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Operation Tomodachi

Navy lawyers support U.S. relief operations in response to the earthquake, tsunami in Japan

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ON THE FRONT COVER



CDR Adrian Ragland, commanding officer of *USS Tortuga* (LSD-46) and LT Louis Butler with a Japan Maritime Self Defense Force commander as they prepare to step off Landing Craft Utility 1627 in Ominato, Japan while *USS Tortuga* was offloading more than 90 Japanese Military vehicles and more than 300 Japanese military personnel to support tsunami and earthquake relief efforts.

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Submissions are welcome on all Navy JAG Corps-related topics and, if published, are subject to editing for length and clarity. Written and photographic submissions that show active and Reserve judge advocates and legalmen are strongly encouraged. We prefer to receive all written and photographic submissions by e-mail to natalie.morehouse@navy.mil. Images should include captions and be unmodified; digital files should measure at least 300dpi at 5x7 inches. All submissions must include the author's full name, rank, duty contact telephone number and e-mail address. Feature articles should be 750 to 1000 words. Accompanying photos should show emotion or action if possible.

If necessary, send submissions by regular postal mail to: Office of the Judge Advocate General, Attn: Public Affairs Office, 1322 Patterson Avenue, S.E., Bldg. 33, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066. Telephone inquiries should be made to (202) 685-5394.

JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL

This edition of the magazine gave me pause to take a look at where we have been and where we are going. Looking back five years, the JAG Corps published *JAG Corps 2020* to chart our strategic vision and course for the future of the community and our practice. To reflect where the JAG Corps is now and what we have learned from our experiences in strategic planning, we refreshed our strategic plan with the publication of *JAG Corps 2020.1*. Read about the updates we made to our strategic plan as well as what has remained constant on page 15. Through *JAG Corps 2020.1*, our Corps will ensure now, and in the future, we are prepared to meet our mission's challenges.

Looking back to earlier this year in our cover story, CDR Jonathan Odom describes *Operation Tomodachi* -- the large-scale disaster relief operation to support Japan following the earthquake, tsunami and subsequent nuclear accident on March 11. He details how the JAG Corps community provided legal solutions to the challenging and unique issues faced by both the U.S. military and our Japanese allies in the wake of the disaster.

Additionally, the other stories in this edition, highlight the four critical areas our corps must focus on to be successful now and in the future: recruit and retain the right people; prepare our people for success; assign the right people to the right positions; and execute best practices. From the legalmen who explain the Legalman Paralegal Education Program to OJAG Code 61's view on personnel matters, the articles in the following pages are both interesting and informative.

More than four years ago, we released the first *JAG Magazine* to share news about our reserve and active officer, enlisted and civilian communities. While the printed *JAG Magazine* has been a great resource, we now believe there are better ways to communicate with you in a more timely and effective way through social and electronic media. Concluding with this edition, we will only print *JAG Magazine* once a year and use other online media to tell our story and engage with our audiences. The annual hardcopy *JAG Magazine* will become a showcase of the best photos and stories from the year.

The use of social media by the general public has increased exponentially over the past several years. According to a 2009 poll conducted by the Navy Personnel, Research, Studies, & Technology, almost 90 percent of Sailors have a personal social networking site page. In another study conducted by Forrester Research, 80 percent of U.S. online users engage with social media. Concentrating more heavily on this type of communication will allow us to improve the JAG Corps dialogue with members of our Corps, our clients, our alumni, and potential applicants interested in a career in the JAG Corps.

The JAG Corps has established an official presence on three social media sites for you to keep up with the latest news:

1. Facebook (www.facebook.com/navyjag) is a social networking site that links people as well as organizations through status updates, photos and other posts.
2. Twitter (www.twitter.com/Navy_JAG) is a social networking site that allows us to send and read short updates called "tweets."
3. You Tube (www.youtube.com/NavyJAGCorps) allows us to share our command videos with millions of people.

You may sign up for updates on these sites or visit them on a regular basis to get your latest JAG Corps news. If you have any questions or ideas about our social media plan, please e-mail our public affairs officer, Jen Zeldis, at jennifer.zeldis@navy.mil.



The content provided by the *JAG Magazine*, our website, and social networking sites are collaborative efforts by all the members of the JAG Corps and greatly depend on your submissions. Your sustained input is the key to ensuring that the content we provide is timely and useful. Please continue to contribute by forwarding photos and stories.


JAMES W. HOUCK
VADM, JAGC, U.S. Navy

JAG MAGAZINE

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On the frontlines of due process in Afghanistan

Navy judge advocates and legalmen support Detainee Review Boards



LT Ross Ericson and LT Andrew Murray, both practiced as recorders before the detainee review boards.

*By LT Andrew Murray
Camp Sabalu-Harrison, Parwan, Afghanistan*

Several kilometers from Bagram Airfield, arguably the U.S. military's most important base in Afghanistan, stands the detention facility in Parwan, a state-of-the-art theater internment facility that houses more than 1,000 unlawful enemy combatants.

Within its walls, Navy judge advocates and legalmen assigned to the Legal Operations Directorate of Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435 are doing their part to establish due process, transparency, and the rule of law in Afghanistan.

At the forefront of the task force's legal efforts is a small cadre of Navy judge advocates and legalmen supporting the work of detainee review boards, which convene periodically throughout an enemy combatant's detention -- 60 days after internment and then every six months thereafter. As of early 2011, more than 3,000 review boards had been held at the detention facility.

To date, dozens of Navy judge advocates have served before the boards as recorders and legal advisers. Legalmen have prepared evidence packets and served as reporters, creating accurate transcripts of the hearings.

Each time a board considers an enemy combatant's case, it does so *de novo*, determining his status and whether continued detention is necessary to mitigate his threat on the battlefield. The process is outlined in DoD policy and is guided by Supreme Court precedent and international humanitarian law, also known as the Law of Armed Conflict.

Fundamental due process rights are guaranteed before the detainee review boards. These rights include the right of the detainee to appear before the review boards and confront the information against him; the right to speak directly to the three neutral field-grade officers charged with adjudicating his status; the right to present written information and call witnesses before the review boards; and the right to the assistance of a U.S. military officer acting as a personal representative in the best interest of the detainee. The personal representative may also speak on the detainee's behalf, and review and challenge classified information the detainee himself is prevented from seeing under national security laws.

Information presented at a detainee review board in many ways looks like evidence presented in a traditional criminal court or administrative hearing. Forensic labs prepare reports admissible before the boards and analyze fingerprints, DNA, explosives, and explosive residues.

Witnesses provide sworn and unsworn testimony, or written statements. And, the detainee often calls witnesses who vouch for his good character, offer alibis or promise accountability for his conduct in the future.

The boards also hear information unique to an operational environment: the specialized world of military intelligence. Various forms of intelligence are presented before the boards in closed secret or top-secret sessions with the detainee's personal representative acting on the detainee's behalf to challenge the intelligence.

Many of those detained and brought before detainee review boards are responsible for killing U.S. soldiers and Marines, or more often, Afghan soldiers, police, and innocent civilians.

While many detainees are in fact dangerous, a few are found not to meet the legal standard for internment. The boards investigate and recommend the release of detainees who do not meet the criteria for internment, or whose threat can be mitigated by release, reintegration, or prosecution by the Afghan judicial system.

The boards convene in a harsh environment. Rocket attacks on Bagram Airfield are frequent. Convoys are often ambushed with improvised explosive devices and small arms fire. Local courts can be corrupt or unavailable in the vacuum left by years of war and Taliban rule. Thus, the Afghan judicial system, prior to the establishment of Afghanistan's new national security court and provincial justice centers, struggled to enforce the rule of law.

The future of detention operations in Afghanistan is one of transition from the law of armed conflict detention, with the detainee review boards process, toward Afghan criminal prosecution.

Until then, the judge advocates and legalmen of Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435 will continue to stand watch on the front-lines of due process, doing their part to establish justice for Afghanistan. ✪

Deputy Judge Advocate General for Reserve Affairs and Operations

We are well on our way to creating a unified and vibrant Total Force, delivering first rate legal service to the Navy. I have been working in close coordination with JAG Corps leaders to ensure that our alignment and focus remain on point. We have now designated Reserve officers as Pillar I (Military Justice), Pillar II (Command Services/Legal Assistance) or Pillar III (subject-matter experts) counsel. Pillar III includes admiralty, environmental, and international/cyber law experts. To effectively manage these practice groups, we have detailed CAPT Tim Sceviour (Military Justice), CAPT Joe Velling (Command Services/Legal Assistance), and CAPT Michael Shaw (Subject-Matter Experts) as Assistant Force Judge Advocates, whose duty it is to provide mentorship and leadership for personnel within their respective pillars.

Our program remains robust. We continue to attract and retain outstanding personnel, which I attribute in large part to the successful cooperation between the Career Transition Office in Millington and CAPT Janet Donovan and her staff in Norfolk. We have seen a record number of JAG accessions joining the Reserves upon leaving active duty, and maintaining their continuum of service. In addition, we have worked hard to ensure that promotion opportunity remains healthy.

On the individual augmentee front, the Reserve JAG team continues to provide outstanding legal support. On any given day we have Reserve JAG Corps officers and legalmen deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantanamo, Djibouti, and Kuwait. We passed an important milestone this past year with over 300 Reserve judge advocates and legalmen deployed since the attacks on Sept. 11.

Last January, we had our Reserve Commanding Officer and Staff Judge Advocate Conference in New Orleans, La., where we trained new Reserve commanding officers and discussed the way ahead with the Reserve JAG leadership. We were joined in New Orleans by RDML Bryan "Clutch" Cutchen, deputy chief of Navy Reserve.

As 2011 progresses, I look forward to working with all of you to create a Total Force legal community that is second to none.



I can never close without thanking all of you, active and Reserve, for the hard work and sacrifices that you and your families make in order to serve our country. They are significant, and deeply appreciated. I look forward to seeing you in the fleet and throughout our "worldwide law firm." Until then, thank you so very much for all that you do to support our nation, our Sailors and their families. I couldn't be more proud of you.

Steven M. Talson

STEVEN M. TALSON
RADM, JAG Corps, U.S. Navy



An aerial view of damage to Wakuya, Japan after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami devastated the area in northern Japan. Ships and aircraft from the *Ronald Reagan* Carrier Strike Group conducted search and rescue operations and re-supply missions in support of *Operation Tomodachi* throughout northern Japan.

Doing our utmost to help a friend in need

Navy lawyers support U.S. relief operations in response to the earthquake, tsunami in Japan

CDR Jonathan G. Odom
U.S. Pacific Command and Joint Support Force - Japan

On March 11, Japan suffered a 9.0-magnitude quake, one of the worst in a century. The earthquake triggered destructive tsunami waves of more than 30 feet that struck the coastal areas of Northeast Japan, in some cases traveling up to six miles inland. The tsunami damaged the Fukushima civilian nuclear power plant, crippling its primary and secondary electrical systems, and severely damaging its critical cooling capability.

Within hours, the U.S. military initiated crisis response actions in support of the Japanese government in an operation the allies called “Tomodachi,” the Japanese word for friend.

U.S. military units conducted search and rescue operations and transported emergency response teams, equipment and relief supplies to hundreds of thousands of displaced people in affected remote Japanese communities, and provided emergent medical care to injured people. In the days thereafter, other forms of U.S. military support followed to assist the Government of Japan and other relief agencies with a variety of highly-trained support personnel for humanitarian assistance operations.

In an address to the American people soon after the disaster struck, President Barack Obama described the critical role that U.S. forces should and would play in helping Japan in its time of need.

“The Japanese people are not alone in this time of great trial and sorrow,” President Obama said. “Across the

Pacific, they will find a hand of support extended from the United States as they get back on their feet. After all, we have an alliance that was forged more than a half century ago, and strengthened by shared interests and democratic values.”

U.S. military forces, especially those operating in the U.S. Pacific Command’s area of responsibility are experienced in responding to natural disasters. Unprecedented, however, was the magnitude of the devastation caused by the disaster in a highly-developed nation like Japan, coupled with the associated radiological threat from the destabilized nuclear power plant.

ADM Patrick M. Walsh, the U.S. Pacific Fleet and Joint Task Force-519, commander, lead U.S. military response.

With more than three hundred military officers, enlisted members and civilians, ADM Walsh deployed to Japan on short notice and augmented the staff of Commander, U.S. Forces Japan, at Yokota Air Base to form the Joint Support Force. The Joint Support Force with Japanese representatives became a perfect complement to accomplish this complex, delicate, and urgent mission.

Throughout *Operation Tomodachi*, U.S. forces followed three lines of operation:

- Foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
- Foreign consequence management
- Voluntary departure and planning of the potential ordered departure of DoD personnel, their dependents, American citizens and designated foreign nationals

Each of these lines of operation generated its own sets of legal challenges and solutions.

Foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief

The body of international and domestic law governing how U.S. forces, including the Navy, conduct traditional military operations is fairly settled. Military and DoD civilian lawyers are relatively well-versed on those areas of law, ranging from the law of targeting to the law and policies on detention and treatment of enemy combatants. When U.S. forces are called upon to provide support in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions, as in *Operation Tomodachi*, the applicable law and the legal issues arising are often less familiar to military and DoD civilian lawyers. Making matters even more challenging is the legal authorities for some facets of humanitarian assistance missions are less codified. The result is lawyers supporting foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief often maneuver in a gray zone, interpreting broad-based, undefined terms in statutes -- like “other humanitarian purposes” -- and relying on precedents of what U.S. forces did in other disaster relief operations, such as those conducted after the 2004 tsunami in Indonesia and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

Once *Operation Tomodachi* began, the Japanese government submitted some specific requests for assistance to the U.S. Government via the U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Agency for International Development/U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance field officer. In other cases, due to the

long-standing military-to-military relationship between Japan and the U.S., an alternative process for submitting requests for assistance was also established between the Japanese Joint Staff and U.S. Forces Japan (and later Joint Support Force).

The request for assistance process was the heart of the Joint Support Force operational planning effort to support Japanese relief in *Operation Tomodachi*. The “operational law” of this operation was fiscal law and contract law.

The primary funding mechanism for disaster relief is a special category of appropriated funds for foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief known as overseas humanitarian, disaster assistance and civic aid funds. A significant amount of the legal workload for U.S. Pacific Command and Joint Support Force staff judge advocate offices in *Operation Tomodachi* was devoted to analyzing whether fiscal law and regulations would allow overseas humanitarian, disaster assistance and civic aid funds to be spent for particular request for assistance. Many of the requests for assistance were validated and U.S. forces were tasked to assist the Japanese government.

If the prerequisites for overseas humanitarian, disaster assistance and civic aid funding were not satisfied for a particular request for assistance from the Japanese government, the staff judge advocate representatives supported the board in identifying other lawful ways to fund relief activities, such as, service-funded community relations programs.

Foreign consequence management

The disaster Japan experienced was historically destructive even if it consisted only of the earthquake and the resulting tsunamis. However, the danger for the Japanese people and others who reside in Japan, including American service members and civilians assigned to Japan, was magnified by the resulting damage to one of the civilian nuclear power plants located in Fukushima, 135 miles north of Tokyo.

As ADM Robert Willard, the Pacific Command commander, said to Congress following the disaster, “The significance of the continuing nuclear crisis adds a level of disaster response complexity and urgency that’s without peer.”

The word “complexity” captures the U.S. military’s response options for supporting the Japanese in properly handling the risk posed by the damaged nuclear plant. It also describes many of the legal issues that arose in *Operation Tomodachi*’s line of operations known as foreign consequence management, defined by DoD as “assistance provided by the U.S. Government to a host nation to mitigate the effects of a deliberate or inadvertent chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high-yield explosive attack or event to restore essential operations and services.”

While foreign disaster relief is not a core area of practice for Navy judge advocates, the laws and regulations applicable to foreign consequence management are even more specialized. Fortunately, the Defense Threat Reduction Agency published a comprehensive foreign consequence management legal desk-book in 2007 that identifies and analyzes many of the legal

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issues associated with this mission set. This deskbook proved to be a valuable asset to the military lawyers involved. Additionally, early in the establishment of the Joint Support Force, the Joint Support Force leadership identified a reserve Navy judge advocate assigned to U.S. Northern Command's Joint Task Force-Civil Support to augment the Joint Support Force legal office.

As the response effort matured, it quickly became evident -- to both military operators and legal advisor alike -- that success required effective coordination with and contributions from other U.S. federal departments and agencies with expertise in nuclear and radiological issues. Representatives from Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission were either embedded in the Radiological Consequence Management Team on the Joint Support Force staff or on call for support at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Together, these operational,

technical, and legal experts worked to refine a vetting process.

Early on, nuclear experts, medical experts, and judge advocates on the U.S. Pacific Command and Joint Support Force staffs were also tasked to identify the appropriate health standards for exposure to radiation. The legal advisors sought to gather together all preexisting radiation health standards in U.S. federal and military regulations. It quickly became evident that federal agencies and the military had established a significant number of different radiological exposure standards, each standard tailored to address a particular risk unique to a foreseen environment. For example, the Navy's standards for radiation exposure have been tailored to protect Navy personnel who were projected to consistently work near nuclear reactors aboard ships and submarines over a twenty-year career. The risk arising from an accumulation of twenty years of persistent exposure for a Navy reactors officer did not equate to the risk for an

Air Force maintenance service member assisting in the removal of radiological contamination found on an aircraft returning from sorties in support of the relief effort. Ultimately, the experts from the U.S. Pacific Command and Joint Support Force staffs developed and promulgated standards that were tailored to the actual risks in the operation and based upon rational justification and analogous pre-existing standards.

The legal team was also called upon to help develop standards for all U.S. forces to follow in decontamination of ships, aircraft, vehicles, and other equipment utilized to provide assistance in the operation. While the force health protection standards involved a synthesis of preexisting U.S. regulations and policies, the decontamination standards included the added challenge of identifying and comparing relevant Japanese regulatory standards since these U.S. military platforms were operating within the sovereign territory of another nation. Fortunately, this effort was greatly assisted by the



LT Josh Fryday, LCDR Sarah Stancati, LT John Battisti, CDR Christopher French, LTJG Hannah Foster, LN2 Kerri Johns and LN1 Ronald Alexander served as legal officers and aides aboard the U.S. 7th Fleet command flagship *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) in support of *Operation Tomodachi*.

resident expertise among U.S. Forces Japan lawyers already familiar with applicable Japanese environmental laws and regulations. Together, they were able to develop decontamination standards that complied with both U.S. and Japanese law, and ensured that redeploying platforms could enter other nations in the future with self-certification that they were safe and met general international standards.

Voluntary Authorized Departure

The U.S. military forces' third line of operation in the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear power plant disaster aftermath was taking care of service members families and fellow U.S. citizens. On March 17, the Office of the Secretary of Defense authorized the departure of eligible family members of U.S. military and civilian employees assigned to locations on Honshu, the largest island of Japan, including those stationed at the U.S. Navy's Fleet Activities Yokosuka and Naval Air Facility Atsugi, the U.S. Air Force's Yokota Air Base and Misawa Air Base, and the U.S. Army's Camp Zama. These authorized eligible family members were entitled to funded travel out of Japan to the designated safe haven of the United States. In light of the scope of the authorization, ensuring an expeditious and orderly departure for this large number of DoD family members proved to be a significant undertaking, called *Operation Pacific Passage*. ADM Willard designated the Commanding General, III Marine Expeditionary Force, headquartered in Okinawa, as Commander, Joint Task Force-505, and assigned him the responsibility of directing the voluntary departure effort and planning for a potential ordered departure of U.S. personnel if the radiological threat to U.S. installations became grave. Given the dispersal and service-centric nature of the U.S. military communities on Honshu, it quickly became evident that Joint Task Force-505's assigned task required the contribution of installation commands, including the support of their respective staff judge advocate and legal offices.

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Navy Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan *Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.*

The members of Navy Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan are accustomed to working on highly sensitive and mission critical projects in the Far East. They never expected—nor could they expect—to find themselves in the middle of one of Japan's worst natural and human disasters. Yet, that is what happened to the members of Navy Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan.

CAPT Bradley Cordts, commanding officer of Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan arrived in Japan on March 7 and expected a busy, but relatively uneventful, three weeks of duty as the force judge advocate. His senior legalman, LNC Eric Kemp, had arrived a few months earlier on extended active duty orders. He too expected a busy, but relatively quiet time supporting Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka. All of that changed when the earthquake and subsequent tsunami struck Japan's eastern seaboard.

CAPT Cordts immediately understood the enormity of the event and the need for significant Reserve support.

"I had been in Japan during other high profile events that required significant JAG Corps resources, but I knew that the size and scope of this tragedy required an effort a 1,000 times greater than anything I had seen in the past," recalls CAPT Cordts. "We needed all-hands on deck—Reserve and active duty—to assist in our humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts."

Under the leadership of CAPT Tompkins, active duty commanding officer of Region Legal Service Office Japan, the Region Legal Service Office Japan active and Reserve team started to identify a game plan for the emerging legal issues and how to get the best resources to accomplish the mission. Many of those best assets were members of the Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan. For example, LCDR Sean Cogley arrived in Japan within days of the earthquake. He served as the staff judge advocate for Commander Fleet Activities Sasebo, which became a hub of activity once the nuclear disaster forced ships in the Yokosuka area to temporarily re-deploy.

Other Reserve members soon followed including CAPT Bob Elwell and CDR Craig Haughtelin. They provided critical support in the legal service center, which operated 24 hours a day for several weeks after the disaster. In addition, CDR Paul "Garrett" Triplett was hand-selected to provide 29 days of active duty service and to lead a joint legal team supporting Joint Task Force 505 and III Marine Expeditionary Force, which was tasked with planning voluntary early departure of dependents and potential non-combatant evacuation operations.

There should be no doubt about the critical role played by Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan in the JAG Corps' mission in Japan.

As CAPT Tompkins emphasized, "our Reservists in general do a tremendous job of providing critical support to our mission. However, we were very, very lucky that CAPT Cordts was in Japan when the disaster occurred and even luckier that so many of his unit members answered our immediate call for help."

Navy Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan clearly epitomized the Navy Reserve motto: Ready now. Anytime, anywhere.

Navy lawyers make a difference

By no means was the legal workload of *Operations Tomodachi* and *Pacific Passage* carried by Navy judge advocates alone; this was truly a joint legal effort by dozens of civilian counsel and military judge advocates of all services.

“Real world missions, especially humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, demanded immediate legal support. It’s critically important for there to be the right mix of lawyers available at all levels of command and manning operational watch floors at the onset of crisis. Decisions made in the first 24 to 48 hours will either set you up for success, or have you playing catch up for the duration of the operation,” said CDR Chris French, 7th Fleet staff judge advocate.

At Pacific Command Headquarters, CAPT John Hannink advised on the theater-strategic level issues affecting the operation, while Pacific Command CDR Jonathan Odom and LCDR Mike Adams supported operational planning teams.

Less than 24 hours after the earthquake, a 24/7 staff judge advocate watch was established on the Pacific Command Joint Operations Center watchfloor, augmented by LT Chris Toscano from Joint Interagency Task Force-West.

The Pacific Command legal team analyzed legal issues, often elevating those with policy implications in the theater of operations to Washington for resolution.

When ADM Walsh deployed to Japan to serve as the Joint Support Force commander, he was accompanied by CAPT Stu Belt as his staff judge advocate and CDR Odom, as his chief of operational law. The Joint Support Force staff judge advocate office also included CAPT Mike Shaw, a reservist with expertise on foreign consequence management, from Joint Task Force-Civil Support in Norfolk, and LT Alex Sevald from Combined Task Force-70 who manned the Bilateral Joint Operations Coordination Center with U.S. and Japanese military representatives at the Joint Support Force and U.S. Forces Japan headquarters in Yokota.

Navy legal support to *Operation Tomodachi* was not limited to the four-star staff level of Pacific Command, Pacific Fleet, and the Joint Support Force. Just as the newly-established Joint Support Force staff merged operational law expertise with familiarization of the host nation’s legal regimes, so too was there synergy between Navy lawyers from inside and outside Japan.

Staff judge advocate CDR French and his deputy, LCDR Sarah Stancati advised VADM Scott R. Van Buskirk, commander U.S. Navy’s 7th Fleet, and his operational staff. Two days after the earthquake and tsunami, CDR French asked for help to man the 24/7 watch at 7th Fleet. With less than three-hours notice, LT Josh Fryday and LTJG Hannah Foster headed to the airport, seabags packed, to augment the staff. LT Byron Nakamura, reported to Combined Task Force-76 to assist LCDR Tahmika Jackson, the lone lawyer providing advice to the amphibious fleet supporting the humanitarian relief mission. LT Drew Coffin, was immediately in the forefront of providing advice to his amphibious ready group commander.

Meanwhile, ashore Navy lawyers at Region Legal Service Office Japan and Naval Legal Service Office Pacific, assisted in the host of challenging legal issues associated with the voluntary authorized departure of Navy dependents from Japan to the U.S.

“Normally we are defense and legal assistance attorneys so we had to become acquainted with operational international law very quickly and dive right in,” said LT Fryday. “It’s an honor to be part of an operation like this, to see how the Navy can really make a difference, especially to those in need. Having an opportunity to work on a mission like this is why I joined the JAG Corps.”

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As the frontline attorneys for direct support to Navy and civilian personnel in Japan, the Region Legal Service Office Japan and Naval Legal Service Office Pacific in Yokosuka were thoroughly involved in assisting departing eligible family members. Military and civilian lawyers engaged representatives from other U.S. departments and agencies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the DoD Education Activity, to help ensure a smooth transition in a stressful time for departing family members. One key component to mitigating the stress of the departure was ensuring the flow of accurate information, including details about travel and lodging entitlements, and alternative safe havens. Navy judge advocates were integrally involved in developing and regularly updating frequently asked questions, also known as FAQs, posted on installation Web sites to help inform the families departing or considering departure. The development of these FAQs exemplified the overall posture of Navy judge advocates involved in *Operations Tomodachi* and *Pacific Passage*: naval officers stepping forward and contributing in whatever ways they could in order to accomplish the assigned mission, even if the issue or challenge was not purely legal in nature.

