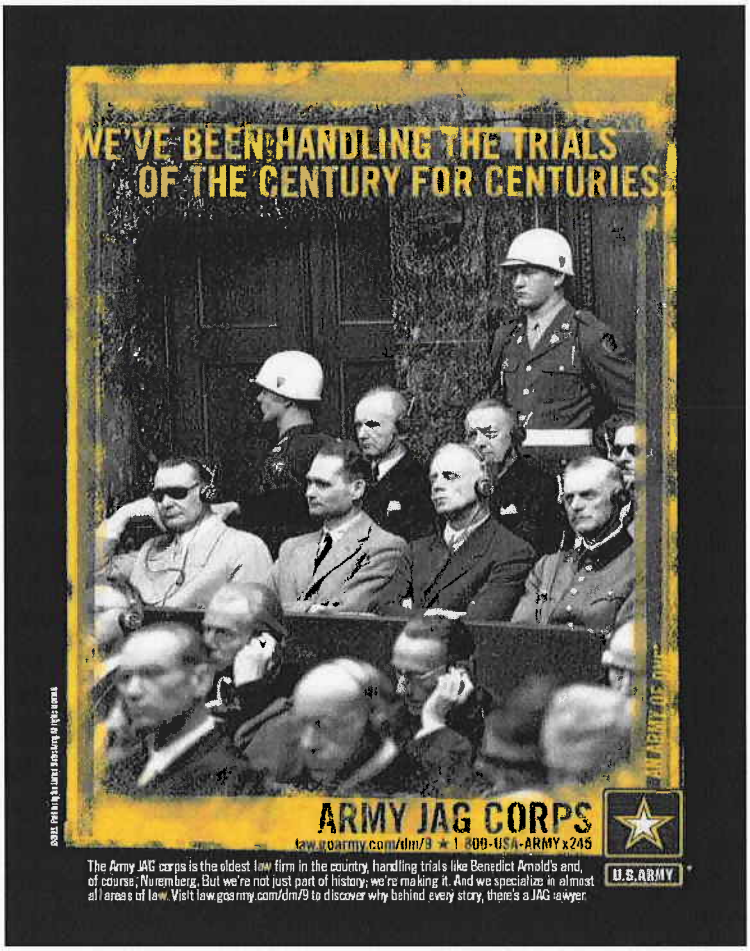
THE U.S. ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Department of the Army
Judge Advocate Recruiting Office
1777 North Kent Street, Suite 5200
Rosslyn, Virginia 22209-2194

1-866-ARMY JAG

Websites: law.goarmy.com and www.jagcnet.army.mil/jaro

Revised May 2007

THE U.S. ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Question: What is the active duty service obligation of an individual commissioned in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps)?

   Answer: Four years.

2. Question: How many JAG Corps officers are in the U.S. Army?

   Answer: There are approximately 1,600 active duty JAG Corps officers (referred to as Judge Advocates), ranging in grade from first lieutenant to major general. More than half are captains and first lieutenants; the remainder are in the more senior grades of major, lieutenant colonel, colonel, brigadier general, and major general.

3. Question: How many women are in the U.S. Army JAG Corps?

   Answer: There are currently over 300 women Judge Advocates.

4. Question: How many ethnic minorities are in the U.S. Army JAG Corps?

   Answer: There are currently over 200 ethnic minority Judge Advocates. Both ethnic minorities and women are strongly encouraged to apply. The U.S. Army JAG Corps is an equal opportunity employer.

5. Question: Are there certain requirements that one must meet to be eligible to apply for active duty service with the U.S. Army JAG Corps?

   Answer: Yes. Applicants must be United States citizens over the age of 21 and not have reached their 42nd birthday at the time of commissioning. Age waivers will not be granted. Applicants must be physically fit and meet the Army weight standards. Applicants must also possess high moral character and leadership potential. Before entering active duty, each prospective officer must be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school and be a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state or federal court.

6. Question: Does an applicant need prior military experience?

   Answer: No.

7. Question: What professional advantages exist by serving in the U.S. Army JAG Corps?

Answer: **Immediate challenge and responsibility.** There is no lengthy apprenticeship. A new Judge Advocate will have clients, cases, or legal projects soon after arriving at their first assignment.

