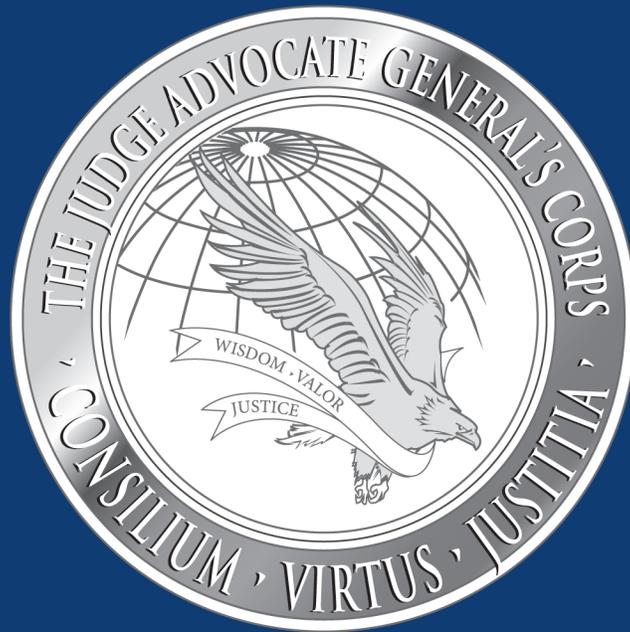


U.S. AIR FORCE



INTEGRITY



JAGs are esteemed military officers and valued legal counselors.

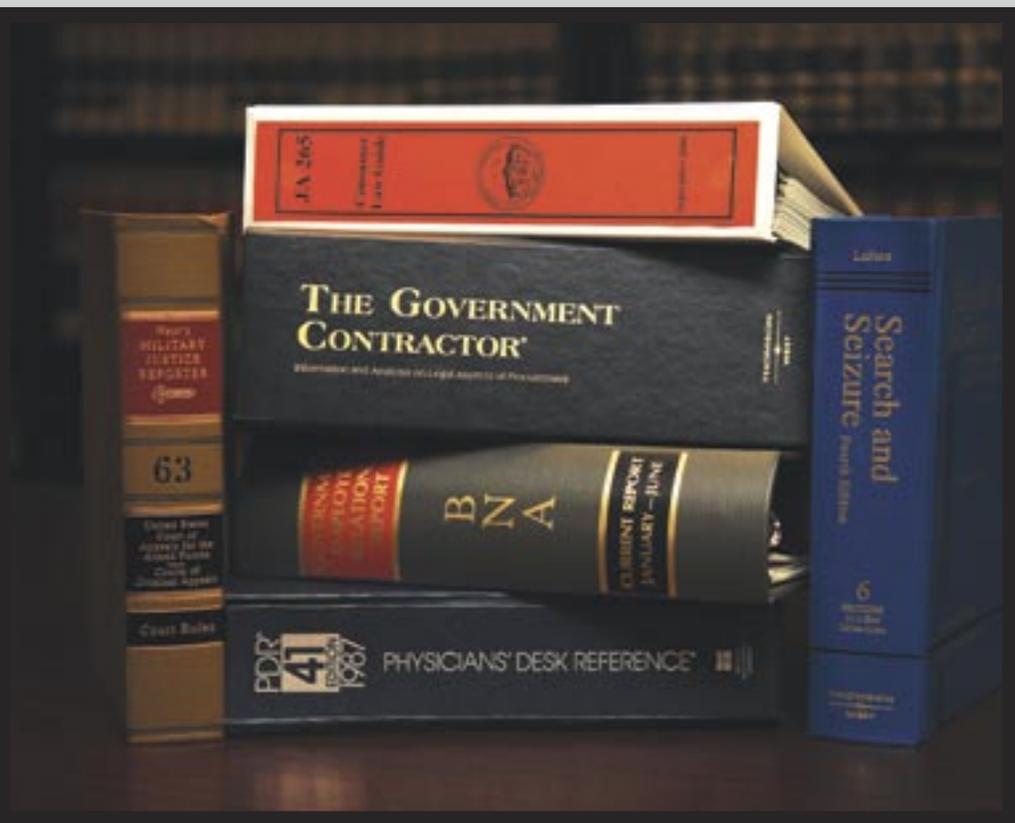
WHY BECOME AN AIR FORCE JUDGE ADVOCATE?

The Air Force Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps offers an unmatched diversity of practice as we provide a full range of legal services to our clients. We're a highly trained, motivated, and effective team, responsive to the evolving missions and needs of the world's most respected air, space, and cyberspace force.

