

**THE MILITARY COMMANDER
AND
THE LAW**

Seventh Edition

2004

Colonel Thomas L. Strand, USAF
Commandant, Air Force Judge Advocate General School

Major Michael W. Goldman
Editor, *The Military Commander and the Law*

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The Military Commander and the Law

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FUNCTIONS OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Mission: The Judge Advocate General's Corps provides essential legal support for military operations; advocates and litigates to preserve command prerogatives; administers civil and criminal law programs; educates and counsels leaders and personnel in the law; and recruits, trains, and equips quality people

- Definitions

-- Judge Advocate: An AF officer designated as such by The Judge Advocate General

--- Graduate of an accredited law school, a member in good standing of the legal bar of some state, and a graduate of the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course

--- Approximately 1,340 active duty Air Force JAGs

-- Staff Judge Advocate (SJA): Senior judge advocate on extended active duty normally on the installation commander's staff unless otherwise specified by The Judge Advocate General

-- Assistant Staff Judge Advocates: Other judge advocates assigned to the staff judge advocate's office. May wear other hats, such as

--- Claims Officer

--- Chief of Military Justice

--- Chief of Civil Law, etc.

-- Area Defense Counsel (ADC): Judge advocate performing defense counsel duties (for additional information, see "Area Defense Counsel" article in chapter 1)

FUNCTIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE BASE LEGAL OFFICE

- Military Justice Division: Commanders make decisions about discipline and impose punishment. SJA's provide advice on how best to achieve good order and discipline

-- "On-call" JAG available 24 hours a day

-- Assists commander in determining appropriate forum for disciplinary actions

-- Article 15 Actions (Nonjudicial Punishment [NJP]). SJA's advise on