A varied legal practice. There is usually an opportunity to practice in at least two areas of law during the initial three-year tour, for example, a Judge Advocate may prosecute or defend criminal cases, proffer administrative law opinions, handle labor law cases and government tort claims, and advise clients regarding personal legal problems.

Quality experience. The first three years of JAG practice are designed to develop the litigation, negotiation, research, and client advocacy skills all attorneys need to be successful, whether as a judge advocate or as an attorney in civilian practice.

Broad Scope of Practice. Judge Advocates are not limited to practice in the jurisdiction where they are admitted to practice law. Officers may practice in the continental United States, Hawaii, Alaska, Europe, or the Far East.

Professional association. Judge Advocates come from virtually every state. Judge Advocates are exposed to a variety of individuals, professional skills, and experiences that have no equal in civilian law firms.

Quality of life. The U.S. Army JAG Corps family fosters an active life-style, travel, adventure, and lifelong friendships. Judge Advocates receive **30 days paid vacation per year**.

8. Question: How difficult is it to obtain a JAG Corps Commission?

Answer: The U.S. Army JAG Corps selection process is competitive. A Selection Board composed of experienced Judge Advocates review all applications and recommend the best-qualified applicants for commissions. All Selection Boards have minority and women members.

9. Question: What are the steps in the application process?

Answer: The applicant must forward a completed application and be interviewed by an active duty U.S. Army JAG Corps Field Screening Officer (FSO). The interview must take place within one year of the application deadline. A Selection Board meets twice a year to review applications. If selected, the candidate must meet the Army's medical and weight standards and be able to obtain a security clearance. The candidate then makes assignment preferences known. Notification of the proposed assignment to a Judge Advocate office in

the United States or overseas occurs about two to three months prior to the candidate's active duty report date.

10. Question: If I apply to the U.S. Army JAG Corps, do I become obligated immediately upon my acceptance of my application or upon notification of my proposed assignment?

    Answer: No. Applicants offered a U.S. Army JAG Corps direct commission will be notified of their proposed assignment before incurring any military obligation. An applicant for a direct commission is obligated only upon taking the oath of office. The oath will be administered at the beginning of the Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course.

11. Question: What types of training are required for attorneys who enter the U.S. Army JAG Corps?

    Answer: New Judge Advocates attend a twelve-day military orientation course, followed by the ten-and-a-half-week Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course (JAOBC) at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) in Charlottesville, VA. The training ends with four weeks of the Direct Commissioned Officer Course (DCO), and six and a half weeks of leadership and soldier skills training at Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC). The military orientation course allows time for establishing personnel and finance records, purchasing uniforms, and receiving instruction in several basic areas of military life. These include the wear of military uniforms, military customs and courtesy, physical fitness training, and an overnight field training exercise.

12. Question: What happens at JAOBC?

    Answer: After the twelve-day military orientation course, new Judge Advocates report to TJAGLCS for a ten-and-a-half week academic course. TJAGLCS is located on the grounds of the University of Virginia, adjacent to the law school. During JAOBC, new Judge Advocates receive instruction on the organization, function, and mission of the U.S. Army JAG Corps, and an overview of the practice of law in the U.S. Army. The instruction focuses on areas of law that will be particularly important to a new Judge Advocate, including military criminal law, evidence, government contract law, legal assistance, administrative law, tort claims, and international law. Computer training and practical exercises in trial advocacy and attorney/client issues are also featured.

    During JAOBC, most students live in rooms available at TJAGLCS. These rooms are available only to officers (and spouses) attending the course without children.

13. Question: What happens at BOLC?

Answer: BOLC's goal is to develop competent leaders. It is a rigorous six-week course in leadership and tactics designed to challenge new officers physically and mentally. Judge Advocates will go to one of two locations for BOLC: Fort Benning, Georgia or Fort Sill, Oklahoma. BOLC curriculum will include physical fitness training, foot marches, combat training, land navigation training (similar to orienteering), rifle marksmanship, weapons training, practical exercise in leadership, nuclear, biological and chemical operations, use of night-vision equipment, and several confidence courses featuring difficult obstacles that will challenge students to overcome personal fears.

14. Question: Where can a Judge Advocate expect to be assigned?

Answer: The Chief of the Judge Advocate Recruiting Office (JARO) will make assignments for new Judge Advocates. Judge Advocates must be available for worldwide assignment. While all assignments are made based on the needs of the U.S. Army, applicants make their location preferences known in writing and in a telephone conference with the Chief of JARO.

