the 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. This report features some of their diverse missions.



The Judge Advocate General speaks with students in the Paralegal Apprenticeship Course

HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE AND AFLOA DIRECTORATES

The following sections provide more detail on how the directorates provide legal support to Headquarters Air Force and to the field.

Professional Development Directorate



AF/JAX welcomed its new Director, Colonel Gail Crawford in April 2018. Over her 20 plus years as a judge advocate, Colonel Crawford has served as a Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) three times, a Trial Counsel, Defense Counsel, Civil Litigation Attorney, Appellate Defense Counsel, Executive Officer and Senior Military Assistant and Special Counsel to the Air Force General Counsel.

The Professional Development Directorate (AF/JAX) establishes policy, standards, procedures, and guidelines related to the professional development of legal professionals in the JAG Corps. AF/JAX also manages continuing legal education, developmental education programs, and oversees judge advocate recruiting, accessions, assignments, and deployments and the professional development of our legal professionals.

Various programs support our vigorous recruiting and retention efforts. In 2017, AF/JAX welcomed 109 new judge advocates into the JAG Corps as part of its highly competitive selection process. AF/JAX coordinated face-to-face contact with over 14,000 potential applicants at over 600 different schools and events. AF/JAX leveraged social media platforms including Facebook live events, YouTube videos, and Instagram photos reaching over 7,900 potential applicants over electronic mediums such as social media, websites, email, and phone calls. In 2017, AF/JAX managed competitive payment programs for new judge advocates distributing over \$3.7 million in student loan repayments and over \$3 million in continuation pay contracts.



JAGs like Major Vy Nguyen, Captain Marc Nevins, and Captain Matthew Pellegrine deploy to critical missions worldwide in support of the nation's interests.

In 2017, AF/JAX coordinated the deployment of 117 JAGs and paralegals supporting operations around the world in legal offices, air operations centers, contingency contracting, and other combined and joint staffs.

Strategic Plans and Programs Directorate

The Strategic Plans and Programs Directorate (AF/JAZ) continued to contribute to the evolution of the JAG Corps as an organization where strategic planning leads programming—all in alignment with Department of Defense and Air Force strategic documents. In 2017, AF/JAZ worked with the Headquarters and AFLOA directorates to refine the JAG Corps Goals and Objectives list—the heart of the planning process—which resulted in fewer, but more specific and achievable Operational Objectives. These were integrated into the JAG Corps Council meeting process by having two or three directors brief their lists of Objectives at each session. There, JAG Corps senior leaders discuss these Objectives and offer observations and vectors.

JAG Corps planning will be augmented through the Horizon Scan process, which was designed in 2017. Horizon Scanning involves each major area of practice identifying potential future events and environments that might affect its work and capabilities. Then, the likelihood of risks and opportunities presented by each “future” is assessed. Finally, a determination is made of what, if anything, needs to be planned for now to avert unwelcome outcomes or to take advantage of opportunities. Also in 2017, Air Force strategic planners announced that the series of strategic documents is undergoing a major revision.

Inspections and Standardization Directorate

In 2017, the Inspections and Standardization Directorate inspected 37 legal offices at Air Force units and bases around the world. The inspections ensured commanders and clients across the Air Force received high-quality legal support and enabled the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps to identify innovations and trends in field legal offices.

Operations and International Law Directorate

The Operations and International Law Directorate (AF/JAO) is at the legal forefront in implementing the National Defense Strategy's priorities to build a more lethal force and strengthen alliances with both the private sector and with international partners, in support the overall National Security Strategy.

In 2017, AF/JAO members directly supported the fight against the Islamic State, providing key targeting and air operations advice at the Air Forces Central Combined Air and Space Operations Center (CAOC),



Lt Col Matthew King (right) was awarded the 69th Arthur S. Flemming Award for Legal Achievement from George Washington University's Trachtenberg School of Public Policy based mostly on his CAOC experience.

ensuring the legality of over 4400 airstrikes and advising on the first air-to-air combat engagements since 1999. AF/JAO further led vital academic programs designed to increase knowledge and awareness—and enhance the application of—operations law and the international law of war, as applied to current Air Force operations and future “multi-domain” environments. Instruction included Advanced Law of Armed Conflict, Advanced Targeting, Space Law and Military Operations, and other blocks at the Air Combat Command Advanced Air Operations Law Course at Hurlburt Field, FL and lending

subject matter expertise and instruction to a revamped Operations Law Course at The Air Force JAG School at Maxwell AFB, AL.

AF/JAO also facilitated the declassification of essential video evidence on behalf of the Department of Justice in support of their high-visibility prosecution and subsequent conviction of the mastermind of the 2012 terrorist attack on the US Diplomatic Compound in Benghazi, Libya.

AF/JAO further innovated its outreach efforts with interagency and international partners to strengthen US legal standing, at home and abroad. Members of the team are serving as core experts in the new Woomera

Manual on the International Law of Military Space Operations, and continued efforts with the Manual on International Law Applicable to Military Uses of Outer Space (MILAMOS), both at the cutting edge of academic and practical analysis of emerging legal operations issues. Spearheaded by international academic institutions, these space law manuals reflect the positions of experts from around the world and have the potential to influence global perceptions towards military operations in space. JAG Corps participation ensures Air Force legal experts have a voice in shaping the international discourse while simultaneously strengthening Air Force links to the international space law community.



JAO supports the advanced law of war education of judge advocates, ensuring the foundational legal theory and practical application of the law of war is shared with operational JAGs

In this timeframe, AF/JAO members briefed the Executive Office of the President and leadership of the



MILAMOS Plenary, University of Adelaide, 20-22 February 2017 (AF/JAO and AFSPC/JAO participants: Mr. Michael Hoversten, Maj Susan Trepczynski).

National Space Council. They also presented on emerging battlefield civilian issues at West Point and briefed international diplomats at the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons Group of Government Experts meeting on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. They advocated the use of military manuals such as the Department of Defense Law of War Manual before the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Washington DC and discussed the potential threat of, and Department of Defense authorities to counter, small unmanned aircraft systems before Congress. They also presented at an academic conference on Air Force cyber security initiatives

and supported the multinational celebration of the United Kingdom's Royal Air Force 100th Birthday.

In 2017, AF/JAO partnered with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Staff, and the Interagency, to expedite the development of Department of Defense-wide implementing guidance for the authority granted by the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to counter the threat posed by small unmanned aircraft systems to covered Air Force facilities and areas. AF/JAO contributed to efforts that resulted in the expansion of that authority in the FY18 NDAA and personally briefed members of Congress on the road ahead for future authorities.

Administrative Law Directorate

The Administrative Law Directorate (AF/JAA) provides legal advice and assistance to the Air Staff; elements of the Secretariat including the Personnel Council, the Board for Correction of Military Records, and the Discharge Review Board; the Inspector General; and commanders and staff judge advocates on matters relating to the organization, administration, operation, personnel, and functions of the Air Force. This past year, AF/JAA provided the subject matter expertise on a number of significant issues.

In fall 2017, the Secretary of the Air Force kicked off her Publications Reduction Initiative with the intent of reducing the number and size of Air Force publications, pushing approvals and authorities down the lowest appropriate level, and ensuring all publications are current, clear, and concise. AF/JAA provided a senior officer to lead the Publications Review Team, charged with reviewing over 1,300 Air Force directive publications. AF/JAA also provided an attorney to provide legal advice to Phase 3 of the initiative, aimed at developing and testing a new process to maintain currency and relevancy of Air Force publications moving forward. Finally, with The Judge Advocate General's approval, AF/JAA created a Virtual Review Team, composed of 20 reserve and guard attorneys and 1 paralegal, who are charged with completing the "final-stop" legal review of the publications after all Air Force coordination is completed and before publication. The attorneys on this Team are initially trained by AF/JAA attorneys during a 2-day training in Washington DC and then return to their home station to complete their legal reviews remotely. This Team is the first-of-its-kind Total Force "law firm," utilizing reserve and guard JAGs, who telework to complete their reviews in support of a headquarters Air Force Directorate.

AF/JAA provided a senior judge advocate as the lead counsel to the Department of Defense Warrior Games, an event that included 300 Department of Defense and International athletes and cost \$30 million. The attorney advised a 2,000-person working group through a multitude of legal issues involved in the planning and execution of the event, to include securing Kelly Clarkson, as the headliner for the opening ceremony, producing a sold out event with 35,000 tickets purchased within an hour and securing a huge public win honoring the athletes.

AF/JAA guided the Secretary of the Air Force through her decision to approve a pre-accession religious accommodation for the first time ever in the Air Force. Prior to this approval, by policy, the Air Force

required Airmen to first enlist and then request a religious accommodation waiver from that Airman's first duty assignment commander. The potential Airman requested the Air Force reconsider its policy and the Secretary of the Air Force agreed. The Airman completed basic and officer training, and is now an Air Force JAG Corps judge advocate.

Community Legal Services Directorate

The Community Legal Services Directorate is comprised of three Divisions, which provide eligible clients with one-on-one attorney representation on a diverse range of legal issues. This includes the Office of Airmen's Counsel (AFLOA/CLSA), Community Legal Issues Division (AFLOA/CLSL), and Special Victims' Counsel Division (AFLOA/CLSV).

The Office of Airmen's Counsel Division (AFLOA/CLSA)



Office of Airmen's Counsel attorneys and paralegals participating in wounded warrior outreach event in San Antonio, Texas.

