

JAG

Magazine of the United States Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps



JAG Outreach in Detroit

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ON THE FRONT COVER

LCDR DeAndrea Fuller and a law student at the National Black Law Students Association Convention. Read more on page 9!



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The Judge Advocate General



I recently attended the ABA National Convention where I had the pleasure of talking about your accomplishments this year. I was delighted to report to the ABA the positive impact you make on our Navy and our Nation, and could not be more proud of our contributions. In this edition of the *JAG Magazine*, we focus on the Legal Community's accomplishments and the strength of our diverse Corps.

In our cover story, MCI Linda Pepka describes the warm welcome we received at the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) Convention. This trip stands out among the many that I have taken as the JAG because it reminded me of how important demographic and experiential diversity is to the enrichment of the legal community. There were a variety of viewpoints and talents represented at the NBLSA Convention. We learned a lot from the trip and exposed many young law school students to the mission of our Navy JAG Corps.

Later in this issue, LCDR Jennie Goldsmith writes about our new recruiting program. This plan to recruit and retain the best and brightest people possible starts and ends with each of you. We are using our own talented people to represent the Navy JAG Corps to the American public so that we can continue to recruit the very best.

CDR Sherri Lewis authors a timely article providing guidance on political activities for all military and federal employees. All Legal Community members are encouraged to vote; however, we must be careful to ensure that our actions during this political season do not imply military endorsement of a particular party or candidate.

Deputy Judge Advocate General for Reserve Affairs and Operations



This remains a very busy and exciting time for our active-Reserve community. We are making great strides in implementing our active-Reserve integration and alignment strategies, at the unit level, in the Fleet, and, in particular, in answering the call for support in Afghanistan and Iraq. I will touch on just a few highlights here.

First, however, let me congratulate CAPT Steve Talson on his selection as my relief.

Steve will make a great leader for the Reserve Law Program. He will bring a great depth and breadth of knowledge and experience to the job, and I could not be more confident that our Program will be in very good hands.

The Reserve Component continues to provide over 25 percent of all individual augmentees, and has been in the news recently in profiles of our support to the Office of Military Commissions. We can be sure that this demand signal will grow steadily over the next few months, as the Commissions efforts intensify, and as Navy's significant contributions to the war efforts continue. I salute all of our deploying members, active and Reserve, for their dedication and many sacrifices. May everyone complete their tours safely and with continued success.

Our extended effort to restructure our units and billets - our "billet scrub" - is nearly complete. This process took place over two years. Our first stage, completed last year, was an effort to arrive at a partial implementation on the way to the full plan. We made some quick

We have added a new section to this edition called "Shipmate Spotlight." In this section, we feature reader submissions about members of our Legal Community who are taking on difficult assignments and showing innovative leadership. We hope you enjoy the stories highlighted in this edition and encourage you to send us submissions about the outstanding work of your shipmates for future magazines.

In this edition LT James Kirby reviews the book *Starship Troopers*. I commend LT Kirby on his superb overview of the book and for his insightful discussion related to our military profession. We all benefit from book reviews such as this one, and encourage submissions by all JAG Magazine readers.

Most importantly, I want to thank each of you for your exceptional performance over the past year. I am extremely proud of each and every member of the Navy Legal Community for the outstanding support you have provided to the Navy and our JAG Corps. In a year of unprecedented demand for our services, you have met and answered every call with poise and expertise. You represent the very best our nation has to offer and I appreciate the sacrifices you willingly make to serve our country.

We hope you find the information in the *JAG Magazine* useful and interesting. As always, we welcome and solicit your feedback on this issue of the magazine and any of the ideas presented in its pages. We hope that you will explore the pieces in this issue at length, whether you are a curious web browser or a member of the JAG Corps.

Thank you for your readership and your continued support.

BRUCE MacDONALD
Vice Admiral, JAGC, U.S. Navy

changes that made sense, including moving billets to set up Region Legal Service Office support units in Hawaii and Japan, among other similar moves, in order to address emergent and obvious needs. We have worked our other changes more slowly, during the second stage, to ensure the understanding, comfort and buy-in of our "stakeholders" - each of you, active and Reserve, leaders and members, alike.

A second bit of news is about a Navy Reserve business review called "Institutionalization of Operational Support of the Navy Reserve". This is a fast-track process driven by Fleet Forces Command in Norfolk toward a completion date in September. Its aim is to establish the changes, including statutory, regulatory, budgetary, and fiscal, needed for the Navy to more effectively take advantage of the Reserve Component's operational support mission.

This new effort recognizes the Navy Reserve lacks the statutory and regulatory underpinnings to perform the operational support mission properly because it has always been organized and structured as a training-centric strategic Reserve in preparation for a major national security need. Though the strategic mission remains, the operational support mission now stands as its equal in the rationale for and employment of a Navy Reserve.

CAPT Talson and I are committed, and stand ready, to assist your efforts. Let us hear from you and let us work together.

NORTON C. JOERG
Rear Admiral, JAGC, U.S. Navy

Year in Review: JAG Corps Accomplishments and the Way Ahead

By Jen Zeldis
Public Affairs Office

Innovation is changing the Navy legal world. While the JAG Corps' focus on providing solutions to legal issues involving military operations, organizations, and personnel has not changed, this year brought much progress towards the JAG Corps' vision of 2020. The following is a snapshot of some of the major accomplishments:

Military Justice Litigation Selection Boards

The strategic vision detailed in *JAG Corps 2020* recognizes military justice as one of the JAG Corps' core competencies. The JAG Corps established in 2007 a military justice litigation career track to develop litigators and judges who can effectively and efficiently handle complex cases, including national security cases, military commissions, and high-visibility courts-martial. In May, 2008, the JAG Corps held its second board to consider applicants for the military justice litigation qualification (MJLQ). This board, combined with the first MJLQ board held in October, 2007, has given the JAG Corps 13 designated military justice specialists and 16 designated military justice experts. There are currently 49 billets planned to be filled by specialists and experts.

Facilities

A new \$14.8 million state-of-the-art trial and appellate courthouse was completed this summer. The 48,000 square foot building will provide modern offices for 76 JAG Corps personnel, including the AJAG for Military Justice, the Chief Appellate Judge and the judiciary of the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, Codes 20, 40, 45, and 46. It includes a 1,500 square foot "smart" courtroom with the latest in courtroom security packages. Bremerton and Great Lakes facilities also completed total overhauls this year, and the Norfolk claims

building received a \$500,000 renovation. Finally, courthouse security improvements have been made to each NLSC courtroom, bringing the JAG Corps' overall security compliance to over 90 percent of CNLSC's goal.

Post-Graduate School

The JAG Corps is increasing attendance at post-graduate school, with the goal of giving every career judge advocate the opportunity to obtain an LL.M. There is no longer a post-graduate school selection board, and officers eligible for attendance now range from senior lieutenants to junior commanders.

The JAG Corps' annual quota at the Army JAG School has increased from 3 to 5, with an ultimate goal of 10. Both the 1201 (Military Law) and 1203 (International Law) P-Codes are available at the Army JAG School. VADM MacDonald explained at the recent JAG Training Symposium that Army JAG School graduates will be considered for key operational assignments along with all other LL.M. recipients.

The JAG Corps has also increased annual attendance quotas at civilian institutions from 14 to 16, with an ultimate goal of 19. Finally, the JAG Corps is reviewing the possibility of specialized post-graduate programs in intelligence law, information operations law, and national security law.

Aggressive Regional and National Recruiting Plans

Each NLSC command is assigned law schools in their geographical area for recruiting. The commands now are tracking candidates through the entire accessions process, from recruiting events to candidate commissioning. In the past three years, overall applications have increased 54 percent. Female applications are up from 21 percent to 30 percent, and diversity applications are up from 17 percent to 26 percent. As a result of the JAG Corps' efforts, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command provided an additional \$51,000 for recruiting in fiscal year 2008.

Year in Review continued page 6

What's next?

There are many programs and initiatives the JAG Corps is working towards over the next 12 months. Leadership has set out a vision and is looking for innovative ideas to continue to improve the Corps. Your ideas are essential to this process. Here are a few initiatives in the works.

Way Ahead: Work/Life Balance

Committed to life/work balance, the JAG Corps recently announced the first phase of a formal telecommuting program. Tailoring a larger Navy initiative to the needs of the JAG Corps, active duty and civilians in certain areas may telecommute up to two days each week. The

program will be phased-in throughout the JAG Corps in the coming months.

Way Ahead: Trial Defense Command Pilot

The JAG Corps continues to test the concept of a Defense Command by conducting pilot programs in the Southeast and EURSWA regions. Through key metrics, including CMTIS data and client and employee opinions, the JAG Corps will make a decision about the pilot program in the summer 2009.

Way Ahead: Active-Reserve Integration

The Reserve Component established three pillars for their practice: military jus-

tice litigation, legal assistance staff judge advocate work, and specialty work. With these three pillars, the Reserve Component will work on career paths, promotions, recruiting, and retention of their officers and enlisted members.

Way Ahead: Workspace Trainer

The legalman community has started developing a comprehensive and standardized training program called Workspace Trainer. This initiative will provide all of our legalmen with the opportunity to complete distance learning programs similar to the continuing paralegal education that paralegals in the civilian sector receive.

JAG Promoted to Vice Admiral

By Jen Zeldis
Public Affairs Office

The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) promoted the Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Navy to vice admiral during a ceremony in the Pentagon on August 4.

VADM Bruce MacDonald was joined by his wife, Karen, who pinned on his third star.

Before administering the oath of office, CNO ADM Gary Roughead noted that this was truly a “historic event,” and told VADM MacDonald that he could think of no better leader or mentor to be the first three-star JAG.

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act advanced the position of the JAG in the Navy, Army, and Air Force to the rank of vice admiral or lieutenant general. The legislation elevates the position’s stature giving the JAG greater access to service leaders.

VADM MacDonald’s career began in 1979 as main propul-

sion assistant and navigator for the USS Hepburn (FF 1055). He served in several other fleet positions before his selection for the Law Education Program in 1984. His JAG Corps career started in Naval Legal Service Office San Diego. He had subsequent tours aboard USS Independence (CV 62), United States Naval Forces Korea, executive officer for Naval Legal Service Office

Northwest, Trial Service Office West Detachment Bremerton, Commander 7th Fleet in Yokosuka, commanding officer of Naval Legal Service Office Northwest, Special Counsel to the Chief of Naval Operations and Commander, Naval Legal Service Command. In July 2006, MacDonald assumed his current position as Judge Advocate General of the Navy.

VADM MacDonald graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English. He received his juris doctorate from California Western School of Law. He also has a Master of Laws degree from

Harvard Law School. He is admitted to practice before the courts of the State of California and the United States District Court for the Southern District of California.



CNO ADM Gary Roughead administers the oath to VADM Bruce MacDonald, promoting him to a three-star. The top Navy uniformed lawyer now becomes a three-star billet.

Year in Review continued from page 5

Center for Naval Analysis study

This year, the JAG Corps completed the majority of the Center for Naval Analysis (CNA) functional review. CNA is highly respected within the Department of Defense for its ability to provide an objective and independent study on issues facing the Nation’s naval forces. The JAG Corps’ query to CNA was to determine, through use of detailed metrics and other means, the best force structure mixture and right end-strength to serve the Navy and Department of Defense.