15. Question: Will the U.S. Army move my family, my household goods, and me to our first assignment?

Answer: Yes. A commercial mover will move your household goods at government expense to your assignment. You will be entitled to reimbursement for most travel expenses from the move.

16. Question: Will I be assigned to more than one location during my initial obligated tour of four years?

Answer: Probably not; however, reassignment may occur if the needs of the service require it.

17. Question: Could a Judge Advocate be assigned to combat duty?

Answer: Judge Advocates are assigned to combat areas in time of war and perform legal duties there. Typically, Judge Advocates are not involved in active combat, but may perform some nonlegal functions.

18. Question: Do Judge Advocates receive any training or education beyond JAOBC?

Answer: Yes. TJAGLCS, the only military service law school to be accredited by the American Bar Association, offers a wide variety of educational programs. TJAGLCS offers a program resulting in the award of an LL.M. degree for Judge

Advocates with six to eight years of active duty service. TJAGLCS also conducts approximately 44 continuing legal education (CLE) courses each year. These CLE courses cover all areas of Judge Advocate to include administrative law, criminal law, labor law, operational law, fiscal law, procurement fraud, federal litigation, federal labor relations, and the legal aspects of terrorism. These courses have been approved by most states for CLE credit.

PAY AND BENEFITS

19. Question: What is the rank and pay of a new Judge Advocate?

Answer: Judge Advocates enter the service as first lieutenants and are normally promoted to captain upon completion of their individual entry training. Military pay is composed of three parts: (1) basic pay (taxable income); (2) basic allowance for housing (BAH); and (3) basic allowance for subsistence (BAS). Basic pay is based on a person's rank and time in service. Basic allowance for housing is based on a person's rank, number of dependents (family members, normally a spouse or child), and the cost of housing at the person's assigned location. The BAH varies by location. Both BAH and BAS are tax-free. Judge Advocates who opt to live in government-supplied housing do not receive BAH; their housing, to include utilities, is provided at no charge. BAS is a set rate for all officers regardless of rank.

Some Judge Advocates living overseas also receive a cost of living allowance to compensate for the high cost of living in that particular area and to offset the fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates.

2007 MONTHLY PAY FOR NEWLY COMMISSIONED JUDGE ADVOCATES

(Income is composed of base pay, BAS & BAH)

DIRECT COMMISSIONEES	1LT under 2	CPT under 2
Basic Pay	$2844.30	$3292.20
BAS	$192.74	$192.74
BAH	*	*

ROTC COMMISSIONEES	1LT over 3	CPT over 4
Basic Pay	$3731.40	$4392.00
BAS	$192.74	$192.74
BAH	*	*

* BAH varies by location. For further information on pay and allowances go to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) site: *www.dfas.mil*

20. Question: Do new Judge Advocates have to pay for their own uniforms?

Answer: Yes; however, each new attorney coming into the U.S. Army JAG Corps receives a $300 uniform allowance to help defray this expense.

21. Question: Will I receive any pay raises during my initial four-year tour?

Answer: Yes. You receive an initial pay increase normally within six to nine months of entering active duty when promoted from first lieutenant to captain. Also, you will receive automatic increases in pay after serving for two, three, and four years. After four years of service, pay increases occur every two years. Additionally, members of the military normally receive an annual cost-of-living increase.

22. Question: Does the U.S. Army JAG Corps have a loan repayment program?

Answer: The U.S. Army JAG Corps does not have a loan repayment program; however, within the first 10 years of service, judge advocates are eligible for Judge Advocate Continuation Pay (JACP) of up to $60,000. After judge advocates complete their initial service obligation, they may apply for JACP and receive $35,000 of JACP in exchange for a 3-year service obligation. After approximately six years of service, judge advocates may apply for additional JACP and receive another $25,000 of JACP in exchange for an additional 3-year service obligation. Branch transfers and judge advocates with prior service may not be eligible for all payments.

