Welcome to the third International and Operational Law edition of *The Army Lawyer*.

The proposition that all judge advocates (JA) and paralegals need a solid foundation in International and Operational Law is an understatement. As of this writing, there are over 600 legal personnel deployed to combat zones and countless others stationed around the world, including Haiti. There is no indication that the number of deployed JAs will decrease any time soon. Although the U.S. mission in Iraq will expire at the end of 2011, the number of JAs deploying to Afghanistan is increasing. As the armed conflict against transnational terrorists continues with no end in sight, conventional forces may find themselves venturing beyond the borders of Afghanistan. The recent devastating earthquake in Haiti demonstrated that members of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps (JAG Corps) must be ready on a moment’s notice to successfully advise commanders on the full spectrum of legal issues in the international and operational law disciplines.

The law of armed conflict has been under intense scrutiny since 11 September 2001 and this is particularly true when it comes to discussing the law applicable to the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan and the status, treatment, and rights of terrorists. In addition to debates and arguments in all three branches of our Government, not surprisingly, the terrorism debate has led to an exponential increase in legal scholarship, to include new and updated textbooks, articles published in legal journals, and numerous non-fiction books that help keep lawyers abreast of changes to the legal landscape.

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1 For the 2009–2010 academic year, the International and Operational Law Department was composed of nine resident JAs: Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Jeff A. Bovarnick (Chair); Commander (CDR) Trevor A. Rush (U.S. Navy) (Vice-Chair through March 2010); Captain (CAPT) Brian J. Bill (U.S. Navy); Lieutenant Colonel (LtCol) J. Porter Harlow (U.S. Marines Corps); LTC Christopher R. Brown (Army National Guard of the United States), Major (Maj) J. Jeremy Marsh (U.S. Air Force) (Vice-Chair as of April 2010); Major (Maj) Shane R. Reeves; MAJ Robert E. Barnsby; and MAJ Gregory S. Musselman. Our Administrative Assistant is Ms. Terri Thorne. Commander Rush deployed to Afghanistan in April 2010.