CNA conducted the assessment in three stages. The first stage defined and cataloged the myriad services provided by each staff judge advocate, Region Legal Service Office, and Naval Legal Service Office around the world, as well as the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary, Appellate Judiciary, and OJAG staff. Next, CNA determined the optimal JAG Corps force structure and force mix. This assessment resulted in a list of the optimal number of JAG Corps members needed per location to accomplish the JAG Corps’ mission. Finally, from this point, CNA will develop a force structure trade-off matrix, which will permit the JAG Corps to correlate its overall manning requirements to validated missions.

Reachback to Civilian Experts

The JAG Corps hired several new civilian personnel this year. The JAG Corps depends on civilian continuity and expertise to provide reachback for legal questions from the Fleet. The following OJAG Codes have civilian legal subject matter experts: Code 10 (International/Operational Law) Deputy Division Director Mr. Joseph Baggett; Code 11 (Admiralty) Deputy Division Director Mr. Chris Spain; Code 13 (Administrative Law) Deputy Division Director Mr. Lawson “Bob” Almand; Code 14 (General Litigation) Deputy Division Director Mr. Grant Lattin; Code 15 (Claims and Tort Litigation) Deputy Division Director Mr. Hal Dronberger; and Code 16 (Legal Assistance) Deputy Division Director Mr. George Reilly.

Legalman Rating

All legalmen now have the opportunity to receive an Associate or Bachelor of Science degree in paralegal studies from Roger Williams University. After more than a year of working in conjunction with Roger Williams University and the ABA Standing Committee on Paralegals, the ABA approved Roger Williams’ Associateís Degree in Paralegal Studies. The Naval Justice School completed two more offerings of the new legalman accessions course, which provided 33 graduates with 10 ABA-approved credit hours toward their paralegal degrees.

My Life in Afghanistan

By LNI Richard R. Cocklin,
RLSO MIDLANT Branch office Brunswick

I still remember the day I volunteered for my tour. I called my wife Linda and told her that the billets were out and that I was thinking of going to Afghanistan. Needless to say, she was shocked. We had talked about taking an individual augmentee (IA) tour but the subject had drifted to the back of our minds after our last PCS and the diagnosis of our oldest son with autism. I told my wife that this would be the best time for me to do my IA tour because our sons were still too young to remember daddy being gone for 6 months. It was a good time in my career as well, and I knew it was the right thing to do. I wanted to do my part to support my fellow Sailors and Soldiers and I knew IAs were needed. So, my family and I made the choice and I sent that e-mail that would start me on the path to Afghanistan.

A short time later I received the call confirming my request. I would be training at Ft. Dix, N.J. I arrived at Ft. Dix on a sunny June day and it was hot! Little did I know that I would come close to heat exhaustion time and time again in those few glorious weeks in New Jersey. I went through training with approximately 20 other Sailors who would be going to the same command as me. We became a tight knit group from the start. We received almost every kind of training I could imagine, such as identifying IEDs, combat life-saving skills, going through the gas chamber (again!), and various convoy and patrol lanes. When I stepped on the plane bound for Kuwait and ultimately Afghanistan, I felt like I was prepared for my time and ready for anything.

We left the states from McGuire AFB. My group stayed one night in Kuwait and then boarded the plane for Bagram, Afghanistan. Most of that morning of our arrival is a complete blur.

After a few hours to clean up, we reported to the base operations building to find out where we would be working. Only about five Sailors ended up going to Kabul, while the rest of us were assigned to the operations building. I think having the other Sailors around helped me settle in and get used to the Army way of doing business. I was detailed as the senior paralegal with Task Force Cincinnatus. Task Force Cincinnatus is responsible for five provinces in northeastern Afghanistan. We had approximately 1,300 people within our task force and subordinate units. We were responsible for all base operations from force protection to land management. I worked in the Task

Force Staff Judge Advocate's (SJA's) office and handled most of the standard work of military justice.

I volunteered to assist a Military Police battalion with an administrative separation board. Our first board commenced at noon and went until 4 a.m! Even though it was a long board, I had a great time. It was interesting to see how the Army conducts boards and it was a learning experience for both the SJA and myself.

One new issue that had popped into our office was the Afghan Rule of Law Program (ARoLP). The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) runs and administers the program. We received training from USAID about their mission and what the military could do to help. We arranged meetings with local governors and coordinated training for Afghan attorneys and court personnel. It was a very interesting experience. We were trained about the Afghan justice system step by step. We were shown how an idea becomes law. The training opened my eyes to the state of the Afghan legal system. USAID taught us how much the Afghans needed our help.

As a legalman assigned to Base Operations, I did not perform security duties or go outside the wire for any reason. But, I repeatedly watched my fellow Soldiers and Sailors leave the wire in support of our mission and wanted to do my part. I took it upon myself to approach one of the Sergeant Majors and ask if there was room for me to go out to assist the Personal Security Detachment. Surprisingly, he accepted my request without hesitation and offered me a spot on the convoy that was scheduled for the next day!

When I showed up the next morning, all the Soldiers were laughing and joking like it was an everyday thing. That's when I realized something; it was an everyday thing for them. They left the wire every day and returned to tell about it. When we left for the mission that day, I will never forget the feeling I had when we locked and loaded our weapons. I prayed that all the training I had would kick in at the right time. Well, needless to say, we completed the mission and returned safely. I was happy to be back on base and even happier that I had helped out. So, after that, I volunteered two more times to go out. I was glad I was able to see the country and its people.

Doing my IA tour and being in Afghanistan has been a personal and professionally rewarding experience. I would recommend that anyone take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity to work with the local nationals, to learn about another culture, and to make a difference in the future of Afghanistan.



Honorable Donald Winter during his recent visit to Afghanistan with LNI Cocklin.

Guidelines: Political Activities

By CDR Sheri Lewis
Military Sealift Command 186

In order to prepare for the upcoming political elections, all active duty, retired, and Reserve members of the Armed Forces should be familiar with the contents of the Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 1344.10 of Feb. 19, 2008 (subject: Political Activities by Members of the Armed Forces). This directive marks a substantial change from the previous directive on political activities. The underlying policy remains, however, that any activity viewed as directly or indirectly associating DoD (or its components) with partisan political activity is prohibited.

Pursuant to the directive, the following is a partial list of permissible activities for military members on active duty:

- Register, vote, and express personal opinions on political candidates and issues;
- Make monetary contributions to a partisan political organization;
- Display a normal-size political bumper sticker on private vehicle;
- Join a partisan political club;
- Attend partisan political meetings, rallies, or fundraisers as a spectator when not in uniform and when no inference of official endorsement can reasonably be drawn; and,
- Promote and encourage others to exercise the right to vote.

The following is a partial list of impermissible activities for military members on active duty:

- Participate in partisan political fundraising activities, rallies, conventions, campaign management, or debates regardless of whether in uniform or whether an inference of endorsement can be drawn;
- Publish partisan political articles that solicit votes for or against a partisan political party, candidate, or cause;
- Work for a partisan political campaign or candidate;
- Speak before a partisan political gathering;
- Wear a military uniform at election events;
- March or ride in a partisan political parade;
- Display a large political sign, banner, or poster on a private vehicle;
- Display a partisan political sign visible to the public at one's residence on a military installation; and,
- Use government resources to further political activities.

While the general rule is that personnel on active duty may not stand for, or hold, political office, some exceptions exist, especially for reservists who are called to active duty. DoDD 1344.10 identifies those exceptions and identifies when they

apply to active duty, Reserve, and retired personnel. In addition, the directive provides guidance on the appropriate use of rank and military service affiliation (including photos thereof) in campaign literature, websites, videos, television, and conventional print advertisements.

Finally, the directive is a lawful general order; violations of which are punishable under Article 92 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

For civilian employees, the Hatch Act passed by Congress in 1939 and the Hatch Act Reform Amendments of 1993 permit most federal employees to take an active part in partisan political activities. Civilian personnel in DoD should look to the Deputy Secretary of Defense's Memorandum "Civilian Employees' Participation in Political Activities," dated May 31, 2006, for guidance on their political activities.

In general, the following is a partial list of permissible activities for civilian employees:

- Participate in political organization activities (e.g., join a political party, attend conventions);
- Play an active role in a political campaign (e.g., display a political sign, distribute campaign literature, canvas for votes);
- Participate in election-related activities (e.g., drive voters to a polling place); and,
- Participate in certain political fundraising activities (e.g., make financial contributions, attend fundraisers, and organize fundraisers hosted by others).

The following is a partial list of impermissible activities for civilian employees:

- Use official position to interfere with or affect the result of an election (e.g., use official title while participating in permitted political activity); and,
- Participate in certain fundraising activities (e.g., solicit or receive political contributions, host a fundraiser, allow the use of official title in relation to political fundraising).

The U.S. Office of Special Counsel's (OSC) Hatch Act Unit provides advisory opinions on political activity of civilian federal employees. OSC attorneys may be contacted by e-mail at hatchact@osc.gov or by phone at (202) 653-7143. OSC advisory opinions may be found online at www.osc.gov/hatchact.htm.

While both military members and civilian employees should give their full time and attention to the performance of their official duties, DoD's policy encourages all members of its workforce, military and civilian, to carry out the obligations of citizenship.

Any questions within the Navy JAG Corps community regarding these regulations governing political activities should be directed to Standards of Conduct and Government Ethics Branch, Administrative Law Division, OJAG (Code 13) at 703-614-7384 (DSN 224-8228).

NBLSA Observes 40th Anniversary, Welcomes Navy JAG Corps

*By MCI Linda Pepka,
Navy Recruiting District Michigan*

The Navy JAG Corps participated in the National Black Law Students Association (NBLSA) national convention hosted by the Mid-Atlantic Regional members at the Detroit Renaissance Center in March. This year marked the 40th anniversary of NBLSA and the association welcomed the Judge Advocate General of the Navy and members of his Corps to play a part in the celebration.

VADM Bruce MacDonald spoke before a crowd of past, present and future legal counselors from NBLSA during a Founders Day event.

“I want to recognize and thank many of those in this room who have surmounted great hurdles to make the American legal community what it is today,” said VADM MacDonald. “And to those of you training to join them, I ask you to prepare to become a driving force for legal and social change in our nation and the world.”

NBLSA affiliates were encouraged to meet with a panel of current lawyers from the JAG Corps and learn more about their important and diverse practice around the world. The JAG Corps lawyers explained the military’s legal mission, answered questions about legal careers, and discussed their personal legal impact on current events.

The JAG Corps also presented a panel discussion called “Assisting the World: Understanding the legal roles behind the headlines.” The dialogue centered on the military’s current legal mission and its impact on current events. Members of the panel included: former Commanding Officer, Naval Justice School, CAPT Charlotte Wise; Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General for Personnel, CAPT Robert Sanders; Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, CAPT Karen Gibbs; Fleet Judge Advocate, Second Fleet, CDR David Wilson; Staff Judge Advocate and General Counsel at the National Defense University, LCDR Gatha LaFaye Manns; Assistant Special Counsel to the Chief of Naval Operations, LCDR DeAndrea Fuller; Staff Judge Advocate for Training Support Center San Diego, LT Tahmika Jackson; and JAG aide, LCDR Edward Westbrook.

“Through the rule of law, we are giving countries a chance

to prevent conflict, to promote stability, and to drive legal and social change,” CAPT Sanders commented during the panel discussion.