Additionally, in an effort to provide educational debt relief, a number of law schools have established loan repayment assistance programs (LRAP). LRAPs vary from school to school, but generally they attempt to provide assistance to students who work full-time in law-related jobs that are in the public interest. Public interest is normally defined as employment by a non-profit entity or the government. Service in the U.S. Army JAG Corps will generally meet the eligibility requirements for LRAPs. Students interested in the loan forgiveness program should contact their law school career services offices or financial aid offices to see if this program is offered and if they qualify.

23. Question: Will the U.S. Army pay for me to attend law school?

Answer: The U.S. Army JAG Corps has a program called the Funded Legal Education Program (FLEP), which authorizes the selection of not more than twenty-five Army officers each year to obtain a legal education at government expense. Applicants must be United States citizens on active duty in the rank of lieutenant (grades O-1 or O-2) or captain (grade O-3) and must possess a baccalaureate degree (or its equivalent). Applicants must have between two and six years of active duty time (including warrant officer and enlisted service), and

be serving in the grades of O-1 through O-3, as of the date the applicant commences law school. Participants in FLEP must normally attend a state-supported school where they qualify for in-state tuition or a school where military members are granted in-state tuition rates. See Army Regulation 27-1, Chapter 14, for details on the application process.

24. Question: Are there ROTC scholarships for law students?

Answer: The Army currently offers two-year graduate ROTC scholarships. Contact an ROTC Battalion near the law school where you will be attending for information on availability, training requirements, and the application process. Note, however, the receipt of an ROTC scholarship does not guarantee admission into the U.S. Army JAG Corps. ROTC cadets must apply for commissions in the U.S. Army JAG Corps during their 3rd year of law school. ROTC cadets who apply and are not offered U.S. Army JAG Corps commissions must fulfill their commitment to the U.S. Army by serving in a branch other than the JAG Corps. You can also visit the ROTC Cadet Command website at *www.rotc.monroe.army.mil* for additional information.

25. Question: May I defer payment on my student loans during my service with the U.S. JAG Corps?

Answer: The Higher Education Amendment Act of 1992 ("the Act") has significantly changed eligibility for deferments. Military service no longer qualifies for automatic deferment. Those entering the military must demonstrate economic hardship as defined by the Act. This change applies to loans for which the first disbursement was made on or after July 1, 1993, to an individual who was a new borrower. We recommend that you contact your individual lender to determine whether you may be eligible for a deferment.

26. Question: Are there other benefits?

Answer: Yes, many significant benefits. To name a few: members of the U.S. Army have free medical and dental care benefits. Family members also have medical care benefits. If there are insufficient facilities on-post to provide medical treatment to family members, they may be treated by a civilian doctor on a cost-sharing basis with the government at minimal cost to the member. Dental care to family members in military dental facilities or subsidized dental care in civilian facilities is also available. Service members and their families may shop at the post exchange (department store) and the commissary (supermarket). Both feature reduced prices on many items. The military also has a liberal noncontributory retirement system. Soldiers accrue retirement benefits after 20 years and may increase those benefits through further service; maximum benefits vest at 30 years of service. The military also has a non-matching fund Thrift Savings Plan. An additional benefit to married officers is that their

spouses, if determined qualified, receive a hiring preference when applying for civil service employment. Also, officers may fly all over the world on military aircraft on a space available basis at nominal cost.

27. Question: What is the Army's maternity leave policy?

Answer: Ordinarily, an officer whose pregnancy is uncomplicated can expect to perform duty until delivery, unless she requests ordinary leave. Upon release from the hospital following delivery, the officer receives six weeks paid convalescent leave. An officer may be granted additional convalescent leave with pay beyond six weeks until her medical condition permits her to return to duty.

28. Question: Where do Judge Advocates live?

Answer: At some installations, on-post housing may be available and furnished (at no expense) in lieu of the housing allowance (BAH). Many Judge Advocates and their families live off-post in leased or privately owned apartments, townhouses, or single-family homes. The BAH rate varies dependent upon the cost of living in a particular area. This allowance is nontaxable.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVANTAGES

29. Question: Are there civilian positions available in the U.S. Army JAG Corps?

Answer: Yes. The Office of the The Judge Advocate General employs approximately 500 civilian attorneys. JARO accepts applications for military positions only. For information concerning the Office of The Judge Advocate General's civilian attorney program, write:

Office of The Judge Advocate General
ATTN: DAJA-PT
1777 North Kent Street, 10th Floor
Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194

Contact Ms. Andrea Moore at (703) 588-6773, Andrea.Moore@hqda.army.mil.

