

## Share the Knowledge—Write On!

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Over the past few years, members of The Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC) have faced a litany of new legal challenges both domestically and abroad. With each passing day, smart members of the JAGC figure out new and unique ways to ensure that we as a corps provide the best possible legal advice to our clients. Although some of this outstanding legal thought is later captured in after-action reports, much of it is not shared with other members of the JAGC. I write this introduction asking each of you, no matter your rank or experience, to consider sharing your knowledge and practical advice with the entire military legal community.

Each month, The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School publishes an outstanding journal, which regularly provides updates on the law and the novel, and sometimes mundane, issues military attorneys face. *The Army Lawyer's* mission is to publish relevant and practical legal information in order to provide military attorneys more effective tools to better represent our clients. The journal's editorial staff needs your invaluable assistance to improve *The Army Lawyer's* ability to keep judge advocates in the field informed about the latest developments in our practice. The editors and the Dean's goal is to make every member of the legal community excited about reading each issue. In order to reach that goal, we need your help.

There are a few ways you can help make *The Army Lawyer* a more relevant and practical legal journal. First, you can write articles and submit them for publication. You can write on topics ranging from what members of the JAGC need to do before deploying to how to more effectively cut down post-trial processing time. I would love to publish more articles on how reserve Soldiers are effectively being integrated into legal offices in both garrison and deployed settings. The keys are to write on an issue that the military legal community needs to know about or to offer practical guidance on how to handle an issue related to our practice.

Second, you can let us know what you think is important and should be discussed in *The Army Lawyer*. We publish three theme issues a year, and each is devoted to either international and operational law, criminal law, or contract law. Our goal is to publish the most relevant information, without restriction to a certain area of the law, in the other nine issues. Our perspective from Charlottesville of what is important can sometimes be very different than your perspective from the field. I encourage you to contact us to let us know what is important to you.

Third, encourage your fellow JAGC members to read *The Army Lawyer*. Each month, every member of the JAGC can find at least one article, and probably many more, that is interesting and offers practical guidance that will help them become a better Soldier.

The editors are going to make it easier for you to publish relevant and informative articles. First, we are in the process of streamlining the approval process for submitted articles. In the past, a common complaint was that it took us too long to let authors know if we intended to publish their articles. Our current goal is to let authors know within forty-five days whether their article will be published. I would like to reduce that time to thirty days. Although it may take us a little time to reach that goal, we are diligently working to accomplish it.

Second, we are going to relax the rules as to when citations are required. We are going to transition to a journal that is more reflective of state bar journals, which offer practical guidance, but do not get bogged down on cites. If you take a look at them, you will notice that they usually cite a paragraph instead of a sentence or phrase. Quotes, of course, still need to be cited. To better assist you in effectively citing sources, Captain Anita Fitch wrote an article in this issue which provides guidance as to when citations are needed. Also, the *Military Citation Guide* is printed in this issue, and it provides guidance on how to cite military specific sources.

Third, in the past, we were hesitant to publish articles that discussed personal experiences without citation to published works. Now, we recognize that new and unique issues arise during the war on terror that nobody has ever seen before. You should document your experiences to ensure that other members of the military legal community can resolve the same or similar issues by utilizing your invaluable guidance.

I strongly encourage each of you to consider writing an article and submitting it for publication. Together, we can make *The Army Lawyer* a much more powerful legal tool than the superb journal it already is. You can submit articles to

ArmyLawyer@JAGC-SMTP.army.mil. Also, if you have any questions, concerns, or issues, please do not hesitate to contact me at eugene.baime@hqda.army.mil or (434) 971-3376.