In 2017, the Office of Airmen's Counsel (AFLOA/CLSA) represented 1,825 ill, injured, or wounded Airmen facing potential separation through the Air Force Disability Evaluation System. In addition to providing direct legal support to clients, AFLOA/CLSA focused its efforts on three major initiatives. First, AFLOA/CLSA partnered with AFLOA's Legal Information Services Directorate to design and field the OAC's first-ever case management system. Second, on 1 March 2017, AFLOA/CLSA tackled a massive backlog of over 350 disability cases by increasing its weekly productivity by 50% - 100% for 15 consecutive months. By 31 May 2018, the Division eliminated the backlog of cases at the Air Force Formal Physical Evaluation Board. Third, AFLOA/CLSA teamed with the Air Force Wounded Warrior Program and Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command to conduct outreach at wounded warrior events

in Texas and Florida. In November 2017, the Air Force Inspection Agency conducted a unit effectiveness inspection on AFLOA to include the Division and recognized AFLOA/CLSA as a "Superior Team."

Community Legal Issues Division (AFLOA/CLSL)



New judge advocates like Captain Marcus Childress provide critical legal assistance to commanders and Air Force military members on a daily basis. His story can be seen in a YouTube AFJAGC recruiting video.

The Air Force Legal Assistance and Tax Assistance Programs proudly continue their successful collaboration with the American Bar Association's (ABA) Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP) and the Tax Section, delivering phenomenal support for Airmen and their families.

Last year, Air Force legal assistance practitioners supported over 188,000 legal assistance clients. In addition, legal offices assisted Airmen and military retirees with filing over 50,000 free federal and state tax returns, saving them over \$8 million dollars. Through Operation Stand-By, volunteer attorneys recruited by the ABA provided expert advice on myriad complex legal issues to help Air Force judge advocates further serve the needs of their service member clients.

Additionally, AFLOA/CLSL and the LAMP committee's Military Pro Bono Project partnered to provide pro bono legal services to over 30 junior enlisted service members since the beginning of 2017, saving an additional \$250,000 in legal fees. The Project accepts case referrals from legal assistance attorneys on behalf of Airmen experiencing personal, civil legal issues that exceed the available scope of military legal assistance. The Project then places these Airmen with pro bono attorneys where the assistance is needed, saving the Airmen thousands of dollars in civilian legal fees and allowing them to quickly solve their legal problems.

Special Victims' Counsel Division (CLSV)

During 2017, 59 attorneys and 47 paralegals actively represented over 1,400 sexual assault victims in courts-martial; hearings; victim interviews with investigators, prosecutors, defense counsel, Staff Judge Advocates and convening authorities; and countless other out-of-court alternative dispositions that satisfied the victims' goals and interests. The Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) Division promotes the enforcement of sexual assault victims' privileges and rights within all military branches by representing Air Force members in sister services' courts, through leadership provided to the congressionally mandated Inter-Services Committee, and by providing training to incoming SVC/Victim Legal Counsel (VLC).

In 2017, the Division stood up an Appellate and Outreach Branch comprised of two attorneys. The Branch represented 53 clients during the appellate process, which includes advocating on behalf of clients before service appellate courts, rehearings, continued confinement hearings, confinement disposition boards, and parole and clemency board hearings. The Branch is also responsible for the education and training of SVC personnel, which includes the introductory SVC Course and Intermediate and Advanced Sexual Assault Litigation Courses. The Branch also coordinates training with other military services and civilian agencies on a wide variety of topics.

In the summer of 2017, the Air Force doubled the number of paralegals assigned as Special Victims' Paralegals (SVPs), who have now been completely integrated into victim legal representation in the Air Force. In addition to typical paralegal functions, SVPs are instrumental in forming strong relationships with clients and seeking creative solutions to the unique challenges faced by our clients.

ABA's Standing Committee on LAMP recognized the Division with the 2017 Distinguished Service Award. SVCs and SVPs' accomplishments that were recognized include: an SVC obtaining an American Sign Language interpreter for a deaf client before the law enforcement investigative interview, SVCs persuading military judges to allow child victims to testify against adult accused from remote locations, and providing victim impact statements in court. SVCs and SVPs were also lauded for identifying funding and services, such as gift cards, for a victim who was homeless. Through ingenuity and tenacity, SVCs continued to find ways to assist their clients.

The Judge Advocate General's School

The JAG School, located at Maxwell AFB, AL is the educational hub of the Air Force JAG Corps. JAG School faculty directed and taught in 79 resident and online courses over the last year, reaching more than 16,000 students, from both within and outside the JAG Corps.



The Air Force Judge Advocate General's School at Maxwell AFB, AL.

Of this number, a significant increase resulted from The JAG School's renewed focus on teaching various legal topics to non-lawyer students while they attend other professional development courses at Maxwell AFB. For example, the School now teaches a full day for all new chief master sergeants and nearly a week's worth of curriculum for students in the Air Command and Staff College, in addition to our multiple electives for Air War College students.

These classroom settings allow JAG-instructors to walk Air Force leaders through various legal issues, such as criminal justice, government ethics, and freedom of expression, within the framework of national security and military defense.

As a culmination of this outreach, the JAG School's Commandant was recently designated as the Law Chair of Air University, the Air Force's higher education center. With this designation, the Commandant joins other Air University Chairs with critical subject matter expertise (e.g., Surgeon General, Cyber, Intelligence, Space) to better advise Air University's colleges and schools on curriculum requirements.

Beyond this renewed emphasis on partnering with Air University, the JAG School also added a new Paralegal Advanced Developmental Education course for our senior paralegals, as well as a new course for military court reporters. Both of these courses demonstrate the JAG School's continued emphasis on providing world-class legal instruction for our students, in support of the mission of the Air Force and the Department of Defense.

The Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals



The Judges of the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals.

The United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals is an independent appellate judicial body authorized by Congress and established by The Judge Advocate General pursuant to his exclusive authority under Article 66(a), Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), 10 USC § 866(a). The Court has jurisdiction over: (1) trials by court-martial where the sentence includes confinement for 12 months or longer, a punitive discharge, or death; (2) cases forwarded for review by The Judge Advocate General under Article 69(d), UCMJ, 10 USC § 869(d); (3) certain government appeals of orders or rulings of military trial judges, pursuant to Article 62(a), UCMJ, 10 USC §862(a); (4) petitions for new trial referred by The Judge Advocate General pursuant to Article 73, UCMJ,

10 USC § 873; and (5) petitions for extraordinary relief under the All Writs Act and Article 6b, UCMJ, 10 USC § 806b.

Since January 2017, the Court has rendered over 360 decisions, including 27 published opinions providing new guidance and binding precedent in all Air Force courts-martial. The Court also heard oral



Penn State Law student presents amicus oral argument before the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals during the Court's Project Outreach at Penn State.

argument in 12 cases. These arguments addressed issues ranging from the right to due process, the right to receive effective assistance of counsel, admission of propensity evidence, confrontation, exclusion of evidence obtained via the Air Force's drug testing program, and admissibility of recidivism testimony during sentencing. Two of these cases were argued outside the National Capital Region as the court continued its Project Outreach program by holding oral arguments at the Florida International University College of Law and Penn State Law. Law students were invited to submit amicus briefs and in one case, presented oral argument. These arguments gave the public a close-up view of the military justice process and were very well received.

The Trial Judiciary

This past year, Trial Judiciary Directorate (AF/JAT) military judges presided over 530 courts-martial and over 100 pretrial hearings worldwide. AF/JAT was also recognized by the ABA in the following award categories: The ABA William R. McMahon Award for “technology in the courtroom” – Col J. Wesley Moore; The ABA Outstanding Military Service Career Judge Advocate Award for 2017 – Lt Col Tiffany Wagner. As of 1 January 2018, the directorate received detailing and tasking authority over all Air Force court reporters. The centralization of all court reporters, combined with an effort to standardize all courtroom equipment across the Air Force, is a significant step to further support timely transcription assistance worldwide. In March 2018, AF/JAT in coordination with the Air Force JAG School created and held the first of a quarterly court reporter course aimed at providing enlisted and civilian court reporters the necessary training to optimize the performance of duties as a court reporter.



Col J. Wesley Moore is awarded the American Bar Association William R. McMahon Award for “technology in the courtroom.”

AF/JAT, along with the senior trial, defense and special victims’ counsel, held its second Air Force Circuit Annual Training for all trial judges and senior counsel with a focus on expert witnesses in the fields of forensic analysis of electronic media, forensic psychology, and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) kits.

This 5-day event provided the trial judiciary the opportunity for circuits to foster professionalism while also offering instruction on such areas as new statutes and rules related to sexual offenses, sentencing considerations, digital evidence, and recent appellate cases. Additionally, 1 January 2018 marked full implementation of mandatory e-filing across the Air Force. The e-file site replaced the ad hoc system of “filing” court-martial documents via e-mail and is the precursor to public filing. It provides a reliable source from which all pleadings, responses and orders are accessible.



In March 2018, JAT in coordination with the Air Force Judge Advocate School created and held the first of a quarterly court reporter course

Judiciary Directorate

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

Military Justice Division (AFLOA/JAJM)

The Military Justice Division (AFLOA/JAJM) provides counsel to Air Force senior leaders on military justice matters; supports more than 150 convening authorities and legal offices on military justice administration; conducts appellate and other reviews of courts-martial and military justice actions; responds to requests for information and records; and represents the Air Force on the Department of Defense Joint Service Committee on Military Justice.

In 2017, the Policy and Information Branch published updated guidance to the field in Air Force

Instruction 51-201, *Administration of Military Justice*, and Air Force Manual 51-203, *Records of Trial*. The Branch also responded to 588 requests for information and reviewed for release over 25,000 pages of military justice records. The Justice and Court Activities Branch managed more than 2,700 special interest cases for Headquarters Air Force situational awareness; processed 20 requests for Secretarial action in military justice cases; and trained 120-plus judge advocates and paralegals on military justice administration. Through Central Witness Funding, the Branch approved over \$541,000 for 310 expert and other witnesses to testify in courts-martial.