The earthquake, tsunami, and resulting radiological threat created an almost incomprehensible time of difficulty for Japan. In fact, some observers in Japan have referred to their nation facing a “New Normal” in the “post-March 11 era,” reminding us of the collective shock to our national psyche after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Yet in this difficult time for Japan, it is clear that *Operation Tomodachi* is aptly named. By words and by deeds, the U.S. military has demonstrated to the nation of Japan that they have, and will continue to have, a sure friend in such times of need. 🌟

Legalman Paralegal Education Program

By LN2 Dexter Robison, Jr.
Region Legal Service Office EURAFSWA

Before converting to my current rate of legalman I was an aviation electronics technician. The duties of an aviation electronics technician include repairing and maintaining the electronic components of aircraft, such as radios, GPS, and weapon guidance systems. I have worked on two different platforms during my career as an aviation electronics technician. I was at Strike Fighter Squadron-131 working on F/A 18 Hornets before transferring to Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW-120), where I worked on the E2C Hawkeye and C2A Greyhound.

Although I enjoyed my time as an aviation electronics technician, my time as a legalman has been unique and challenging, and overall exciting. I was among the first students to graduate from the Legalman Paralegal Education Program (LPEP). LPEP is designed



LN2 Dexter Robison, Jr. at his desk at the Region Legal Service Office EURAFSWA

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“The Legalman Paralegal Education Program is a unique program necessary for our rating. Coupled with the Naval Justice School, it is undoubtedly integral to the proper and thorough preparation of future legalmen.”
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to educate legalmen as paralegals, allowing them to take on additional duties currently being performed by attorneys. This will be accomplished by requiring all legalmen to obtain an associate’s degree from an ABA accredited college.

For weeks, my fellow legalmen and I went to night classes, completing five courses. The classes we took included criminal law, business organization for paralegals, litigation, contracts and domestic relations. Though we had a great deal of homework, we had four hours of study time at the Naval Justice School, which helped out a lot. There were many naval attorneys, who provided us with any kind of assistance we needed, even if it was just to listen and reassure us we were on the right track. That was one of the best parts of LPEP, having legal professionals available when there was something in the material we did not understand. The fleet returnees offered additional assistance. The fleet returnees were legalmen who, like the instructors, had been in the fleet doing the job prior to returning to Naval Justice School to go through LPEP. They were able to tell us what to expect in our first command as well as provide a little more insight on topics we may not have understood during school.

During LPEP, we did not have class on Fridays. This break afforded us the opportunity to practice factual situations, which were scenarios of misconduct by military members sent to non-judicial punishment or courts-martial. We were required to do all the paperwork for the factual situations, while the fleet returnees checked our work. The fleet returnees

corrected our mistakes as well as taught us why such mistakes were wrong. They had a big impact on my view of legalmen and I chose LNC Eric Smart to be my mentor.

I have been assigned to Region Legal Service Office in Sigonella, Italy. There, I will be assisting the judge advocates with non-judicial punishment and trial preparation. LPEP helped prepare me for this work by allowing me the opportunity to apply my knowledge as well as teaching me the material. It also provided me with essential tools that I can employ when and if my work crosses over into civilian jurisdiction. Furthermore, LPEP gave me an idea of what paralegals in the civilian courts deal with on a daily basis.

One more huge benefit, is the extension of LPEP into the civilian world. Once legalmen separate from the military, they will do so with not only job experience but the academic degree to support their knowledge and skills. Indeed, LPEP is a unique program necessary for our rating. Coupled with the Naval Justice School, it is undoubtedly integral to the proper and thorough preparation of future legalmen.

Inspired by my initial success at the university, I plan to continue the program at Roger Williams University and get my bachelor’s degree in Paralegal Studies. When I achieve my bachelor’s, I would like to continue on to get a master’s degree by the end of my enlistment. I recognize my time in LPEP as an invaluable experience, one that I firmly believe will help me to advance in the legalman community as I continue to proudly serve the U.S. Navy. 🌟

A legalman's perspective of counterinsurgency contracting

By LNC Harrold Henck
OJAG Reserve Public Affairs

Reinforcing a commitment to reduce corruption and spur economic development, U.S. Central Command Commander GEN David Petraeus issued guidelines last fall to enhance oversight of contracting efforts in support of counterinsurgency operations in Afghanistan.

This oversight is being performed by the Joint Contracting Command, Iraq-Afghanistan with the able assistance of LNI Michael Rusinas, a navy reservist, currently filling an individual augmentee billet.

"We are a basically a joint task force composed of Army, Navy, Air Force and DoD civilians," LNI Rusinas explained. "We support the senior contracting official in Afghanistan and oversee 13 regional contracting centers spread throughout the country."

The work this office performs cannot be overestimated. In fiscal year 2009, NATO and the U.S. provided some \$14 billion worth of goods and services. The Joint Contracting Command's task is to establish effective procurement procedures to build and sustain a self-sufficient economy. Much of this work involves legal reviews of contracts to ensure compliance with U.S. and Afghan laws.

"The work is challenging as we face new and difficult questions in an ever-changing environment. Even the federal acquisition regulations do not always address every contingency encountered here" said LNI Rusinas. "This requires our attorneys to be hyper-vigilant in their contract reviews."

GEN Petraeus' guidance states that contracts should go first to Afghan firms or, if no local option exists, the company that is awarded a contract will be encouraged to hire native workers and subcontractors. These contracts not only produce Afghan products, but also generate employment and stimulate economic growth. The command has the authority to direct these acquisitions and measure their success.

"The money spent has accomplished great things, such as improving roads, power sources, commercial infrastructure, medical services and security efforts," LNI Rusinas observed. "Using counterinsurgency contracting concepts, we are helping Afghanistan build a durable economy."

The revised counterinsurgency contracting guidance notes that "money is ammunition" and that close attention should be given to the impact of spending and who benefits from it. GEN Petraeus' "Afghan First" policy is reaping huge benefits and the Kabul Milli Boot Company is a prime example according to LNI Rusinas.

"I recently toured the Milli Boot Factory and saw staff diligently cutting, sewing and shaping raw material into



LNI Michael Rusinas assists an Afghan worker during a tour of the Milli Boot Factory in Kabul. The factory is one of many "Afghan First" initiatives of CENTCOM's contracting efforts designed to spur local economic development and deter insurgent support.

combat boots that will supply local forces. The employees are clearly proud of their efforts and eager to produce."

The scale of contracting in Afghanistan represents both an opportunity and a danger. Private contractors provide a range of services including transportation, security and operating dining facilities at military bases. The challenge is to exercise proper guidance, avoid avarice, and win the loyalty of the Afghan people.

Accomplishing this sometimes means getting out of Kabul to assist judge advocates and meeting with intended recipients at the various regional contracting centers. In an underdeveloped land as Afghanistan, this can be a cumbersome venture as LNI Rusinas explained.

"Last fall, I served on a surplus acquisition venture team at Camp Leatherneck in the southern province of Helmand. Getting there meant a two-and-a-half day trip, and immediately upon arrival, we were bombarded with hundreds of questions on contract law. The end result was meaningful nonetheless because we were bringing a sense of order to these remote locations."

Providing security to the Afghan people is still the core mission of coalition forces. Counterinsurgency contracting, however, is clearly enhancing that mission by investing in the economy, developing the rule of law, and deterring Taliban influence among the populace.

"Essentially, we are trying to win this war by creating a viable economy, one that creates jobs so people can feed their families and not turn to violence," LNI Rusinas stated. "If the success of Milli boot factory is any indication, I believe the country will soon develop a strong economy and our mission here will be a success." ❁

What's in an OJAG code?

Military Personnel - Code 61

By CAPT Scott Thompson
Military Personnel - Code 61

When I found out I would be taking over Military Personnel - Code 61, I asked my colleague, “Don’t they do recruiting?” I had to confirm that the office was in D.C. and not Millington. Since then, I’ve come to appreciate that the work of Code 61 impacts the careers of every judge advocate.

Code 61 started out as the JAG Corps detailing and community management shop. When the officer detailers and the officer community manager migrated to Navy Personnel Command, Code 61 retained the role of developing the JAG Corps officer manpower policies and strategy. In fact, the assistant officer community manager works in Code 61, and the manpower triad – detailers, officer community manager, and Code 61 – interface daily on issues that touch the entire JAG Corps officer community.

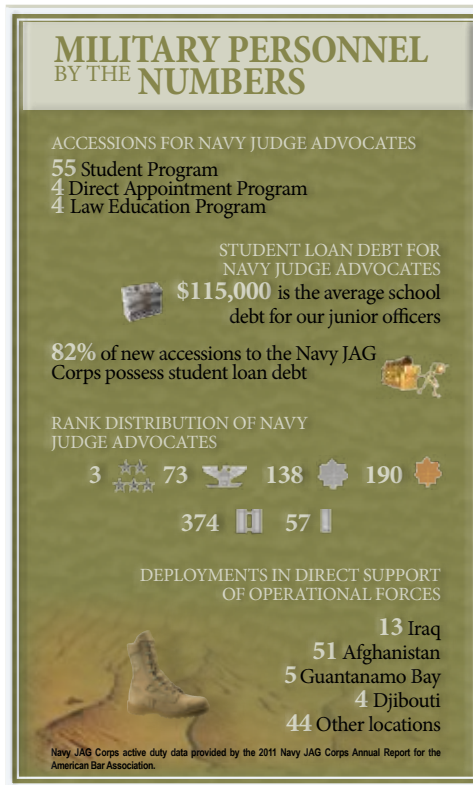
Whether developing strategies to advocate for increased manning, supporting Congressional testimony of Navy leaders, or programming the billets necessary for a command or staff judge advocate to accomplish the mission, Code 61 is involved. This past year has been particularly dynamic as the Navy plans for anticipated budget reductions over the next several years. Thanks in large part to the work of a junior officer in Code 61 and the officer community manager, the JAG Corps was able to successfully defend Judge Advocate Continuation Pay this year despite an overall reduction in Navy special and incentive pays. We were able to limit the impact of Navy-wide “roll downs” in the number of O4/O5/O6 billets by aggressive engagement with Navy Personnel Command through the officer community manager, deputy judge advocate general, and judge advocate general. As a result, the JAG Corps has been more successful than most communities in mitigating the impact of Navy-wide manpower reductions on our promotion opportunity and authorized end strength. We have also defended our postgraduate education opportunity through a detailed validation of every JAG Corps billet that requires subspecialty expertise. The superb ability of JAG Corps detailers to ensure

that qualified officers are consistently assigned to these billets allowed the JAG Corps to send 25 students to postgraduate school this year. Code 61 was the lead for increasing opportunities for judge advocates to attend Master of Laws programs at Harvard, Columbia, University of Pennsylvania, and the University of California, Berkley, among others. Judge advocates will not escape all impact from Navy reduction initiatives, however, we have fared better than many communities as a result of JAG Corps leadership being in the ring fighting for every billet, every postgraduate school quota, and every dollar of Judge Advocate Continuation Pay.

Of course, Code 61 does also oversee JAG Corps recruiting. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of officers throughout Naval Legal Service Command, applications to the JAG Corps continue to increase. Code 61 helps develop the policies and programs that impact recruiting, such as structured interviews, on-line application system, Internship Program, accessions selection board precepts, and diversity outreach. In fact, the JAG Corps is one of the few Navy communities that is almost exclusively responsible for its own recruiting, and is entrusted by Commander, Navy Recruiting Command with over \$60,000 in sponsorship commitments for diversity recruiting.

Code 61 also contributes to the execution of several important JAG Corps quality of life programs. We routinely request nominations for a host of quarterly and annual awards to recognize outstanding members of the JAG Corps. The recently approved JAG Corps telework policy was drafted by Code 61, and we are working closely with Task Force Life Work to implement other important programs.

Assignment to Code 61 can be an important broadening tour for an officer. Certainly, it provides a broad picture of almost every facet of the JAG Corps structure. Service in Code 61 also provides young officers with opportunities to interact directly with senior JAG Corps leaders on a host of issues. The perspective gained working in Code 61 can be invaluable in future leadership assignments. Finally, though, Code 61 provides an opportunity to work with the very best and most motivated members of our community who are helping to recruit, assign, and retain the next generation of judge advocates. ☀



2011 Postgraduate school profiles

LT Jon McKay

**George Washington University Law School
Environmental Law**



I chose to study environmental law because it is pervasive and growing, and it impacts almost every aspect of the Navy's operations. As a regulated agency, anything the Navy builds, floats or flies must comply with federal and state environmental laws. Therefore, environmental law is a means for me to see and touch almost anything the Navy does, but to do so through a focused legal prism. What I like about this area of the law, is how expansive it has become. It requires knowledge of litigation and administrative law; it has operational aspects; and it is no doubt evolving.

LCDR Matthew Kurek

**Lewis and Clark Law School
Environmental and Natural Resources Law**

As an operational law attorney and a carrier judge advocate, I became absolutely intrigued with the balance and interplay between military tasking and environmental concerns. This was the catalyst to my decision to specialize in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. As an environmental attorney, I hope to assist operational commanders understand environmental laws and regulations and provide legal guidance during operational planning.



