



# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

## BACKGROUND

Over 1,300 active duty military attorneys, called judge advocates (JAGs), have discovered that service as a commissioned officer in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) has much to offer. Our legal practice is challenging and offers early opportunities to litigate in a variety of forums. In addition, practicing law in the JAG Corps allows attorneys to engage in public service within an institution highly respected by the American public. Our JAGs make a fulfilling, valuable and lasting contribution to the United States of America, while maintaining a high quality of life.

The JAG Corps provides full-spectrum legal advice to the United States Air Force and Space Force. JAGs are both officers and practicing attorneys with responsibilities that focus on all legal aspects of military operations—leadership, military justice, civil law and litigation, and operations and international law. Those four broad categories encompass several practice areas, such as criminal justice, civil litigation, legal assistance, administrative law, labor and employment, claims and tort litigation, space and cyber law, contracts and acquisitions, fiscal law, deployed contingency contracting, and environmental law. The JAG Corps offers a wide range of unique opportunities of influence and trust – whether serving as prosecutor, defense counsel, or special victims' counsel at a court-martial; advising a commander on an international law issue; or helping an Airman or Guardian navigate matters of personal legal concern.

For some, travel opportunities, the possibility of living and practicing law in a foreign country, and the simple prospect of engaging in a nuanced legal field carry special attraction. For others, quality of life is of significant importance. Military service instills professionalism; emphasizes the balance of leading, following, and working as a team; and offers a well-developed support network. For these and many other reasons, service as an Air Force JAG offers unique opportunities and promises enriching experiences.

Typical responsibilities for a JAG in their first four years of service include:

- Prosecuting/defending criminal misconduct under the Uniform Code of Military Justice
- Advocating at various adverse administrative proceedings
- Providing legal assistance to military members and their families
- Writing legal reviews of adverse administrative actions and civil law issues
- Drafting ethics opinions regarding the use of Government resources
- Advising commanders on all legal issues as they arise

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

- Must be a United States citizen
- Must be a graduate from an ABA-approved law school Juris Doctor program
- Must obtain admission to practice law in the highest court of any U.S. state, commonwealth, territory or District of Columbia prior to commissioning
- Must commission as an officer before the age of 42
- Must complete and pass an Air Force medical examination after selection

## **ACCESSIONS PROGRAMS**

### **DIRECT APPOINTMENT PROGRAM (DAP)**

Attorneys, law graduates, and law students who have completed two-thirds of the credit hours required for their J.D. may apply for direct appointment as a first lieutenant in the JAG Corps. Selectees begin active duty after completing legal licensing requirements and medical qualification. They are eligible for promotion to captain after six months of active duty. The initial active duty service commitment is four years.

### **GLP-OYCP: AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)**

Law students enrolled in a full-time J.D. program are eligible to apply to the **Graduate Law Program (GLP)** during their first year of law school and to the **One Year College Program (OYCP)** during their second year of law school. Part-time law students enrolled in a four-year part-time J.D. program are eligible to apply to GLP in their second year of law school and to OYCP in their third year of law school.

To apply for GLP or OYCP, applicants must be attending an ABA-approved law school that either offers an AFROTC program or allows them to take AFROTC courses at a nearby school via a crosstown agreement. Applicants must also meet ROTC entry requirements such as weight and medical standards.

Upon completion of the AFROTC program and graduation from law school, GLP/OYCP cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants in an Inactive Reserve status. Graduates of GLP/OYCP begin active duty as first lieutenants after completing legal licensing requirements and are eligible for promotion to captain after six months of active duty. The initial active duty service commitment is four years.

## **TRAINING**

DAP selectees will attend Officer Training School (OTS) after they are medically qualified and complete all legal licensing requirements. OTS is an eight-week course, held at Maxwell Air Force Base (AFB) in Montgomery, Alabama. OTS teaches JAGs the basics of being an Air Force officer. JAGs participate in physical conditioning, military training, drills and ceremonies, leadership seminars, academic classes, field training exercises, and small arms training.

GLP or OYCP cadets complete ROTC academic requirements, a Leadership Lab, and attend physical training sessions during law school. In Leadership Lab, cadets learn military drill and

ceremonies, military customs and courtesies, and are given the opportunity to participate in leadership exercises. Cadets also attend field training during the summer before their third year of law school. Field training is a two-week encampment held at Maxwell AFB that includes physical conditioning, weapons, and survival training.