The Relief and Inquiries Branch answered 39 high-level inquiries from the White House, members of Congress, and Air Force senior leaders, including the Secretary and Chief of Staff. They also provided advisory opinions for more than 80 applications to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records and performed 20 post-trial reviews for The Judge Advocate General under Article 69, UCMJ. The Appellate Records Branch processed 468 records of trial for appellate review and archiving. The Victim and Witness Policy Branch supported the Judicial Proceedings Panel (JPP) with its study of cases involving adult sexual assault, providing 125,000 pages of documents from 187 courts-martial and coordinating Air Force witnesses and participants for the Panel's public meetings and site visits. Last but certainly not least, the Joint Service Policy and Legislation Branch developed computer-based training on the Military Justice Act of 2016 (MJA). The MJA is the largest comprehensive rewrite of the UCMJ in over 30 years. The computer-based training consists of 10 modules designed to topically train on the changes to the new UCMJ. The modules are required training for all JAGs and military paralegals as well as civilian members with military justice responsibilities. Live webcasts and in-person training will reinforce the computer-based training modules throughout 2018.

Government Trial and Appellate Counsel Division (AFLOA/JAJG)

Government Trial and Appellate Counsel Division (AFLOA/JAJG) judge advocates continued to lead the charge in shaping a disciplined force capable of projecting air power worldwide. In 2017, AFLOA/JAJG's Senior Trial Counsel (STCs) brought expertise to over 91 percent of general courts-martial tried within the Air Force, ensuring top-notch representation for the United States in the service's most complex cases, spending approximately 3,200 days temporary duty, providing over 2,500 man-hours of training to the field, and prosecuting 287 total courts-martial. In addition to courts-martial, STCs supported 92 Article 32, UCMJ, preliminary hearings, and 77 Article 39(a), UCMJ, sessions. Of note, one of the Division's most experienced STCs teamed with one of our top Appellate counsel to try the capital sentencing rehearing of an accused who brutally murdered a husband and wife in their home, nearly 15 years ago. The unified efforts of our Division's trial operations paralegal, top-tier appellate counsel and veteran STC demonstrated how this division operates at its best, one team one fight. Through the effective prosecution of these and many other complex courts-martial, the STC cadre continues to demonstrate that the Air Force effectively maintains the expertise to try any case, anywhere, at any time.



Capt Mike Bunnell presents argument in front of the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals in United States v. Collins. Capt Bunnell represented the United States during his first argument before the Court. The issue presented to the Court was the application of the statute of limitations raised for the first time on Appeal.

After trial, AFLOA/JAJG's appellate counsel developed positions on the cutting edge of the law in their efforts to preserve convictions and argue the positions of the United States on appeal. To that end, appellate counsel represented the Government in three government appeals and two post-trial fact-finding hearings. Additionally, they presented 25 oral arguments at the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals and Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, including outreach arguments at the following locations: Cornell University, Ithaca, NY; Florida International University, Miami, FL; Penn State University, State College, PA. Finally, appellate counsel drafted and filed 219 briefs and 284 other miscellaneous pleadings with both appellate courts. Appellate counsel addressed how suspects' invocation of their Article 31, UCMJ, rights impacted the ability to ask them for their cell phone passwords in the context of a consent to search. Counsel's advocacy convinced the US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (CAAF) that in the context of a consent to search, the request for a password merely

effectuates the consent and is not interrogation. This preserved the ability of investigators to request consent to search password-protected media after a suspect requests an attorney. More recently, Appellate counsel have filed briefs and made argument in a pending case involving the impact of a CAAF decision that altered the previously settled law for interpreting the statute of limitations for rape under the UCMJ.

JAGs assigned to AFLOA/JAJG also fulfilled their mission to train the next generation of Air Force litigators. Counsel created, distributed, and conducted training sessions on digital forensics and proper discovery procedures throughout the JAG Corps. This training enables base level counsel to ensure a fair and just system exists to preserve good order and discipline in the Air Force well into the future.

Trial Defense Division (AFLOA/JAJD)

The 183 defense counsel and paralegals of the Trial Defense Division continued to build on their now 43-year legacy of independent defense services by providing zealous, ethical, and professional representation to more than 22,470 Airmen in around 450 courts-martial, 9,950 nonjudicial punishment actions, and more than 2,700 administrative discharge actions, at 72 worldwide operating locations. Additionally, Air Force Defenders continued their advocacy on behalf of Airmen everywhere through their professional writing and testimony before congressionally-directed panels. Their efforts continued a tradition of AFLOA/JAJD team members advocating for a fair system of justice that protects the rights of all Airmen, including those accused of crimes.

Pursuant to the Air Force Trial Defense Division's mission to provide world-class legal representation to Airmen, the Division stood up the Defense Counsel Assistance Program (DCAP), administered by a civilian attorney with significant military justice litigation experience. The program's principle purpose is to provide a continuous source of expertise and corporate knowledge by training personnel and providing real time reach-back to defense litigators worldwide. In addition, the new position will research military justice, and adverse action statistics, trends, the political/legislative environment, and other relevant data to inform and aid the formation of new policy, guidance, and training for over 200 defenders.

Appellate Defense Division (AFLOA/JAJA)

The Appellate Defense Division (AFLOA/JAJA) carries out The Judge Advocate General's statutory duty to provide representation for Airmen at all stages of the criminal appellate process. In addition to representing appellants before the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals (AFCCA), CAAF, and the US Supreme Court, appellate counsel also provide military justice expertise to defense counsel in the field to develop strategy and tactics in cases tried throughout the Air Force.

The Division's advocacy before the AFCCA, CAAF, and the US Supreme Court led to many high-impact and possibly far-reaching opinions favorable to Air Force appellants as well as to the defense bar in general. Notable cases are *U.S. v. Swafford* (AFCCA), *U.S. v. Pugh* (CAAF), and *U.S. v. Honea* (CAAF). In *U.S. v. Swafford*, appellate defense counsel advocated for a client's right to counsel, asserting that the client's statement, which was taken by investigators without the benefit of military counsel, should be suppressed. The case was selected for an outreach argument at the Florida International University College of Law in Miami, where oral arguments were presented to AFCCA judges in front of over fifty law students.

In *U.S. v. Pugh*, appellate defense counsel successfully challenged an Air Force regulation banning the consumption of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved food products that contain hemp seed oil. The CAAF held that this regulation did not serve a valid military purpose because the quantity of tetrahydrocannabinol or THC found in FDA-approved food was too low to interfere with the Air Force's drug testing program. Specifically, the Court found that there was no possibility of an Airman falsely testing positive for drugs due to consuming FDA-approved candy bars that contain hemp seed oil.

In *U.S. v. Honea*, the CAAF concluded they could not conduct a proper review of the case under Article 67, UCMJ, because the record did not establish with certainty the scope of the findings. The court set aside the findings and sentence in the case and dismissed the charge and specification with prejudice.

Clemency, Corrections and Officer Review Division (AFLOA/JAJR)

The Clemency, Corrections and Officer Review Division (AFLOA/JAJR) is responsible for making

clemency recommendations on court-martial cases to The Judge Advocate General and the Secretary of the Air Force and serves as general counsel to the Air Force Security Forces community on all corrections matters.

AFLOA/JAJR reviews all courts-martial involving officers with adjudged dismissal actions for action by the Secretary of the Air Force under Article 71(b), UCMJ. Last year, AFLOA/JAJR provided 26 case analysis and recommendations for the Secretary's action. The Secretary, subsequently, ordered the dismissals executed in each of those cases.

During this past reporting period, AFLOA/JAJR reviewed four cases for special clemency under Article 74(b), UCMJ. AFLOA/JAJR identified circumstances in each of these cases warranting the Secretary's attention. The Secretary granted clemency by way of substituting administrative discharges for the adjudged, approved and affirmed punitive discharges in all of them.

AFLOA/JAJR serves as The Judge Advocate General'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 400 actions during the reporting period, including 112 parole decisions, 59 mandatory supervised release actions and 150 clemency decisions. The Air Force's parole revocation rate is very low, and comprises less than 10 percent of those on parole or mandatory supervised release.

The President of the United States has the authority under the Constitution of the United States to grant pardons to offenders, including those convicted by court-martial. In the past year, AFLOA/JAJR advised several former members of the procedure to apply for a Presidential pardon, and prepared case analyses in four applications for the United States Justice Department's Pardon Attorney, at his request, on Air Force offenders.

AFLOA/JAJR educates counsel and the field through a variety of resources and briefings at The JAG School and at other training sessions including the Intermediate Sexual Assault Litigation Course, the Defense Orientation Course, and the Special Victims Counsel Course.

Civil Law and Litigation Directorate

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

Litigation Support Center (AFLOA/LSC)

The AFLOA/JAC Litigation Support Center (LSC) develops information-access policies and provides case analysis tools, document review databases, and other technology-assisted litigation support services to the AFLOA/JAC and Commercial Litigation directorates. From January 2017 to May 2018, LSC processed 620 gigabytes of electronically-stored information (approximately 860,000 pages) in support of 15 civil litigation and administrative cases. The efforts of the two-person LSC team enhanced the ability of Air Force litigation attorneys to access, review, and produce information for their cases.

General Litigation Division (AFLOA/JACL)

The General Litigation Division (AFLOA/JACL) performs Air Force agency counsel functions for court and administrative litigation related to labor and employment/civilian personnel matters, military personnel issues, information statutes, and constitutional claims. AFLOA/JACL is comprised of three distinct branches: the Labor Law Field Support Center (LLFSC), the Military Personnel Litigation Branch (MP), and the Information Litigation Branch (IL). AFLOA/JACL successfully defended the Air Force in 398 cases and has over 900 more cases it is currently defending before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), the Merit Systems Protection Board (MSPB), the Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA), US District Courts, and US Appeals Courts.