30. Question: Does the U.S. Army JAG Corps have a Summer Intern Program?

Answer: Yes. The U.S. Army JAG Corps selects 100 law school students every year for summer intern positions throughout the continental United States and overseas. The program is open to first and second-year students. A fact sheet describing the program is included in this document. Information on the program and application forms are available *www.jagcnet.army.mil/jaro*.

31. Question: Will my experience in the U.S. Army JAG Corps be useful if I leave the U.S. Army after four years?

Answer: Yes. A Judge Advocate uses the full range of legal skills - research, writing, interviewing, advising, negotiating, briefing, and litigating. The U.S. Army JAG Corps provides new attorneys an excellent opportunity to develop and polish these skills under the supervision of senior Judge Advocates.

32. Question: Why should I join the U.S. Army JAG Corps?

Answer: The U.S. Army JAG Corps offers the broadest based legal training environment of any employer. Our training program, coupled with the variety of legal work you will encounter in your first tour, will afford you a legal learning experience that cannot be matched. You will have immediate responsibility for your clients and caseload, an opportunity to sharpen your courtroom skills, and an overall high quality of life for you and your family. Whether motivated by patriotism, the desire to travel, or a thirst for adventure, your experience as a Judge Advocate will provide a solid base upon which your success can grow. You will not regret the choice of a legal career with the U.S. Army JAG Corps. We truly are a different kind of law firm.

THE U.S. ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE

The following outlines the materials that you should include in your application packet. U.S. Army officers currently on active duty in another branch **must** submit a copy of all application materials and a request for branch transfer through appropriate branch channels in accordance with the provisions of Army Regulation 614-100. Officers serving in another U.S. Armed Force should submit copies of their application materials along with a request for interservice transfer in accordance with that Armed Force's service regulations. National Guard personnel should submit copies of their application materials through appropriate National Guard channels and obtain a release for extended active duty conditioned upon acceptance into the U.S. Army JAG Corps. Please note that the Selection Board will not consider incomplete applications.

A. You must include the following materials:

1. **DA Form 3175, January 2004 edition** (Preliminary Application for Active Duty Service with the Judge Advocate General's Corps).

a. All blocks must be completed. If you have had prior commissioned service, you must complete Part B in detail, to include all dates of promotion and active duty.

b. No application will be considered by a Selection Board unless a Law School Admission Test (LSAT) score is included in Block 30 of DA Form 3175. If the law school waived the LSAT, attach a complete explanation to the application.

2. **Transcripts** of all undergraduate, graduate, and law school studies prepared by the school at which such work was completed. If possible, the transcript should show your general class standing. Although an official transcript is preferred, a student copy transcript is acceptable for the purpose of the preliminary application. If you are selected for a JAG Corps commission, an official transcript is required.

3. A **Detailed Resume** describing full-time and part-time legal and non-legal experience.

a. For private practice experience, provide a description of the areas of law and any significant cases handled.

b. For governmental legal experience, provide a description of the position and grade or rating.

c. For judicial office experience, provide a description of jurisdiction of the court.

d. For legal teaching experience, provide a list of the subjects taught.

4. **Statement** of interests, objectives, and motivation for applying to the JAG Corps for active duty.

5. **Certificate or letter** from the clerk of the highest court of a state or of a federal court showing admission to practice and standing before the bar, if you are now a member. The certificate or letter must be dated within three months of the date of your application.

6. An **interview** must be obtained prior to the application deadline date. Active duty Judge Advocates who have been designated as Field Screening Officers (FSOs) to interview prospective JAG candidates are available for this purpose.

a. During the fall and spring each year, FSOs visit most ABA-approved law schools to conduct interviews with prospective applicants. Your law school career services office will tell you the date and time that the FSO will visit your school.

b. Applicants may also contact an FSO and travel to his/her location for the interview. Applicants will not be reimbursed for any travel or incidental expenses connected with the interview. To find an FSO, log on to *www.jagcnet.army.mil/jaro.*

c. Applicants may send their applications prior to their FSO interview. **The applicant should list the date and place of the interview and name of the FSO in Part J of the application form.**

7. A **DD FORM 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty**, must be submitted by all applicants with prior military service. Copies of all officer and enlisted efficiency reports must also be submitted.