LCDR William Weiland

**Temple University - Beasley School of Law
Trial Advocacy**

Successful trial advocates recognize that the profession demands a life of long study, self-critique, and practice. Advanced litigation techniques can be learned in the class room, and practiced in a mock setting. And that is why I chose to study Trial Advocacy at Temple University Beasley School of Law. The classes meet at nights and on the weekends, which allowed me to secure a position as a special assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. By serving as a full time federal prosecutor, I have been lucky enough to put the advanced techniques I have learned to the test. Quite honestly, the combination of education and experience simply cannot be beat.



CDR Joseph Hoelz
**Columbia Law School
International Law**

During my two staff judge advocate tours, I gained some experience in Environmental and International Law. I really

enjoyed both areas of practice and knew intensive study in either would prepare me for future assignments. My professors are exceptional, but I have been even more impressed by my classmates. In addition to many of them being brilliant, they have been very open minded and are truly interested in a dialogue on the balance between national security and individual liberties.



CDR Thomas Leary
**Georgetown University Law Center
National Security Law**



I selected the National Security Law for several reasons. First, with the nation at war with a non-traditional enemy, which operates across national boundaries - this area of law is of acute importance. Second, I've been fortunate to have served overseas with our nation's fighting forces, and have been witness to some of the national security decision-making processes. As a result, I wanted to be certain to understand as completely as possible the legal considerations that influence those decisions. And finally, as a formal field of study, National Security Law is a relative newcomer to the legal profession, so pursuing this degree opens up numerous interesting and potentially novel professional opportunities for me as I continue my career.

CDR Scott Suozzi
**University of Pennsylvania Law School
International Law**

Studying international law not only allows a judge advocate to gain a perspective on how the rest of the world relates to the rule of law, but it prepares you to perform in a myriad of Navy and joint billets all over the globe. Furthermore, by studying at a civilian institution you are exposed to a wide spectrum of views and build an instant network of attorney classmates from many U.S. states, countries, cultures, and regions.



LCDR Sylvaine Wong
**Harvard Law School
International Law**

I became interested in the Law of Armed Conflict during my first-tour deployment to the Arabian Gulf, where I worked side-by-side with military lawyers from our NATO partners. The tangible operational impact at a tactical level, caused by differences in national interpretation of laws, was eye-opening. Everything I am studying has direct relevance to the issues we faced in Afghanistan, and will continue to face in future international armed conflicts.





JAG Corps releases updated strategy

The JAG Corps published *JAG Corps 2020* five years ago to chart our course for the future of our practice. Today, we are updating our strategic plan with *JAG Corps 2020.1* to reflect what we have learned from our experiences over the past five years and where we need to go.

As our Navy continues to be called upon to meet varied and complex challenges, the JAG Corps will remain an integral part of its mission. To meet the legal needs of our commanders and their forces, the JAG Corps must adapt to the future. *JAG Corps 2020.1* sets out our mission and long-range strategic vision for the Navy JAG Corps. We defined our three pri-

mary practice areas: military justice; operational law/command advice; and support to Sailors and their families. To succeed in these practice areas, we must recruit and retain the right people, prepare our people for success, assign the right people to the right positions, and execute best practices.

Our mission has been, and will remain, to provide superb legal solutions to our clients, wherever and whenever required. Through the vision detailed in *JAG Corps 2020.1*, we will accomplish our current mission and invest in building the future JAG Corps. *JAG Corps 2020.1* is now online at www.jag.navy.mil.

Please read the plan closely and discuss it with your leadership, peers and subordinates.

Each of you is critical to the overall success of our efforts to remain aligned with the priorities of the larger Navy and joint force. We ask you to continue to look for opportunities to help execute the plan, to recommend improvements, and to add new ideas of your own. As in the past, the JAG will issue annual guidance to direct implementation of *JAG Corps 2020.1*. With your support, enthusiasm and desire to serve, we will continue to excel now, through the year 2020, and beyond. Thank you for all you do.

Judge advocate plays for all-Navy women's basketball team

By LT Taryn Meeks
Region Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic

LT Elizabeth O'Connor, attached to Region Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic, currently serves as the command services attorney for Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story and Naval Weapons Station Yorktown. Her days are typically full of random installation questions such as, "can this non-federal entity come onboard to hold a fundraiser run?" For one month, though, she spent her time on the basketball court at 32nd Street Field House in San Diego representing the JAG Corps on the All-Navy Women's Basketball Team.

LT O'Connor, a standout college basketball player at the College of the Holy Cross, submitted an application to the All-Navy Sports Program in early February. She was one of 22 members selected from all over the world to participate in the ten day try-out. She made the "cut" and continued to prepare for the All-Armed Forces Tournament held at Camp Pendleton in April.

"It was an awesome experience," said LT O'Connor. "I really enjoyed the camaraderie on the team." Players



LT Elizabeth O'Connor playing for the All-Navy Women's Basketball Team.

ranged from E-2 to O-3, with LT O'Connor being the most senior rankin player. "I am grateful to my command and especially LT Kevin Walker for filling in for me so that I could have this opportunity," said LT O'Connor.

The team practiced for three sessions each day, some days spanning from 0730 to 2030.

Although the team played well the first three games of the tournament, and was seeded first going in to the double elimination portion, the team ended up losing its final two games. LT O'Connor started as the power forward for the team. Despite having played shooting guard in college, LT O'Connor averaged double figures in both points and rebounds throughout the tournament at the new position.

"Not many people realize that these opportunities exist for us.

Many of my law school friends, not to mention fellow judge advocates, were in awe when I told them what I was doing; but it is these opportunities that make the Navy – and the JAG Corps – such a unique experience," noted LT O'Connor.

Great Lakes legal community hosts law students

By LTJG Lisa Redmond
Region Legal Service Office Midwest

Region Legal Service Office Midwest and Naval Legal Service Office North Central hosted a group of students and staff from John Marshall University Law School's Veterans Legal Support Center and Clinic in the courtroom onboard Naval Station Great Lakes. The Veterans Legal Support Center and Clinic assists veterans on a pro bono basis by investigating and researching their veteran benefit claims and facilitating their access to veteran resources. The Veterans Legal Support Center and Clinic also refers veterans to pro bono private legal counsel, who assist them with their claims.

CAPT Mark Hunzeker, commanding officer, Region Legal Service Office



LCDR Linda Manlove-Braxton gives a presentation on the Informal Physical Evaluation Board process to members of the John Marshall University Law School's Veterans Legal Support Center and Clinic.

Midwest, talked about the structure and clientele of the JAG Corps and various practice areas covered by the JAG Corps. Reservist, Lcdr Linda Manlove-Braxton, currently with the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in Chicago, provided a presentation on the Informal Physical Evaluation Board process and shared her experiences representing active duty and reserve service

members facing serious injuries and illnesses.

The meeting between the John Marshall University Law School's Veterans Legal Support Center and Clinic and the Midwest legal community educated both groups on the resources and services available through each, while fostering professional and community ties to the benefit of present and future service members and veterans.

Navy judge advocate selected for foreign relations fellowship

By Jen Zeldis
Public Affairs Officer

Judge advocate CAPT Stacy Pedrozo was nominated by the Chief of Naval Operations and selected for a one year military affairs fellowship at the Council for Foreign Relations. She completed the fellowship in August and had numerous opportunities to assist with foreign relations through her work.

"I was truly excited and humbled by this unique and challenging opportunity," said CAPT Pedrozo.

From her prior assignments, CAPT Pedrozo brought the precise experience and operational knowledge needed to work on the range of foreign policy issues Council for Foreign Relations tackled during the last year.

CAPT Pedrozo started her fellowship by addressing the potential impact on national security issues based on a proposed defense budget. She also provided a comprehensive review to the future of U.S. maritime strategy.

Based on her legal expertise, she addressed a variety of issues including: China's anti-access and area denial strategy; the impact of North Korea's aggression over the past year; excessive maritime claims; and the U.S. Navy's efforts in the field of alternative energy and marine mammal research.

She led panel discussions on the U.S. and China military-to-military relations with senior U.S. and Chinese leaders and academics. She has also participated in multiple meetings with senior policy makers and think tanks from China, Taiwan and South Korea.

In January, CAPT Pedrozo provided testimony before the House of Representatives U.S.-China Economic & Security Review Commission on China's active defense strategy and its

regional impact. She co-hosted a Council for Foreign Relations roundtable on China's anti-access strategy and regional impacts in Northeast and Southeast Asia with Georgetown University Professor Dr. Balbina Huang. Additionally, she participated in three multi-day foreign policy strategy fora, dedicated to discussing China's growing military capability and risks for instability in the Asia-Pacific region.

She also led a delegation of prominent Council for Foreign Relations members on a trip to South Korea, Taiwan, and the

"I have and will continue to interact with academics, policy makers, and business leaders on issues that are important to the Navy, the military and our nation," said CAPT Pedrozo.

Southern Philippines.

One of the Council for Foreign Relations's assets is the benefit of bringing different perspectives to bear on current issues.

"I have and will continue to interact with academics, policy makers, and business leaders on issues that are important to the Navy, the military and our nation," said CAPT Pedrozo.

CAPT Pedrozo's academic outreach efforts included teaching at Columbia University on Law of the Sea issues related to China; holding roundtable discussions with the Yale Fellows and State Department Young Leaders Program; mentoring graduate students from New York University and undergraduate students from the Virginia Military Institute; participating in the Council for Foreign Relations roundtable series; and editing paper proposals from graduate students interested in Asia Pacific or Law of the Sea issues.

Founded in 1921, the Council for Foreign Relations is an independent, non-partisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher, according to its Web site. The military fellowship program at Council for Foreign Relations has been in existence since 1996.

CAPT Pedrozo is the first military lawyer and woman to be selected for this very competitive Council for Foreign Relations military foreign affairs fellowship.

Each military service nominates an O-6, however their nominees are not guaranteed selection for the fellowship. Nominees interview with a panel chaired by a prominent policy maker and four retired four-star flag and general officers. This distinguished national security panel conducts an interview with each nominee, asking a range of foreign policy questions, including regional national

security issues, budget decisions impacting national security, and other substantive issues concerning ongoing conflicts, future threats, the environment, and human rights.

CAPT Pedrozo was most recently assigned to the Naval War College, where she taught the joint maritime component commanders courses, joint military operations courses, where she served as the legal advisor for Global Wargame 2009, and assisted the College of Operational and Strategic Leadership in Maritime Operations Center. Previously, she was the fleet judge advocate, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and senior staff judge advocate for Joint Task Force 519.

CAPT Pedrozo holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wake Forest University, a Master of Arts from the Naval War College, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Richmond.



Public service loan forgiveness, repayment assistance programs

By LT Kori Wilson
Military Personnel - Code 61

The average lieutenant junior grade in the JAG Corps carries \$103,381 in student loan debt. This equates to approximately \$1,100 each month in student loan payments (assuming a five percent interest rate and a 10-year payment plan; under an extended 25-year plan, payments would be around \$500). As an example of what that means to the average new lieutenant junior grade, let's assume we have a new judge advocate named Tom. Tom is stationed in Norfolk and has no dependents. Including basic allowance for housing and basic allowance for subsistence, Tom will have a net salary of about \$4,400 per month. His loan payments are currently taking up about 25 percent of his take-home income.

Fortunately, there is help for Tom and others similarly situated. In September 2007, President George W. Bush signed into law the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. The College Cost Reduction and Access Act was enacted to make college more affordable by phasing in many federal loan benefits, including increased grants, lower interest rates, a new loan repayment option, and loan forgiveness of federally-backed loans for public service. This article will address Public Service Loan Forgiveness and the new repayment option.

For those who qualify, Public Service Loan Forgiveness forgives remaining student loan debt after 10 years of qualifying service and payment. In short, if you spend ten years in the JAG Corps, and faithfully make your loan payments each month, your federal loan balance will be forgiven after that 120th payment. Qualifying service also includes, among other jobs, all government employment. All 120 loan payments must be made while employed full-time in public service employment and must be "qualifying." Qualifying payments are:

- Paid through the Direct Loan Program
- Made after Oct. 1, 2007
- Made under one of several eligible repayment plans

First, loans must be made through the Direct Loan Program. In the past, Federal loans were available from either the Direct Loan Program or the Federal Family Education Loan Program. Colleges chose which program they wanted to participate in. If you are unsure what type of loans you have, you can call 1-800-4-FED-AID, or visit <http://www.nslds.ed.gov/>. If your loans are under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, you can consolidate under the Direct Loan Program and begin making qualifying payments.

Unfortunately, payments made before Oct. 1, 2007, under the Direct Loan Program will not count toward the 120; there is no provision for retroactive payments. All

qualifying payments must be made after Oct. 1, 2007, while under the Direct Loan Program. They must also be under a qualifying payment plan.

So, what payment plans qualify? There are three types of qualifying payment plans to choose from. Two are income-based; the other is a standard repayment plan. The income-based plans are income contingent repayment and income based repayment. With these plans, your payments are recalculated annually according to your income and household size. Under income contingent repayment payments are capped at 20 percent of the difference between your adjusted gross income and 150 percent of poverty guidelines, under income based repayment they are capped at 15 percent, with the majority of payees being closer to 10 percent.