Consistently looking for ways to improve processes, the LLFSC partnered with the Air Force Review

Boards Agency to launch an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaint processing pilot program for the Air Force entitled “Compressed, Orderly, Rapid and Equitable Process” (CORE), in lieu of the traditional civilian EEO complaint resolution process. The program’s goal is to cut the average complaint processing time by at least 273 days per case and provide an earlier opportunity for non-adversarial complaint resolution. The LLFSC also continued its defense against lawsuits for alleged unpaid overtime under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). FLSA issues at Holloman AFB, NM, and Pope Army Air Field, NC, are currently in arbitration with approximately \$110 million at risk.

Claims and Tort Litigation Division (AFLOA/JACC)



Chief Justice John Roberts and Lt Col Veronique DeRouselle pose for a picture during the award ceremony at

The Claims and Tort Litigation Division provides 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, Medical Cost Recovery and Medical Law.

The Burton Awards shine a spotlight on talented lawyers. The honorees exemplify the best in the profession. Lt Col DeRouselle was honored at the ceremony with the Public Service Award in Military, which was presented by Chief Justice Roberts’ wife, Jane. Among other things, Lt Col DeRouselle was recognized for her work as the Chief of the Air Force Medical Law Field Support Center where she led a staff of 19 attorneys and 9 paralegals located across the globe. Attorneys and paralegals from the Medical Law Field Support Center serve as the cornerstone of cutting-edge legal work in a complex and ever-changing medical environment that serves 2.6 million beneficiaries worldwide. Their legal advice is often requested under exigent circumstances where lives are at stake.

Environmental Law and Litigation Division (AFLOA/JACE)

The Environmental Law and Litigation Division works to preserve and protect air, land, and other precious natural and cultural resources central to the successful performance of the Air Force Mission. AFLOA/JACE helps Air Force clients comply with environmental laws, seeks resolution of environmental issues impacting the mission, and defends the Air Force against legal challenges that threaten mission accomplishment. Additionally, AFLOA/JACE handles rate cases, renewable energy issues, and utility contracting.



Future NGA West Headquarters site, 17 Mar 16

AFLOA/JACE provided critical support to the new 97-acre National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency’s (NGA’s) Western Headquarters acquisition and development project valued at over \$900 million. The parcel consolidated dozens of properties used for a variety of purposes, to include residential, commercial, and industrial activities. JACE delivered advice to multiple Air Force clients at all levels of command, regarding National Environmental Policy Act requirements both for the property the Air

Force was acquiring for exclusive development and operation by the NGA and for the Air Force property from which the NGA was moving its Western Headquarters. In addition, AFLOA/JACE advised clients about environmental compliance and restoration requirements for the new headquarters site. AFLOA/JACE worked with engineers and attorneys within the Air Force Secretariat and in multiple Department of Defense organizations, as well as with state and local authorities, to identify and negotiate resolution of environmental contamination and remediation issues. AFLOA/JACE resolved matters such as: 1) how clean the property would be when transferred to the Air Force; 2) management of soils excavated during



Future NGA West Headquarters site, 22 Sep 17

construction activities at the site; 3) the amount and terms of environmental liability insurance for the parcel, and; 4) the environmental provisions in two-party and multiple-party agreements the Air Force entered into with NGA and subdivisions of the City of St Louis, MO to accomplish the NGA Western Headquarters move.



Air Force firefighting training

AFLOA/JACE was instrumental in securing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) and environmental services agreements (ESAs) with three water districts to enable them to reopen drinking water production wells they shut down because Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) contamination, at least in large part from Air Force firefighting activities at Peterson AFB, CO, exceeded US Environmental Protection Agency lifetime health advisory action levels. AFLOA/JACE drafted and negotiated the terms of MOUs and ESAs for the Air Force Civil Engineer Center to enter into with Peterson-area

municipalities as part of the Air Force's multi-million dollar effort to mitigate the public health threats caused where Air Force firefighting foam containing PFOS and PFOA entered (by release or seepage) into public drinking water sources. In the Peterson area, the Air Force has already spent more than \$4 million to mitigate PFOS and PFOA contamination and anticipates spending over \$30 million during FY18.

AFLOA/JACE coordinated a US Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) response to the Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB) decision to eliminate use of Top-of-Descent (TOD) insecticide spray as a disinsection protocol for aircraft making port of entry into Australia. AFLOA/JACE worked with the Australian embassy liaison (AF/JA Defense Attaché) in Canberra, the Air Force Materiel Command Environmental Liaison Officer, the Air Force executive agent for foreign clearance guidance issues, and the Air Force General Counsel, who has legal responsibility for foreign clearance guidance issues. The noted AFPMB decision was going to have a critical real time effect on Pacific theater sorties in support of Department of Defense-wide training exercises being conducted in the Pacific in coordination with the Australian government. This real time effect was avoided due, in part, to AFLOA/JACE getting the noted offices involved to support a coordinated push back against the timing of the AFPMB TOD decision at the Headquarters Air Force and INDOPACOM levels.

The new Air Force One provides the airborne command post for the Commander-in-Chief. When the Air Force evaluated the capability of Joint Base Andrews to support the new Air Force One aircraft, AFLOA/JACE supported completion of the Environmental Impact Statement and development of the first Air Force wetlands mitigation bank to compensate for lost wetlands on base. Using an innovative combination of federal authorities to acquire land and manage natural resources, AFLOA/JACE teamed with other Air Force professionals to conserve and establish a regulated wetlands bank off base to avoid mission restraints and pave the way for timely arrival of the new Air Force One and other actions on Joint Base Andrews, MD.



Rendering of new Air Force One

Acquisition Law and Litigation Directorate

The Acquisition Law and Litigation Directorate (AF/JAQ) serves as the strategic-level headquarters element supporting the Air Force in its pursuit of acquisition excellence. AF/JAQ is The Judge Advocate General's lead in supporting the Air Force's acquisition workforce and Air Force senior leader's acquisition goals. AF/JAQ provides acquisition advice to The Judge Advocate General, the Air Staff, and to the Secretariat, and oversees all Air Force commercial litigation.

AF/JAQ in conjunction with the Secretary of the Air Force Office of General Counsel for Acquisitions (SAF/GCQ) and the Air Force Legal Operations Agency (AFLOA) convened Bid Protest Mitigation



On 31 May 2018 Col Jim Kennedy, sponsored 21 attorneys from AF/JAQ, AFLOA/JAQ and AFLOA/JAC for admission to the Court of Federal Claims. The attorneys were sworn in by Judge Lydia Kay Griggsby.

Teams, which guided the source selection and award of the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) contract and successfully defended pre-award bid protests on the Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) Recapitalization and UH-1N solicitations, saving the Air Force millions. AF/JAQ also disseminated critical acquisition lessons learned Air Force-wide on a weekly basis to enhance the readiness of our acquisition law cadre by capitalizing on the experiences of Airmen throughout the acquisition life-cycle. Additionally, AF/JAQ championed changes to the Air Force Federal Acquisition Regulation Mandatory Procedures, offered comments on dozens of Air Force publications as part of the

headquarters-driven streamlining effort and commenced drafting an acquisition law specific directive and instruction for the field. JAQ also counseled a number of senior executives and General Officers on potential conflicts of interest and guided them through acquisition ethical quandaries.

Commercial Litigation Field Support Center (AFLOA/JAQC)



Mr. Colby Sullins uses a board game to teach claims litigation concepts to National Defense University Center for Applied Strategic Learning personnel. JAQC Attorneys Mr. Sullins and Mr. Phil Reiman created the "Rush to Judgment" board game as an introductory training tool.

The Commercial Litigation Field Support Center (AFLOA/JAQC) trial attorneys defended and resolved almost 290 bid protests before the Government Accountability Office and the Court of Federal Claims, representing over \$90.4 billion in vital procurement funds for the Air Force, US Transportation Command, and US Special Operations Command. AFLOA/JAQC resolved 56 contract claims before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals representing a total of more than \$70 million in potential liability, and defended an additional 45 ongoing claims with a total value of over \$608 million in potential liability.

In 2017, AFLOA/JAQC attorneys, working with the Department of Justice, successfully defended against protests before the Court of Federal Claims and the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, to protect a \$2.3 billion contract award to support Department of Defense transportation needs throughout North America.

Additionally in 2017, the commercial litigation team defeated The Boeing Company and Bombardier, Inc.'s protests of a \$2 billion procurement to replace the airframes hosting the COMPASS CALL airborne electronic attack weapon system. This effort is vital to ensure the COMPASS CALL fleet retains the capability to disrupt enemy command and control communications, perform offensive counter-information operations, and deploy various other methods of electronic attack.

Contract Law Field Support Center (AFLOA/JAQC)

The Contract Law Field Support Center (AFLOA/JAQC) leverages proactive problem prevention in providing full-spectrum contract and fiscal law expertise to commanders and judge advocates in the field

in order to maximize their understanding and employment of procurement tools and processes in support of Air Force operations.

Of particular note for 2017 and early 2018, AFLOA/JAQQ's Contingency Contracting Branch supported the Air Force Installation Contracting Agency (AFICA) by advising on myriad contract and fiscal law issues arising from the Air Force's support of the \$22 billion Federal Emergency Management Agency's response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. Additionally, AFLOA/JAQQ's Fraud Remedies Branch advised Air Force Office of Special Investigations Special Agents and Acquisition Fraud Counsels worldwide on procurement fraud cases and the coordination of remedies resulting in \$141 million being returned to the Air Force and the debarment of 52 contractors in fiscal year 2017. Furthermore, AFLOA/JAQQ's Enterprise, Specialized & Commercial Acquisition Branch completed 4,274 contract reviews of acquisitions totaling 35 billion dollars. Finally, AFLOA/JAQQ's Field Support Branch provided "reachback" contract law support to commanders and judge advocates across the globe on 330 issues totaling over \$30 billion in acquisitions. Support included 47 reviews of Contracting Officers' Final Decisions on Contract Disputes Act claims filed by Air Force contractors, 32 reviews of proposed terminations for default, and 251 responses to field questions concerning such topics as contract formation, source selection, contract administration, and fiscal law interpretation.

