

From the Regimental Historian and Archivist

The Center for Law and Military Operations celebrates 25 years

Twenty-five years ago—in December 1988—Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh, Jr. directed the establishment of a Center for Law and Military Operations. This center—popularly known by its acronym “CLAMO”—has evolved from an Army-only organization into a joint, interagency, and multinational center located at TJAGLCS.

The impetus for establishing CLAMO grew out of the emergence of operational law in the Corps in the 1980s. After the invasion of Grenada in 1983, an increasing number of Army lawyers recognized that judge advocates must orient their practice toward military operations if the Corps was to

remain relevant in the Army. Then Lieutenant Colonel David E. Graham, the principal judge advocate spearheading the development of operational law as a legal discipline, recognized that an organization was needed to examine legal issues associated with the preparation for, deployment to, and conduct of military operations.

Graham convinced then TJAG MG Hugh R. Overholt that this organization should be established at TJAGSA in Charlottesville, and Overholt obtained the necessary legal authority from Secretary Marsh on 21 December 1988.

From the beginning, CLAMO

was designed to be the focal point for gathering “lessons learned” in both the domestic and the overseas operational law environment. As a result, CLAMO has hosted seminars and published monographs on judge advocates in military operations, starting with Haiti in 1995 and the Balkans in 1998.

In 2003, CLAMO served as the cornerstone when the Legal Center was added in Charlottesville resulting in TJAGSA being renamed to TJAGLCS. Over the years, CLAMO has become a joint, interagency and multi-national center, with military attorneys from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, as well as civilian lawyers from the Department of State. Military and civilian attorneys from Canada, Germany and the United Kingdom also have been an integral part of CLAMO.

A full-length article tracing the history of CLAMO in more detail will appear in the next issue of the *Military Law Review*.

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The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School celebrates 25 years of CLAMO on 16 December 2013.