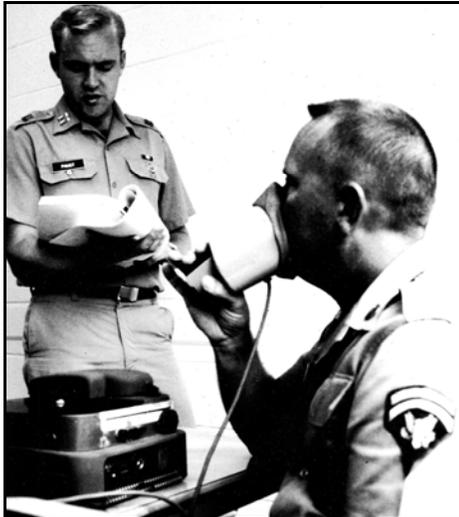


From the Regimental Historian and Archivist

Education and Training of Court Reporters, Legal Clerks & Paralegals

While the first Judge Advocate joined the Army in 1775, no one knows when the first clerks began to work alongside these uniformed lawyers---although the Judge Advocate General's Department



Formal education and training for court reporters began in 1955 and has continued uninterrupted until today; this photograph shows court reporter training for Army Reservists in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in 1969.

(JAGD) formally recognized the need for trained legal clerks as early as the 1880s. Despite this need for clerks with legal training, it was not until World War I that the Army first *assigned* enlisted personnel to the JAGD. On 22 March 1918, the War Department published General Order No. 27, which announced that "enlisted personnel" were "authorized for the period of the existing emergency" [World War I]. General Order No. 27 further provided that regimental sergeants major and battalion sergeants major would be "appointed by the Judge Advocate General," while sergeants and corporals would be appointed by commanders in the field.

Almost all of these enlisted Soldiers were lawyers or court report-

ers in civilian life; most had been drafted, but some volunteered. They provided legal support as stenographers, typists, and clerks---but they received no formal education and training to be legal clerks. Rather, like their commissioned officer counterparts, they learned "on the job." Almost all of these non-commissioned officers (NCOs) left the Army in 1919 to return to civilian life.

In the lean years between the wars, the Adjutant General provided clerks to the JAGD on an *ad hoc* basis, but it took another World War to bring legal clerks to the Department. In July 1944, the Army created a military occupational classification for legal clerks --- Legal Clerk, 279. Technical Manual (TM) 12-427 explained that the legal clerk assisted "judge advocates, legal officers, claims officers, and legal assistance officers in the performance of their duties." This included doing legal research, providing legal advice, preparing charges, recording procedures, and all other duties "required in the conduct of the business of a legal office." According to the TM, "knowledge of typing" was "desirable." Again, however, there was no education or training for those entering this military occupational specialty (MOS). Soldiers assigned as legal clerks learned on the job.

The first formal education for the legal clerk MOS (then MOS 1279) apparently occurred in January 1955, when The Judge Advocate General's School (TJAGSA) opened its first class in electronic court-reporting for enlisted personnel. This six-week course gave instruction on the use of the "facemask device" and the "recorder-reproducer." The goal of the course was for a "graduate to be able to take court-martial proceedings at more than 200 words

per minute and to prepare and assemble records in a minimum of time."



In 1990, then SSG Lori Jenkins received "NCO Instructor of the Year" honors for her teaching of the Legal Specialist course at Ft. Benjamin Harrison. Today, MSG (Ret) Jenkins serves as the Assistant to the Regiment's CSM.

Court reporter education and training at TJAGSA ceased in November 1959, and moved to the Naval Justice School, Newport, RI. The first Soldier court-reporters graduated in December of that year. The Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC) experimented with sending MOS 71Es to civilian stenotype court-reporting schools in the mid-1970s. Enlisted personnel were selected to attend National Shorthand Reporters Association approved schools---but this experiment was short-lived. In February 2000, all court reporter education for Soldiers left Newport and returned to Charlottesville, where it remains today.

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*By Fred Borch, Regimental Historian,
TJAGLCS, Charlottesville, VA*

Captain Assignments

CPT	Wehbe, Alan	BJA, 3D Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (ABN), FT Lewis
CPT	Whitman, David	Trial Defense Team, 10th Sustainment Brigade, FT Drum
CPT	Wichner, Alaina	US Army Trial Defense Service, Kaiserslautern Branch Office, Germany
CPT	Williams, Richard	OSJA, HQ, US Army Transportation Center, FT Eustis
CPT	Williams, Winston	Senior Observer/Controller, Joint Readiness Training Center, FT Polk
CPT	Witham, James	BJA, US Army 2nd Recruiting Brigade, Redstone Arsenal
CPT	Witwer, Christopher	Government Appellate Division, USALSA, Arlington, VA
CPT	Woolsey, Patrick	BJA, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, FT Leonard Wood
CPT	Worthington, Julie	OSJA, HQ, US Army Air Defense Artillery Center, FT Bliss
CPT	Wright, Jason	US Army Trial Defense Service, Wiesbaden Field Office, Germany
CPT	Yanford, Madeline	Government Appellate Division, USALSA, Arlington, VA
CPT	Yang, Jennifer	OSJA, HQ, 3rd Infantry Division, FT Stewart

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While formal legal education and training for court-reporters began in 1955---and has continued without interruption until today---there was no formal education and training for MOS 71D legal clerks. This changed, however, in 1971, when the Adjutant General's School, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, IN, created a new MOS-qualifying legal clerk course. The first instructor reported for duty in November and the first Legal Clerk course began on April 3, 1972. The seven-week course focused on training "enlisted personnel to function as Legal Clerks at special courts-martial jurisdic-

tions." In fact, the course Program of Instruction expressly stated that students received "only background information concerning the operation of general courts-martial jurisdiction and a staff judge advocate's office."

The seven-week "self-paced" course ended in 1981, and was replaced with a nine-week course. All MOS 71D education remained in Indiana in the 1980s (although the "Legal Clerk" designation was changed to "Legal Specialist" in 1984). In 1991, all MOS 71D Legal Specialist education moved to Fort Jackson, SC.

In the mid-1990s, the 71D and 71E MOSs were combined and in 2000 the

MOS was re-designated 27D Paralegal. All Advanced Individual Training for paralegal Soldiers remains at Ft. Jackson. But, with the activation of the JAGC NCO Academy at TJAGLCS in June 2004, all MOS education and training for NCOs moved to Charlottesville. As a result of this development, all education and training for Judge Advocates, legal administrators and paralegal NCOs has been consolidated at one location, ensuring that future developments in the education and training of enlisted personnel are synchronized with all other instruction.



1st Infantry Division took this interesting photo of a street in Baghdad. Notice the solar panels that are used to power the street lights.