The standard repayment plan calculates your payments based on a 10-year repayment plan. You can also be on any plan that has payments equal to or greater than the payment required under the standard plan. Although, with the standard payment plan there would be nothing left to forgive at the 10-year mark.

Income based repayment is the new payment plan created by the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. Income based repayment is available to both those in the Direct Loan Program and Federal Family Education Loan Program. To qualify for income based repayment, you must have a "partial financial hardship." You have a partial financial hardship if your monthly loan payments under income based repayment are less than you would be required to pay under the standard 10-year repayment plan. Income based repayment is based on adjusted gross income and household size. The maximum payment is 15 percent of the difference between your adjusted gross income and 150 percent of poverty guidelines. In our above example, Tom would qualify for income based repayment and his monthly payment would be around \$280.

Payments under income based repayment are recalculated each year based on income and household size. Of course, eventually you will promote and no longer qualify for income based repayment. Once this happens, your payments will be the same as they would have been under the 10-year standard repayment plan based on the amount of your eligible loans when you first began repaying under income based repayment. In other words, your payments will never exceed what they would have been under the standard 10-year repayment plan, had you originally chosen that option. However, once payments are recalculated, you would likely end up paying for longer than 10-years if you leave public service and your loans are not forgiven.

Loan forgiveness continued bottom of page 19

RLSO Southeast holds annual training symposium

By LT Jonathan Hawkins, LT Mark Richardson
Region Legal Service office Southeast

Region Legal Service Office Southeast held its 2011 Training Symposium in June at the Officers' Club at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Fla.

The symposium was driven by three goals: conduct unit-wide training, facilitate professional networking and the exchange of ideas, and enhance unit cohesion and camaraderie.

"We have a very unique command in the Southeast in that we are very spread out," said CDR Jennifer Roper, Region Legal Service Office Southeast director of environmental law, who took the lead on planning the symposium. "There was an effort to get as many people from the command as we could together – let's do some valuable training as a group but also have the face-to-face input and interaction."

Almost 70 members of the command – officer, enlisted, and civilian – attended the symposium in person. Also participating in some events were members of Naval Legal Service Office Southeast, and staff judge advocates in Mayport, Fla., and Kings Bay, Ga. Personnel unable to attend in person were able to participate in the training by attending the briefings remotely, using the Defense Connect Online internet-based conference system.

The symposium consisted of two days of training, including all hands general military training sessions, legal briefs, and several breakout sessions. Breakout sessions were held for officers, enlisted, and civilians, as well



CDR Michael Holifield, director of command services, Region Legal Service Office Southeast, conducts an all-hands ethics brief.

as additional breakouts for personnel assigned to trial offices and staff judge advocate offices.

Breakout sessions for the enlisted personnel included an enlisted community update, an administrative separation board practical tips and lessons learned discussion, and a question and answer period with LNCM(SW/AW) Dwayne Layfield. It also featured a Legalman Paralegal Education Program update by Edward Crews from the Naval Justice School.

Other speakers included CAPT Jeffrey Maclay, commanding officer for Naval Air Station Jacksonville, and Terry Baker, general counsel for Navy Region Southeast.

Junior officers also had the opportunity to meet individually with their detailer, LCDR David Gonzalez, and attend LCDR Gonzalez's brief on the career status board, detailing, and promotion process.

The symposium also presented a valuable opportunity to be able to recognize members of the command for outstanding achievements. CAPT David Grogan, commanding officer, Region Legal Service Office Southeast, awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal to LCDR Erin Baxter, staff judge advocate of Naval Station Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. CAPT Grogan also presented command coins to LN1(SW/AW) Cleotis Robinson and LN1 Tamara Brewer for completing degrees in Paralegal Studies from Roger Williams University.

Region Legal Service Office Southeast is one of the most geographically dispersed commands in the JAG Corps, spanning the entire Southeast Region, including the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, as well as Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

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There are some potential downsides. Interest on unsubsidized loans accrues, so if you leave qualifying public service, you could end up paying much more in interest than you otherwise would have. It is also possible that your interest rate will increase if you have to reconsolidate from the Federal Family Education Loan Program to the Direct Loan Program. And, unfortunately, private loans are not eligible.

On a related note, some law schools have revamped their loan repayment assistance programs to work in conjunction with income based repayment and the Federal Student Loan Program. JAG Corps service is considered qualifying employment at approximately 70 schools with an loan repayment assistance program. Eligibility criteria and payment amounts vary widely.

For more information, including payment calculators, visit: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/> and www.ibrinfo.org.



Legalmen use training to serve clients

By LN1 Lucia J. Abreu
Region Legal Service Office Southeast

The legalman role in the JAG Corps has greatly evolved in the past thirty-nine years. One recent advance is the new Legalman Paralegal Education Program (LPEP), now fully in effect and being utilized by today's legalmen to improve proficiency and create new opportunities to benefit the JAG Corps and the fleet. Legalmen are now entrusted to undertake many critical duties formerly performed solely by attorneys.

Region Legal Service Office Southeast legalmen are using LPEP and local command training to conduct research projects, draft charges, prepare motions, and provide essential support during all stages of the judicial process. They are also assisting staff judge advocates with legal briefs, presentations and myriad command service issues. Today's legalmen work hand-in-hand with attorneys, helping them focus their attention on critical legal points. Legalmen have become key players in all legal and administrative matters.



LN1 Lucia Abreu, LN2 Claudia Loza, and LCDR Jason Jones discuss an administrative separation board.

At Region Legal Service Office Southeast, legalmen have acted as recorders in over 15 administrative separation board cases since the beginning of the year, with remarkable success. Participation in these administrative boards enabled legalmen to gain litigation experience not typically available to their civilian counterparts.

As they increase their confidence and skills, legalmen are researching and briefing evermore complex legal topics, which would otherwise consume much of an attorney's time. The

many topics researched have included the military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, rules of engagement, non-combatant evacuation operations, maritime security, law of the sea, and immigration law.

Since the JAG Corps partnered with Roger Williams University in 2007, the legalman rating has transformed into one of the most formally educated rates in today's Navy. This education, combined with legalmen's integral role in the judicial process, has only added to their well-deserved reputation as consummate professionals and valuable partners in the JAG Corps.

Talisman Sabre: Law from down under

LT Chris Cox
USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19)

Eight U.S. and Australian military lawyers came together to form the legal team for exercise *Talisman Sabre 2011* in July.

Designed to maintain a high level of interoperability between U.S. and Australian forces, *Talisman Sabre* was held at six Australian Defence Force training areas in Central and Northern Queensland and the Northern Territory, with maritime forces exercising in the Coral, Timor, and Arafura Seas and involved combined command elements in Japan, Hawaii, and California.

Serving aboard the 7th Fleet command ship *USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19)*, judge advocates participated in every aspect of the exercise, from planning and execution to providing legal

advice and counsel to VADM Scott Van Buskirk, coalition commander, and his deputy commander, RADM David Johnston of the Australian navy. Serving as watchstanders and members of operational planning teams, the judge advocates gained invaluable experience in joint and combined operations and learned about combat operations in the land, air, and sea.

Led by CDR Joe Carilli, the U.S. 7th Fleet force judge advocate, and his counterpart, LTC David Bishop of the Australian army, both brought vast amounts of experience in operational law.

"Working with lawyers of this caliber has made me a better operational lawyer," said LT Sarelle Woodward, Australian Air Force Fleet.

"This truly has been a professionally rewarding experience," said LTC

Bishop, adding that it was "a rare and unique opportunity."

CDR Carilli asserted "it has been a pleasure working with a team of judge advocates on an exercise that involves so many moving parts in a substantial operating area."

Talisman Sabre is a biennial military exercise which combines Australian and U.S. maritime, land, and air forces and reflects the close military relationship between Australia and the United States. The exercise is the largest joint military exercise undertaken by the Australian Defense Force with around 14,000 U.S. and 8,500 Australian personnel participating and provides an opportunity to conduct operations in a combined and joint environment that will increase both countries' war-fighting capabilities to respond to regional crises.

Shooting for the Navy marksmanship team

By LT Jasmine Scott
Region Legal Service Office Southwest

My first experience with a rifle came at my pre-deployment training with the Army in Fort Lewis, Wash. It was a cold, rainy March day and I crawled into a mud hole to shoot at some pop-up targets 100-300 yards away with my M-16. It was a rough introduction to rifle shooting. I basically raised the rifle and hoped I was aiming at the pop-up target and then pulled the trigger.

For two weeks in May 2011, I had a completely different experience, shooting with the Navy Marksmanship Team. The Team is made up of elite level shooters but is also very inviting to new shooters, without whom the program would not continue. From day one, the experienced and distinguished shooters focused on teaching and guiding the “new shooters.” Mind you, “new shooter” is a status term that means only that the shooter has not competed at this high level of competition; new shooters may have several years of shooting experience. Many of them had.

There was a lot to learn about shooting a bulls-eye competition such as this one. First, there was a ton of gear to get comfortable with. There is a rifle jacket, a shooting mat, a shooting glove, a sling, and a scope that is on the ground next to you. Getting comfortable with all the gear and using it properly was a necessity to score well.

Second, I had to learn about the environmental aspects of shooting the rifle. This entailed calculating the wind, judging the mirage, and studying the quality of the light from the sun hitting the target. Light can affect the elevation needed on the rifle. Wind and mirage (the heat waves rising from the ground) will affect the windage required. All of these determinations must be made quickly from both pre-determined calculations and feel. Competition shooting requires quick calculations and calm execution.

During the first week we competed against shooters from the Pacific Fleet. The first two days were the pistol competition. We shot the .45 one-handed, both slow fire and rapid fire, from the 25 and 50 yard lines. It was a big change from shooting the Beretta tactically (with both hands).

The third day started the rifle portion of the Pacific Fleet competition. We used match grade M-16s with iron sights. The National Match Course of Fire consists of four events:

- 1) 200 yard standing slow fire: 10 rounds in 10 minutes
- 2) 200 yard sitting rapid fire: 10 rounds in 1 minute with one magazine change
- 3) 300 yard prone rapid fire: 10 rounds in 1 minute with one magazine change
- 4) 600 yard prone slow fire: 20 rounds in 20 minutes

During the first week all of these things seemed overwhelming. Luckily I had a great coach, a distinguished shooter himself, GMC Don Christensen. During the Pacific Fleet week, I ended up winning Best New Female Shooter. I was also selected to participate on the Command Navy Region Southwest team during the team match.

Teams are made up of four people from the same command and one must be a new shooter. The three teammates I shot with, AME1 Cliff Sanders, MA1 Trevor Patty and LT Eric Palmer, are all in the top ten best shooters on the west coast and likely the entire Navy. They carried the team as I eeked out my meager new shooter level score. We managed to win the team match. We won the privilege of getting our names engraved on



GMC Don Christensen fires in the 600 yard long range slow fire event while LT Jasmine Scott spots the shot and keeps score.

a large trophy that has been passed down for over 40 years.

The second week was the All Navy week where we competed against the shooters from the east coast. It was the same course of fire but our competition was elevated. While my coach had assisted me with noticing changes in wind and mirage the first week, during the All Navy phase he pushed me to go completely solo. I made a few mistakes but learned a lot. I ended up winning Best New Shooter (for both genders) for the All Navy phase and won a trophy M1 Garand rifle. The best new shooter on the east coast edged out my score so I finished in 1st place on the west coast and 2nd place Navy-wide.

I had a great experience, and I feel that I developed a lot as an officer. I am proud also to be an official member of the Navy Marksmanship Team. I have a long way to go to attain Distinguished Shooter status, which is a career-long endeavor for most shooters.



A legalman's job at sea on the Big "E"



LN3 Kendra Johnson is one of five legalmen onboard *USS Enterprise (CVN 65)*.

By LN3 Kendra Johnson
USS Enterprise (CVN 65)

I'm often asked by my shipmates what a legalman does. After all, there are only five of us onboard the *USS Enterprise* (Big "E"). We don't work on the flight deck, we don't work in the hanger bay, and we don't do maintenance or repairs. So the question I've been asked is, "What exactly do you do?" Let me try to describe my life as a legalman onboard an aircraft carrier.

There is no such thing as a routine day for a Navy legalman on an aircraft carrier. No two days are the same, and we have to be ready to handle any issue that comes our way, from non-judicial punishments, courts-martial, administrative separations, powers-of-attorney, or legal assistance.

We are responsible for all the legal work for Big "E" Sailors. I graduated from Naval Justice School in May 2010, and as a first-tour legalman on one of the biggest decks in the Navy, it is sometimes overwhelming. After all,

this is my first deployment. My chief tells me that all the experience I am getting in this tour will serve me well throughout my career.

The Big "E" legal team also has two officers. The department head, is the commanding officer's right-hand man, or woman in our case, when it comes to all legal issues. She has the nickname of the "Judge."

Our chief makes sure everything is running smoothly and makes sure the officer and enlisted Sailors are taken care of. My chief has been in the Navy for almost twenty-two years and nothing surprises her. Nothing gets past her either-- trust me, I know from personal experience.