NBLSA was founded in 1968 and, according to their website, is the largest student run organization in the United States with over 6,000 members. NBLSA’s mission is to develop talented and socially conscious lawyers.

“Its students demonstrate that they’re leaders and display qualities essential for becoming naval officers and JAGs,” said CAPT Sanders.

Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Michigan Officer Programs Recruiter, LT La’Donna Gordon attended the NBLSA conference. According to Gordon, it was great to see a diverse JAG Corps talking with today’s young law students and lawyers, explaining the wide range of opportunities the Navy offers its professionals.

She added that JAG participation in the Association’s convention honored one of the CNO’s top priorities of building diversity within all Navy career fields.

“Our community provides legal advice to commanders in the field and my belief is that our commanders need the best legal advice possible,” explained VADM MacDonald. “To achieve that, you need that advice to come from all different backgrounds - not only from different race and gender view points, but different educational and socioeconomic backgrounds as well.”

VADM MacDonald continued, “I call it the 360-degrees of advice to the commander. I think it really

helps when we have people [in the JAG Corps] from diverse backgrounds, cultures, experiences, and education providing different points of view to solve a problem - the issues around the problem; so when those commanders make their decisions, they are fully informed with all the facts and legal analysis.”

The event was a huge success for both the JAG Corps and for Commander Navy Recruiting Command (CNRC) who funded the JAG Corps’ participation.

“We conducted four senior officer appraisal interviews onsite. This was for three students and one practicing attorney. Within 72 hours, we had completed applications before the next JAG Corps accessions board,” said CAPT Sanders.

“Unprecedented” was the word that several CNRC staff members used to describe the JAG Corps’ participation and success in the 40th anniversary celebration for NBLSA.



NBLSA attendees: CDR David Wilson; LTJG Lauren Warren; LCDR Gatha LaFaye Manns; LCDR DeAndrea Fuller; RADM Bruce MacDonald; LT Tahmika Jackson; CAPT Charlotte Wise; CAPT Karen Gibbs; LT Mark Tilford; LT Edward Westbrook; and CAPT Robert Sanders.



The Thrill of the EURSWA Detachment

By *LT Kathryn Matt*
NLSO EURSWA Det Sigonella

I am the sole defense counsel and Officer in Charge of Naval Legal Service Office Europe and Southwest Asia (NLSO EURSWA) Detachment Sigonella in Sicily, Italy. With a large area of responsibility and potential clients spread across 10 countries in two continents, there are many opportunities for travel and adventure.

In my short time on board, I have already represented Sailors in Sicily, Sardinia, Germany, Bahrain, and in the middle of the Persian Gulf. Two of these cases were held on ships (one forward deployed at the time), two were held in combat zones, and one was on an Army base. There was really nothing standard or business as usual about any of them, or, as it turns out, about practicing as a remote defense counsel in general. While the visits to Stuttgart, Germany (during an international food and beer festival) or the visits to Naples, Italy (a short ferry ride from the beautiful island of Capri) were perhaps the most enjoyable trips I have had in the call to duty, an eight-day visit to the Middle East was by far my most adventurous.

I was already heading to Bahrain for an administrative separation board, when my command received a short fuse request for a defense counsel. I was detailed to another administrative board aboard USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), which was at sea in the Persian Gulf. Thinking that this would be pretty cool, and also (of course) wanting to be cooperative and accommodating, I agreed to merge the trips into one and fly out to the carrier after the Bahrain case was over. As a salty lieutenant with three whole years in the Navy, who had already done a stint as an individual augmentee (IA), I figured hopping a military air flight in Bahrain and getting CODed (carrier on-board delivery) out to a carrier in the Gulf would be a breeze. I mean, come on, I had already done a two-week lawyer at sea stint on the pier in San Diego!

Through a series of no less than 40 e-mails in three days, arrangements were made for me to get on a list at the mil-air terminal in Bahrain and hope that I was deemed important enough to warrant a coveted seat on the C-2 that would be flying out to the ship that day. While I was meeting my client in Bahrain and preparing for his board, our Bahrain legalman worked furiously to confirm flight arrangements to the ship, determine the basis of the second board, and track down the client and her evidence. With a vague idea where I was going and what I was supposed to do when I got there, I arrived at the mil-air terminal the morn-

ing after the first board to catch my flight out to the ship. At this point, I still had no idea how I was to get back home. The ship was due to dock in Jebel Ali, UAE, two days after my arrival and the consensus seemed to be to drop me off there. I would take a taxi to the Dubai airport, and fly from Dubai to either Bahrain or Sicily. With no actual plan in place yet, an eleventh hour e-mail from Bahrain to ENTERPRISE went something like this, “just trying to make sure LT Matt doesn’t end up at a bus stop in Saudi Arabia looking for a way back to Italy...”

Shortly after arrival at the mil-air terminal in Bahrain, I began to have the feeling that this flight was going to be a bit different than any others I had taken. I was given a briefing on C-2 safety, carrier landings, how to put on the life jacket and safety helmet, and how to work the emergency flares. (Hmmm, emergency flares? Commercial Airlines do a safety briefing and show you where the life jacket is, but they do not make you put it on or show you how to ignite flares.) Although I had the distinct pleasure of taking some helicopter rides with the Marines during my IA in Djibouti, I was somehow a bit more concerned about my life expectancy at this point. The second indication that this was going to be a different kind of flight came when we walked in the back of the plane, sat in rear-facing seats, and strapped ourselves in with five-point harnesses.

The takeoff was easy enough, though the ride was hot and dark, as there were no windows. After an hour or so, we prepared to land on the deck of the aircraft carrier. This is when the plane ride began to resemble the Gravitron ride at the Youth Fair. (Think the round ride where you stand against the wall and it spins really fast.) We all braced ourselves for landing. As we hit the deck hard, there was an odd noise, we did not stop, and we immediately took off again, having missed the wire. (This is when I not only wanted to get off the ride, but I also wanted my money back.) My breakfast tried to make an encore the whole time we circled back around and re-approached. Thankfully, we caught the wire this time, and the ride came to an end. Not wanting to look like less than the war machine of an officer that I am, I did my best to pretend that I was fine and steadied myself to stay upright on the way off the plane.

As soon as I got off the plane, I felt like a new person. Looking around, I saw fighter planes, helicopters, and dozens of air operations personnel on the deck in their different colored shirts. Beyond the deck, I saw nothing but water in all directions, felt the hot sun and strong wind, and smelled the mix of salt water and jet fuel. Pretty awesome. Making it down below, I was fetched by a legalman and shown to the legal office and my visi-



NLSO EURSWA's LT Kathryn Matt, LT Jonathan Dowling, and LT Sara de Groot. The three defense counsels were in Weinheim, Germany, for a criminal law course.

tor's quarters. The ASJA then took me on a tour of the ship, with the stated hope that I would then be able to move about on my own without an escort. (Talk about optimism.) As I found out during the course of my stay, they were not kidding when they told me to write down the tack numbers of my desired destinations.

Thankfully, my initial tour included the "top ten" sights on the carrier. After seeing the bridge, combat information center, and air control tower, among others, we went to air operations and found a shooter who was willing to bring us up to watch flight operations. Back on the flight deck, suited up with a fluorescent jacket, ear and eye protection, we climbed down into the catwalk, next to the airman who launches the catapult. Given the signal to duck and hold on to something, an F-18 was launched from a catapult just a few feet away, and as I looked up, the wing of the F-18 went right over my head. The vibrations were enough to knock you right on your can if you were not holding onto the railing. After the wing was safely clear of our heads, we stood up and watched the jet climb up and away from the deck and leave two trails of purple haze in its wake. At this point, I totally lost the notion that I had already been around some and seen things in the Navy. This was hands-down the absolute coolest

thing I have witnessed in the Navy.

After my all too brief "Top Gun" moment, I met with my client, interviewed her witnesses, and prepared the evidence packages for her board. The next day, after the administrative board was successfully completed, I was invited to attend movie night in the wardroom, complete with near beer and popcorn. After a false alarm man overboard situation, I spent my last night on the "Big E." The following morning, we arrived in Jebel Ali. I was thrilled to find out that the ship had already arranged my transportation to the Dubai airport and a flight back to Bahrain, where I was to spend a couple of days until I could catch the next available flight to Sicily. With two happy clients and some legitimate sea stories, I felt my work there was done.

Although it was a very hectic eight days of traveling through four countries and taking eight different flights, I trusted my superiors and colleagues not to strand me in Saudi Arabia or let me get jet washed off the side of the carrier. I had a great, memorable, and humbling time. This is precisely why I joined the JAG Corps. Being a remote defense counsel gives you a unique opportunity to really get out of the office and out to the fleet. In addition to doing an IA, this is one of the best ways to see what the Navy is all about and how we really work.

RECRUITING FOR A DIVERSE CORPS

By LCDR Jennie Goldsmith
Pers-4416

Over the last year, recruiting efforts for the Navy JAG Corps have changed tremendously. In recent years, we had noticed a decline in applications, and a common complaint was that the application and commissioning process was too complicated, too long, and too cumbersome. The time was also right to align JAG Corps recruiting efforts with a Navy-wide goal to increase diversity among our applicants. So, over the past year, we've made significant changes to the way that we recruit law students and to the way that they apply to the JAG Corps. In short, we're pursuing a much more aggressive national recruiting effort that seeks out the most talented law students from across the country, including from schools that have not traditionally been "feeder schools" for us. Secondly, we've streamlined the application process, allowing students to apply directly to the JAG Corps for a selection board rather than through their local recruiter. These ambitious changes already appear to be paying dividends. For our first two accession boards of fiscal year 2008, we have already received 238 law student applications and are on track to double the number of applications in FY08 compared to FY07. This is a great achievement, allowing our accession boards to have more choice and to recommend the best possible applicants for the future of the JAG Corps.

JAGC Recruiting Program in FY07

Traditional JAG Corps recruiting was informal and decentralized.

Individual Naval Legal Service Commands typically focused on schools near their headquarters or detachments. Occasionally, officers would request no-cost travel orders when combining a recruiting visit with a trip home. Funds were limited, approximately \$15,000 a year, and PERS 4416 usually responded to travel fund requests on a "first come, first served" basis. We didn't really have metrics that gave us any feedback on the success of particular recruiting efforts.

In April 2007, VADM Bruce MacDonald signed JAGINST 1150.1B: Recruitment, Internships and Selection for the JAG Corps Student and Direct Appointment Program. This

"No one can communicate the reality of being a JAG Corps officer better than you."

instruction established a much more formal and comprehensive recruiting program. Under the instruction, commanding officers (COs) serve as recruiting officers for their area of responsibility (AOR). COs designate assistant recruiting officers within their commands to help conduct law school visits, attend diversity events, and participate in job fairs. COs now submit an annual recruiting plan for their AOR, which becomes a part of the JAG Corps combined recruiting plan at the national level. COs also are much more engaged in campus visits and in the interviewing of all applicants. Finally, the JAG Corps now selects an annual "Recruiter of the Year," the judge advocate in paygrade O-4 or below who did the most during the preceding year to support the JAG

Corps recruiting program.

Following the new instruction, NLSC commands established ambitious, aggressive recruiting plans to strategically target law schools in their AOR. Some commands visited every law school in their AOR. Other commands, like Region Legal Service Office Midwest (RLSO MW), Naval Legal Service Office Southwest (NLSO SW), and Region Legal Service Office Southwest (RLSO SW) had enormous AORs that required strategic choices about which schools to visit and how to combine school visits for efficient and economical travel.