B. Letters of recommendation may be submitted, but are not required. If included, they should be based on a personal acquaintance with unbiased judges, lawyers, law school professors, military officers, or others, and should address the applicant's reputation and professional standing. These letters may be attached to the application form, or, if the writer desires confidentiality, transmitted in a sealed envelope with the application, or mailed directly to the Judge Advocate Recruiting Office. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure letters are received by the application deadline.

C. A writing sample may be submitted but is not required.

D. You may address specific questions concerning application procedures to:

Department of the Army
Judge Advocate Recruiting Office
Attention: Active Duty Accessions Manager
1777 North Kent Street, Suite 5200
Rosslyn, Virginia 22209-2194
Telephone: (703) 696-2822 or toll-free 1-866-ARMY JAG
Website: http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/jaro

THE U.S. ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

Number Hired:	100 law school students per summer (75 2L and 25 1L)
Eligibility:	First or second year law students at ABA-approved law schools
Salary (2007): (Approximate)	2L - $610/week – GS-7, Step 1 on the GS scale 1L - $493/week – GS-5, Step 1 on the GS scale (salary will vary slightly depending on location)
Locations:	Worldwide
Duration:	60 calendar days
Application Deadlines:	2L - November 1 1L – March 1

(Complete application packets must be received on or before these dates)

The Program: The U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) hires 100 law school students (75 2L and 25 1L) each summer to work as legal interns in U.S. Army JAG Corps offices worldwide. For 60 calendar days, U.S. Army JAG Corps summer interns work as temporary civil service employees performing a variety of legal assignments. Summer interns do not incur any military service obligation in the U.S. Army JAG Corps Summer Intern Program. Second year law school students serve as GS-7 federal employees; first year law school students serve as GS-5 federal employees.

The Practice: Summer interns work under attorney supervision in virtually every practice area of the U.S. Army JAG Corps. Sumer interns assist in the preparation of criminal and civil cases by conducting legal research, writing briefs and opinions, conducting investigations, and interviewing witnesses. Summer interns also assist attorneys who counsel and represent soldiers, their family members, and retirees in personal legal matters in areas such as family law; estate planning; landlord/tenant law; tax; bankruptcy; immigration and naturalization law; and military administrative law. Summer interns also assist attorneys who represent the U.S. Army and the United States in other areas such as federal tort claims, employment law, international law, and environmental law.

The Places: Summer interns work in U.S. Army JAG Corps offices worldwide. Because internships are temporary civilian positions and not do not constitute permanent federal employment, summer interns must pay for their travel and lodging costs. However, all summer interns, including those who will work overseas, have sponsors who will assist with housing searches and other needs.

The Process: Interested students must submit the following:

1. A completed application (DAJA-PT Form 13, January 2004 edition)
2. Resume; and
3. Transcripts from all college and law school coursework. First-year students must submit their first semester grades, including interim grades if applicable. Transcripts may take some time to obtain, so applicants should request all transcripts approximately one month before the application deadline.

A brief writing sample and letters of recommendation are encouraged, but not required.

Additionally, all applicants must interview with a U.S. Army JAG Corps Field Screening Officer (FSO) prior to the application deadline. FSOs interview at most ABA-approved law schools in the fall and in the spring.

Complete application packets must be received by the application deadline: November 1 for 2L applicants and March 1 for 1L applicants. Mail your complete application packets to:

Department of the Army
Judge Advocate Recruiting Office
Attention: Summer Intern Program Coordinator
1777 North Kent Street, Suite 5200
Rosslyn, Virginia 22209-2194

Please call (866) ARMY JAG or (703) 696-2822 for any additional information about the JAG Corps Summer Intern Program, or visit *www.jagcnet.army.mil/jaro*.

THE U.S. ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

RESERVE COMPONENTS FACT SHEET

Judge Advocates have provided professional legal service to the U.S. Army for over 200 years. Since that time the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) has grown dramatically to meet the U.S. Army's increased need for legal expertise. Today, approximately 1500 Judge Advocates serve on active duty while more than 3,000 Judge Advocates find rewarding part-time careers as members of the U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard. Service as a Reserve Component Judge Advocate is available to all qualified attorneys. Those who are selected have the opportunity to practice in areas as diverse as the field of law itself. For example, Judge Advocates prosecute, defend, and judge, courts-martial, negotiate and review government contracts, act as counsel at administrative hearings, and provide legal advice in such specialized areas as international, regulatory, labor, patent, and tax law, while effectively maintaining their civilian careers.

