



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRIAL DEFENSE SERVICE
4133^d REGIONAL TRIAL DEFENSE TEAM, WEST REGION
OREGON NATIONAL GUARD
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL DEFENSE COUNSEL
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NGJA-OR-TDS

21 June 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD JAG

Thank you for expressing interest into the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) and the Oregon Army National Guard (ORARNG). At this time, the ORARNG has a several judge advocate (JAG) positions available. As the Regional Defense Counsel (RDC) for the Western Region (10 States and Guam), I provide Technical Supervision for the Army National Guard Trial Defense Counsel (ARNG TDC) within the region but am a member of the Oregon Army National Guard. Within the ARNG JAG structure, each state typically has elements which include a Joint Forces Headquarters, one or two separate Brigades, elements of the Trial Defense Service (TDS), and the Air National Guard and their Judge Advocates.

For this memorandum, I will describe the Oregon JAG structure for general information. The Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) has the main JAG structure under the State Judge Advocate, who is a Traditional "M-Day" part-time Soldier, and two full time AGR (Active Guard Reserve) Judge Advocates (JA), and then several Judge Advocates who support JFHQ and the 82 Brigade (Troop Command). The 41 Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) is a separate Brigade with its own JAG assets, including a Major and a Captain. Typically we are able to over-strength other positions so for instance we can often have four JAGs within the structure at the 41 IBCT. Other states also have entities called 'sustainment brigades' and those brigades have their own JAG and TDS structure for general support to the state and also for deployment in a theatre. In addition to JAGs within JFHQ and the 41st IBCT (which are consolidated for administrative and assignments), Oregon is the Headquarters for the Western Region Trial Defense Service and with that we have a Lieutenant Colonel position, a MAJ position and a Captain, who actually reports for rating and technical supervision through a Utah Senior Defense Counsel back to the RDC. This is to maintain a separate and independent TDS free of local command influence.

This is all to generally say that within the State JAG structure there are Government positions (JFHQ and 41 IBCT) and Defense positions (TDS), and within that services are provided by full time JAGs (only two though sometimes one additional temporary assignment is funded), and part time 'M-Day' traditional JAGs. For the most part all initial entry into the ARNG JAG is through the M-Day process, being a part-time JA, and if a full time position opens up then those are available for competitive application.

JAGs in the ARNG provide services to commanders and their representatives, and Soldiers and their families. Under varying roles, one can look at a State and consider the whole of the State like

a Fort, with its operations providing services from Military Justice, Civil and Administrative Law, Claims, Legal Assistance, Operational Law (foreign and domestic operations, rules of engagement or rules on the use of force, etc), and Trial Defense Services. Typically the JAG organization seeks to rotate positions so that everyone gets cross leveled experience that will also help individual training and career advancement.

Generally and while it is hard to summarize, ARNG JAG requires drilling in the Salem and other areas of the State one at least one weekend per month, with 15 days Annual Training per year, and there can be additional Active Duty days for training and special work. Initially, there is an Active Duty training for basic and the JAG course in Charlottesville, VA, that takes around 4 months though there is some possibility of splitting the training into two years.

Below is information summarizing the JAG Corps, the ORARNG and what we as judge advocates do.

WHO. Any Oregon-licensed attorney, who is under 33 years old (Under the rules, you must be able to complete 20 years of creditable service before age 53, but normally a waiver can be obtained.), who is physically fit (pass a medical exam), mentally fit, and who can pass a background check for a security clearance, generally is a candidate. Generally, an initial entry JAG officer is commissioned as a First Lieutenant (O-2), and promotion to Captain (O-3) generally occurs 18-24 months afterwards.

WHAT. The Army JAG Corps is made of officers throughout the United States and is broken into three service components: 1) Active Component Army, Army Reserve, and the Army National Guard of each State. Each component has a different mission and, as a result, has different assigned tasks. In ORARNG, duties as a traditional Guardsman (generally a minimum of 2 days per month and 15 days per year), will provide experience in everything from Soldier skills to courtrooms. ORARNG JAG officers usually provide command legal advice, give unit legal instruction, prosecution support, defense support, legal assistance support and administrative law support, and in the current world environment the important function of combat operations law. The work is challenging, and certainly there is no want for work. JAG officers are expected to qualify in all Soldier skills such as Physical Training (2-mile run, push-ups and sit-ups), maintain a Soldier's appearance (weight, haircut, etc.), qualify annually on weapons (9mm and/or M-4), and maintain the necessary level of military education, civilian education and specialized military law education. Additional time beyond the normal duty day, and minimum required duty time each year, is usually necessary to complete the military education requirements.

WHERE. Upon the JAG Corps' approval and the attorney's admittance into the Corps, a newly-commissioned officer will attend a 12-day in-processing at Fort Lee, VA and, afterwards, the 10 ½-week military law course at the Army JAG School at Charlottesville, VA. Next, the officer will attend the Direct Commission Officer (DCO) course, a six-week Infantry skills course located at one of two locations (Fort Benning, GA or Fort Sill, OK).