Ultimately, the JAG Corps received additional funding to keep up with the ambitious recruiting plans. The Navy Recruiting Command was so impressed with our efforts to bring more diverse applicants into our pool that they gave us \$51,000 for recruiting at diversity schools and diversity events.

Lessons Learned

New lessons emerged during summer visits. In August 2007, we directed a large-scale recruiting effort to the National Bar Association (NBA) Annual Convention, in Atlanta, Georgia. The NBA is the historic and influential African-American bar association, founded in 1925. Our delegation to the event included RADM James Houck, CAPT (Ret.) Charlotte Wise, and LCDR DeAndrea Fuller. We also made contact with naval Reserve judge advocates who attended the convention and were very involved in the NBA.

CAPT (Ret.) Wise provided the first substantive after-action report under the new recruiting program. Her report, among other things, resulted

in our “recruiting kit checklist.” The recruiting checklist reminds all JAG Corps recruiters to bring the tools that will help them with their target audience such as DVDs and brochures. She also made numerous suggestions for that specific event that will be incorporated into planning for summer 2008.

Navy JAG Corps recruiters also attended the Vault Legal Diversity Career Fairs in Chicago, New York, and San Francisco. For those fairs, we asked local Navy officer recruiters to assist with booth backdrops, table cloths, and additional Navy recruiting goodies. In some cases, the officer recruiters worked at the booths with our JAG Corps recruiters to answer questions about their part of the commissioning process e.g., (physical, security investigation, and physical fitness test).

With the start of the school year last fall, judge advocates began visiting schools all across the country. Each command had a different approach. Many commands worked together and provided a combined plan. That was

particularly impressive in the Southeast where a pilot-project changed AORs and staff in the middle of the recruiting season. Every command sent a combination of senior and junior officers out on visits. RLSO MW creatively used reservists in many areas to cover their sprawling AOR. Commanding officers began to pull Law Education Program students and judge advocates attending postgraduate (PG) school for recruiting. Many commands made great contacts at schools we did not normally visit. For example, RLSO Southeast visited all the ABA accredited schools in Georgia, and NLSO SW made significant new contacts at the University of California, Berkeley, resulting in a unique invitation to a school diversity event.

NLSO Northwest (NW) took a unique approach to their law school visits. Instead of treating on-campus interviews as information interviews, they treated them as screening interviews. Impressive candidates were invited back to the command for additional interviews with more senior judge advocates before their appraisal

interview with the Commanding Officer CAPT Michael Boock. Using this approach CAPT Boock had access to more information about each applicant for his appraisal. If our goal is to recruit, like the rest of the legal profession, as much as possible, then the NLSO NW approach may be the gold standard in the years ahead.

Vision

Expect at least two major changes to the Navy JAG Corps recruiting program in the next year. First, commanding officers will become increasingly involved with new recruits. CNLSC vision is that commanding officers “own” recruits from “street to fleet.” This means numerous personal contacts at each stage of the recruiting and application process. Increased personal contact with recruits will encourage them to pursue a commission, foster a sense of “belonging” while accessions are still in school, and reduce attrition. Accessions will then become JAG Corps recruiters while still in law school, bolstering additional recruiting efforts at that school.

Recruiting continued page 14

Karen Palting interviews LT Ayana Pitterson at the Naval Justice School for the JAG Corps “Behind the Scenes” video.

Recruiting continued from page 13

Secondly, a new online application and regular reports will allow for better recruiting metrics. We must track and evaluate our recruiting efforts and our success. A new recruiting module will make it easier to track a contact from a law school visit or career fair through the application process, including whether the contact applies, is professionally recommended, and ultimately accepts a commission.

Everyone is a Recruiter

Every judge advocate is an essential part of our recruiting effort, and the program would not work without your impressive efforts and support. Remember every judge advocate is a walking billboard for the Navy JAG Corps, especially when interacting with a potential applicant or an “influencer,” e.g. parent, grandparent, sibling, educator, or veteran. No one can communicate the reality of being a JAG Corps officer better than

you. Individual contacts are the most important part of our recruiting program. On their application for admission, students are asked about their motivation for applying. Many students check “word of mouth,” which simply means they talked to a judge advocate or were influenced by someone that knew a judge advocate.

Always be prepared to talk about your practice, your experiences, your goals, and your commitment to serve. Additionally, be familiar with the application process, but be aware there are often changes in an effort to continually improve the process.

Finally, seek out additional guidance such as

CNLSC’s FY09 JAG Corps Annual Recruiting Guidance, dated Aug 28, 2008, available from Code 61 or PERS 4416 and the PERS 4416 People Talk discussing the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, a great incentive to attract law students with federal debt to military service.



Karen Palting interviews LT Jentso Hwang at the Naval Justice School for the JAG Corps “Behind the Scenes” video.

www.jag.navy.mil/careers

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TOP REASONS TO JOIN THE NAVY JAG

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Practice What You've Learned

- o **Enjoy immediate responsibility** - Unlike many young lawyers in private firms who spend their early years conducting research, Navy judge advocates begin litigating cases and counseling clients right away.
- o **Work independently** - Apply your own initiative as you manage your own cases and obtain real-world legal experience from the moment you enter the JAG Corps.
- o **Practice worldwide** - Take one bar examination and get the chance to practice around the globe.

Find Purpose
Live an Adventure
Be a Lawyer, Be a Naval Officer
Enjoy Life
Get Covered
Keep Growing

A User's Guide to E-Mail

Part 1 Matching the message to the medium and when not to press send



E-mail is a modern business tool and fact of life across the military. This provides entertaining and educational perspective provides some rules for communicating through e-mail.

*By Col Gary Brown, USAF
Senior Legal Advisor, Air Force Inspector General*

There are a lot of good things about e-mail. After researching for this article, that statement is more to convince author than audience. You, astute reader, already know the many advantages of e-mail. Instant communication! Accessibility 24 hours a day! Paperless offices! Of course, we all want our bosses to be able to reach us *all the time*. And the paperless office might actually happen, someday.

Still, there are some things that can make e-mail use less useful, or even downright painful, for everyone involved. This is the first of a series of four articles that attempt to encourage effective and efficient e-mail use by pointing out some recurring foibles. Senders, being the most critical part of the e-mail equation, are addressed first. The second part of the series addresses those who receive e-mail; they play a surprisingly important role in determining how e-mail is used in the military.

This article is an attempt to introduce or remind the reader to the problems inherent in sending e-mail. In many ways, e-mail is no different than good communication by other means. It is my sincere hope that this article will help readers to avoid some of the most common mistakes or at least prevent them from copying me on their embarrassing missives.

E-mail has become so ubiquitous that it seems not to occur to some people that it is not always the best medium for a particular message. If you are one of those people, brace yourself—sometimes, it's better not to use e-mail. When, you ask? There are at least three instances when using e-mail is inappropriate: to convey bad news, when you're angry, and when several exchanges will be required.

There is never a good time to send bad news by e-mail. Bad news in this context is anything that isn't positive. It might be a death in the family, a missed promotion, or criticism of a work product. The problem with using e-mail is that once it's sent, the writer has no control over it. The receiver might already be having a terrible day, causing the negative news to be magnified. Sometimes using e-mail is just a human relations foul. Radio Shack tried to dismiss employees electronically, firing 400 staffers by e-mail in 2006. The "unfortunately, your position is one that has been eliminated" message netted Radio Shack position number 27 on CNNMoney.com's 2006 list of "101 Dumbest Moments in Business."

Angry senders have provided some of the most entertaining moments in e-mail's short history. The most amusing examples

can't be quoted here, as they are too profane. That introduces another level to the argument. If you want to go on a tirade you must be face-to-face. The red-faced, vein-popping, spittle-flecked administration of a "wall-to-wall counseling" is simply more effective than an angry e-mail. Can you imagine General Patton slapping down a subordinate's dumb idea with a tersely worded e-mail? E-mail simply can't compete with a good, old-fashioned trip behind the paint lockers. That's not to say there aren't exceptions provided by some great angry written communications.

So, if you're angry, just don't send an e-mail. If you must, type it and let someone with a cool demeanor who is unbiased about the issue that has you feeling "enthusiastic" review the message before you hit SEND. If no one is available to review the message, just type it and wait. Many times you'll decide not to send the e-mail at all, or perhaps you'll tone it down.

Sometimes it's possible to tell up front that an issue is going to require a back-and-forth exchange to resolve. You might not have all the information you need to ask the right question, or you may be attempting to answer a query that requires additional, complex information to complete. A telephone call, or a personal meeting, might be a better option than embarking on an extended e-mail exchange.

Now that we've covered some general rules regarding when e-mail is not the best medium, let's discuss a couple of other common e-mail gaffes.

We all receive e-mails that are mildly amusing, very amusing, inspirational, or informative. The best advice when you receive these is usually to enjoy them and delete them—or skip right to the delete step if you don't find them enjoyable. Many people will not want to receive your forwarded jokes. They may not be touched by your forwarded inspiring tales. And, their behavior will probably not change in response to forwarded information. Some experts consider the forwarding of a virus warning to be a virus itself, wasting time and clogging networks with pointless, and frequently false, information.

Unnecessarily replying to e-mails is generally only a problem when the dreaded "reply to all" button is used. Whenever you think of turning that nuclear key, check each and every addressee before you hit send. You want to ensure they all need to receive the reply, and that you aren't sending it to someone who should not receive it. You could end up sending negotiating strategy or other inside information to an outside party inadvertently. If information is sensitive, it is probably better to use the "forward" button and re-enter all the addresses to ensure you don't overlook one.

Next in the series: Part 2 Make a Better Message

JAG Leaders

Leadership is one of those things that can make or break an organization. It's a subtle quality, at times hard to define, but you know it when you see it in action. There are a few qualities that all of the leaders in the JAG Corps seem to possess: commitment to the legal community, initiative, integrity, perseverance, and professionalism. In the JAG Corps many fit the above leadership description. The following regular column introduces a few of the JAG Corps leaders from Naval Legal Service Command.

LN1 Tricia Elders

The rich environment at Region Legal Service Office Midlant offers many opportunities for future leaders. LN1 Tricia Elders is one of the people in particular who stands out amongst the crowd at this very large command. Onboard since February 2007, LN1 Elders is currently on active duty leading the way within the international zone in Iraq as an IA. As the sole enlisted staff member supporting 14 joint forces attorneys (including Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Australian Navy) and one Iraqi translator, she is demonstrating tremendous skill and ability in managing such a huge responsibility. To say she is busy would truly be a great understatement. LN1 Elders works special time-sensitive projects for the SJA, in addition to the many day-to-day tasks for anyone who needs

her help. She also serves as the Information Systems Officer, Property Books Manager and Security Officer. What's more, her duties include leaving the safety of the Embassy to drive personnel and officials to and from other Forward Operating Bases in the International Zone. LN1

Elders is a star in the legalman community, setting a shining example of the fantastic things our legalmen are doing overseas in the war against terror.



Would you like to recognize an exceptional shipmate? Submit your command's outstanding member and photos to natalie.morehouse@navy.mil

Dwain Alexander II



At the Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO) Midlant, the officers, enlisted, and civilians go above and beyond every day to meet the legal needs of the Navy's busiest homeport - Naval Station Norfolk. Dwain Alexander is just one member of the command that stands out.