Within a few months after reporting to their first duty location, JAGs will also attend the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course (JASOC). JASOC is a nine-week course at the Air Force Judge Advocate General's School, which is also located at Maxwell AFB. JASOC is designed to ease the transition into practicing law in the military setting. At JASOC, new JAGs are exposed to the military justice system, legal assistance, civil law, and operations and international law. They also have the opportunity to participate in mock trials, practical exercises, and gain leadership skills.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

The Air Force conducts three boards a year for DAP and one board a year for the ROTC programs. Applicants can apply at [www.airforce.com/jag](http://www.airforce.com/jag). Once an online application is submitted, an active duty Staff Judge Advocate contacts the applicant to schedule the required in-person interview. We encourage applicants to apply online as early as possible.

Selection boards use the whole person concept. Factors include academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service, work experience, motivation for service, leadership traits, personal integrity, awards and honors, legal writing/analytical skills, adaptability and flexibility, and current or prior military experience, if applicable. An applicant's fitness level and ability to meet the Air Force height/weight entry standards are also factors that the board will review. Prior military service is not a requirement and nearly 85% of our current JAGs have no prior military experience.

Timelines				
	August DAP	November DAP	April DAP	GLP/OYCP
<b>Application window</b>	1 Jun—10 Jul	1 Sep—10 Oct	1 Feb—10 Mar	1 Nov—10 Jan
<b>Interview</b>	By 1 Aug	By 1 Nov	By 1 Apr	By 1 Feb
<b>Selection</b>	Late Aug/early Sep	Late Nov/early Dec	Late Apr/early May	Late Feb/early Mar
<b>Post-Selection</b>				ROTC, medical qualification, field training
	Law School Graduation			Law School Graduation/Commission
	Bar Passage/Admission			
	Medical Qualification (1 month—6 months)/Scrolling (60—90 days)			Enter Active Duty
	Commission/Enter Active Duty			

When completing the online application, applicants should follow all directions closely. Application documents include the following:

- Full-Length Photograph – Must be forward facing head-to-toe (courtroom attire)
- Motivational Statement (1 page, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 11-point font)  
– A statement detailing your motivation to become an Air Force JAG
- Resume (1 page, chronological format)
- Transcripts (unofficial copies are acceptable) – Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law School
- LSAT Score Report – The most current report
- Staff Judge Advocate Interview – Completed after you submit your application
- OPRs/EPRs – Prior military or currently in the ANG/ARC (if applicable)
- DD Form 214 – Certificate of Release/Discharge from Active Duty (if applicable)
- ROTC Detachment Commander Interview (GLP/OYCP applicants only)
- Writing Sample (up to 10 pages) (optional, but strongly recommended)
- Letters of Recommendation (up to 5) (optional, but strongly recommended)

### **PLANNING AHEAD**

A little planning, preparation, and research can greatly increase the likelihood of an applicant being selected by the JAG Corps. Here are some suggestions for those who are considering applying to the JAG Corps:

- **Paid Summer Internship** – Each year the Air Force selects approximately 25-30 paid summer 1L and 2L interns for assignments around the country (subject to funding). The majority of Air Force summer interns subsequently apply for active duty in their 3L year. Application windows are announced on our social media pages (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, X) and we provide announcements to all Career Services Officers (CSOs). Announcements are posted sometime between September and January on USAJobs.
- **Externships** – Throughout the year, current law students may extern with the JAG Corps in active duty legal offices at local U.S. Air Force installations. The fall externship application window is March 15 – April 15; the spring externship application window is September 1 – September 15; the 2L summer externship application window is September 15 – September 30; and the 1L summer externship application window is January 15 – January 31.
- **Physical Fitness** – Stay in shape while attending law school. If applying for active duty, a likely interview question will be, “What do you do to stay in shape?” It’s not necessary to be a world class athlete, but all Airmen and Guardians, including JAGs, have to meet the Air Force’s physical fitness standards. Exercise is also a great form of stress relief.
- **Get Involved** – The JAG Corps values other experiences outside of pure academics. For example, participation in law review or a journal, trial team and moot court competitions, or leadership positions with various on-campus student organizations reflect your ability to manage multiple tasks at the same time. Volunteering with public interest-oriented

organizations is looked upon favorably.

- **Public Interest** – Engaging in public service oriented experiences, whether paid, unpaid, or for academic credit, further evidences genuine interest in military service.

### CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about service in the active duty Air Force JAG Corps, please visit [www.airforce.com/jag](http://www.airforce.com/jag), call 1-800-JAG-USAF, or e mail [af.jag.recruiting@us.af.mil](mailto:af.jag.recruiting@us.af.mil).

For information about service in the Air Force Reserve or National Guard, please visit <https://afreserve.com/JAG/>, call 1-866-213-0497 or email [arcjagrecruiting@gmail.com](mailto:arcjagrecruiting@gmail.com).