More than 1,200 judge advocates currently practice law while serving on active duty as Air Force officers. Every JAG is a respected attorney, a trusted counselor, and a polished military officer. Combining these challenging roles into one job creates a unique professional experience and way of life. As commissioned officers, we're held to the highest standards of performance, conduct, and character.

Each member of the Air Force understands and lives by our three core values: "Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do." In addition, as Air Force judge advocates, we live by one simple motto: "[Wisdom](#), [Valor](#), [Justice](#)."

WHY



SPECIALTIES

VARIETY

PRACTICE AREAS

In the Air Force, there's a great demand for JAGs' legal services and we're expected to develop expertise in a wide range of areas. We're given the opportunity to practice law and to experience multiple specialties from the moment we begin our careers. During your initial four-year tour, you can expect to work in more than one of the following areas of law: criminal law, civil (administrative) law, legal assistance, government contract law, health law, labor law, environmental law, international law, military operations law, and tort claims.

Practice areas will depend to some extent on your installation's mission and location. The Air Force's global mission also requires JAGs to be stationed around the world. If you're assigned to a fighter wing in Germany or Italy you would likely handle cases involving international law.

If you're assigned to a space base in Colorado or Florida you might encounter more air and space law matters. If you're assigned to a technology systems center in Boston or Los Angeles you could gain expertise in government contract law.

Regardless of your assignment location, you'll tackle a variety of legal problems. Commanders will seek your advice along with **WISDOM**, **VALOR**, and **JUSTICE** in dealing with those issues. You'll be expected to solve them using the skills and specialized expertise you gain from experience and training.

WHAT

CIVIL (ADMINISTRATIVE) LAW

With your acquired **WISDOM** you provide advice to commanders on such matters as the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act, the receipt of gifts by the government, political activities, military command and doctrine, investigations, ethics, and drug testing — just to name a few. You render opinions, write legal reviews, and provide interpretations of laws, regulations, and directives.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

You prepare wills and powers of attorney and counsel military personnel and their families on subjects including family law, taxes, real estate transactions, landlord and tenant relations, debtor-creditor rights, consumer affairs, adoption, and citizenship.

ADVICE

JAGs provide free legal assistance to military members and their dependents.



WISDOM

GOVERNMENT CONTRACT LAW

Judge advocates are vital to the multi-billion dollar development of newly emerging technologies and the procurement of high-tech weapons systems. JAGs are involved in this complex acquisition cycle — from contract formation to contract award and administration. If you have contract and trial experience you could engage in federal contract litigation.

LABOR LAW

Because many federal employment laws apply to the military too, you represent Air Force management in labor proceedings. These proceedings include arbitration, grievance, and administrative hearings before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. They also include adverse action cases before the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

FEDERAL LAW



Air Force JAGs are involved in the transactional and litigation aspects of procuring advanced technology.

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Like municipalities and private entities, the Air Force must comply with federal, state, and local environmental statutes and regulations. You advise commanders and resolve issues related to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; the Clean Air Act; and other major environmental laws.