Alexander, a civilian legal assistance attorney and Navy Reserve commander, was awarded the Consumer Advocate of the Year Award by the National Association of Consumer Advocates for his legal assistance efforts on behalf of local Sailors harmed by predatory businesses and lending practices. Alexander works with Virginia regulatory agencies, alerting them to trends and practices of automobile dealers that hurt service members and violate the law. Most importantly, Alexander is an exceptional mentor to new judge advocates reporting to NLSO Midlant by providing them with much needed insight and expertise in consumer advocacy.

“All Rise” Again Heard in Everett Courtroom

Never let a good thing go to waste. This old saying should be especially true at Naval Station (NAVSTA) Everett, which has long been hailed as the United States Navy’s most modern facility. Located on the first floor of the base administration building, NAVSTA Everett courtroom is also one of the largest and most conveniently located in the Navy. Nonetheless, recent security concerns across the Navy led to new requirements for Navy courtrooms to meet updated standards. Until recently, the courtroom at Naval Base Kitsap Bremerton was the only courtroom in the region that met those standards. In fact, over the past three years, Bremerton has been the exclusive site for the hundred-plus courts-martial for commands in Navy Region Northwest. Commands in Everett or Whidbey Island are required to ensure the presence of the accused, witnesses, bailiffs, brig chasers and members for each court-martial. The trip to Bremerton, despite its scenic ferry ride, is not the most efficient use of litigation time or resources.

In January 2008, the Everett court-



LT Eric Pedersen, LT Chris Jeter, and CDR Kevin O’Neil during a Courts-Martial.

room echoed once again with the bailiffs “All Rise”, calling to order the first general court-martial in the Everett courtroom. LNC Mike Winters, the Region Legal Service Office Northwest (RLSO NW) Courtroom security officer, and his team worked long and hard to bring the Everett courtroom into compliance with all security requirements.

“The purpose of courthouse security is to ensure a secure environment for all participants. We don’t want anyone – counsel, witnesses, accused, spectators, judge or members, to be intimidated or even worse, attacked, during a court-martial proceeding,” said LNC Winters.

“Depending on the type of case, the accused may be facing significant con-

finement and loss of a career if convicted, and victims and their families are seeking justice. The stakes are high, so emotions can run high in a court-martial,” said LT Eric Pedersen, senior trial counsel at RLSO NW.

The Everett courtroom does not yet offer the convenience of Bremerton’s technological amenities such as the SMART courtroom system. However, the Everett courtroom does offer a very large, contemporary courtroom with spacious seating for members and sufficient room, allowing greater freedom of movement. The courtroom also offers the benefit of convenience to NAVSTA Everett, a command that supports approximately 6,000 Sailors, serving USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN, two destroyers, three frigates and two Coast Guard cutters. In addition, the Everett courtroom is now available for use by Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, a command that supports approximately 21 aviation squadrons and 20 tenant commands.

Originally printed in the Northwest Navigator

Soldiers become American citizens in Africa

Seven Soldiers supporting the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) mission became U.S. citizens during a Military Naturalization Ceremony at the U.S. Embassy in March.

LN2(AW) Amanda Rhodes put together a naturalization ceremony for personnel assigned to CJTF-HOA in Djibouti. She recently transferred from NLSO Central to JTF HOA. LN2 Rhodes coordinated with the Rome Naturalization Office and their officer in Nairobi. She thought it would be an extra special ceremony for the Soldiers to actually have their ceremony in Djibouti, but also on the grounds of the U.S. Embassy. The Ambassador, W. Stuart Symington was the keynote speaker and the CJTF-HOA Commander, RDML Phillip Greene along with the Command Master Chief were in attendance. The seven candidates for naturalization were from Micronesia, Canada, Kenya, Philippines and Palau.



Soldiers of CTJF-HOA say the Oath of Allegiance during a Military Naturalization Ceremony at the U.S. Embassy.



The Verdict: It Is the Navy's Premier Courtroom

By Denise Calabria
Naval Facilities Engineering Command

A ribbon-cutting ceremony held July 15 formally introduced newly-renovated Building 58 on the historic Washington Navy Yard. Built in 1859, the structure initially served as a Marines barracks and then, in the 1980's, was converted to a Marine museum. Yet, despite its proud past, Building 58 was destined for a bright future after being transformed into a state-of-the-art center for military justice.

In September 2006, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Washington awarded a \$14.5 million design/build contract to Whiting-Turner Contracting Co., headquartered in Baltimore, for the complete renovation of Building 58. The company was charged with providing a first-class courtroom for judicial proceedings and work spaces for members of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (OJAG). The first case to be heard in the new courtroom was Aug. 5.

Facility requirements included both public and restricted entry; a courtroom facility with full audio/visual capability, offices, deliberation room, witness holding area, judicial proceedings support spaces, file storage, restrooms, shower

and locker room, and security and life safety systems housed throughout more than 48,000 square feet. Prior to the renovation, the building was completely gutted so only the historic, brick shell remained.

"This is the first building that incorporates the progressive-collapse system that came out after the terrorist attacks of 9-11, wherein if a truck were to explode outside the building, it would not collapse like a pancake," said Igor Boras, NAVFAC Washington Project Manager Engineer.

The progressive-collapse system is an internal stabilization technique designed to enhance structural integrity should a portion of an edifice be compromised.

Naturally, the customer due to occupy the facility is very pleased with the renovation.

"This building has exceeded our expectations," said LCDR Ryan Davis, Facilities Officer, OJAG. "It's always hard to pick up and move people who were happy to stay where they were. But once you start going through the process, see the project develop, and see all the effort and the quality, you realize this definitely is the premier courtroom in the Navy now," he said. "It definitely raised the bar for the JAG Corps."

"I am happy that we all worked together and accomplished what we were to do for the Navy," said Boras.

RLSO NW Show They Care

By LT Darcy Utter
RLSO NW

On June 20th, RLSO NW participated in the 15th Annual United Way Day of Caring. The United Way of Kitsap County partnered with over 400 volunteers from non-profit companies, local businesses, and the Navy to provide services to those in need at 37 different sites in Kitsap County.

Many members at RLSO NW in Bremerton participated in the event, including all of the officers, the CO and XO, and two law school summer interns assigned to RLSO NW. Involvement was not just limited to the Bremerton office; legalmen from the Branch Office in Everett traveled via the ferry to lend a hand at the event as well. Throughout the day, they did landscaping, painting, and construction projects at a local preschool as well as several painting projects at the local YWCA and a local shelter for victims of domestic violence.



James Hanika, LT Aaron Riggio, LN1 Nichoelle Smith, CDR Shelby Hladon, LTJG Justin Pasay, LT Darcy Utter, LT Eric Pedersen, LCDR James Hoffman, and LT Chad Temple.

Newest Reserve Legalmen Ready to Serve

By MCI Harrold Henck

Naval Justice School Public Affairs

The Navy Reserve Component's newest legalmen, students of Class 08010 Phase III, recently completed their training and graduated from the Naval Justice School in Newport, R.I.

Offered each spring, the Reserve Legalman Accession Course is an intensive six-week program that offers fast-pace training in multiple areas of civil law and military justice. Reserve students, all of whom are converting from other rates, engage in hands-on scenarios ranging from general legal assistance to criminal investigations and courts-martial.

"The training includes lessons in Navy legal, administrative, and clerical functions, as well as participation in practical applications," according to LNC Edward Crews who is the Reserve Legalman Course Coordinator. "The goal is to adequately prepare reservists to work alongside their active counterparts should they be mobilized or volunteer."

Many reservists converting to legalman possess a diversity of skills not often found in the active duty. The most recent Reserve class included paralegals from a variety of professions including banking, immigration,

civil and criminal law.

LN2 Melissa Tidmore, a paralegal with the US Attorney's Office in San Antonio, Texas, explained the quality of training she received. "I found the instructors to be tough but caring. Our competency is a reflection on their instruction so they were very thorough. They really wanted us prepared to assume our duties in the Fleet."

To accommodate reservist's traditional two-week training schedule, students have the option of attending all six-weeks at once, or to break the training into three phases of two weeks annually. This year, twenty-seven reservists attended all or part of the school.

Only those who complete all three phases are considered fully trained legalman. Until then, converting legalman perform "in rate training" with local Reserve units and pursue distance learning opportunities via the Naval Justice School and the Naval Education and Training Command.

Everyday the integration between the active and Reserve becomes

greater and more evident. Within the legalman rate this fusion is even closer. As one of the Navy's smaller communities, the needs of the Reserve to augment the active duty are many and varied.

Across the country and around the world, Reserve legalman are serving alongside their active colleagues. Although most are working in Naval and Region Legal Service Offices at home and abroad, a growing number of Reserve legalman are fulfilling individual augmentee billets in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, and the Horn of Africa. This expanding role requires the meticulous preparation that reservists are receiving at Naval Justice School.



Students from Reserve Legalman Accession Class 08010 attend class in the Naval Justice School.



Students from Reserve Legalman Accession Class outside Naval Justice School in Newport, R.I. at the start of the six-week course.

NLSO Civilian Helps Sailors Deal with Legal Issues

By Jesse Leon Guerrero
Pacific Navigator

If you're looking for help filing your taxes, declaring an affidavit, clearing up a passport issue or just need to talk to someone about the law, Ms. Antonette Babauta is probably the first person you should call. Babauta, better known as "Toni" to her friends and clients, isn't a lawyer, but she does act as a liaison for Sailors and their family members when they meet the Naval Legal Service Office's (NLSO) attorneys at U.S. Naval Base Guam.

"I love helping people," said Babauta. Her job isn't always easy because her duties also include processing travel claims for the staff, assisting with budget plans, and maintaining the office.

"I just do what I have to do, whether I'm required to do it or not," said Babauta, whose official title is legal assistant.

"She's the foundation of our operations," said LCDR John Mills of NLSO. Mills explained Babauta keeps the staff's morale high and passes

her corporate knowledge on from one judge advocate general officer to the next as they get stationed on Guam. Babauta said a big reason why she has been able to contribute so much is because she's been employed or involved with NLSO in one way or another since 1989. That kind of continuity allows her to give a wide range of advice to the attorneys concerning Guam and the Navy's laws and policies.

Every year Babauta directly assists Sailors in NLSO's Tax Center. Babauta manages the operation with the help of volunteers. She also sits with clients personally, goes through their financial situation and instructs them on what they need to know. It's a dynamic environment because of the interaction and the nature of tax law.

All of these responsibilities and the extra work she puts in is worth the effort and occasional stress. Babauta explained that legal and tax issues have a big impact on people's lives and they often just need some guidance to get through it. In the end, when she sees that a family received needed legal advice, it gives her a sense of deep satisfaction.



Antonette Babauta offers tax assistance to a local Sailor.

Washington State Bar Association

By LT Alan Fowler
NLSO NW, Everett

LT Alan Fowler, LT James Head, and LT Gregory Morison of Navy Legal Service Office Northwest were sworn into the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) by Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander pursuant to Admission to Practice Rule 8(g) (APR 8(g)).

APR 8(g) grants full-time, active-duty military lawyers who are currently stationed in Washington with a limited license to practice law in Washington's civilian courts. To be certified, military lawyers must complete training in Washington state law in the traditional legal assistance areas, such as consumer law and domestic relations, as well as Washington State Bar ethical rules.