I'm on the non-judicial punishments desk. I like to think that the "Judge" and I are partners because we are at Captain's Mast together every week. After we get an investigation, we read them and make suggestions as to what to charge. I like to put my "defense hat" on and argue the other side of the case with my Judge.

After I draft the charges and they are reviewed, I check the package one last time to make sure all the evidence is organized. Then I make sure the members read and understand the evidence and charges against them. After non-judicial punishments, I inform the members of their appeal rights and answer any questions.

My chief tells us all the time, it is not good enough to just be a legalman, you have to be a well-rounded Sailor. You have to go out and get qualified in shipboard qualifications, go to many different working parties, be assigned to repair lockers, stand overnight duty and everything else a Sailor anywhere on the ship must do. I'm really close to getting my Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualification. I have been studying every night and can't wait to proudly wear my pin.

We may be on the oldest ship in the Navy, but we like to say that it is a 1961 hotrod. I am proud to be a Big "E" Sailor and a member of the world's greatest legal team.

Legalman earns information dominance warfare insignia

By LNI James Hills
Region Legal Service Office Hawaii

LN1 Misty Galentine became the JAG Corps' first Information Dominance Warfare Specialist during a ceremony at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

While assigned to Navy Information Operations Command Hawaii, LNI Galentine was one of 67 personnel selected to participate in a rigorous personal qualification process to become one of the initial qualifiers for the Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist pin.

"I've never had the opportunity to see what they do," said LNI Galentine. "This process gave me the opportunity to learn about the community that I was supporting, and it gave me a greater appreciation and understanding for what they do."

The Information Dominance Warfare pin, the Navy's newest warfare



LNI Misty Galentine is the first legalman to earn the Information Dominance Warfare Insignia.

device, represents a command identity for the Information Dominance Corps, which is comprised of 46,000 officers, enlisted, and civilian professionals in diverse fields such as information, intelligence, and oceanography.

"It was probably the most challenging qualification I've had to obtain," said LNI Galentine. "When going after Sur-

face Warfare or Air Warfare, you have to know the basic history of the Navy. When going after Information Dominance Warfare, you have to know the history of cryptology as well."

LNI Galentine wears the Information Dominance Warfare device to indicate that she has achieved a level of excellence and proficiency in the Information Dominance community.

"It's about trust. The commanding officer trusts us to get the right information. If we can't do that, we have no value," said LNC Harry Smith. "This makes the command feel like we're part of their team and dedicated to their mission."

"This is exactly what our community wants to see from our legalmen," said LNC Smith. "She's proven herself to her counterparts and her peers."

LNI Galentine transferred to Region Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic in February.

Underway aboard USS Frank Cable

By LTJG Jennifer Buyske
Naval Legal Service Office Pacific Det. Guam

Iam assigned to the Naval Legal Service Office Pacific Det. Guam. Our responsibility is to provide legal assistance and defense services to military members and their families. These services could be as simple as drafting a will, or as complicated as representing a client at a court martial.

I was excited and pretty nervous when I arrived on Guam. I had done legal work before as an intern, but this would be the first time I would have my own clients, my own office, and the first time I would actually be practicing military law. I had exactly two weeks in the office before I went underway for a three-and-a-half week deployment with the *USS Frank Cable* (AS 40).

I had never been onboard a ship before, let alone out to sea for three weeks. I decided that I would get to know the Sailors and earn their trust.

USS Frank Cable arrived in Malaysia and was in port for seven days. There were a number of tours and community service projects lined up for the sailors onboard, and I decided to take advantage of the opportunities. I signed up for two events: Habitat for Humanity and the day hike up Mount Kinabalu. I figured both of these activities would get me closer to the Sailors.



LTJG Jennifer Buyske and fellow *USS Frank Cable* sailors support a Habitat for Humanity in service project in Malaysia.

During the activities I found out that quite a few of the Sailors thought they could only talk to legal if they had a major issue. Many of them had questions about whether something actually was a legal issue that they should be worried about, and I told them that they could come see me and I would help them out. The Sailors now felt comfortable coming to me.

When I learned that my first duty station would be as a legal assistance/defense attorney, I was excited to serve the Sailors and get to know them. I quickly realized that in order to serve the Sailor, I needed to understand the Sailor. My time onboard the *USS Frank Cable* was a valuable learning experience.



LN2 Lakin Bradbury, Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Victim and Witness Assistance Program coordinator listens as LT Jonathan Hullihan, discusses witness rights to CDR Frank Hutchison, staff judge advocate.

Victims, witnesses have a voice with VWAP

By David Todd

The Flagship, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic

“We want to make sure that the people who are victims of any kind of crime are properly taken care of and make sure that their concerns are resolved to the best of our ability before we close out any of their cases,” said RADM Mark S. Boensel Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, on why the Navy implemented the Victim and Witness Assistance Program (VWAP).

The purpose of VWAP is to implement policy, assign responsibilities and prescribe procedures to provide assistance to victims of crimes and witnesses to crimes committed in violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice; to minimize the effects of crime and help victims and witnesses participate in the military justice system; to ensure that victims and witnesses receive appropriate response and assistance; to protect victims from further harm or hardship to ensure that all victims and witnesses are afforded their rights.

At the VWAP council meeting, CDR Frank D. Hutchison, staff judge advocate and liaison officer, discussed the program.

“All region commanders, are responsible for VWAP for all shore commands and other tenant commands that are not assigned to a fleet activity,” said CDR Hutchison. “... Because of that, VWAP is widespread and robust. It touches on a lot of commands that otherwise Navy Region Mid-Atlantic wouldn’t reach out and touch.”

VWAP services are available to all service members as well as military dependents including spouses and children, as well as members of the civilian population who are victims or witnesses of crimes committed. “If someone is a victim of a crime, they should report that to their chain of command or to law enforcement,” said CDR Hutchison.

“We have certain responsibilities in the program to ensure that the program is functioning as it should. Largely that is orchestrated through the legal side, but it’s fair to say that it’s an extensive administrative review process that we have to go through to ensure that all the pieces of the program are done and that we are informing the commands, tenant commands and others of their responsibilities under the program, thus ensuring that victims and witnesses are well taken care of,” said RADM Boensel.

RADM Boensel emphasized the importance for individuals to come forward when they are a victim of a crime.

“It’s very difficult for us to fix a problem if we don’t know about the problem,” said RADM Boensel. “It is probably fair to say that most crimes and infractions like that are discovered because someone comes and tells us that something happened. Certainly that’s the case in many of the domestic assault and sexual assault (cases). Our knowledge of them really comes from the victim reporting it to us or to someone else, and without that, it’s very difficult for us to do anything to help resolve it.”

“Additionally, our ability to prosecute is really hampered if we don’t have a victim or a witness come forward to be able to testify in the proceeding to tell us what happened. Not that it is impossible to do, but it makes it more difficult to proceed without their cooperation.”

The bottom line is whether you are a victim or a witness of a crime, communication is the key factor to receiving and upholding justice.

“The only way the criminal justice system works is if victims of crimes are fully invested in the process,” said Hutchison. “The program makes sure that victims and witnesses receive the services they are entitled to and receive the information they are entitled to.”

Judge advocate takes leading role on 7th fleet contingency operation planning team

LT Anthony J. Falvo
Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet

As the U.S. 7th Fleet assistant judge advocate, LT John Battisti has had an extremely unique opportunity for a second tour judge advocate, and he has capitalized on it. He has captured a leading role on the 7th Fleet staff's contingency operation planning team. Specifically, he is the legal action officer for the U.S. 7th Fleet Fires Element. The fires element is in charge of developing and maintaining all Navy nominated targets in support of each U.S. Pacific Command operational plan. U.S. 7th Fleet relies on LT Battisti as the primary collateral damage estimate analyst to review the thousands of U.S. 7th Fleet targets to ensure that each complies with the law of armed conflict.

Using his unique skill set, LT Battisti played an integral role during the period

following the North Korean shelling of a South Korean Island. On Nov. 23, 2010, South Korea conducted a routine live fire exercise in the vicinity of the North West Islands. In response, North Korea fired artillery shells at the South Korean island of Y-P Do, killing two South Korean marines and two civilians. Subsequent to the shelling of Y-P Do, the two Korea's were arguably closer to war than they had been since the 1953 armistice. LT Battisti and the inter-agency targeting federation worked around the clock to ensure that U.S. 7th Fleet was prepared for any contingency.

In his role as legal action officer for the U.S. 7th Fleet fires element, LT Battisti personally advises Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet on the legality of targeting packages, explaining in expert detail how the choice of weapon class, war-

head, fuse delay, heading restriction and other mitigation techniques eliminate potential for collateral damage. After U.S. 7th Fleet approves target sets, they are forwarded up the chain of command to the national level for further vetting.

The expertise that LT Battisti utilized during this crisis came as a result of his attendance at the Joint Targeting School collateral damage estimate methodology course where he was subsequently qualified as an analyst and instructor.

Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet saw such great value in the advice he received from LT Battisti, he signed an order directing all U.S. 7th Fleet, subordinate command, and transiting carrier strike group legal offices to maintain one judge advocate qualified as a collateral damage estimate analyst – a big step in the right direction for operational lawyers.



LCDR Charles Lazar, 7th Fleet's targeting officer, and LT John Battisti discuss collateral damage estimate methodology during a target review session onboard USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19).



A JAG Corps intern's perspective

By Kymberly Murphy
Region Legal Service Office Southwest Intern

Becoming a Navy judge advocate was the career path that was constantly in the back of my mind throughout law school. Everything about it appealed to me – the opportunity for travel and adventure, the immediate responsibility given to junior officers, the focus on physical fitness and a well-rounded life, and the core Navy values of honor, courage and commitment. Upon my graduation from law school, I realized that being a Navy JAG was the ideal job for me; and, I knew I had to put forth my best effort to make it happen.

I started my internship with Region Legal Service Office Southwest in November 2010. It was immediately clear that I was someplace special. Everyone went out of their way to welcome me. I felt like people really wanted me to have a positive experience. Right away, the attorneys in the office started showing me the ropes. In my first week, I observed a court-martial, sat in on an interview with a sexual assault victim, and went onboard my first naval vessel, *USS Germantown* (LSD 42), to interview witnesses for a court-martial. Although I felt like everyone was speaking a foreign language to me with all the Navy acronyms, I couldn't wait for what I would get to do next.

During the course of my internship, I've had the opportunity to do things that no other job could possibly offer. I've interviewed witnesses on multiple ships, from destroyers to carriers, and visited helicopter squadrons on

Naval Air Station North Island. I've been able to sit in on meetings between trial counsel and commanding officers about the status of courts-martial belonging to their commands; and, I've gotten the chance to watch Naval Criminal Investigative Service interrogations in person.

It hasn't all been just hard work, though. The office has done a great job of including me in their social events. It's great to be in an environment where everyone works hard and also has a lot of fun together.

In addition to all the field trips, the legal work assigned to me was really interesting. Before starting my internship at Region Legal Service Office Southwest, I was not sure in what area of law I wanted to practice or even if I wanted to litigate cases. My experience thus far has completely changed my mind – I love it here in the trial shop! The attorneys have been awesome with involving me at all stages of a case. So far, I've written prescreen reports for new cases, participated in victim and witness interviews and drafted their direct and cross exams for trial, drafted motions on evidence and expert witness issues, and listened to mock opening statements and closing arguments.

Taking this internship has been the best legal working experience I've had and I am so grateful for the opportunity. Everything I've learned will be incredibly helpful throughout my future legal career. Furthermore, I recently found out that I was professionally recommended by the most recent JAG Corps accessions selection board, and I can't wait to start my Navy career.



Region Legal Service Office Southwest summer intern Katarzyna Grzechnik with LTJG Barbara Colberg and LTJG John Cole at the Lemoore shooting range.



Naval Legal Service Office Northwest summer intern David Trangsrud and LT Adrienne Mittelstaedt onboard the *USS Bonhomme Richard* during Seattle Fleetweek.



National Capital Region interns pose for a picture before their tour of the USS *Iwo Jima* (LHD-7).

DC interns get a taste of Navy life

LT Robert Burk
Criminal Law - Code 20

Several dozen law students spent their summer interning at various National Capital Region Navy JAG Corps offices; and for two days the legal interns got a taste of life in the fleet when they were introduced to several shore and sea commands in Norfolk, Va.

While onboard the *Iwo Jima* (LHD-7), the interns viewed the ship's well deck, flight deck, and bridge. The interns also learned about the history, capabilities, and everyday life of the amphibious assault ship and her crew. At the Submarine Training Facility, the interns visited a virtual reality trainer and the toured the *USS Boise* (SSN-764). At the Navy Expeditionary Combat Command, several senior officers spoke to the interns about the com-

mand's mission, as well as the role judge advocates play in completing that mission.

According to Joanna Gonzalez, a third year law student at Loyola University New Orleans, interned at General Litigation - Code 14, "the trip to Norfolk was great exposure to other branches within the Navy."

Annie Preis, a second year law student at Columbia University, interned at Navy-Marine Corps Appellate Review Activity, gained valuable perspective on how the JAG Corps works with the line community: "My favorite parts of briefings were when line officers answered the question: 'What can judge advocates do to best help you?'"