INTERNATIONAL AND OPERATIONS LAW

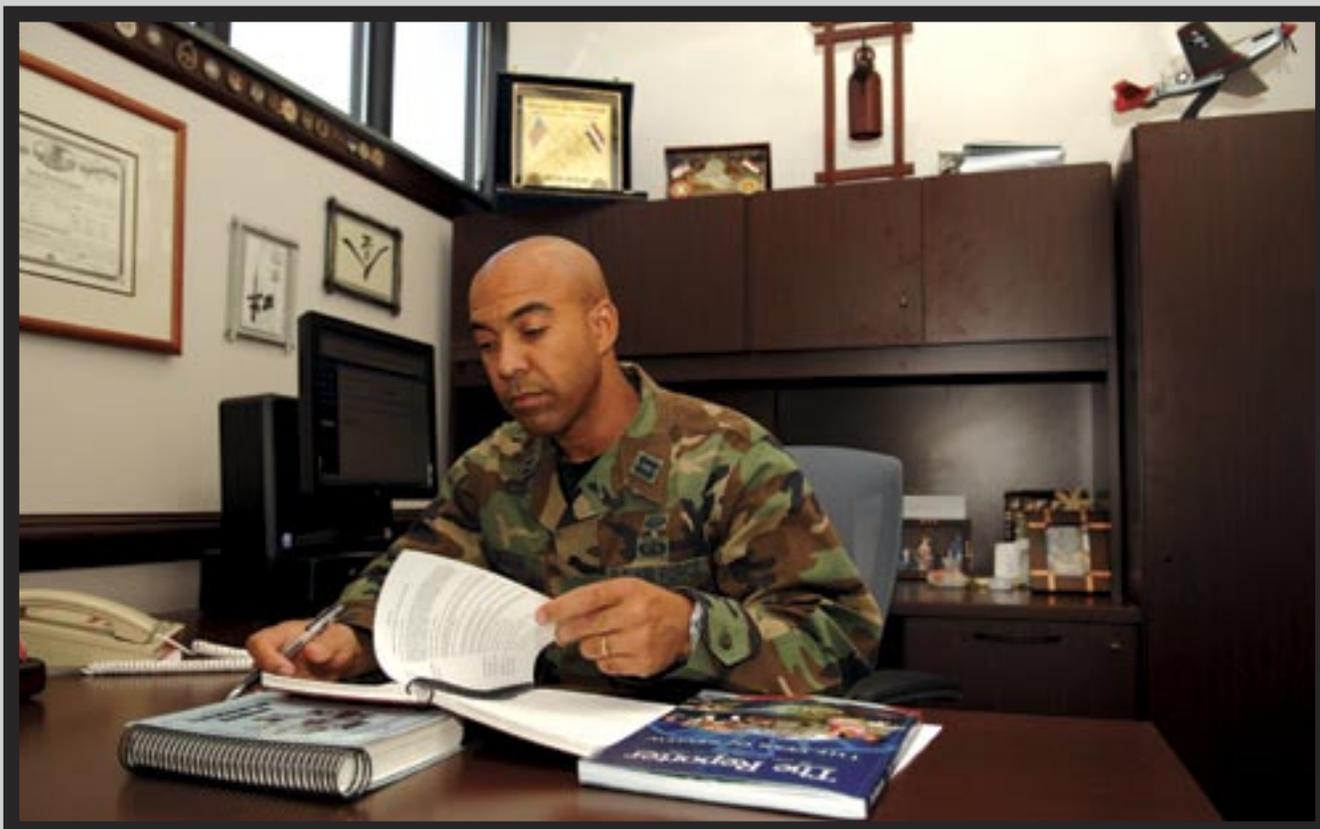
Judge advocates are involved in a broad range of international law issues. These include advising commanders on agreements governing the status of U.S. forces in foreign countries, working closely with local officials to monitor foreign criminal trials of U.S. service members, and solving a variety of foreign civil law problems. JAGs serve as a focal point for the Law of Armed Conflict, including the Geneva Conventions.

TORT CLAIMS

Judge advocates defend the Air Force against tort allegations in the medical malpractice, personal injury, personal property damage, aviation, and other areas. In torts arising overseas, this involves working with foreign officials and interpreting international agreements.

International LAW

An instructor at The Judge Advocate General's School researches an operations law issue.



GOLDBAL



DEPLOYMENT

In times of conflict and humanitarian crisis, some judge advocates are called upon to deploy with operational units. The opportunity to practice law in a deployed environment and advise commanders on a myriad of international and operational law issues distinguishes JAGs from their civilian attorney counterparts.

While deployed you may be involved in real-time targeting decisions of top military officers. You may work with local tribal elders to build a community school destroyed by insurgents. You may assist foreign courts in the prosecution of unlawful combatants, or serve as a legal advisor on the proper treatment of prisoners of war.

When Air Force personnel deploy overseas, they rely on the **VALOR** of their JAGs to provide accurate and timely legal advice in adverse conditions. Most importantly, as a judge advocate, you'll have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of a team helping others during historic events.

VALOR



A JAG argues before the Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force.

JUSTICE

CRIMINAL TRIALS

When an active-duty Air Force member is accused of wrongdoing, JAGs are there to ensure **JUSTICE** is served and constitutional rights are protected. Military justice is the Air Force JAG Corps' largest practice area.

During your first assignment, you'll prosecute criminal trials, called courts-martial. Trials are conducted in accordance with the Uniform Code of Military Justice and the Military Rules of Evidence, which mirror their federal counterparts. Courts-martial are very similar to civilian criminal trials for offenses ranging from petty theft and assault to espionage and capital murder.

When you acquire sufficient litigation experience, expertise, and skill as a prosecutor, you may be chosen to be a defense counsel. Most bases are assigned area defense counsel

who provide criminal defense services to Air Force members on that installation. They represent Air Force members in adverse administrative hearings, pre-trial hearings, and courts-martial. They also provide advice and assistance whenever any other disciplinary action is taken against an Air Force member.