APR 8(g) is a product of the collaborative efforts of the WSBA Legal Services to the Armed Forces Committee, in the Puget Sound region. APR 8(g) is



LT Alan Fowler, LT James Head, and LT Gregory Morison of Navy Legal Service Office Northwest sworn into the Washington State Bar Association by Washington State Supreme Court Chief Justice Gerry Alexander.

intended to provide greater access to justice and legal services for junior enlisted personnel and their dependents in non-criminal matters.

APR 8(g) effectively expands the legal assistance services to junior military personnel in Washington, and it helps relieve the burden on local volunteer legal service programs.

RLSO Japan's Wardroom visits Iwo Jima

By CAPT Stu Belt
RLSO Japan

On May 30, a cadre of judge advocates from RLSO Japan stood on the shores of Iwo Jima. In a two hour flight from Atsugi Japan, the RLSO Japan Wardroom traveled via military air as part of the region professional military education program. Iwo Jima is not open to the public and is currently used as a carrier landing practice site for the forward deployed carrier air wing.



"Traveling to Iwo Jima was one of the highlights of my naval career," said LT Justin McEwen. The island had a way of crystallizing my understanding of our Navy core values; there was truly a feeling a solemn reverence for those who were so brave and committed to the cause of freedom. One thing in particular that stood out was the untouched history of Iwo Jima. It was so easy to reach out and touch the relics of the battle. Helmets, gas masks, tanks and old sixty caliber machine guns were readily within reach. Seeing these things really brought the history alive."



The RLSO Japan wardroom members were given a tour that included a trip to the invasion beach, a climb of Mount Suribachi, and entrance into command caves.

The ground battle of Iwo Jima was fought between Feb. 19 and March 26, 1945. In that period of more than 35 days, more than 27,000 men from both sides were killed in action. The U.S. suffered 6,800 casualties. Nearly 20,000 military members were wounded or missing on the U.S. side alone.



"The trip gave me a much better appreciation for what soldiers during WWII went through," said LT Mike Torrissi. Every single one of those guys on that island went through more adversity in a day than most people face in their lifetimes."

A trip to Iwo Jima was a once in a lifetime experience for the folks from RLSO Japan. It is truly a hallowed battlefield and we were honored beyond words to be there.

RLSO Japan Wardroom in Iwo Jima: LT Beth Kontny; LT Justin McEwen; CAPT Stu Belt; LT Mike Torrissi; CDR Kevin Golden; and CDR Bradley Cordts.

Call for Papers for the 2009 Lieber Society

The Lieber Society, an interest group of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), bestows a prize each year for an exceptional writing that enhances understanding of the law of war by a person serving in the regular or Reserve armed forces of any nation.

Papers for the 2009 competition must be received

no later than Friday, Jan. 2, 2009.

All submissions must contain the following data on the author of the paper: full name and rank or rating, if any; current postal and e-mail addresses; current telephone and fax numbers.

For more information visit:
www.asil.org/aboutasil/awardsmilitary

JAG Corps Revamps Career Website

By **Natalie Morehouse**
Public Affairs Office

The Navy JAG Corps recently unveiled a new career website, www.jag.navy.mil/careers, designed to inform potential candidates about the JAG Corps and to explain the application process.

“Our website is important because every applicant starts their application there and many people go to the website first for information,” said LCDR Jennie Goldsmith, the JAG Corps accessions and recruiting detailer. “We wanted the website to be current, useful, and provide information about what the JAG Corps is all about. Feedback so far has been incredibly positive.”

The website features career path information, a map of duty locations, detailed instructions on how to apply as well as many other important features needed by potential applicants.

“For the JAG Corps careers website, we made use of extensive graphic design and the most relevant technologies to enhance the user experience and optimize the site navigation, animation, and content,” said Ms. Jennifer Zeldis, public affairs officer for the Office of the JAG Corps.

Congruent with *JAG Corps 2020*'s guiding principle to maintain a high quality and diverse force, this site was designed to recruit the best people possible.

“The new website not only showcases the opportunities afforded by the JAG Corps, but does so in a way that is appealing to law school students and attorneys who want to make a difference and are looking for exciting professional opportunities,” said CAPT Rob Sanders, deputy assistant JAG for personnel.

A survey was used to measure the site's appeal. Current and potential members of the JAG Corps were asked to go to the website, look around, and take the survey. The survey prompted visitors to supply comments and questions describing their first impressions of the site. The survey also included several questions pertaining to the relevance and presentation of the site's content.

“It is a huge step up from the previous site. I wish I had access to all that information when I was applying. It would have made my process much smoother and more enjoyable,” wrote one survey respondent.

The survey found that 91 percent of respondents found the information they were looking for, and of those, 96 percent of these respondents found it easily. These results appear to validate that the site met its chief objective of



ensuring visitors could find relevant information easily.

“This is going to result in a lot more applicants. The site was easy to navigate and I found everything I needed and more. The new site is an enormous improvement...quite useful,” wrote another survey respondent.

The centerpiece for the new JAG Corps career website is the award winning Awareness Video. The video presents the personal accounts from new JAG Corps attorneys about what drew them to join the JAG Corps. It also highlights the process of becoming an officer in the U.S. Navy JAG Corps.

Qnexis, Inc. assisted the JAG Corps in the development of the revamped career website and awareness video.

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JAG Corps 2020

NLSC Mock Sub Pay Pools Completed

By Amy Stevens
Fiscal and Resource Management

Naval Legal Service Command (NLSC) conducted Mock Sub Pay Pools this Spring under the National Security Personnel System (NSPS). The Office of the Judge Advocate General (OJAG) completed its own Mock Pay Pools in May 2007 and focused the most recent in-house NSPS activities toward NLSC commands. The NLSC-centric NSPS training included a specialized two or three day course conducted by Code 64 representatives. Between August 2007 and January 2008, OJAG staff traveled to Pearl Harbor, Newport, Groton, Great Lakes, Bremerton, Jacksonville, Norfolk, Naples, Millington, Pensacola, and Corpus Christi to deliver the training with the goal of providing a smooth Mock Pay Pool process for all NLSC participants. Though still in the early stages of distilling the NLSC Mock Sub Pay Pool results, it is safe to say that the time invested in pre-training NLSC personnel was worthwhile based on the general NSPS policy comprehension exhibited in all levels. What follows is a brief overview of the Sub Pay Pool structure utilized in the Mock sessions and items of particular note from this experience.

NLSC Mock Sub Pay Pool panels met in Norfolk, Jacksonville, Washington, D.C., and Bremerton beginning in mid-March and completing in early May. NLSC held a total of five Sub Mock Pay Pools. Four of these panels were formed largely based upon geographical location and size equity. One additional panel was created specifically to consider the Echelon II and Naval Justice School (NJS) employees. This

panel's membership included a military representative from NJS and Chief of Naval Personnel (CHNAVPERS), and a civilian representative from OJAG. Commanding officers and acting commanding officers at each RLSO and NLSO acted as Pay Pool panel members in all other NLSC panels. All employee records were considered at the appropriate Sub Mock Pay Pool panel for this exercise. A full NLSC Mock Pay Pool panel was held in late August to familiarize Pay Pool panel members with the process. In the fall NLSC Pay Pool, all Sub Pay Pools will consider all records and forward their recommendations to the full NLSC Pay Pool for a second consideration. The full NLSC Pay Pool will then render the final decision on employee ratings. The full NLSC Pay

"This impressive accomplishment for the first Pay Pool exercise is likely attributable both to the interest, sincerity, and hard-work of NLSC personnel and the sharing of OJAG 'lessons learned' throughout NLSC."

Pool panel membership will include one representative from each Sub Panel and will be managed by the NLSC Vice Commander.

The employee packages that the Mock Sub Pay Pool panels reviewed demonstrated a high level of broad-spectrum understanding of NSPS principles and guidance by NLSC personnel. This impressive accomplishment for the first Pay Pool exercise is likely attributable both to the interest, sincerity, and hard-work of NLSC personnel and the sharing of OJAG "lessons learned" throughout NLSC. Assessment structure was also a key improvement noted by Pay Panels. NLSC personnel were careful to apply

the method of addressing each job objective individually vice combining all results and achievements into one large paragraph. As the OJAG Mock experiences had determined, deliberately dividing the assessments in such a format allows the Pay Pool panel members to review all material that applies to each objective without having to make assumptions as to which results apply to which objective. Finally, and most importantly, the NLSC assessments focused upon the "results produced" by the employee versus the tasks performed. This has been a recurring point of emphasis in all NSPS training, but it is one of the hardest topics to put into practice. OJAG employees and rating officials had made a concerted effort to produce

results-oriented assessments during their Mock Pay Pools, but found difficulty in the application of that principle. NLSC personnel, again having benefited by OJAG's experiences, were more able to address their results into their assessments when asked.

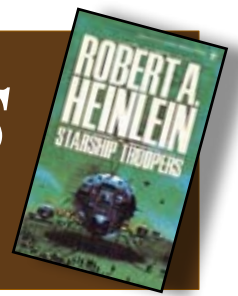
The NLSC Mock Sub Pay Pools were a successful exercise for all participants. Personnel can find the final results of the NLSC Mocks via the Code 64.2 Navy Knowledge Online (NKO) webpage. As OJAG and NLSC grow in their learning and understanding of NSPS concepts and applications, the execution of Pay Pools will grow in its level of sophistication and excellence. As NSPS personnel, all OJAG and NLSC employees, rating officials, and higher level reviewers can be proud of the NSPS maturity they have developed so far and look forward to better things to come.

For more information or to ask a question about NSPS, contact Amy Stevens at 202-685-5286 or at amy.stevens@navy.mil

Starship Troopers

Robert A. Heinlein's

Book review provided by *LT James Kirby*



Any commentary on Robert A. Heinlein's 1959 novel *Starship Troopers* must include, and should commence with, a sober caveat that any assumption of equivalence between the novel and the 1997 film of the same name would be shortsighted and mistaken. Although the film was a recurrent staple of shipboard site T.V. on deployment, all similarity with Heinlein's original ends at the title. Enough about the film. The novel *Starship Troopers* won the prestigious Hugo Award for best novel in science fiction writing in 1960. Additionally, it earned the enmity of a seemingly endless line of detractors who have accused Heinlein of being everything from a militarist to a fascist for the views espoused in the book. Whether utopian, dystopian or something in-between, *Starship Troopers* is the only work of science fiction that has found its way to the recommended reading list of all four American military academies, as well as the Navy Professional Reading Program. The inclusion on the lists is well deserved. *Starship Troopers* is reminiscent of other controversial works, such as Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*, in that they are complex allegories of important and divisive issues, which are too often relegated to eighth graders who have little chance of understanding the subtlety at work. Military members are a more appropriate audience for this novel.

The book relates the experiences of Juan "Johnnie" Rico, as he matures from an indecisive youth into a capable leader of other futuristic soldiers. Rico serves in the Mobile Infantry (M.I.) during an interstellar war between Earth's Terran Federation and a race of giant insects – the Arachnids, known derisively as "bugs". The "bugs" had launched a surprise nuclear attack from space. Through the course of the book, Rico matriculates from high school to Officer Candidate School and beyond. Originally published for an audience of teenage boys, *Starship Troopers* at times seems one-dimensional and overly simplistic. This is a façade, obfuscating the brilliance of Heinlein's prose and subtle mastery of conveying his true meaning: the duties and obligations of belonging to a community. Heinlein suggests that civic virtue -- suffrage and holding public office -- should require more litmus than the arbitrary geography of birth. Rather, only those who knowingly and voluntarily choose to undertake federal service should be so qualified. Simply put, the foundation for citizenship requires grave responsibility and personal sacrifice.

