



TJAG Special Announcement

A Message from The Judge Advocate General



Announcement of the Selection of Ms. Maria D. Esparraguera
as the Director, Civilian Personnel, Labor and Employment Law

16 November 2015

Major General Tom Ayres and I are pleased to announce the selection of Ms. Maria D. Esparraguera as the Director, Civilian Personnel, Labor and Employment Law, Office of The Judge Advocate General (OTJAG).

As the Director of Civilian Personnel, Labor and Employment Law, Ms. Esparraguera will provide legal advice to the Army Staff and Secretariat on Civilian personnel policy and other matters affecting Army Civilian employees, including labor relations and civil rights. She will oversee the Army Labor Counselor Program which provides advice and representation within Commands Army-wide, and will lead a division of senior attorneys and paraprofessionals that advises and represents the Army's most senior leaders in employment matters and litigation. Ms. Esparraguera will provide legal advice to TJAG on all matters related to the JAG Corps' Civilian employees, and oversee the professional development of over 630 Civilian attorneys and 750 Civilian paraprofessionals in the Judge Advocate Legal Service (JALS).

Ms. Esparraguera has a distinguished career of government service. A graduate of Duquesne Law School, she joined the Communications-Electronics Command (CECOM) Legal Office, at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey, practicing both acquisition and labor law, and rising to the position of senior labor and employment law attorney, where she represented CECOM across the spectrum of employment litigation and labor contract negotiations. Her leadership positions include Chief of the Business Law Division, Fort Monmouth; Chief Counsel, CECOM, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Maryland, and Chief Counsel of the Army Material Command Legal Center at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, responsible for over 150 attorneys and staff across six states. Ms. Esparraguera most recently served as Acting Deputy to the CECOM Commanding General. Appointed to the SES Corps in 2010, Ms. Esparraguera is a member of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania state bars. Her awards include the CECOM Ten Outstanding Personnel of the Year Award, AMC Preventive Law Award, Commander's Award for Civilian Service, and the Superior Civilian Service Award.

Major General Tom Ayres and I look forward to working with Ms. Esparraguera as we focus on readiness and advancing our dual professions. Our Corps will greatly benefit from her proven leadership, expertise, and experience as she continues to serve our great Army and Nation. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Esparraguera as she assumes her new duties.


FLORA D. DARPINO
Lieutenant General, USA
The Judge Advocate General