Beyond the initial officer training, most duty (drill weekends) is performed in the Willamette Valley—generally in Salem—, although sometimes drill weekends occur at an armory in Pendleton, Medford or Seaside. Annual Training (AT), is often divided between support to the two ORARNG brigades (41st and 82nd), and generally occurs between June and August. Although we can often perform individual AT days throughout the year, on occasion we are required to perform a continuous 15 days (or more in some years) of duty. Additional military education is often paid for out of separate funds and so duty often extends beyond the minimum required period of 2 days per month and 15 days per year.

The JAGC section performs AT anywhere in the United States, but we commonly perform it at Fort Lewis, WA or Gowen Field, ID and periodically at major training centers, such as National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA and Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, LA. AT often involves direct field exercises, actual operational law training and real world legal work that arises during exercises. We wear ACUs (Army combat uniform), Kevlar (helmets), field gear, and may be assigned a weapon for the exercise. We can and—on a voluntary basis—do deploy overseas. Otherwise, deployments are with the 41 IBCT and if the 41st deploys then the JAGs assigned with it deploy though it is possible to reassign someone to replace someone else for a deployment due to personal circumstances.

WHEN. Duty normally is the first weekend of each month, although it depends upon the training schedule. AT generally is between June and August and we usually know 6 months to 12 months in advance what our training is likely to be.

WHY. The JAG Corps is either a ‘stint’ in the Army or a career. As a reserve military officer, most look at it as a career in hopes of getting not only the duty pay but a pension at age 60. Pension is based on the amount of time put in each year over the period of time in service, and 20 good years is required to vest for retirement. The ORARNG JAG Corps senior staff does work hard to manage the careers of its officers and enlisted, but each person ultimately is responsible for managing their own career. The pay at a First Lieutenant rank (1LT) is good and improves with advancement and time in grade. The 2010 drill pay for four 4-hour periods—of which what a drill weekend consists—for a 1LT with no prior service is \$421. Other benefits are \$400,000 term life insurance at a reasonable rate, and Tri-Care Dental Insurance with the Government paying ½ of the premium, both of which are optional. On a normal drill weekend, you get paid for 4 active duty days, with no reimbursement for any expenses, like housing (for those who travel to Salem from across the state) or meals—unless drill weekend is locate some place other than Salem (though currently funding has allowed for payment of pre-set lodging due if required due to travel from home to drill that is in excess of 60 miles). During AT, you get regular active duty pay (\$3,163/mo for 1LT), and extra pay for housing and meals if they are not otherwise provided. Although this pay never will make you rich, being a member of a lawyer group such as the ORARNG JAG Corps will give you a great sense of belonging, camaraderie and satisfaction. The travel outside Oregon for training is a big benefit and, with planning, one can go on a couple educational trips during each training year. If you are a public employee, another benefit is your employer will pay you while you are gone for up to the 15 days per year.

HOW. To apply to be a JAG officer with the ORARNG, I outline the application process below.

1. An application consists of a cover letter, resume and reference list. Word documents and via e-mail are preferred. Upon receipt of an application, the ORARNG JAG Accessions Officer (JAO) sends them to the senior staff of the JAG Corps section for review and they, in turn, advise the JAO as to whether the interested attorney is invited for an informal interview. If invited to interview with the JAG Corps section, the applicant likely will interview during one of our weekend drill periods (usually the first weekend of the month).

2. During the interview, attending staff members will explain the composition of the section, what we do, what an applicant should expect and will allow enough time for the applicant and the section to exchange questions and answers. The staff will consider all interviewed applicants and decide, with the State Judge Advocate’s approval, if an applicant will be asked to continue with the application process.

3. If selected, the applicant will compile and submit a rather lengthy application packet to me to forward to the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and The U.S. Army Judge Advocate General (TJAG). Both NGB and TJAG will review the application and ultimately will inform the applicant if s/he has been approved for a JAG officer commission. Afterwards, the approved applicant appears before a federal recognition board in Oregon for final approval and swearing-in. The entire interview and application process usually takes nine to twelve months.

The JAG Corps is a great place for duty in the military, and if you perceive yourself to have the inclination to be a field lawyer and can identify with our motto, "Soldiers First, and Lawyers Always," then the JAG Corps may be for you. It's a commitment to, not only the ORARNG, but the Nation, our State and yourself.

The ORARNG JAO, as the recruiter for ORARNG JAG, can give you information regarding the JAG Corps, the Oregon Army National Guard and opportunities to become a JAG officer within the organization. Other opportunities may exist in the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) JAG Corps with various positions in the Northwest region and in the U.S. Army active component (AC) — which only will have full-time, and no reserve, positions. There are significant differences in the USAR, AC and the ARNG, which you should consider before swearing in. I or the JAO can describe some of those differences, but the biggest difference is with the ARNG you are first serving your State.

The information above does frequently change, so you should not rely solely on it. I recommend you also visit the Army JAG Corps website at www.jagcnet.army.mil for additional information.

You can ask to contact the JAO – JAG RECRUITER by calling the State JAG office at 503.584.3571 and they can get you into contact with the currently assigned JAO.

For information on the ARNGTDS you can email us at NGOR.JAG.4133.TDS@ng.army.mil. I hope this information is of interest to you and thank you for your interest in the Oregon Army National Guard JAG.

Original Signed

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