

# 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 32<sup>nd</sup> 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 120<sup>th</sup> 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.

## *Loan forgiveness* continued from page 18

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](http://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

**M**y 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.



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

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

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

**L**N1 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

**I**am 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.