

From the Regimental Historian & Archivist

JAG Corps Regimental History

New feature # 1: Starting in June, JAGCNet's homepage began displaying a monthly photograph of historical significance to the Corps. The inaugural photo, posted on 6 June 2008, was of MG Eugene Mead Caffey (1895-1961). Caffey, who served in the Corps of Engineers before entering the JAG Department after passing the Virginia bar exam in September 1932, had a remarkable career as a Soldier and lawyer. In February 1941 --- after he had been a Judge Advocate for nearly ten years --- Caffey transferred back to the Engineers. Caffey seems to have guessed that U.S. involvement in the ongoing hostilities in Europe and Asia was imminent and, believing he could better serve the Army in his old branch, Caffey traded his crossed pen and sword for the castle and Essayons buttons. He subsequently served as a combat engineer commander in North Africa and, on 6 June 1944, waded ashore at Utah Beach with the first wave of troops. Caffey's extraordinary heroism in Normandy that day was later recognized with the award of the Distinguished Service Cross, second only to the Medal of Honor as an award for combat valor. After World War II, then COL Caffey transferred back to the JAG Department. He served as TJAG from 1954 to 1956.

New feature # 2: The JAGC History website is now up and running, with more items and features being added



1LT Joe Bray at work in Japan in 1946

regularly. Click on "JAGC History"--- located in the top right corner of the JAG-Net homepage---to find photographs, documents, audio and video recordings, and other items about our Regiment's history.

Our history: Judge Advocate General's Officer Candidate School in World War II.

Today, the Army has only a single Officer Candidate School (OCS), which is

located at Fort Benning, GA. During World War II, however, almost every branch operated an OCS program---including the JAG Department (JAGD).

After the rapid expansion of the Army in 1941, Reserve Judge Advocates were quickly called to duty and given on-the-job training. This helped immeasurably but, as the Army began expanding to what would be 8 million men and women in 1945, there simply were not enough Reservists to meet the need for lawyers.

At first, the JAGD proposed giving direct commissions to civilians and enlisted men who were licensed attorneys. The War Department, however, sharply criticized the idea and so The Judge Advocate General decided to activate an OCS.

Eligibility standards for JAGD OCS were: no more than 28 years old, a graduate of a law school, with at least four years of practice. The last requirement, however, was "desirable, but not essential." Additionally, because certain states did not require graduation from law school as a prerequisite to admission to the Bar, TJAG had the authority to waive this eligibility requirement "in exceptional cases."

Since the new JAG School was already operating on the campus of the Univ. of Michigan in Ann Arbor, when the Secretary of War announced the creation of the Judge Advocate General Officer Candidate School on 24 March 1943, it was co-located with the already existing school.

The first class was admitted on 7 June 1943, and a faculty and staff of 21 officers and NCOs supervised 86 candidates. At the end of 12 weeks of field and class work, there were 79 graduates (five were "released" from the class for "academic deficiencies.") Instruction in OCS had included legal classes on military justice (general and special courts-martial), military affairs (installation and personnel law), legal assistance, and civil affairs (contracts, claims, Law of Land Warfare and Military Government). But candidates also had classes on staff functions, map reading, tactics, first aid, military courtesy, defense against airborne, air, chemical and mechanized attack, close order drill, and weapons training (pistol, machine gun, and rifle).

Between June 1943 and July 1944, 524 men graduated from six JAGD OCS classes. All were commissioned as second lieutenants, but TJAG had the authority to immediately promote the top 50 percent to first lieutenant "based on the graduate's record" in OCS.

Eventually, the JAGD OCS program was increased to 17 weeks, and the

last class---the 15th OCS class--- graduated in February 1946. One Soldier who joined the JAGD through OCS was 2LT William Joseph "Joe" Bray, who graduated from the 13th OCS on 22 Sep-



PFC Joe Bray was commissioned after completing JAGD OCS in September 1945.

tember 1945. Bray had been a lawyer since 1935 and was working at the Rural Electrification Administration (and later the Department of Agriculture) until being drafted in May 1944.

While then PFC Bray was stationed at Ft. McPherson as a clerk typist in the reception center, he applied for JAGD OCS. He was accepted and started the 13th OCS class at Ann Arbor in May 1945. Although the war would soon end in Europe, there was no way to know how long the war in the Pacific would continue (no one knew of the existence of atomic bombs until they were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945).

After Bray graduated from JAGD OCS and was commissioned, he shipped out to Japan to serve as a Judge Advocate in the Occupation. Then 1LT Bray served as the Staff Judge Advocate for the 32nd Infantry Division at Kyushu Base, Fukuoka, Japan. His chief duty was prosecuting U.S. Soldiers for crimes, including murder, rape, robbery and black marketing. He later served in Yokohama until returning to the U.S. in April 1946. Bray returned to civilian life --- and the Department of Agriculture --- in September 1946. He died in 2007.

By Fred Borch, Regimental Historian and Archivist, TJAGLCS