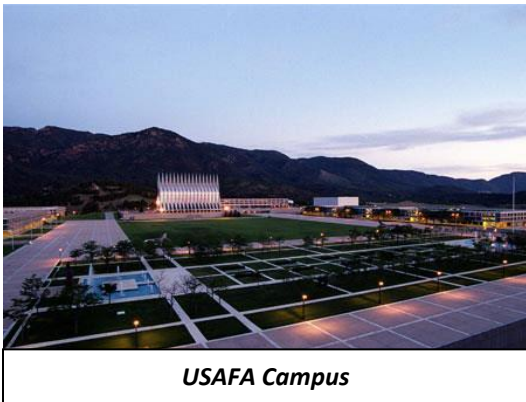
Legal Information Services Directorate

The Legal Information Services Directorate (AFLOA/JAS) provides a widely diverse array of information technology solutions and capabilities to the Air Force and Department of Defense legal communities. Each of the 60 applications supported by AFLOA/JAS fosters either case, knowledge or content management that enables responsive and professional legal counsel to commanders and warfighters across a full-spectrum of topics. Inspired by innovation and a drive to individualize each user's information technology experience, AFLOA/JAS is currently transforming how data is gathered, secured, delivered and analyzed through all 60 of these applications.

The JAG Corps' flagship military justice reporting system—the Automated Military Justice Analysis and Management System (AMJAMS)—is leading the way in transformation. Prototypes are in development to modernize and expand military justice case management through the development of the Disciplinary Case Management System (DCMS). Upon completion, DCMS will, among many other functions, provide a start-to-finish case tracking system, generate documents and increase the JAG Corps' interface with other agencies.

This past year saw many other transformational initiatives including cloud migration, alternative application platform development, the JAG Corps' portal redesign, data visualization construction and mobile computing. All of these innovative tools are being employed to broaden our knowledge management capabilities to encourage collaboration and facilitate improved data-based decision making.

US Air Force Academy



USAFA Campus

The US Air Force Academy (USAFA) Legal office provides legal advice and counsel to the Academy's Superintendent, Commandant of Cadets, Dean of the Faculty, Director of Athletics, headquarters staff, the USAFA Preparatory School, 10th Air Base Wing and all subordinate organizations. New legislation was passed in November 2015 adding authority in 10 USC Section 2601(e) to allow the Secretary to accept gifts of real property that are conditioned on donor naming rights. The new law required implementing regulations by the services. Working in conjunction with the Air Force General Counsel, USAFA legal office helped draft both the implementing guidance for the Air Force and the local USAFA policy to govern donor naming and donor recognition with respect to real property. The local

policy is now in place. The USAFA Endowment, one of the Academy's supporting non-federal entities, is confident that this authority will increase donor support to Academy real property projects.

US Air Force Academy Department of Law

The United States Air Force Academy Department of Law (USAFA/DFL) strives to provide opportunities for our cadets to excel in various legal competitions, including mock trial, moot court, and international humanitarian law competitions. This year, the USAFA Mock Trial team competed in four mock trial tournaments over the course of the academic year. In February 2018, DFL co-hosted the 2nd Annual Rocky Mountain Region Mock Trial Tournament. Our two teams competed very well against 15 other teams, receiving an "Honorable Mention" as the 6th place team and a peer-nominated award, the Spirit of American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) award, for the team that best reflected AMTA principles of "civility, justice, and fair play."

The USAFA Moot Court team also had a great season. After hard fought regional competitions in the fall, USAFA's moot court team sent three teams to the National Moot Court competition in Dallas, TX from 19-22 January 2018.



Professor Doug McKechnie and Maj Jane Elzeftawy with the 3 USAFA moot court teams at the American Moot Court National competition in January 2018.

Of the three teams, one made it as far as the round of 16 before being knocked out. Our teams won three awards for the top written Respondent briefs in the Nation, placing #4, 6, and 10. Finally, our International Humanitarian Law (IHL) competition teams competed in the Clara Barton competition in Washington DC, with our team winning first place and one of our cadets winning the top speaker award while competing against law school students. Our IHL teams also competed in the annual Jean-Pictet IHL competition in Macedonia, as well as the 17th Annual Law of Armed Conflict Competition for Military Academies in San Remo, Italy, where one of our cadets tied for the top speaker award.



Mock Trial Team and Maj Carman Leone at a Mock Trial competition.

In addition to our focus on cadet development and competition, DFL also made a concerted effort to focus on the development of our LADR ("Leadership and

Appropriate Dispute Resolution") program during academic year 17-18. This program emphasizes training in ADR for both cadets and faculty. To help jumpstart this effort, DFL recruited Professor Hal Abramson from Touro Law Center to spend a year at USAFA as our Distinguished Visiting Professor. Professor Abramson taught the first-ever offering of Advanced Negotiations at USAFA where cadets expanded their negotiations skills with specific negotiation strategies for the military context. He even invited Lt Gen Jay Silveria, USAFA's Superintendent, to guest lecture about using negotiation skill sets as a commander in theater. Prof Abramson's time at USAFA culminated in him and the Department Head, Col Linell Letendre, both presenting at the



Cadets Elton, Durbin, and Edgington with Major Aaron Jackson at the Clara Barton competition.

ABA's Section of Dispute Resolution's annual symposium in Washington DC in April 2018. Col Letendre participated in a panel entitled "Saying It's So Does Not Make It So: The Multi-party Negotiation Behind the Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell" while Professor Abramson and former DFL faculty member Maj Elizabeth McDaniel participated in a panel entitled "Teaching Negotiations in the Military: Is that an Oxymoron?" As DFL continues to cultivate our LADR program, we have developed partnerships with Colorado Federal Executive Board for mediation training, the Air Force Negotiations Center, the Air Force JAG School in Montgomery, AL, Harvard Law School, and the Secretary of the Air Force General Counsel's office.

MAJOR COMMANDS

Legal offices generally operate at two levels—wing or base level and higher headquarters. There are around 90 offices operating at the wing level; ranging from 10 or fewer personnel up to 60. 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 subordinate legal offices.

Air Combat Command

In 2018, the ABA recognized 355th Fighter Wing paralegal, Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Brent Johnson, as its 2018 LAMP Distinguished Service Award winner for the Air Force. SSgt Johnson was recognized for his work with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to change their state-wide policy governing the process for non-resident military members to exempt their vehicles from state vehicle license taxes. ADOT's former policy required non-resident servicemembers to present their leave and earnings statement to their servicing legal office and required the legal office to provide the servicemember with an affidavit verifying the servicemembers' non-resident status. SSgt Johnson convinced ADOT to improve the process by having ADOT employees examine servicemembers' leave and earnings statements directly. This change streamlined the process for servicemembers without compromising the validity of the non-resident determination. With this one simple change, SSgt Johnson initiated statewide policy change, saving time and money for all of Arizona military installations and all of the non-resident servicemembers living in Arizona.

The Continental US North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) Region (CONR) – 1st Air Force, Air Forces for Northern Command (AFNORTH) legal office provided support for *Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria, and Nate*, with the support of many total force JAGs. The legal team developed options for the AFNORTH Commander to execute missions to support the whole of government response to the crises. This included developing imagery options and dissemination parameters for various Department of Defense platforms and documenting a legal framework for the receipt and analysis of information from interagency partners to enable joint planning and execution of the Defense Support of Civil Authorities mission response. JAGs also furthered the mission by enabling prioritization of assets and identified locations to support search and rescue missions. Furthermore, the team clarified authorities for active duty, guard, and reserve airlift to ensure life-saving missions could be accomplished as quickly and effectively as possible with the assets available.

US Air Forces Central Command (USAFCENT) is responsible for developing contingency plans and providing air power for the US Central Command (CENTCOM) area of responsibility (AOR). In 2017 and 2018, USAFCENT JAGs participated in numerous joint and multinational exercises, providing legal advice during the planning stages of the exercise and during the execution. Along with our allies, USAFCENT JAGs advised on the law of armed conflict, rules of engagement, and fiscal law applicable to contingency operations. USAFCENT JAGs have also worked to develop and coordinate policy and strategy governing the use of new systems for countering threats posed by unmanned aircraft systems in the CENTCOM AOR. Thanks to the coordinated effort, USAFCENT was able to execute agreements with host nations allowing for the fielding and use of counter-unmanned aircraft system equipment. Furthermore, attorneys developed rules of engagement training applicable to unmanned aircraft systems.

In support of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force priority number two, Headquarters 9th Air Force (9 AF)



AF legal personnel provide joint training to the 9 AF HQ staff as well as hundreds of Airmen deploying to the USCENTCOM AOR.

was tasked to establish the first Air Force service-retained, Joint Task Force (JTF)-capable headquarters. Over the past year, legal personnel supported three joint staff exercises and two major theater exercises executing a variety of missions from mission analysis to course of action selection for scenarios ranging from humanitarian assistance to offensive actions across the globe. Additionally, to prepare all Airmen for JTF duties, HQ 9 AF Rear Mission Support Element developed Joint Training at Shaw AFB, SC. 9 AF legal personnel, along with representatives from headquarters Air Force, Air Combat Command, Air Education and Training Command, Air University LeMay Center, Air Forces Central, and the 505th Command and Control Wing provided joint training to the 9 AF HQ

staff as well as hundreds of Airmen deploying to the USCENTCOM AOR.

In 2017-2018, 25th Air Force (25 AF/JA) legal professionals delivered essential support to the Air Force's global intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) enterprise. 25 AF/JA solved key legal gaps in modernizing intelligence collection in order for



25th Air Force personnel following a promotion ceremony held at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas.