The Navy JAG Corps summer intern program helps expose interns to the many facets of life as a military lawyer. LT Tashinda Richardson, internship coordinator, Military Personnel - Code 61, explained "Interns get the chance to 'try on' the job like a pair of boots and see how it fits. Their work at the various divisions allows them to see what type of work they will do and the intern events give them a chance to see the 'quality of life' provided with a career in the Navy JAG Corps."



National Capital Region interns onboard a demonstration SH-60 Seahawk helicopter.

Spotlight On



CAPT Alexander Whitaker

After his command tour at Naval Legal Service Office Southeast, CAPT Alexander Whitaker retired in 2007 and returned to his undergraduate alma mater, where he is now the college's chief of staff. Berry College is a top-tier liberal arts college in northwest Georgia that boasts the nation's largest campus and largest student work program. It has an undergraduate student body of over 1,900 students, a \$100 million budget, and endowment of over \$650 million.

CAPT Whitaker's duties include coordinating the activities of the school's governing board as corporate secretary and overseeing various program areas of the college. He is involved in the various legal issues that arise at the school, and also does fundraising. Working as the

president's principal assistant and one of the officers of the college, he describes his job as "not unlike a Navy chief of staff, staff judge advocate, and executive assistant all combined. There's never a dull moment."

CAPT Whitaker entered the JAG Corps through the Law Education Program, having been commissioned initially in 1982 as a special duty intelligence officer, serving first in *USS America (CV-66)*. He earned his Juris Doctor at the University of Virginia and graduated with honors from the Naval Justice School.

CAPT Whitaker's first tour was at Naval Legal Service Office Long Beach, followed by staff judge advocate tours in Scotland and London. An international law subspecialist, he earned his Master of Laws in international and comparative law from Georgetown, and was head of the Law of the Sea branch in the International and Operational Law Division - Code 10 before transferring to Japan as the force judge advocate. In Japan he managed the U.S. lawsuit that shut down the Shinkampo/Envirotech incineration plant, the first tort action overseas of its kind.

After an executive officer tour at Trial Service Office East in Norfolk, Va., he served as deputy assistant judge advocate general for General Litigation - Code 14 before going to command in Jacksonville. When he retired he had over 25 years of service. During his Navy years he had traveled to 27 countries on five continents.

"I always viewed my Navy service as making possible another career of service after I took off the uniform," he said. "I was delighted to have the opportunity to return to my college and give back to the place that I credit in many ways with making my JAG Corps career possible and so rewarding. In the same way, I credit the Navy and JAG Corps with preparing me well for my current responsibilities."

CAPT Whitaker is grateful for his years in the JAG Corps. "I am very thankful for the tremendous leaders I had in the JAG Corps to learn from and for the many exceptional shipmates of all ranks I was privileged to work with," he said. He says he continues to stay in touch with those he served with through e-mail and Facebook, and in his travels.

His advice for junior JAG officers? "Cherish the opportunity you have to practice law in direct service of your country: that's not something many lawyers get to do. Appreciate the exceptional quality of those you work for and with, and the camaraderie that you will never replicate in any other setting. And invest yourself fully in those who work for you: you will have no greater satisfaction through the years than seeing them succeed and do great things."



LT Donald Marcari

Former judge advocate, LT Donald Marcari's career in the JAG Corps, while brief, provided him with vast legal experience that has served him well in his civilian career. Since 2000, LT Marcari has been a managing partner at the firm Marcari, Russotto, Spencer & Balaban; where he is the senior litigator. The firm has 13 offices throughout Virginia and North Carolina and specializes in Personal Injury & Civil Litigation.

LT Marcari's first tour was to the mobile judge advocate trial team for the senior defense counsel, followed by tours with the Naval Legal Service Office and Naval Air Station Oceana.

During his JAG Corps career, LT Marcari represented military members in the U.S. and overseas in over 40 trials and provided legal assistance to hundreds of active duty, family members and retired personnel.

LT Marcari attended college at Appalachian State University where he received his bachelor's degree. Marcari went on to earn his Juris Doctor from Campbell University School of Law and is a member of the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Military Appeals, Eastern District Court 4th Circuit and the North Carolina and Virginia State Bars.



Civilian Advisory Panel



In an era of change, when businesses, organizations, and individuals demand and seek a better way to conduct business, the JAG Corps is pursuing change in the way it communicates with its civilian community.

Civilians in the JAG Corps have inquired about their role in the community. They requested a representative who could advocate on their behalf and a program manager to work on career development. They looked for a way to express and direct their concerns to a division where they would be heard and addressed. Those inquiries and requests did not fall on deaf ears.

On Nov. 4, 2010, VADM James W. Houck, the Judge Advocate General, established the JAG Corps Civilian Advisory Panel (JAGCAP). Their mission is to create a structured forum for two-way communication between senior leadership and the civilian community. This is an ongoing mission to facilitate long-term development of a more satisfied and cohesive civilian team within the JAG Corps.

JAGCAP consists of representatives from a cross section of the JAG Corps civilian community in both duties and geographic location. Currently serving are:

- Daniel Barnes, Office of the Judge Advocate General
- Gary Major, Region Legal Service Office Midwest
- Connie Terrell, Naval Legal Service Office Southwest
- Keith Farney, Naval Justice School
- Laurie Nagafuchi, Region Legal Service Office Hawaii
- Mike Humphrey, Naval Legal Service Office Northwest
- Janet Schmahl, Naval Legal Service Office Central
- Renee Bentley, Naval Legal Service Office Southeast
- Dwain Alexander, Naval Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic

JAGCAP has met several times to develop business rules and mechanisms to solicit and distribute information to and from the civilian community. At the outset, JAGCAP determined that information received from individuals in the community will be considered confidential to allow the free sharing of ideas and concerns. Incoming information will be

analyzed for issues and proposed solutions. Person submitting information can indicate if they want the submission acknowledged and if are available for further communication on and development of their issue. The information submitted will be analyzed to identify specific issues, the distribution and impact of the issue, proposed corrective courses of action, associated tangible and intangible costs and benefits associated with the various courses of action, feasibility of the individual courses of action, and the time to implement the proposed course of action. This information will then be submitted to senior leadership for consideration. JAGCAP will also provide a response back to the community, and if appropriate, the individual.

This is a new direction for both the senior leadership and the civilian community. JAGCAP's first mission is to build credibility and confidence by opening a conduit for communication, provide timely responses, and work to identify or develop answers to questions and concerns. JAGCAP will work hard to review and understand the submissions and to make sure that the JAG Corps is aware of the issues and concerns of the civilians. JAGCAP's vision is that it will be a vehicle for positive change in the lives of the civilian workforce.

New directions and change need to be pursued with dedication and persistence, but also with consideration for the existing structures and their purposes. Change can be a mutative process where common sense dictates that a new process or procedure is required with immediate implementation. In other instances, change can be an evolutionary process where steps have to be followed to insure the desired end result is accomplished and sustainable. JAGCAP will pursue the issues presented with dedication and persistence, but it will also have to work with and follow existing protocol for development and implementation of some new concepts. The first JAGCAP team looks forward to working for and with you to make a better civilian workforce in the JAG Corps.

JAG Corps Civilian Advisory Panel Communicator

In an effort to improve the JAG Corps civilian experience JAGCAP will implement the following measures:

- JAGCAP will maintain regular contact with the civilian community via quarterly published newsletters, articles in the JAGMAG. JAGCAP will present information from senior JAG Corps leadership, responses to inquiries from the field, and new developments in our community.
- JAGCAP will receive information from the civilian community via a private mail box for JAGCAP (JAGCAP@navy.mil). Information will be received, acknowledged, researched, and responded to by the JAGCAP. Submissions will be confidential for use only by JAGCAP.

The Golden Thirteen

Recollections of the first black naval officers

Edited By Paul Stillwell

Book review provided by LT Candace Holmes, Region Legal Service Office Naval District Washington



The inevitability of World War II loomed over the United States in the early 1940s. At the same time, our country was also fighting another war: segregation. Unfortunately, this battle permeated the Navy as well. The Secretary of the Navy at that time, Frank Knox, was a major catalyst for the continued segregation within the Department of the Navy. Sure, there were many African American men serving in the Navy, about 100,000 in fact. However, none of them were officers. African Americans were forbidden from serving as officers due to a fear that integration would cause disruption among the officer community. This misguided fear was so deeply rooted in the Navy's core leadership that it took external pressure from several political and community-based organizations to influence the Navy leadership to take any action. Responding to this pressure, Adlai Stevenson, the assistant to the Secretary of the Navy, wrote a memo urging Secretary Knox to consider commissioning African Americans as officers in the Navy. In February of 1944, the Navy slowly opened its doors to African Americans to become commissioned officers. Some of those officers, later known as the Golden Thirteen, recounted their experiences in Paul Stillwell's book *The Golden Thirteen: Recollections of the First Black Naval Officers*.

One of the features I appreciated most about Mr. Stillwell's book is that he let the men tell their own stories through oral histories. It is clear that Stillwell took great care in the construction of the novel and made a significant effort to uphold the dignity of each individual's memory, despite the inevitable memory flaws that often accompany old age. Not only did Stillwell use the oral histories of each portrayed member, but he also consulted historians, archived documents and records that aided in painting a well-rounded portrait of each individual depicted. The author introduces each chapter with a short story about the personality and the character of each individual based on his interactions with them while preparing to write the book. Each chapter contains the recollections and pictures of one of the eight remaining members of the Golden Thirteen from childhood to most recent; highlighting not only their naval careers and the time they spent training at Camp Robert Smalls, but their various gains and achievements post-Navy as well. Stillwell's determination to produce an accurate account also led him to interview three of the white officers that either instructed during the officer

training course or served with the members of the Golden Thirteen, which provides for a well-balanced historical depiction.

In his introduction, Stillwell posits a plausible theory as to why the Navy decided to commission the first African American naval officers: the Navy was under political pressure to commission twelve African American officers. They decided to select 16 people with the rationale being that at least 25 percent of them would be unsuccessful. We later find out, however, that all sixteen men passed the course with a class average of 3.89. In the end, twelve men were chosen to become officers and one was made a warrant officer. The process by which these specific individuals were selected for commissioning is unknown to this day, even to the members of the Golden Thirteen; however, each one of them were recognized as leaders while enlisted and demonstrated leadership early on in their youth.

The author does an excellent job of chronicling each officer's training as they experienced it. The sixteen chosen individuals reported to Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago for officer training at Camp Robert Smalls. The men provide mixed opinions concerning their treatment at Camp Robert Smalls during their crash course in officer training. Some said they felt the treatment was deliberately harsh and intentionally difficult; others thought the instructors were fair. By including the stories from the three white officers who either served with or taught them at Camp Robert Smalls, Stillwell offers a third perspective and allows the readers to come to their own conclusions. Regardless of what happened at Camp Robert Smalls, the men decided early on that they were there for a reason and whatever that reason was, they were determined not to fail and they vowed "sink or swim together," staying up late at night drilling each other on the subjects until everyone knew the material.

To say that the transition for the members of the Golden Thirteen as officers in the Navy was a smooth one would be misleading. They did suffer a few instances of prejudice after becoming officers. One member, Mr. Graham Martin, tells the story of how he and his wife went to Chicago to eat at a downtown restaurant and laxatives were put into their food. Other officers, like Mr. Samuel Barnes, recall meeting a few hostilities within the naval community like not being welcomed in the Officer's Club or



Sailors crossing the street in order to avoid saluting. Most of their white counterparts were able to look past the color of their skin and respect the men as officers once they got a chance to know them, see them as human beings, and build that foundation of trust and mutual respect.

The most amazing aspect of the book was that despite being assigned to menial jobs and assignments upon their commissioning (even though they were qualified enough to be deck officers) these officers worked hard, took their assignments with pride, and were successful in whatever assignment they were given; whether working as junior officers of the day, personnel officers, instructors, or tugboat drivers. They were proud to be officers and proud to be in the Navy. Additionally, they continued go above and beyond the call of duty as they became invaluable mentors and role models for the African American Sailors in the service. In fact, many of them continued to serve their country after they got out by working alongside the Navy to recruit more African American Sailors and officers in the service.

As somewhat of a bonus feature, Stillwell includes an interesting recollection about the destroyer escort, *USS Mason* (DE-529), the largest ship to have an African American enlisted crew during World War II, told through the eyes of the retired Reserve Commanding Officer Norman H. Meyer, and James E. Hair, his first lieutenant and another member of the Golden Thirteen. In his chapter, Meyer recounts his high expectations of his crew and proudly noted that they worked hard to meet his standards and that they were “as capable as their white counterparts in any destroyer escort.”

One thing is made clear from a reading of this book; the members of the Golden Thirteen took extreme pride in serving their country as naval officers. Leadership skills developed in the Navy certainly transferred to civilian life as each member became successful in their own right. Stillwell made a great decision in highlighting the individuals’ accomplishments before and after the Navy, proving that they were able to overcome the racial and prejudicial obstacles they each faced in their individual lives and take on such roles as a professional engineer, a social worker, a teacher, an attorney, an administra-

tor with a doctorate, an Urban League official, the first African American department head in the city government of Dayton, Ohio, the first African American member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and a justice of a state appellate court.

