

Military Legal Resources Available on FRD Site By David L. Osborne

The Federal Research Division launched a new “Military Legal Resources” page on its public Web site at www.loc.gov/rr/frd/ in early July.

Documents posted on the site represent materials that are of urgent and immediate interest to military lawyers, judges, and civilian authorities as the U. S. Army begins reconstruction of post-war Iraq.

Provided by the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School Library in Charlottesville, Va., these documents include The Enactments and Approved Papers of the Control Council and Coordinating Committee, Allied Control Authority, Germany (1945-1948), and all published issues of the Military Law Review from 1958 to the present.

The Control Council and Coordinating Committee of the Allied Control Authority in post-World War II-occupied Germany issued a series of enactments and approved papers. This nine-volume series, compiled and printed by the Legal Division of the Office of the U.S. Military Government for Germany, represents the effort to rule an occupied country by unanimous agreement of representatives of the four occupying powers: The United Kingdom, the U.S.S.R, France, and the United States. The collection is not only of historical value but also is an important resource for current military legal scholarship.

Military Law Review (ISSN 0026-4040) is the premier U.S. Armed Forces journal of military legal scholarship and has been published quarterly since 1958. The journal is designed for use by military attorneys in connection with their official duties, and it provides a forum for those interested in military law to share the products of their experience and research.

The original printed documents were digitized under a contract with OCLC Digital and Preservation Resources, Bethlehem, Pa.

The Federal Research Division (FRD) is the principal fee-for-service, research-and-analyses group in the Library. FRD provides its services to executive and judicial branch agencies of the federal government through interagency agreements.

The great value of this digitization effort lies not only in making these documents available to researchers worldwide, but also in preserving these deteriorating volumes. The Library of Congress copies are brittle and crumbling; copies from Charlottesville are in slightly better condition. However, as anyone who has digitized documents knows, more is required in digitization than scanning and conversion.

Because the condition of the documents is so poor (they were typed on manual typewriters and mimeographed), optical character recognition (OCR)

technology was not successful. As a result, the documents are not fully text-searchable. In order to make them more useful to researchers, FRD Web specialists Roberta Goldblatt and Katarina David decided to re-key the cumulative indexes to the nine volumes (making them fully searchable) and link the index references to the respective order or enactment. The process involved the use of Adobe Acrobat 6.0, and researchers are advised to download the new Acrobat Reader 6.0 before attempting a search. The digitized issues of Military Law Review were processed through OCR and are fully text-searchable.

Dan Lavering, the librarian at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School Library, promises that additional documents will be digitized for the site. Among the collections being considered for presentation is the Official Gazette of the Allied Kommandatura Berlin, which contains the actual legislation enacted, either under allied command or unilaterally. This collection consists of 57 issues (from 1947 to 1953), featuring parallel text in English, German, and French, which will be posted in the original languages.

A former member of the Law Library staff, Lavering originally asked FRD to digitize unique volumes from the Francis Lieber Collection in the school's library. In 1863, the German-born Lieber (1798-1872) was professor at Columbia University when President Lincoln commissioned him to write the "Code of War and Government for the Armies of the United States on the Field," which was published by the War Department as General Order 100 (the foundation of the U.S. Code of Military Justice). It was the first modern codification of martial law and later became the basis for the Geneva Convention. Plans exist to present those documents on the site.

In addition to the Lieber volumes, documents from the U.S. Army's official investigation into the My Lai massacre in 1970 and the William Calley Record of Trial will be digitized as part of FRD's 10-year-old Vietnam War POW/MIA Database.

— *David L. Osborne is head of the Research Section in FRD.*

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