APPOINTMENT ELIGIBILITY AND GRADE - In general, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

(1) Be at least 21 years old and for appointment as a first lieutenant be younger than 33, and for appointment to captain be younger than 39 (waivers for those exceeding age limitations are available in exceptional cases).

(2) Be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school.

(3) Be a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state or federal court.

(4) Be of good moral character and possess leadership qualities.

(5) Be physically fit.

Grade of rank at the time of appointment is determined by the number of years of service credit to which an individual is entitled. As a general rule, an approved applicant receives three years constructive credit for law school attendance; plus, any prior active or reserve commissioned service. Any time period is counted only once (i.e., three years of commissioned reserve service while attending law school entitles a person to only three years constructive service credit, not six years). Once the total credit is calculated, the entry grade is awarded as follows:

3 or more but less than 7 years	First Lieutenant
7 or more but less than 14 years	Captain
14 or more but less than 21 years	Major

An applicant who has had no previous military commissioned service; therefore, can expect to be commissioned as a first lieutenant.

PAY AND BENEFITS - Basic pay varies depending on grade, length of service, and degree of participation. Reserve officers are eligible for numerous federal benefits including full-time Servicemen's Group Life Insurance; limited access to post exchanges, commissaries, theaters and available transient billets; space-available travel on military aircraft within the continental United States, if on reserve duty; authorized survivor benefits; and generous retirement benefits. When performing active duty or active duty for training, reservists may use military recreation, entertainment and other post facilities, and receive limited medical and dental care.

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS - The U.S. Army JAG Corps Reserve Program is multifaceted, with the degree of participation determined largely by the individual. Officers are originally assigned to a Troop Program Unit (TPU). Follow on assignments may include service as an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA). TPU officers attend monthly battle assemblies and perform two weeks of annual training a year. Upon mobilization, they deploy with their unit and provide legal services commensurate with their duty positions.

IMA officers are assigned to active duty agencies or installations where they perform two weeks of on-the-job training each year. During the remainder of the year, they do legal assistance, take correspondence courses, or do project work at their own convenience in order to earn points towards retirement. Upon mobilization, these officers go to their assigned positions and augment the legal services provided by that office. Officers may also transfer from one unit to another or between units and IMA positions depending upon the availability of vacancies. This flexibility permits the Reserve Judge Advocate to tailor his or her participation to meet personal and professional needs. Newly appointed officers will usually serve in TPU assignments.

SCHOOLING – Reserve Judge Advocates attend sixteen and one-half weeks of mandatory training in three phases at locations in Fort Lee, Virginia; Charlottesville, Virginia; and at either Fort Benning, Georgia, or Fort Sill, Oklahoma. On a case-by-case basis, applicants may obtain approval to bifurcate the training.

Phase I - Fort Lee. New Judge Advocates (JAs) report to Fort Lee, Virginia, for a twelve day military orientation course, which is known as the Fort Lee phase of Judge Advocate Officer Basic Course (JAOBC). The course allows time for establishing personnel and finance records, purchasing uniforms, and receiving instruction in several basic areas of military life. These include the wear of military uniforms, military customs and courtesy, and physical fitness training.

Phase II - Charlottesville. The military orientation course is followed by a ten-and-a-half week course at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS) in Charlottesville, VA, which is known as the TJAGLCS phase of JAOBC. TJAGLCS is located on the grounds of the University of Virginia, adjacent to their law school. During this phase, new JAs receive instruction on the organization, function, and mission of the U.S. Army JAG Corps, and an overview of the practice of law in the U.S. Army. The instruction focuses on areas of law that will be particularly important to a new JA, including military criminal law, government contract and fiscal law, legal assistance, claims, administrative law, and international and operational law. Computer training and practical exercises in trial advocacy and attorney/client issues are also featured.

Phase III - Basic Officer Leadership Training Phase. The training continues with four weeks of the Direct Commissioned Officer Course (DCO). Reserve officer may also attend an additional six and one-half weeks of officer leadership and soldier skills training at Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC). Currently BOLC is not required for Reserve JAs but, depending on class space, you may be able to opt into the course. Attendance of BOLC is expected to be required for Reserve JAs beginning in October 2008.