Heinlein was a member of the United States Naval Academy's class of 1929. He served on sea duty until being medically discharged in 1934 due to a case of pulmonary tuberculosis. Notwithstanding, his service continued when he was employed as a civilian aeronautical engineer in the

Philadelphia Naval Shipyard during World War II. Ultimately his efforts in Philadelphia, those of his former shipmates, those of thousands on the swing-shift, and indeed the efforts of that entire generation, ultimately won the war. Sacrifice was ubiquitous. Everyone did his or her share in contribution to the war effort. However, more than a decade later, in the wake of the inconclusive Korean War and the ever growing Cold War with the Soviet Union, the promise of the United Nations eliminating war as a means to a political end appeared bleak. History shows Soviet Communists, the "Reds", had emerged as the prevailing enemy of Western democracies. Soviet workers were seen as expendable grist for the mill of Stalin's ambition. In 1953, the Soviet Army crushed the German Democratic Republic's anti-Communist uprising. In 1956, the same occurred in Hungary. That was also the year the Soviets had attained nuclear technologies to rival, if not surpass, those of the United States. Moreover, under Khrushchev, larger emphasis was placed on strengthening the Soviet Strategic Rocket Forces to utilize its burgeoning nuclear might. In 1957, the Soviets launched Sputnik. The "Reds" could launch a surprise nuclear attack from space. All of this was the backdrop for the writing of *Starship Troopers*.

Starship Troopers was ultimately inspired by Heinlein's reaction to the anti-nuclear movement in the United States. The novel's principal antagonists, the Arachnids, serve as a metaphor for Soviet Communists; individuality doesn't exist for them, nor does the slightest concern for the welfare of individual soldiers or workers. Every "bug" was a member of the hive and subject to the will of the Queen just as every "Red" was a member of the Party and subject to the will of the state. Massive as it was, the "Red" Army was just a group of conscripted drones. Heinlein felt that conscription was tantamount to slavery and that if any state demanded that its citizens defend it, it didn't deserve defending. *Starship Troopers* insists that military service must be entirely voluntary. Potential recruits interested in signing up for the M.I. were discouraged from doing so at every turn, including by the recruiters themselves. Even the broken body of the triple amputee Fleet Sergeant at the recruiting desk exemplifies by his very appearance the potential personal risk involved when enlisting. Rico enlists anyway, almost on a whim, certainly with no overriding desire to seek public office or exercise his franchise to vote. For Heinlein, Rico is more than an everyman. Rico is uncommon in that he's from a privileged background. In crafting his protagonist, Heinlein shows no subtlety. Rico, meaning "rich" in Spanish – the national language of Rico's home, Argentina – is

a silver spoon who turns his back on affluence. He chose to become a member of the army, and as an ancillary, earns full citizenship. Rico isn't sure who he really is, but wishes to experience more than the safe luxury made available to him by his father, who wishes him to attend Harvard University.

Particularly interesting to judge advocates, *Starship Troopers* portrays several instances of futuristic military justice. While justice is swift and potentially severe, there remain many similarities to the system in which we operate. The majority of misconduct is disposed of at an administrative punishment level. The immediate commander has authority to dispense lesser punishments (including flogging) based on a lower evidentiary standard. The accused still has the right to insist on trial by court-martial. A Field Court-Martial, very similar to our Summary Court-Martial, can take place whether the accused prefers administrative punishment or not. Independent officers are called in to form the court and the degree of punishment is increased, but still limited. Limited in that, capital punishment is not authorized at any forum lesser to a General Court-Martial. Rico experiences flogging after administrative punishment and witnessed both Field and General Courts-Martial, culminating in an execution. Heinlein painstakingly details his beliefs in different rationales for the various types of proceedings and the utility of punishment. It is interesting to note that similar to contemporary military jurisprudence, dismissal from service is considered one of the highest forms of punishment. This is the case despite the drill instructors constantly encouraging recruits to drop on request as well as their total lack of interest in recruit desertion. If one chooses to leave, they are permitted to quit or desert. However, if one chooses to stay in the military and then commits serious misconduct, it is considered more severe to be discharged than to be flogged.

Starship Troopers suggests that only by enduring M.I. boot camp (90 percent attrition rate) and subsequently surviving a two year tour on active duty are citizens thereby endowed with an understanding of what it means to belong to something larger than themselves. While the book depicts other well-intentioned and productive members of society, they all fall short of the type of civic virtue that Heinlein believes is most important. Although many of the residents in Rico's world are educated, professional, and successful, there is an implied self-centeredness that Rico finds unappealing. For Rico, being in the Mobile Infantry carries honor, pride, and the confidence that comes with an aptitude for leadership untapped in his civilian life. *Starship Trooper's* combat veterans certainly have an understanding of the military



Heinlein as a member of the United States Naval Academy's class of 1929.

matters essential to an elected official who may have to utilize force as a means to a political end. Additionally, having experienced the arduousness of a tour of duty, to say nothing of a full military career, combat veterans can more fully recognize the privileges, benefits, and social services that should be enjoyed by all members of a society. For them, the trooper's credo, "M.I. take care of their own — no matter what," logically becomes, "citizens take care of everyone."

Science-fiction is a clandestine genre and almost always didactic. Before the reader is even cognizant he or she has been exposed to a potentially radical alternative perspective rather than what

is ostensibly understood. *Starship Troopers* is not about futuristic space soldiers fighting against giant bugs. It is not about the United States fighting against Soviet communists. It's not about militarism or fascism -- it's not even about Heinlein's views on government. It's about the distinction between those who embrace their nation through personal sacrifice and those who enjoy all of the rights of citizenship excluding suffrage and holding public office. The citizens in the novel find it a distinction without a difference as they continue to enjoy the freedoms of speech, assembly, due process, etc. The irony is razor sharp as a vast number of U.S. citizens in 1959, as now, never showed the slightest interest in their polity. U.S. voter turnout has been consistently low and certainly public office has never been widely sought. U.S. citizens chose apathy. Citizens of the Terran Federation chose action.

Starship Troopers is a fascinating book and continues to be among the most widely read science-fiction novels. It has a timeless quality, owing in part to the genre in which it was written but predominantly to the controversial concepts espoused. Notwithstanding, it has perpetually and universally interested military members. That interest is perhaps galvanized because military members chose action in service to their country for the betterment

of their society. They demonstrate Heinlein's coveted civic virtue. Whether they agree with Heinlein or not, they can still identify with his theme. *Starship Troopers* has historically stimulated worthy debate on various issues near and dear to all members of any democratic society, most especially those who don the uniform of their nation and place themselves in harm's way. Why not join the debate? Read *Starship Troopers*. Accelerate your mind!

Read any good books lately?
Tell us about it!
Submit a book review to
natalie.morehouse@navy.mil.

John Marshall Lifetime Achievement

The Judge Advocates Foundation presented Senator Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi) the Foundation's Chief Justice Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was presented by the previous recipient of the award, Judge H.F. Gierke.

The Chief Justice John Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award is the Judge Advocates Foundation's highest award. The Foundation established the Award commemorating Chief Justice Marshall to honor an individual who once served as a judge advocate, left active military service, and subse-



Brig Gen (Ret) Edward Rodriguez, Jr., USAF; Senator Roger Wicker; and RADM (Ret.) Donald Guter, USN.

quently made great contributions and achievements outside the military legal system.

A native of Pontotoc, Mississippi, Senator Wicker received his Bachelors of Arts and juris doctorate from the University of Mississippi. He served on active duty in the U.S. Air Force from 1976 to 1978. He then served in the Air Force Reserve including an assignment as an appellate defense counsel in Washington, D.C., and retired in 2004 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Spotlight On

CAPT Timothy Young

CAPT Tim Young currently resides in Nellysford Va. Now that he has retired from professional life he can now fully devote his time to his true passion – the wonderful game of golf. He served the JAG Corps from 1972 to 2002.

“I’m grateful for the great opportunities afforded to me and to all judge advocates. I hope that all current and future judge advocates take advantage of the diverse practice and environments that are available within Navy JAG. The chance to be exposed to the myriad of legal issues found in today’s Navy is truly unique. The varied law practices and locations that are possible within JAG is really the difference between it and a civilian law firm,” said CAPT Young.

CAPT Young is a true JAG Corps icon; he continues to be known for his compassion, good humor, common sense, and love of the JAG Corps. He was born in McAllen, Texas and earned his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Pan American University in 1971. Upon graduation from Naval Officer Candidate School in 1972, he received his commission. After a tour as Electrical Repair Officer aboard USS YELLOWSTONE (AD-27), he was selected for participation in the Law Education Program.

In August 1997 he assumed command at the Naval Justice School. In September 2000 until his retirement in September 2002, he served as Vice Commander, Naval Legal Service Command/ Director of Operations and Management for the Judge Advocate.

CAPT Weston Burnett

Currently, CAPT Wes Burnett is a businessman who has earned multiple new licenses and professional credentials. He owns a law firm and a financial services firm with a partner in McLean, Va.

“I loved every tour in the Navy, each one better than the last. I love what I do now as I know I add real value to my client’s lives and they know it too,” said CAPT Burnett.

CAPT Burnett legacy is with the Navy. He has relatives going back 100 years in the naval service and 200 years plus who were commissioned officers. CAPT Burnett joined the law community for its intellectual challenges. The logic of the law and the lure of international law drew him to the JAG Corps. CAPT Burnett served the JAG Corps from 1976 to 2000.

CAPT Burnett attended Vanderbilt University where he was a member of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. He continued his education at George Washington University for his Juris Doctor in 1975 and his Master of Laws degree in International Law in 1983. CAPT Burnett received all of his degrees with academic honors and is also a published author on international law.

While in the Navy, CAPT Burnett always scored over 290/300 on the Navy’s semi annual fitness exam even at age 50. Physical fitness is still a priority in his life as he continues to participate annually in triathlons and 100 mile bike rides.

In closing, CAPT Burnett offered this advice, “Join to see the world and enjoy variety of legal challenges.”

Find out what they are doing now! Alumni of the JAG Corps describe their current positions and what they did in the JAG Corps.



LT Harold Jones received a Meritorious Service Medal at his retirement ceremony in July. The award was presented in Jacksonville, Fla.



LNC(SW/AW) Fernando Meave, RLSO Japan's first Senior Enlisted Advisor, retired on July 7 at the Yokosuka Auditorium after 22 years of naval service.

CAPT Stu Belt presided over the ceremony and RADM James Kelly was his guest speaker. While assigned to RLSO Japan, LNC Meave effectively managed constant challenges, ensuring forward deployed naval forces were always given outstanding legal support.

LT Graham Winegeart, NLSO PAC (Guam), and **LT Michele Rosen**, RLSO EURSWA, have been named as recipients of the 2007 LAMP Distinguished Service Award. These awards are given for exceptional achievement for service or support of the military legal assistance effort.



CAPT Kirk Waits, presented **LCDR Fernette Moore** the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal as her end of tour award in Jacksonville, Fla.



CDR Shelby Hladon presented **LNI Annette Walters** the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal and Sailor of the Year award in April 2008 during a ceremony in Everett, Wash.