The book concludes with a chapter discussing the “Legacy of the Thirteen.” Here, Stillwell discusses the lasting impact that the Golden Thirteen had on the Navy. After the commissioning of the Golden Thirteen, the opportunities within the Navy for African Americans increased. Soon, other changes were made, like desegregating military housing and eradicating antiquated naval policies that required African Americans be assigned only to certain types of vessels and shore assignments. Though only one member of the Golden Thirteen, Dennis Nelson, stayed in the Navy for a full career, each one of these members had an enormous impact on the Navy.

Although the last member of the Golden Thirteen, Frank Sublett, Jr., died in 2006, the memories of those determined and proud individuals live on through this book and through the many officers who came after them. Many of us are able to succeed in the Navy today because they and many other brave men and women paved the way and set a standard each of us can aspire to meet. Through the courage, persistence, and commitment of the Golden Thirteen and their successors, doors have been opened.

Today, as recruits of all ethnicities and all races enter the “Golden Thirteen” in-processing building, the first thing they see is a photo of the officers. That building serves as a constant reminder of how far this Navy has come. And even though we have yet more work to do, these courageous men and the sacrifices they made serve as a lesson that there is no limit to how far this Navy can go when we are all given a chance to be successful. I was genuinely moved by this book and the recollections contained therein; it has inspired and motivated me to be not just the best officer I can be, but the best individual I can be both in and outside the Navy, and I am confident that it will have the same impact on anyone else who reads it. I wholeheartedly recommend this book.



The sixteen chosen individuals during an inspection at Camp Robert Smalls at Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago.

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LN1(SCW) Dana Martinez was selected as the Naval Legal Service Command Sailor of the Quarter for the period of April-June 2011. LN1 Martinez is attached to Region Legal Service Office Northwest, where she is assigned as the leading petty officer for the Command Services and Military Justice Departments. She leads two departments in providing legal services to 63 tenant commands, and provides daily paralegal support to six attorneys. During the quarter, LN1 Martinez assumed responsibility for 13 high visibility, legally complex cases and provided spot-on legal expertise.

RDML James W. Crawford III was selected for appointment as Commander, Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan/NATO Rule of Law Field Support Mission. Rule of Law Field Force-Afghanistan is an Afghan, civil-military and coalition unity of effort to promote the legitimacy of the Afghan government. The NATO Rule of Law Field Support Mission is aimed at enhancing Afghanistan's judicial capacity, alternative dispute resolution fora and the Rule of Law.

LN1 John McBroom received the 2011 Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This award recognizes service members and DoD civilian employees who have distinguished themselves by making a significant contribution to the country in the area of civil/human rights, race relations, equal opportunity, affirmative action, human resources, and/or public relations and whose conduct supports the core values of the Navy. The award was presented at the 37th Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Military Awards Dinner in July.

Lieutenants Gregory Morison, Daniel LaPenta, Benjamin Voce-

Gardner, and Toren Mushovic were admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States. Chief Judge of the Department of the Navy CAPT Daniel O'Toole moved for their admission in open court, which was granted by Chief Justice John Roberts. Following their admission, they had front row seats for the last oral argument of the term centered on a freedom of speech issue.

LN2 Justin Wisner was selected as Region Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic Sailor of the Year for 2010. LN2 Wisner is currently assigned to the Command Services office at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek Fort Story.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead presented **CDR David Dow** with his master's diploma in Homeland Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security, Monterey, Calif., March 2011.

LN1(SW/AW) Stacey Mincey of Commander, Submarine Group Seven was awarded Submarine Force U.S. Pacific Fleet's Shore Sailor of the Year during a luncheon at Naval Base Point Loma.

LT Tim Bergstrom of the Naval Legal Service Office Northwest Whidbey Island branch office received the Junior Officer of the Year Award from CAPT Robert Johnson for all his hard work and dedication. LT Bergstrom is currently the assistant command judge advocate onboard the *USS Ronald Reagan*.

Navy Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan was awarded the 2010 Gilbert Cup. The Gilbert Cup is awarded annually to the Navy Reserve JAG Corps unit adjudged to be the best law unit in the nation. Deputy Judge Advocate Reserve Affairs and Operations RADM Steven Talson, presented the award to CAPT Bradley

Cordts, Reserve Region Legal Service Office Japan's commanding officer at this year's reserve Commanding Officers' Conference in New Orleans, La.

CDR Aaron Rugh is this year's top graduate of the Trial Judge Course, at the Army Judge Advocate General School, in Charlottesville, Va. This is the first year that a Navy judge advocate was the top graduate.

LT Janelle Kuroda was awarded the 2011 Federal Asian Pacific American Council Meritorious Service Award and was one of eight U.S.-Japan Council ITO-EN Leadership Development Program recipients. LT Kuroda upheld the Navy's commitment to diversity by encouraging and supporting minorities and women in the uniformed lawyer and the civilian paralegal Federal sectors.

LT Eric Nelson was awarded the ABA Outstanding Young Military Service Lawyer Award. LT Nelson delivered premier legal support to hundreds of Sailors, their families, and retired personnel as a legal assistance attorney and defense counsel in Groton, Conn. A true leader, LT Nelson volunteered for and successfully served a six-month individual augmentee deployment to Baghdad, Iraq. He assisted in the creation of a system to respond to high-level Iraqi allegations of Security Agreement violations.

LCDR Cheryl Ausband and LCDR Jaime Giarraputo were awarded the Federal Bar Association's 2011 Younger Federal Lawyer Award. This award is presented annually to five attorneys employed by the federal government for professional achievement.

CDR Lisa Sullivan was awarded ABA Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law Outstanding Military Service Career Judge Advocate Award. Her dedication, vision, and commitment led her to be a role model to



judge advocates everywhere. A conscientious and dedicated professional, she consistently performed superbly in the most challenging position the JAG Corps offers. A versatile and effective leader, she also excelled in leadership positions, culminating with her success as the executive officer of the Naval Justice School.

Each year west coast Reserve judge advocates met at Naval Base Point Loma for the annual Navy Reserve Law Program Military Law Training Symposium. The annual conference, provides west coast judge advocates with important updates on military law and reserve law community issues. Additionally, The Hugh Howell Awards are presented to the past year's outstanding active command, Reserve command, junior officer, and senior officer. This year's winner for outstanding active duty command was **Region Legal Service Office, Hawaii**. **Navy Reserve Region Legal Service Office, Midwest** won the award for the outstanding reserve duty command. **LCDR Kristen McCarthy** (Junior Officer Hugh Howell Award) and **CAPT Jay Sullivan** (Senior Officer Hugh Howell

Award) took home the honors for the outstanding reserve judge advocates.

RADM Nanette DeRenzi presented **CAPT Karen Fischer-Anderson** the Legion of Merit Award for her numerous efforts and achievements, as commanding officer of Naval Legal Service Office Southeast. CAPT Fischer-Anderson took command of Naval Legal Service Office Southeast in 2009, where her leadership was instrumental in guiding the office through the Defense Command Pilot and in the providing of top-notch legal services to the third largest fleet concentration center in the world. Currently, CAPT Fischer-Anderson is serving as the first deputy commander, Naval Legal Service Office.

CDR Laurin Eskridge relieved **CDR Andrew House** from command of Naval Legal Service Office Central on in July. The ceremony was held at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, Fla. RADM Nanette DeRenzi attended as the guest of honor and guest speaker.

LNCS(SW/AW) Terry Primm was awarded the Joint Service Achievement Medal at the International Security As-

sistance Force Legal Advisor's Office in September. The medal was awarded for LNCS Primm's expert guidance and assistance to the investigating officer during an investigation of a highly visible mass-casualty event. CDR Johnny M. Nilsen, deputy legal advisor to Commander, International Security Assistance Force presented the award on behalf of MG Timothy P. McHale.

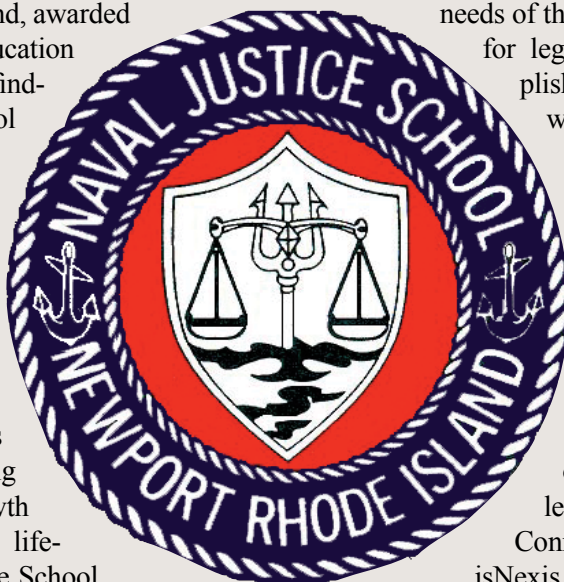
CAPT Mike Quinn, assistant judge advocate general for civil law, reenlisted **LN1 Mica Cowan**, a paralegal at the Office of Military Commission, at the African-American Civil War Museum in Washington, DC. She was joined by her family, friends and extended military family for the occasion.

LT Darlene Shubatt was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal on in July, recognizing her six years of accomplishments in Code 63, where her responsibilities included oversight of Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System, Continuity of Operations and JAG Corps support for the Navy Operations Center.

NJS wins training excellence award

RADM Joseph Kilkenny, Commander, Naval Education Training Command, awarded Naval Justice School with a Education and Training Excellence Award, finding that the Naval Justice School epitomizes the highest degree of training excellence found throughout the Naval Education Training Command.

Each year, this award is given out in order to recognize training activities which demonstrate "superior accomplishment" in ensuring fleet readiness and accomplishment, enhancing professional and personal growth and development, and enabling life-long learning. The Naval Justice School showed its commitment to this vision by cre-



ating, updating and changing courses to meet the needs of the Navy, creating new curriculums for legalmen ensuring mission accomplishment, and enhancing cooperation with judge advocate components in other services through joint legal education. In this environment of necessary cost efficiency, Naval Justice School has also created more online opportunities for judge advocates and legalmen alike to continue their legal education and training to better serve their clients throughout the fleet by creating a distance learning curriculum using Defense Connect Online and providing LexisNexis Training Modules for continued professional development.



LT Jesse Adams meets with Senator and Air Force judge advocate Lindsey Graham in Afghanistan. LT Adams is currently serving as the Military Executive Assistant for U.S. Central Command - Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435.



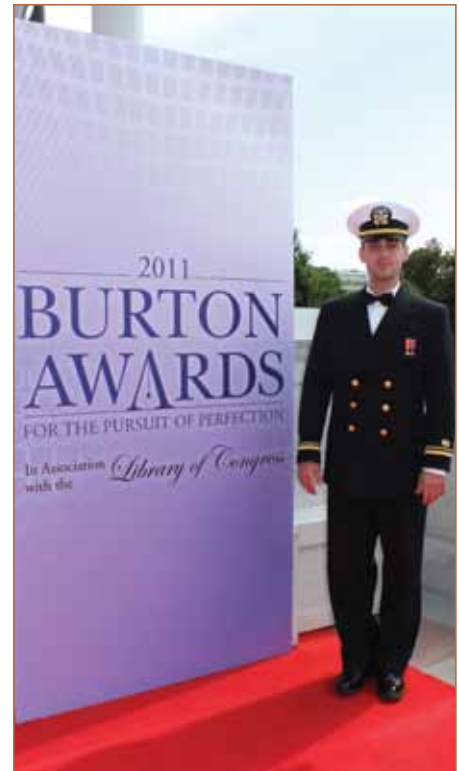
Members of the *USS Carl Vinson* legal team at the *USS Arizona* memorial, left to right: LT Jared Hernandez, LN3 Marta Motyl, LN1 Christopher Salinas, AN Nicholas Canete, LN2 Raymond Alamo, LCDR Mitchell Eisenberg. *USS Carl Vinson* is returning to their homeport of San Diego from a six month deployment to the 5th Fleet area of operation.



LT Kristi Anderson visits forward operating base in Wardak Province, Afghanistan, following a detainee release shura that was held at the Governor's compound.



Members of the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps gathered for a picture with their fellow service members from Combined Joint Interagency Task Force-435. Task Force-435, in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and U.S. interagency and international partners, conducts detention, corrections, judicial sector and biometrics operations.



LTJG Jacob Meusch, Naval Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic, received the Burton Award for Distinguished Writing at the Library of Congress. The 12th Annual Burton Awards were presented, in association with the Library of Congress.



LT Audrey Koecher, staff judge advocate for *Continuing Promise 2011*, talks with Guatemalan children during a "Give a Kid a Backpack" community service event at Escuela Republica de Japon. *Continuing Promise* is a five-month humanitarian assistance mission to the Caribbean, Central and South America.

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LN1 Ronald Alexander, left, and IT1 Dewayne Poole play jump rope during a community service project at the Holy Family Home Orphanage in Osaka, Japan. Sailors assigned to the U.S. 7th Fleet command ship *USS Blue Ridge* (LCC 19) and embarked U.S. 7th Fleet staff volunteered their time to help cleanup the home and play with the children.