ISR professionals to leverage data analytics to empower today's connected warfighter. Additionally, 25 AF/JA was integral to standing up the Air Force's Insider Threat Hub Pilot program and its procedures, ensuring a lawful and efficient process to identify personnel security risks. This support proved vital, and was highlighted as a best practice by the Department of Defense's new Defense Insider Threat Management and Analysis Center. In addition, the Military Justice team shined during the time period, managing numerous complex cases, to include successfully prosecuted sexual assault cases and a premeditated murder case from Offutt AFB, NE. Finally, 25 AF/JA personnel provided scholarly legal contributions, including

publication of law review articles related to cyber law and the law of armed conflict in the University of Nebraska and United States Air Force Law reviews.

Air Education and Training Command

The four legal offices within the 502d Air Base Wing provide base level legal support for 260+ mission partners at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA), Department of Defense's largest Joint Base. Per agreement among the Services, these offices provide an enhanced level of legal assistance over normal Air Force legal assistance practice. In 2017, the offices of the 502d Air Base Wing served an astonishing 14,272 legal assistance clients, completed 18,761 visits, prepared 23,833 documents, executed 22,717 notaries, and prepared 3,672 tax returns.

The legal office at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston hosts a robust legal assistance program, including Pro Se Divorce, Pro Se Name Change, and Pro Se Probate clinics that have saved members over \$1.3 million. The Pro Se Probate clinic, novel within the Air Force and the State of Texas, continues to represent 10% of the Bexar County docket. At JBSA-Lackland, the legal office hosted a Pro Se Name Change and Pro Se Divorce clinic, which saved members over \$100,000. Also, during this time, the legal office

provided legal assistance off-base at Armed Forces retiree villages. The pro se clinics have received overwhelmingly positive feedback, and the offices are planning to implement Pro Se Guardianship and Pro Se Special Education clinics as additional services.

JBSA-Randolph legal office handled a huge spike in legal assistance clients. They were also very active



AF legal personnel from the four legal office within the 502d Air Base Wing held their 2d Annual Turkey Bowl at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland. With over 110 members, they are the largest legal community in one Wing.

in JAG recruiting, reaching over 700 law students at six universities. While the three Group legal offices serve different Wing Commanders and clients across the Joint Base, they work in cooperation to offer legal assistance opportunities like Child Support Clinics with the State of Texas, VITA tax

clinics and even a share a preventative law newsletter that is distributed to over 420 thousand potential clients in the San Antonio area.

The Tri-Service Joint Military Magistrate Court program is hosted by the Air Force, but is supported by both the Navy and Army JAGs at JBSA-Fort Sam. Between 1 Jan 17 and 31 May 18, they enforced over 1200 traffic violations, collecting \$135K for the Federal Victims fund. In addition, they prosecuted and managed a federal criminal docket of over 140 cases. As a former open base, JBSA-Fort Sam sees the highest number of driving while under the influence or while impaired incidents. Inebriated drivers often approach the installation gate with cash in their hand thinking they are at a Texas toll booth.

The JBSA installations have also seen a surge in First and Second Amendment "audits." Civilians armed with a video camera or a gun will stand near the base perimeter in an attempt to evoke a reaction from base personnel and security. Personnel are now trained to carefully observe the rights of these civilians and work in partnership with the local police departments to ensure the citizens abide by local and state laws.

Air Force Global Strike Command

Legal "Strikers" at the eight Air Force Global Strike Command (AFGSC) installations once again provided world-class legal support to units charged with two legs of the Nation's nuclear triad. This year, legal professionals assigned to AFGSC and Eighth Air Force were instrumental in ensuring significant organizational restructuring directed by the Commander, United States Strategic Command, was properly implemented in a timely manner. The restructure designated AFGSC as a warfighting command to ensure unity of command and effort in achieving Combatant Commander objectives. Striker legal professionals ensured modified command relationships and organizational structures met all statutory and doctrinal requirements.

Legal personnel at Kirtland AFB, NM, successfully spearheaded efforts to convert parcels of base property with state proprietary jurisdiction to exclusive federal jurisdiction. Due to administrative errors in the 1930s and 1940s, three parcels of land within the confines of Kirtland AFB were omitted from the original cession documents, leaving a patchwork of conflicting jurisdiction on the installation. Criminal and other state regulatory code violations occurred frequently within these areas necessitating requests for assistance from overburdened local law enforcement agencies. With support from federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, Kirtland AFB legal professionals worked with the state legislature to pass legislation transferring jurisdiction of these parcels to exclusive federal jurisdiction. The unification of the jurisdictional framework at Kirtland AFB led to a more efficient and effective enforcement of laws within the installation boundary.

Similarly, legal professionals at Minot AFB, ND, led the charge in outlining a sustainability framework, coining the phrase "Missile Installation Compatibility Use Zone" (MICUZ), similar to the Air Installation

Compatibility Use Zone (AICUZ) concept. This effort identified legal issues unique to the missile fields, including infrastructure sustainment and security concerns, through diligent engagement with surrounding air and land use projects. This effort identified best practices to maximize military equities with surrounding energy and agricultural development, road use, and vulnerabilities from emerging technologies such as commercial drones.

Air Force Materiel Command



Eglin AFB attorneys and paralegals stand next to the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast display at the Air Force Armament Museum. Developed at Eglin AFB, the "MOAB" was first deployed against an Islamic State tunnel complex in Afghanistan on 13 April 2017.

Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) has a diverse array of legal offices across the country, organized under its five centers. AFMC's legal team at Eglin AFB, FL, continued its proud tradition of providing outstanding legal support to the Air Force test mission, joint warfighters, retirees, and military dependents. When the base was faced with an urgent need to develop a Hypersonic Conventional Strike Weapon, the Acquisition Law section worked closely with program management and contracting personnel to craft an innovative strategy to compete and award the \$928 million contract in record time while ensuring strict legal compliance. Additionally, another member of the team, Mr. Michael Blauvelt, was recognized, as an outstanding performer during an inspection, in part for creating an automated Letter of Counseling, Admonishment or Reprimand template that has spread to Air Force commanders across the globe. Finally,

Eglin's Legal Assistance and Preventative Law program and Tax Center has saved eligible beneficiaries an astounding \$4,600,000 in legal fees and tax preparation costs.

The legal team at Warner-Robins AFB, GA, met on 21 June with Mr. Norman Zoller, the person who, since its inception, had been in charge of the Military Legal Assistance Program of the State Bar of Georgia, and Christopher Pitts, Mr. Zoller's replacement. The Robins AFB legal office was the test base for the program when it was created eight years ago. During those eight years, the program has matched 2,121 active duty, active duty reservists, retirees, national guard, and dependents, with private attorneys who have assisted them with their personal civil matters either pro bono or at a reduced fee. Over the years, the services provided have been enhanced. It was instrumental in the establishment of Veteran's Courts in Georgia, which act as a diversion program for veterans facing possible jail time for criminal offenses. The Program also established legal clinics in several law schools and Veterans Administration medical facilities. A brand new initiative will provide pro bono legal assistance for military in the grade of E-5 and below, for any civil legal matter that they face.

The legal professionals at Hill AFB, UT, developed a "Five-Step Source Selection Evaluation Model" and trained contracting officers and technical evaluators to satisfy the Government Accountability Office's documentation and rational analysis requirements, thereby, reducing bid protest risks. Attorneys specialized in procurement and contract law provided timely and accurate legal guidance for two major source selections awarding both contracts without protest. They guided the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent (GBSD) acquisition team to award of Technology Maturation and Risk Reduction contracts supporting the initial phase for replacing the Minuteman III ICBM weapon system. They also guided and advised the Joint Technical Services (J-Tech II) acquisition team in successful award of the \$3 billion contract supporting the Nevada Test and Training Range, the Utah Test and Training Range, the Edwards Test Range, and the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division at China Lake and Point Mugu, CA.

The Air Force Office of Scientific Research (AFOSR) legal office continues to provide legal advice and aid to the US Air Force's basic research programs. AFOSR has been selected to process the grants involved with Secretary of the Air Force Heather "S&T Strategy 2030" study. The Air Force's goals for

the study are to evaluate technical approaches and focus areas to advance the Air Force's mission through research and development; and improve Air Force processes and organizational structures to manage early stage research. As part of the study the legal office has reviewed and approved proposals from universities worldwide to conduct scientific conferences, panels, and other educational events in order to achieve Air Force goals. AFOSR legal office has played an intricate part in reviewing the BOLT hypersonics program. The proposed research and development activity has, and will continue to, deliver scientific data critical to the understanding of complex hypersonic phenomena and multidisciplinary design. If this work is successful, then we will achieve a paradigm shift on how we do basic research in hypersonic Aerodynamics.

The Air Force Services Activity Legal Office (AFSVA/JA) is a small, yet full service shop under the Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, which provides comprehensive legal support relating to nonappropriated funds (NAF), Air Force-wide. AFSVA strives to deliver Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) support to Airmen all over the world, making AFSVA legal professionals responsible for a litany of unique practice areas in personnel, child care, lodging, commercial sponsorships, and franchising. As a function of the AFSVA



AFSVA Legal Office helped deliver essential fitness and recreation opportunities to more than 80 installations, and countless Airmen.

Legal Office's unique practice, they served as chief counsel to the Alpha Warrior Program and the Air Force Entertainment Program. Each program has been viewed as a major success in enhancing the lives of our Airmen, with Alpha Warrior battle resulting in over \$1.8 million FY18 contracts, and Air Force Entertainment accounting for an additional \$1.2 million. While each piece brought various legal issues in the form of liability, entertainment and IP rights, and base access, the AFSVA Legal Office helped deliver these essential fitness and recreation opportunities to more than 80 installations, and countless Airmen.



Mr. David Vernon, labor law Subject Matter Expert; Ms. Lori Long, labor law Paralegal; and Captain Julia Williams, Chief, Civil Litigation, conduct research in preparation for upcoming civil litigation. The labor team at Tinker AFB continues to provide top-notch support to clients at Tinker AFB and across the Air Force.