JAs will go to one of two locations for DCO and BOLC: Fort Benning, Georgia (https://www.infantry.army.mil/BOLC/) or Fort Sill, Oklahoma (http://sill-www.army.mil/bolc2/). The DCO will prepare JAs for success at BOLC by orienting to and focusing on BOLC tasks. New JAs will be more than prepared for the BOLC follow-on training.

The goal of DCO and the BOLC is to develop competent leaders. DCO is designed as a preparatory course of the longer BOLC. BOLC is a rigorous six-week course in leadership and tactics designed to challenge **ALL** new Army officers (West Point, ROTC, and Officer Candidates School graduates also attend) physically and mentally. The BOLC curriculum includes physical fitness training, foot marches, combat training, land navigation training (similar to orienteering), rifle marksmanship, weapons training, practical exercises in leadership, nuclear, biological and chemical operations, use of night-vision equipment, and several confidence courses featuring difficult obstacles that will challenge students to overcome personal fears. These same skills are taught in the four week DCO course.

The JAG Corps will help with every step along the way. Each phase of training builds upon the preceding training and is designed to set new JAs up for success. Our new JAs are talented, motivated to serve, and will be more than prepared to thrive on the road to becoming competent professional leaders.

SERVICE OBLIGATION - In general, new appointees incur a statutory service obligation of eight years. Individuals who have previous military service do not incur an additional obligation as a result of a new appointment.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS - Eligibility for retirement pay and other benefits is granted to members who have completed 20 years of qualifying federal military service. With a few exceptions, the extent of these benefits is the same for both the reservist and the service member who retires from active duty. The major difference in the two retirement programs is that the reservist does not begin receiving most of the retirement benefits, including pay, until reaching age 60. The amount of monthly retirement income depends upon the grade and total number of qualifying points earned during the course of the individual's career. Along with the pension, the retired reservist is entitled to shop in military exchanges and commissaries, use most post facilities, travel space-available on military aircraft worldwide, and utilize some medical facilities.

RESERVE COMPONENT INFORMATION - You can obtain further information and application forms by calling **(866) ARMY JAG,** visiting http://www.jagcnet.army.mil/jaro, or by writing to:

Department of the Army
Judge Advocate Recruiting Office
Attention: RC/NG Accessions
1777 North Kent Street, Suite 5200
Rosslyn, Virginia 22209-2194

THE U.S. ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

MAJOR ARMY INSTALLATIONS

NORTHEASTERN AREA

Fort Drum, Watertown, New York
Fort Monmouth, New Jersey (50 miles south of New York City)
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York

WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Fort Belvoir, Virginia (near Washington, D.C.)
Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.
Fort Meade, Maryland (between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore)

MID-ATLANTIC AREA

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland (near Baltimore)
Fort Eustis, Virginia (between Newport News and Williamsburg)
Fort Lee, Petersburg, Virginia
Fort Monroe, Virginia (near Norfolk)

SOUTHEASTERN AREA

Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia
Fort Bragg, Fayetteville, North Carolina
Fort Campbell, Kentucky (TN/KY border near Clarksville, Tennessee)
Fort Gordon, Georgia (near Augusta)
Fort Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina
Fort Knox, Kentucky (34 miles south of Louisville)
Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Georgia
Fort Rucker, Alabama (near Ozark)
Fort Stewart, Georgia (near Savannah)
Redstone Army Arsenal, Huntsville, Alabama

MIDWEST AREA

Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado
Fort Leavenworth, Kansas (near Kansas City)
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri (90 miles east of Springfield, Missouri)
Fort Riley, Kansas (near Manhattan, Kansas)
Fort Sill, Lawton, Oklahoma

SOUTH/SOUTHWEST AREA

Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas
Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas
Fort Huachuca, Arizona (70 miles south of Tucson)
Fort Irwin, California (37 miles northeast of Barstow)
Fort Polk, Louisiana (near Leesville)
Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas
White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico (30 miles east of Las Cruces, New Mexico)

WEST COAST AREA

Fort Lewis, Washington (near Tacoma)

NONCONTINENTAL UNITED STATES/OVERSEAS

Alaska
Hawaii
Europe
Korea
Japan