



# UNITED STATES AIR FORCE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

## BACKGROUND

Over 1,300 active duty military attorneys, called judge advocates (JAGs), have discovered that service as a commissioned officer in the Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) has much to offer. Our legal practice is challenging and offers early opportunities to litigate in a variety of forums. In addition, practicing law in the JAG Corps allows attorneys to engage in public service within an institution highly respected by the American public. Our JAGs make a fulfilling, valuable and lasting contribution to the United States of America, while maintaining a high quality of life.

The JAG Corps provides the United States Air Force with all types of legal support. As an officer in the JAG Corps and a practicing attorney your responsibilities will focus on all legal aspects of military operations including: criminal law, legal assistance, civil and administrative law, labor and employment law, international and operational law, space and cyberspace law, contract and fiscal law, medical law, and environmental law. The JAG Corps offers a wide range of opportunities--whether serving as prosecutor, defense counsel, or special victims' counsel at a court-martial, advising a commander on an international law issue, or helping an Airman with a personal legal matter.

For some, travel opportunities, the possibility of living and practicing law in a foreign country, and the simple prospect of engaging in a unique legal field carry special attraction. For others, quality of life is of significant importance. Military service provides an extended family, emphasizes teamwork and team building, and offers a well-developed support network. For these and many other reasons, service as an Air Force JAG offers unique opportunities and promises enriching experiences.

Typical responsibilities for a Judge Advocate in their first four years of service include:

- Prosecute/defend criminal misconduct under the Uniform Code of Military Justice
- Advocate at various administrative separation and officer elimination boards
- Provide legal assistance to military members and their families
- Provide legal reviews of proposed Air Force actions at the unit/installation level
- Provide ethics opinions regarding the use of Government resources
- Advise commanders of all levels on all legal issues as they arise

## APPLICATION PROGRAMS

### DIRECT APPOINTMENT PROGRAM (DAP)

If you have completed your second year of law school or have completed two-thirds of your degree requirements, you may apply for a direct appointment as a JAG.

#### **Eligibility requirements**

- Citizen of the United States of America
- Graduate from an ABA approved law school
- Be admitted to practice law in the highest court of any U.S. state, commonwealth, territory or District of Columbia prior to commissioning
- Commission as an officer before the age of 40
- Complete and pass an Air Force medical examination after selection

### GLP-OYCP: AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)

If you are a law student in your first year of law school, you are eligible to apply to the **Graduate Law Program (GLP)**. If selected, you will attend an ROTC field training encampment at an Air Force base during the summer before either your second or third year of law school, and will commission as a second lieutenant.

If you are a law student in your second year of law school, you are eligible to apply to the **One Year College Program (OYCP)**. If selected, you will attend ROTC field training at an Air Force base during the summer before your third year of law school, and will commission as a second lieutenant.

#### **Application requirements**

- Attending an ABA-approved law school that either offers an AFROTC program or allows you to take AFROTC courses at a nearby school via a crosstown agreement
- Be in good academic standing
- Meet ROTC entry standards, such as U.S. citizenship, and ROTC weight and medical standards
- Commission as an officer before the age of 40

## TRAINING

If accepted to the Direct Appointment Program, applicants who have never served as a commissioned officer will attend Officer Training School (OTS). OTS is an eight-week course, held at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama. OTS will teach you how to be an Air Force officer. After OTS, applicants attend the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course (JASOC). JASOC is a nine-week course at The Judge Advocate General's School, which is also located at Maxwell Air Force Base. JASOC teaches Air Force officers the basics of serving as a JAG and you will be trained on the various topics of military law.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

The Air Force conducts three boards a year for the DAP program and one board a year for the ROTC programs. You can access the application at [www.airforce.com/jag](http://www.airforce.com/jag). After you submit your application online, an active duty Staff Judge Advocate will contact you to schedule the required in-person interview. We encourage you to apply online as early as possible.

Selection boards apply the “whole person” approach using the following factors when evaluating applicants: academic performance; work experience; leadership traits; extracurricular activities; personal integrity; demonstrated elements of core values; awards and honors; adaptability and flexibility; motivational statement; and military records (if applicable).

	<i>Deadline for online submission</i>	<i>Deadline for SJA interview</i>
<b>September DAP</b>	10 August	1 September
<b>November DAP</b>	10 October	1 November
<b>April DAP</b>	10 March	1 April
<b>ROTC (GLP/OYCP)</b>	10 January	1 February

When completing the online application, follow all directions closely. Following are the required and recommended documents that are needed to complete the online application:

### Required

- Full Length Photograph – Must be forward facing head-to-toe (courtroom attire)
- Motivational Statement (1 page, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, 11 font) – A statement regarding your interests, objectives, and motivations for applying for an Active Duty commission with the Air Force JAG Corps
- Resume – Chronological format
- Transcripts – Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law School
- LSAT Report – The most current report
- Staff Judge Advocate Interview – Completed after you submit your application
- OPRs/EPRs – Prior military or currently in the ANG/ARC (if applicable)
- DD Form 214 – Certificate of Release/Discharge from Active Duty (if applicable)
- ROTC Detachment Commander Interview – for GLP/OYCP applicants only

### Recommended (Strongly)

- Writing Sample – Up to 10 pages
- Letters of Recommendation – Up to 5 are allowed

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please contact the Chief of Recruiting for the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps, at [airforcejagrecruiting@gmail.com](mailto:airforcejagrecruiting@gmail.com) or 1-800-JAG-USAF for follow up or additional questions.

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## PLANNING AHEAD

A little planning, preparation, and research can greatly increase the likelihood you will be selected by the JAG Corps. Here are some suggestions for those who are considering applying to the JAG Corps:

- **Paid Summer Internship** – Each year the Air Force selects approximately 25-30 paid summer 1L and 2L interns for assignments around the country (subject to funding). The majority of Air Force summer interns subsequently apply for active duty in their 3L year. Application windows are typically posted in December or January.
- **Externships** – Throughout the year, there are opportunities to extern with the JAG Corps at local U.S. Air Force installations. Externships are available throughout the year for at certain installations. Fall externship application windows are typically posted in June. Spring externship application windows are typically posted in September. Summer externship application windows are typically posted in December or January.
- **Physical Fitness** – Stay in shape while you are in law school. If applying for active duty, a likely interview question will be, “What do you do to stay in shape?” It’s not necessary to be a world class athlete, but all Airmen, including JAGs, have to meet the Air Force’s physical fitness standards. Exercise is also a great form of stress relief.
- **Get Involved** – The Air Force JAG Corps values other experiences outside of pure academics. For example, participating in law review or a journal, moot court competitions, or leadership positions with various on-campus student organizations reflect your ability to manage multiple tasks at the same time. Volunteering with public interest oriented organizations is looked upon favorably.
- **Public Interest** – Engaging in public service oriented experiences, whether paid, unpaid, or for academic credit, further evidences genuine interest in military service.

## AIR FORCE RESERVE OR NATIONAL GUARD

The Air Force Reserve or National Guard is a great way to serve your country in uniform without making a full-time commitment. The initial training is the same, requiring eight weeks at OTS, followed by nine weeks at JASOC. There are Reserve and National Guard units around the country. For more information about service in the Air Reserve Component, please visit <https://afreserve.com/JAG/>, call 703-614-0317 or email [arcjagrecruiting@gmail.com](mailto:arcjagrecruiting@gmail.com) or [usaf.arcjagrecruiting@mail.mil](mailto:usaf.arcjagrecruiting@mail.mil).