Judge advocates who demonstrate superior talent in the courtroom may eventually fill senior prosecutor or defense counsel positions. These counsel travel to various Air Force bases and try only the most complex cases. Other military justice positions include appellate counsel, who represent the United States or convicted military members, military trial judges, and criminal appeal judges.

Experienced litigators provide trial advocacy training in courtrooms at The Judge Advocate General's School.



Trial Advocacy

EDUCATION

Every year, a number of judge advocates are selected to get LL.M.s in specialties like government contracts, labor law, space law, international law, and environmental law. During your LL.M. study, you receive full pay, and the Air Force pays any tuition. After receiving an LL.M. you would likely practice in the area of your LL.M. study.

In addition to the LL.M. program, the Air Force provides abundant specialized training courses and continuing education opportunities at government expense. There are specialty courses for trial advocacy, medical law, labor law, environmental law, taxation, information

and operations law, government contracts, utility contract negotiation, and the list goes on.

As you gain experience in the Judge Advocate General's Corps, you'll have opportunities to serve as an instructor on the faculty of the Air Force JAG School or the Air Force Academy.

TRAINING

All Air Force officers are sworn to support and defend the Constitution.



APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

Each year more than 100 new judge advocates are sworn into the Air Force JAG Corps. Competition for these positions is keen. To be a JAG, you must meet these minimum qualifications:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Be a graduate from an ABA-approved law school and able to practice law in the highest court of any state or territory of the United States.
- Complete an Air Force medical examination and be medically qualified by the Air Force Surgeon General prior to commissioning.
- Be commissioned before your 35th birthday. (See [AIRFORCE.COM/JAG](https://www.airforce.com/jag) for current details.)

WHO



A defense counsel argues his client's appeal before the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals.

WHEN

ACCESSIONS PROGRAMS

A variety of accessions programs are available for you to consider.

If you're a lawyer or have completed your second year of law school, you may apply to become a judge advocate through the Direct Appointment Program.

If you're an undergraduate student participating in ROTC, you may apply for the Educational Delay Program.

Law students in the first two years of law school may apply for the Graduate Law Program or One-Year College Program, both of which are ROTC programs for law students.

Active-duty Air Force officers may qualify for the Funded Legal Education Program, Excess Leave Program, or Intraservice Transfer Program. Air Force officers serving in the Air Force Reserve or Guard may qualify for the Recall Program. If you're an officer in the pay grade of O-3 or below serving on extended active duty in another branch of the armed forces, you may be able to become an Air Force JAG through the Interservice Transfer Program.

Application requirements, deadlines, and eligibility information for each accession program is located at AIRFORCE.COM/JAG or you may call us at 1-800-JAG-USAF. Once you complete and assemble the application materials, you must be interviewed in person by a staff judge advocate (SJA). A list of SJA locations and contact information is available on our website.

When you become an Air Force JAG, you'll participate in courts-martial. You'll sit at the prosecution table, possibly the defense table, maybe even on the bench. Don't expect to sit in the gallery.



JAG SELECTION

After your interview, your qualifications are assessed by a board of senior judge advocates. The Judge Advocate General of the Air Force then makes the final selection of the best-qualified applicants based upon the board's recommendations.

Selection is competitive. Factors include academic performance, curricular and extracurricular activities, community service, work experience, and current or prior military experience. Applicants are notified of selection results by letter.

HOW

SELECTION

OPPORTUNITIES



The Judge Advocate General's School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.

BEGINNING ACTIVE DUTY

If you have no prior commissioned officer service, you'll enter active duty as a First Lieutenant (pay grade O-2) and have the opportunity to become a Captain (O-3) within months. You'll be assigned to a base legal office determined by your preference and the needs of the Air Force and will know your first assignment location prior to accepting your commission and incurring any military service obligation.

Before arriving at your first duty station you'll attend the Commissioned Officer Training (COT) course at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. This course eases your transition from civilian to military life. You'll learn Air Force customs and courtesies, wear of the uniform, warfare and disaster prepared-

ness, and the Air Force role in national security. Course work includes professional military knowledge, defense studies, leadership and management, administration, and organization. (Note: prior commissioned officers do not attend COT.)

After completing COT, you'll attend the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course (JASOC) at the Air Force JAG School, where you'll study civil law, operations and international law, and military justice, including trial advocacy.

WHERE

Fitness centers and recreation activities are available at virtually every Air Force installation.



WORLD- WIDE

AIR FORCE ADVANTAGES

The compensation you receive as a judge advocate is significant. A JAG's salary compares very favorably with other public service attorney positions — and more than 20 percent of your total monthly pay is tax-free. Pay raises are automatic with increased time in service and with each promotion.