The Tinker AFB, OK, Labor Team recently participated in a Secretary of the Air Force level working group to draft and implement guidance for Personal Assistant Services (PAS) Air Force wide. In parallel to this effort, the team drafted a comprehensive guide for processing of PAS cases that was ultimately adopted by Air Force Materiel Command for use MAJCOM-wide.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Hanscom AFB, MA, serves more than 3,000 Regular Air Force, Reserve and National Guard military personnel and Department of Defense civilians who work and live at Hanscom AFB as well as more than 120,000 retired military personnel, annuitants and spouses living in New England and New York. Hanscom is also host to Air Force Materiel Command's largest base-level

acquisition ethics programs. In the past year, the Hanscom legal team reviewed more than 4,000 contract awards worth more than \$4.5 billion. Hanscom's procurement expertise led the way for a programmatic review of contract awards and crafted recommendations to improve the award and administration of classified programs. Hanscom's location just outside of Boston places it right next door to some of the finest academic and private sector national defense partners in addition to hosting the world-class Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratory.

Air Force Space Command

Consisting of two numbered Air Forces and one center, the nine Air Force Space Command legal offices serve 46,000 personnel in the US and seven other countries. From space and cyber operations to launch and acquisition, Space Command legal teams are on the cutting edge of innovation and technology.

The 14th Air Force Legal Office (14 AF/JA) and Joint Functional Component Command for Space (JFCC Space) assisted with United States Strategic Command's transition to the Joint Force Space Component Command, furthering Department of Defense's commitment to integrating space in multi-domain operations. 14 AF/JA supported combatant commanders' operations worldwide and integrated into the command's first organic advanced target development capability with hundreds of space-related targets reviewed for compliance with Law of War principles. Our international exercises and experiments with combatant commands and five allied nations have begun to normalize space rules of engagement, lexicon, and the understanding of the continuum of hostilities, among the Department of Defense and our partner nations. The JAG Corps added a full-time joint JAG to support the critical mission of the National Space Defense Center, to protect and defend the space warfighting domain.



SMC legal personnel on the historic grounds of the Western Development Division, the birthplace of Air Force space power and now the SMC Headquarters.

The Space and Missile Systems Center (SMC) operates an annual \$7 billion acquisition portfolio to execute all Air Force Program Executive Officer/Space major acquisition programs throughout their life cycle. This year SMC/JA assisted in drafting the \$500 million Space Enterprise Consortium Other Transaction Agreement which will work with businesses, universities, and other institutions that don't traditionally contract with the Air Force, to provide rapid, low-cost, cutting edge solutions to the warfighter. Additionally, SMC/JA supported the development of engines and vehicles in order to replace the Russian made RD-180 engines for national security space

launches and took advantage of robust investments by private industry in an assortment of new launch capabilities.

24th Air Force JAGs are in high demand advising on laws, policies, and doctrine affecting cyber operations and engaged in exercises to ensure cyber-forces are 'ready-to-fight-tonight!' In fact, over 800 cyber personnel have received the benefit of these engagements, most commonly within the United States European Command and United States Indo-Pacific Command. Recently, a 67th Cyberspace Wing (67 CW) JAG, Capt Landon Wedermyer, participated in CYBER PHALANX in Salzburg, Austria, advising officers from across Europe in planning cyber operations as part of a multinational peacekeeping scenario.

Additionally, due to 24 AF's cutting-edge mission, 24 AF JAGs are also uniquely positioned to support Secretary of Defense's National Defense Strategy objectives to reform the Department of



SpaceX synchronized booster landing after the first Falcon Heavy launch.

Defense to better “deliver performance at the speed of relevance.” In 2018, 24 AF attorneys helped revise policies and drafted cutting-edge proposals to overhaul how the Department of Defense acquires cyberspace capabilities. Additionally, 67 CW/JA provided critical advice for 35 Cooperative Research and Development Agreements (CRADAs). Worth \$28 million, these CRADAs allow for close public-private sector partnerships to share cyberspace threat information and tackle the ever-changing technological challenges in the cyber domain.

Air Force Special Operations Command

Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC), headquartered at Hurlburt Field, FL, provides special operations forces (SOF) for worldwide deployment and assignment to regional Combatant Commands. The AFSOC Legal Office (AFSOC/JA) delivers professional, candid, independent counsel to SOF Commanders worldwide. In 2017 and 2018, AFSOC’s main focus continued to be on special operations to deter, disrupt, and defeat terrorist threats. In addition to providing legal support to hundreds of SOF deployers, AFSOC deployed eight attorneys and two paralegals in direct support of AFSOC operations to multiple locations across the world. This year brought the Legal Office’s tri-annual Command-wide conference. The multi-day event brought together over 30 JAGs and paralegals from across the globe and included presentations on the legal aspects to countering unmanned aerial systems (“drones”) and dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder in the context of misconduct and military justice.

AFSOC prides itself on being ready, relevant, and resilient to answer our Nation’s call at any time and any place. Lt Col Tyson Kindness recently had the privilege to serve with Air Commandos while deployed to a special operations flying unit in Afghanistan. This experience tested his personal resolve and readiness to serve in capacities far beyond the legal profession. On numerous occasions, his experience as a lawyer provided critical skills to successfully navigate a fast-paced combat environment and perform outside of his comfort zone.

On one such occasion, his unit was tasked to provide aircraft to transport ground forces to the target area. As one of the aircraft landed, it took enemy gunfire, resulting in damage which caused it to land



Capt Streetman with her Commander on his last flight before returning back to the United States.

in enemy territory with seven aircrew members aboard. At this moment, the focus of the mission turned to recovering the downed aircrew. Unfortunately, the person in his unit who was trained to serve as the lead for Personnel Recovery had been notified earlier that evening of a family emergency and was traveling back to the United States. With the recovery operation already underway, a team needed to be assembled to provide necessary medical care, intelligence collection, and fact gathering to properly reintegrate the downed aircrew. With faith in his ability to quickly “get smart” on personnel recovery procedures, the Commander directed Lt Col Kindness to serve

as the Team Lead. With only a couple of hours to comprehend the process, he quickly researched every regulation and operating procedure on the process. About twenty hours later, his unit successfully recovered and reintegrated the aircrew and determined all were medically and mentally fit to return to duty.

Serving a critical role in a combat personnel recovery event is not your typical day as a lawyer—even a military lawyer. However, Lt Col Kindness would not have been able to perform calmly and competently in this capacity without the benefit of his legal background. His critical thinking skills, along with his ability to provide timely and accurate legal advice, helped his team pull together that night to safely recover the aircrew.



Capt Streetman and Maj Mallone with their Aussie JAG counterparts.

Additionally, Capt Skylar Streetman, Legal Advisor to the 353rd Special Operations Group at Kadena Air Base, Japan, participated in a 10-day operational law training course with JAGs from Down Under. The Joint Operations Legal Training is a non-stop barrage of legal training, tests, and presentations used to assess JAGs from Australia and New Zealand before they deploy. Capt Streetman successfully completed the course and is qualified to deploy with her Australian and New Zealander counterparts.

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. AMC also transports humanitarian supplies to hurricane, flood, and earthquake victims both at home and around the world. At legal offices across the Command, JAGs, paralegals and civilian teammates guided their commanders through diverse issues.



The 18th Air Force Legal Office (18 AF/JA), Scott AFB, IL, continued to lead the Air Force in ensuring swift and fair justice across its installations. In total, 18 AF administered 518 non-judicial punishment actions and conducted 84 courts-martial, making it the busiest numbered air force (NAF) in the service. In February 2018, the 18 AF/JA Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) implemented a NAF-wide policy on interaction with Special Victims' Counsel, the first-ever policy of its kind in the Air Force. 18 AF/JA and subordinate legal offices supported mobility operations that moved more than 774 billion pounds of cargo, refueled over 116,000 aircraft, and medically evacuated nearly 5,000 patients

across the globe. Notably, Lt Col Eric Johnson, Maj Timothy Ward, and Maj Candice Schubbe, all of the 18 AF/JA, advised the 18 AF commander as he directed relief operations in response to *Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria* and the earthquake in Mexico.

In anticipation of *Hurricane Irma*, Joint Base Charleston, SC, reacted quickly to successfully protect \$7.5 billion in Air Force, Navy, Army and Coast Guard assets from the catastrophic storm. Its *Limited Evacuation Order* written, coordinated and dispersed by the 628th Air Base Wing Legal Office (628 ABW/JA) was used as a benchmark throughout the Air Force permitting personnel—to include military members, civilian employees and dependents—to safely and efficiently remove themselves from the storm's destructive path. They provided critical legal advice to the Crisis Action Team and the Emergency Operation Center leadership on evacuation and recovery efforts as well as the preposition of C-17s in various locations across the US where they were staged to respond to the after effects of the storm. At MacDill AFB, FL, the 6th Air Mobility Wing Legal Office (6 AMW/JA) evacuated with the rest of the base just days before a general court-martial as *Hurricane Irma* approached the Florida peninsula. Once they returned to base, the legal office led two post-hurricane recovery projects, mobilizing 380 volunteers over the course of three weekends to help clean up debris.

