

## Announcement

### *Operational Law Handbook*

The newest edition of the *Operational Law Handbook (Handbook)* is now available. The August 2006 *Handbook* is a “how to” guide for judge advocates practicing operational law. It provides references and describes tactics and techniques for the practice of operational law. The *Handbook* supports the doctrinal concepts and principles of *Field Manual 3-0* and *Field Manual 27-100* but is not a substitute for official references. Like operational law itself, the *Handbook* is a focused collection of diverse legal and practical information. The *Handbook* is not intended to provide “the school solution” to a particular problem but is designed to help judge advocates recognize, analyze, and resolve the problems they will encounter in the operational context. Similarly, the *Handbook* is not intended to represent official U.S. policy regarding the binding application of varied sources of law; however, the *Handbook* may reference source documents that do.

The *Handbook* is designed and written for judge advocates practicing operational law. The size and contents of the *Handbook* are controlled by this focus. Frequently, the authors were forced to strike a balance between the temptation to include more information and the need to retain the *Handbook* in its current size and configuration. The *Handbook* is made for the Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Sailors, and Coast Guardsmen of the service judge advocate general’s corps who serve alongside their clients in the operational context. Accordingly, the *Handbook* is compatible with current joint and combined doctrine.

The proponent for this publication is the International and Operational Law Department, The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS). Please send comments, suggestions, and work product from the field to TJAGLCS, International and Operational Law Department, Attention: MAJ John Rawcliffe, 600 Massie Road, Charlottesville, Virginia 22903-1781. To gain more detailed information or to discuss an issue with the author of a particular chapter or appendix, call MAJ Rawcliffe at DSN 521-3383; commercial (434) 971-3383; or e-mail [john.rawcliffe@hqda.army.mil](mailto:john.rawcliffe@hqda.army.mil).

In recent years, the *Handbook* has been published in July or August and dated for the following year. For example, the 2005 edition was first published in August 2004. Beginning with this edition, the date of the *Handbook* will be the date of actual publication. Accordingly, the 2007 *Handbook* can be expected in August 2007.

The August 2006 *Handbook* is available on the Internet at [www.jagcnet.army.mil](http://www.jagcnet.army.mil) in the Center for Law and Military Operations’ database. The digital copies are particularly valuable research tools because they are fully searchable and contain many hypertext links to the various treaties, statutes, Department of Defense directives, instructions, manuals, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff instructions, joint publications, Army regulations, and field manuals that are referenced in the text.

Beginning with the August Operational Law Course, the International and Operational Law Department intends to issue the *Handbook* to the following courses:<sup>1</sup>

- Operational Law Course
- Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course (BOLC Phase III)
- Judge Advocate Officer Graduate Course
- Judge Advocate Officer Advanced Course
- Staff Judge Advocate Course
- Warrant Officer Basic and Advanced Courses
- World-Wide Continuing Legal Education Course

The Center for Law and Military Operations will soon distribute copies to many Offices of the Staff Judge Advocate. To order additional copies of the August 2006 *Handbook*, please contact the Center for Law and Military Operations at DSN 521-3339 or commercial (434) 971 3339, or via e-mail at [CLAMO@hqda.army.mil](mailto:CLAMO@hqda.army.mil).

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to potential funding constraints.