As the leading petty officer in an office with a heavy case load, LNI Walters provided exceptional paralegal support to four prosecutors as well as excellent paralegal services to over forty tenant commands at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island.



LNC Jackie Anderson and **LNC Lynette McDuffie** at their graduation ceremony from Roger Williams University in Providence, R.I. May 17. LNC Anderson and LNC McDuffie graduated with a Paralegal Studies Bachelor's degree.



CAPT Kirk Waits presented **LT Jeffrey Pietrzyk** the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his exceptional performance in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The award was presented in Jacksonville, Fla.



CAPT Mark Lawton was relieved by **CDR Anthony Mazzeo** as Commanding Officer, U.S. Region Legal Service Office, Europe and Southwest Asia, during a ceremony in the base chapel at Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy July 23.

Military members, family, and friends gathered at NSA Naples' Hope Chapel to bid CAPT Lawton farewell as he completed a three-year tour in Naples. CAPT Lawton will be the Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy at the Office of the Judge Advocate General's in Washington, D.C.



CDR Charlie Schaff retired on June 20 in Rome, Italy. The ceremony was held on the grounds of the American Embassy, a 19th century palace.

CDR Schaff's last assignment was as the Legal Advisor to the Office of Defense Cooperation, U.S. Embassy Rome, Italy. The guest speaker at the retirement ceremony was the U.S. Ambassador, the Honorable Ronald Spogli. The Ambassador also presented a Defense Superior Service Medal to CDR Schaff.



CDR Andrew Henderson and LN1 Jessica Jeter represented the Navy when the Guam Bar Association recognized members of the military legal community at the Salute to Justice Husticia Award Presentation. The ceremony came at the end of an all-day fair that featured booths from U.S. Naval Legal Service Office, University of Guam's Public Administration college, Guam Legal Services Corp., and other agencies and programs that offer legal services and education to the public.

Pictured from left to right is: Maria Cenzon Duenas; Rodney Jacob, past president of the Guam Bar Association; Judge Art Barcinas; Associate Justice Katherine Maraman; LN1 Jessica Jeter; Chief Justice Torres; CDR Andrew Henderson; Lt. Col. Stephen Shrewsbury, USAF; CAPT Benjamin Beliles, USCG; CAPT Bill Marhoffer, USCG; LT Elizabeth Buendia, USCG; and John Pangelinan of the USA.



CAPT Tom Greene swore in ENS Courtney Gordon-Tennant at a ceremony on board the Training Ship Empire State VI at Fort Schuyler, State University of New York Maritime College.



ENS Michael Jones, a law student who has been externing for both RLSO Midlant and RLSO Midwest, was recently commissioned. The oath was administered by his father.



LT Ron DeSantis presented LN1 Kevin Jaress with his Expeditionary Warfare pin for his service with Naval Special Warfare Squadron One in Iraq.



CAPT Michael Boock awarded OS2 Ashley Klinebriel with Sailor of the Year, Mr. Michael Humphrey with Civilian of the Year, and LT Chris Jeter with Officer of the Year.



LT Eric Nelson swore ENS Scott Simpson into the JAG Corps. ENS Simpson received his undergraduate degree from Harvard and is presently a 2L at University of Connecticut Law.



LT Emily Dewey received the Bronze Star for her nine month service in Iraq.



CAPT Gregory Belanger presented LN1 Cynthia Griffin with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

LT Brian Burgtorf received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for service while deployed in Iraq. The award was presented by Lieutenant General Lloyd Austin III, USA, in Baghdad.

LT Gregory Morison, NLSO NW Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program coordinator, received a Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He, along with his staff, coordinated over 5,000 federal and state tax returns. They saved their customers over \$600,000 in tax preparation fees.





On April 2, the Region Legal Service Office Northwest held a change of command on board OLD MAN IV, the flag barge of Commander, Navy Region Northwest, at Naval Base Kitsap-Keyport, Wash. **CAPT Martin Evans** handed the reins to **CDR Shelby Hladon**.



Toni Babauta graduated with honors from Guam Community College with her Associates of Science degree in Supervision and Management. Ms. Babauta had support from her daughters, LNCS Carla Smith, LTJG Josh Cornthwaite and his wife at her graduation.

CAPT Kirk Waits presented **LCDR Marcus Fulton** with his end of tour Navy Commendation Medal in Mayport, Fla.

LCDR Dustin Wallace was recently named as the Navy's recipient of the American Bar Association's Outstanding Young Military Lawyer for 2007-2008.

LCDR Wallace, an Enid, Okla. native, was presented the award at an Aug. 9 ceremony in New York City.

The eight-year Navy veteran said his desire to practice law has been a lifelong aspiration. The opportunities provided by the Navy to practice law and travel the world are what drove him to his current profession.

His current position is in Yokosuka, Japan where he is the deputy fleet JAG for Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet permanently embarked aboard USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19).



LCDR Heather Partridge presented **LN1 Richiard Flores** with a plaque from the Guam High School Athletic Association for his volunteer efforts.

RADM James Houck presented **LCDR Davin Rieke** the Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal in Bahrain. LCDR Rieke is on his way to the Naval War College to continue his education.



JTS Awards



VADM Bruce MacDonald and RADM James Houck presented the following awards at the recent JAG Training Symposium June 6, 2008. The following recipients each received the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

LT Candice Albright received the medal for her professional achievement as Legal Assistance Attorney, Region Legal Service Office Southeast, branch office Corpus Christi, Texas.

Maj Richard Bellis received the medal for his professional achievement as Appellate Defense Counsel, Appellate Defense Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

LT Brent Faulkner received the medal for his professional achievement as Command Service Attorney and Branch Head, U.S. Region Legal Service Office Japan, branch Office Sasebo.

Maj Brian Keller received the medal for his professional achievement as Appellate Government Counsel, Appellate Government Division, Office of the Judge Advocate General.

LT Jonathan McKay received the medal for his professional achievement as Defense Counsel, Naval legal Service Office Southeast.

LT Allison Ward received the medal for her professional achievement as Recruiting Officer, Region Legal Service Office Midlant.

LT Matthew Wooten received the medal for his professional achievement as Trial Counsel, Region Legal Service Office.

See your name in print! Submit your command awards and photos to natalie.morehouse@navy.mil

Photos From The Fleet



VADM Bruce MacDonald and RADM James Houck (center) pose with QJAG interns. Interns pictured are: Richard Yorke; William Pendley; LT Mary Pohanka; Scott Allen; Katherine Spicer; Lisa Redmond; Thomas Brown; Chris Czaplak; Casey Fitzmaurice; Tony Ancelj; Mark Kawakami; Rachel Weidemann; and Amanda Adams.



LN1 Brenda Behrendt and LN1 Ronald Alexander in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



LN1 Tricia Elders from RLSO Midlant Detachment Groton poses with US Army LTC Vanessa Berry at the crossed swords, Iraq.



Task Force 134 Legal HQ Golf Club at Camp Victory in Baghdad. Pictured are: Capt Joe Smiga (USAF), LT Ian Wolf, Capt Jeff Hawkins (USAF), LCDR Scott Thomas, LT John Montgomery, SSgt Matt Sherman (USAF), A1C Jeff Hart (USAF), A1C Angelica Colon (USAF), YN3 Javin Anderson, and Capt Dom Angiollo (USAF).



Participants of the Camp Lemonier Breast Cancer Awareness Week and 5K Run.



CDR Caren McCurdy at the Kabul City Jail. CDR McCurdy is on an individual augmentee assignment at the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan serving as a legal mentor.



JAG crew en route to Army Training in Fort Jackson, S.C. LT Alyson Shuler, CAPT Martin Evans, CDR Caren McCurdy, LCDR Melissa Powers, and LCDR Lisa Becoat. CDR Caren McCurdy is headed to Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan and the others will serve in Iraq.

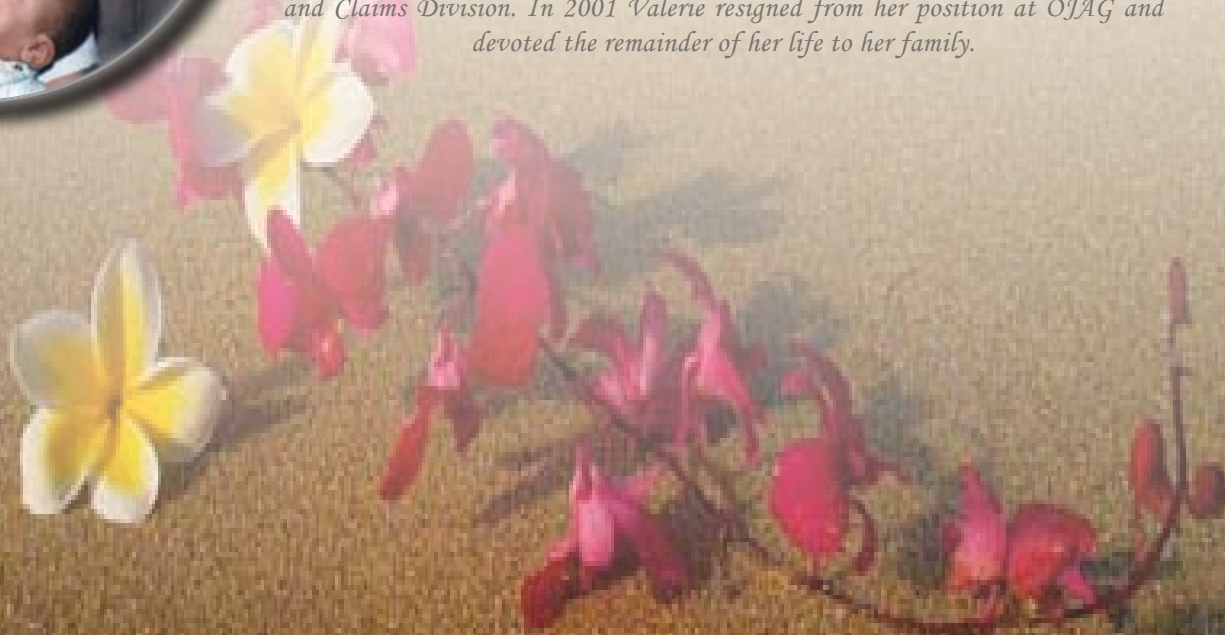


CAPT Stu Belt, acted as the guest speaker and presented citizenship certificates to each new American during a naturalization ceremony held in Yokosuka at the base Chapel. There were 37 new citizens who took the oath from 13 countries.



In Memory of *Valerie Darlene Washington Ayoub* November 13, 1962 - March 29, 2008

On Saturday, March 29, Valerie Darlene Washington Ayoub, 45, of Fredericksburg, Va., departed this life after a courageous year long battle with breast cancer. Valerie began her career as a Navy paralegal for OJAG, where she worked from 1985 until 1989. In 1985 Valerie met and fell in love with (at the that time, L/N2) L/NCM Tim Ayoub. The couple married in 1986 and had two sons. In 1994 Valerie returned to OJAG where she worked in support of the Admiralty and Claims Division. In 2001 Valerie resigned from her position at OJAG and devoted the remainder of her life to her family.





RLSO Northwest sought the “moral high ground” as the wardroom hiked up Green Mountain in Bremerton, WA. CDR Shelby Hladon, Commanding Officer of RLSO Northwest, took the opportunity to talk about professional responsibility and standards of conduct in the JAG Corps.



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