In September 2017, *Hurricane Maria* made landfall in the Caribbean. The hurricane struck with winds up to 155 miles per hour and left millions of people without water, power, or telephone coverage. Estimates of the death toll vary, with some studies estimating the number exceeds 5,000 in Puerto Rico alone. Airmen from the 621st Contingency Response Wing (621 CRW), Travis AFB, CA, deployed four teams throughout the Caribbean to support *Hurricane Maria* disaster relief efforts. The contingency response groups in the 621 CRW are self-sufficient and deploy with all personnel, equipment and supplies to execute the mission. Capt Christian Acevedo, 621 CRW legal advisor, was tasked to support these teams, and deployed to Puerto Rico with 90 minutes notice. In Puerto Rico, Airmen operated the airfields, offloaded food, water, medicine, and fuel from the aircraft, and prepared it for distribution to Federal Emergency Management Agency staging locations across the island. The initial relief efforts had to be airlifted in until seaports were opened and land routes on the island could be cleared of debris. Capt Acevedo took direct part in the physical efforts, but was also on hand to provide legal support to commanders across the island. He trained and advised more than 100 security forces personnel on the *Posse Comitatus Act* - a federal statute which restricts the ability of active duty military personnel to perform law enforcement functions in relation civilians on US domestic soil. He also ensured compliance with federal intelligence oversight statutes - advising against the collection of American citizens' information during relief efforts. All told, the team's efforts resulted in 7.4 kilotons of emergency aid being delivered to over 13,000 civilians across the island.



Capt Acevedo front and center helping to unload humanitarian supplies from a helicopter

In 2017, Ms. Finley 43d Air Mobility Operations Group Legal Office (43 AMOG/JA), Pope Field, Fort Bragg, NC, achieved a significant legal assistance innovation by standing up a Pro Se divorce clinic—the first of its kind at Pope and Fort Bragg. She identified a need for expanded assistance to servicemembers who wish to represent themselves in uncontested divorce and child custody actions. As a result, she researched applicable state law and local court procedures—including consulting the surrounding county's chief state court judge—and partnered with the local office of Legal Aid of North Carolina to stand up a Pro Se divorce clinic for servicemembers on Pope. She developed forms for each of the five surrounding counties to ensure clients have complete, ready-to-file forms after each clinic. After the initial success of the divorce clinic, she added a Pro Se child custody clinic following the same process. The clinics serve anyone eligible for legal assistance and have saved servicemembers over \$70,000 in legal fees.

The 87th Air Base Wing Legal Office (87 ABW/JA), Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, hosted two "Will Blitz" days, furthering their mission to ensure every Airman is legally prepared for deployment. In January 2018, 87 ABW/JA hosted the 108th Air Wing Legal Office, an Air National Guard unit, to draft and executed over 200 wills and powers of attorney. In March 2018, 87 ABW/JA hosted a "Will Blitz" Day for the 321st Contingency Response Squadron, drafting and executing 77 wills and powers of attorney. Collectively, these two events saved Airmen over \$55,000 in legal fees and saved precious time for these units prior to deployment.

Each year, 87 ABW/JA participates in the ABA Law Day celebration. In light of this year's ABA Law Day theme, "Separation of Powers: Framework for Freedom", on 17 May 2018, 87 ABW/JA held a "Law Day Debate: Battle of the Branches." The Debate focused primarily on the War Powers Resolution set out in the US Constitution, and it involved two student-teams, "Team Executive Branch" and "Team Legislative Branch", from Pemberton Township High School. The students were tasked with fully defending their particular branch's war power and proper control of armed forces. Specifically, the teams presented arguments about the following question: "...if the President is the Commander in Chief, is Congressional authorization of war a necessary check and balance of the President's authority to carry out extensive use of US Armed Forces or an unconstitutional infringement upon the power of the executive branch?" This event provided an opportunity to raise awareness and explore legal issues involving the United States' military and the "Separation of Powers." It also presented a way to reach out to the community at large and educate them on a relevant topic and the rule of law.

US Air Forces in Europe / Air Forces Africa

United States Air Forces in Europe -United States Air Forces Africa (USAFE-AFAFRICA) is the only Air Force Major Command supporting two combatant commands, US European Command (EUCOM) and US Africa Command (USAFRICOM). In an ever-evolving and uncertain global environment, the USAFE-AFAFRICA legal professionals further the commander's priorities to deter Russia, assist Israel, support North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), contain Libya, and neutralize, defeat and degrade violent extremist organizations in our area of responsibility (AOR).

A primary method of furthering these priorities is through legal engagements with our European partners. In April, USAFE-AFAFRICA attorneys partnered with Texas Air National Guard attorneys under the State Partnership Program to conduct an Air Targeting Symposium for the Czech Republic Air Force. The training focused on the Law of Armed Conflict and rules of engagement and included both Czech AF legal advisors and Czech AF Commanders.



Group photo from the Czech Republic Air Targeting Symposium



Participants in the Lithuanian TTX

In May, USAFE-AFAFRICA attorneys and paralegals, under the European Deterrence Initiative, worked hand-in-hand with Lithuanian armed forces to hold a table top exercise (TTX) with 40 participants (operators and legal advisors) from 12 European nations. The TTX included a multi-day scenario on the legal and technical issues involved in coalition operations outside of the NATO context (e.g., attribution in cyberattacks, information sharing, international agreements and energy

security) and was designed to bolster USAFE-AFAFRICA and USEUCOM efforts to improve interoperability and deter Russian aggression in the Baltic region. Lithuania hosted the event their Military Academy in Vilnius.

In June, USAFE-AFAFRICA participated in a Defense Institute for International Legal Studies (DIILS) Defense Institution Building assessment in Moldova. The trip included engagements with Moldovan Legal Advisors from their Ministry of Defense as well as trips to visit two military installations to meet with the commanding officers and their embedded legal advisors. This assessment will result in an After Action Report and a recommended future engagement plan with Moldova. In addition to this assessment, over the past year, attorneys from our wings have participated in DIILS International Humanitarian Law training events in Estonia and Niger.



DIILS trip to Moldova

USAFE-UK/JA also has a dynamic international law mission and participated in a bilateral engagement in

Cyprus this year. Their responsibility for Foreign Criminal Jurisdiction (FCJ) oversight of US personnel assigned to the United Kingdom and the UK overseas territory of Ascension Island was expanded this past year to include the UK Sovereign Base Area on Royal Air Forces Akrotiri, Cyprus. Attorneys from USAFE-UK traveled to Cyprus to establish relationships with the appropriate local officials that would handle criminal cases on the SBA. The relationships developed during this trip became vitally important a few months later when an Airman was involved in a tragic traffic accident that resulted in the death of a British Army soldier and sensitive jurisdiction issues had to be resolved through multiple engagements with Her Majesty's Government.

In addition to these engagements, USAFE-AFAFRICA attorneys were also actively involved in operations law in direct support to our headquarters as well as embedded support in the 603d Air Operations Center. In the past year, our JAGs supported missions in both the USEUCOM and USAFRICOM AORs, including multiple kinetic strike and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions in AFRICA. They were also involved in the recovery of US Special Forces personnel in Niger and were directly involved in USEUCOM's support of the strike missions against chemical weapons facilities in Syria.

Finally, our attorneys were closely involved in the command's actions after a driver evaded security forces at the gate of one of our main air bases, refused to stop and lead them on a chase that finally ended on the flight line. USAFE-AFAFRICA attorneys were integral members of the investigation and Tiger Teams that assessed different aspects of the security breach, making findings and recommendations that led to command and Air Force-wide implementation to enhance security across our installations.

Pacific Air Forces

Pacific Air Forces (PACAF) delivers rapid and precise air, space and cyberspace capabilities to protect



PACAF JAGs meet with legal officers of the Koku Jieitai, Japan's Air Self Defense Force.

and defend the United States, its territories and our allies and partners; provides integrated air and missile defense and warning; commands and controls joint airpower and integrated air and missile defense assets; promotes interoperability in a power projection theater; and is postured to respond across the full spectrum of military contingencies in order to restore regional security. PACAF's area of responsibility is home to 60 percent of the world's population in 36 nations spread across 52 percent of the Earth's surface and 16 time zones, with more than 1,000 languages spoken. The unique location of the Strategic Triangle (Hawaii-Guam-Alaska) gives our nation persistent presence and options to project US airpower

from sovereign territory. Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (PACAF/JA) oversees approximately 260 judge advocates, paralegals, and civilians at 15 legal offices located in Alaska, Hawaii, Guam, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. As part of Pacific Air Forces' transition into a fully capable warfighting headquarters, PACAF/JA focused heavily on developing operations law expertise across all sections within the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. Through deliberate planning and training, our legal team enhanced its expertise in operations issues, and significantly increased combat readiness and the ability to "fight tonight" by investing over 880 man hours attending nine formal operational courses and completing 15 war readiness training sessions – all while successfully accomplishing its traditional and expanding JAG mission.

Our combat-focused attorneys and paralegals contributed to PACAF's real-world impact by providing legal expertise to PACAF's full-time operational planning staff in supporting its diverse and dynamic operational objectives. PACAF/JA further honed its warfighting skills through its participation in eight major theater exercises conducted in multiple countries across the Indo-Pacific theater. The PACAF legal team fostered international relations through meaningful engagement with counterparts from Japan, Australia, and other regional partners during four formal visits and exchanges. Additionally, PACAF's legal directorate refined its trade by streamlining the legal authorities and training employed in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE in defense of the United States. The operations-focused achievements of the PACAF/JA team, including our numbered Air Force and base legal offices, have resulted in an increase in combat capability and readiness in support of the warfighter.

Conclusion

As commanders face increasingly complex legal challenges in carrying out military operations, JAG Corps professionals are ready to support them at every step. Our highly talented personnel provide outstanding and responsive service. JAG Corps lawyers, paralegals, and civilian support staff remain dedicated to providing world-class legal advice and services to commanders, Airmen, and their families. We are proud to be the legal wingmen to Air Force members and commanders as we execute the mission to fly, fight and win in air, space, and cyberspace. We also thank the ABA for our partnerships in support of Airmen worldwide. Through programs like Operation Stand-By and the LAMP Committee's Military Pro Bono Project, civilian attorneys, through the ABA, assist our Airmen, saving them thousands of dollars in civilian legal fees and helping them to solve their legal problems so they can focus on the mission. We look forward to continuing and expanding these partnerships.