You also enjoy these outstanding benefits:

- Earn 30 days of vacation with pay each year — starting with your very first year.
- Possible cash bonuses for continued service under The Judge Advocate Continuation Pay program.
- Tax-free housing and food allowances.
- Comprehensive medical and dental care for you and your family.
- Generous non-contributory retirement plan after 20 years of qualified service.
- Thrift Savings Plan (similar to a 401K).
- Low-cost life insurance.
- Eligibility for low-cost, VA-backed mortgage loans.
- Shopping privileges in base grocery and department stores.
- Low-cost base recreational activities.



Living in and traveling to new locations is part of the Air Force way of life.

TRAVEL AND LEISURE

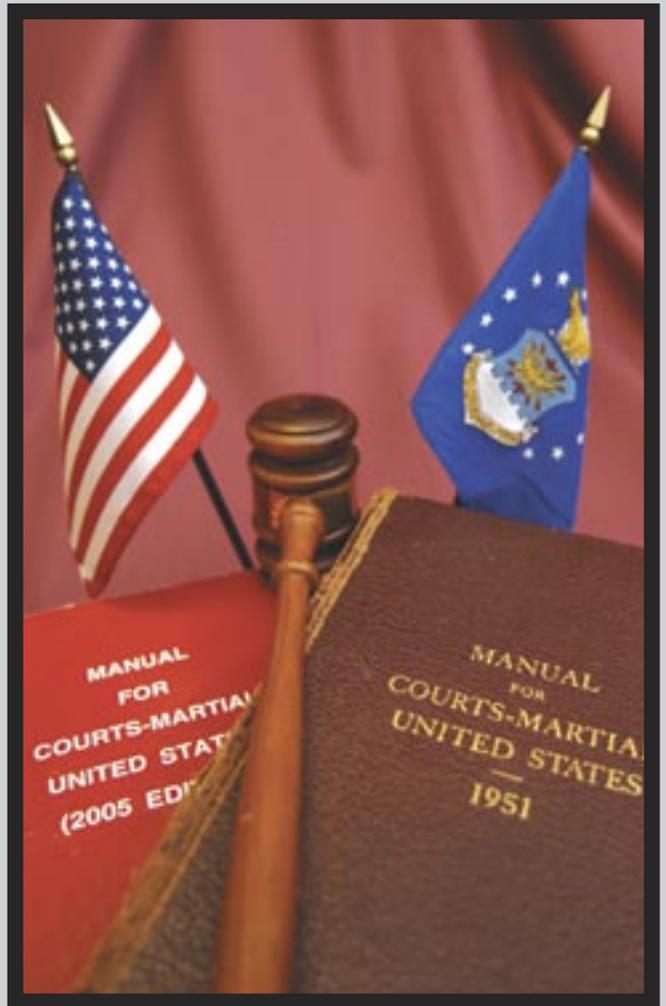
Whether you decide to spend a few years serving your country or to make the Air Force a career, you'll want to make the most of your time in the military. In addition to diverse professional opportunities, Air Force service offers the chance to live in and travel to new and exciting locations.

How about hunting and fishing in Montana or enjoying the sun in Florida? Perhaps you'd like the museums and historic sites near Washington, D.C. Maybe the Far East or Europe piques your curiosity. Wherever you're assigned, take advantage of travel and leisure opportunities. If you enthusiastically embrace new experiences and challenges, you'll enjoy the JAG lifestyle.

Air Force bases are similar to small communities and provide a variety of social and recreational activities to fit your lifestyle. They include golf courses, fitness centers, swimming pools, tennis courts, bowling alleys, theaters, hobby shops, and more. Also there are on-base child day care facilities, youth centers, and base chapel services available. These community resources are hard to match.

LIFESTYLE

SERVICE



CROSS INTO THE BLUE

More than anything, what sets the practice of law in the Air Force apart is the sense of satisfaction and fulfillment that comes from serving your country. Judge advocates are an elite group of men and women who have chosen to support liberty and freedom around the globe. Wherever the location, this exciting and unique way of life awaits those who accept the challenge. We invite you to Cross Into the Blue.

Visit us online at AIRFORCE.COM/JAG
or call **1-800-JAG-USAF**.



“Where else would I be better able to serve my country, practice law in a highly valued organization with exceptional professional standards, and work with people of extraordinary quality and dedication?”

*Major General Jack L. Rives
The Judge Advocate General
United States Air Force*

**1-800-JAG-USAF
AIRFORCE.COM/JAG**