



The Judge Advocate General's School Master Curriculum Plan: Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course (JASOC)

*Course Code: JAS
Revised: January 2015*

Instructions: *The Master Curriculum Plan is the charter for the course. Course Directors use the Plan to make decisions about curriculum content, including preparation of new lessons and revising existing ones, evaluation methods, identifying support requirements, and constructing course schedules. The Plan is available for review by JAGC members, their supervisors, CLE and other accrediting authorities, and others seeking information about JAG School courses and methods.*

A. General Information

Location: The Judge Advocate General's School, Maxwell AFB AL.

Length of course: 9 weeks.

Student quota and profile: Quota varies depending on the needs of the JAG Corps. Attendees are newly designated U.S. Air Force judge advocates including recently accessed active duty officers, active duty officers transferred to the JAG Corps from the line of the Air Force, inter-service transfer officers, and Air Reserve Component (ARC) judge advocates. A JASOC class may include military attorneys from allied nations' armed forces.

B. Strategic Course Direction

Instructions: *Set out the elements of the Strategic Course Direction as provided below. Consider them carefully, as each decision on the course must be consistent with the stated mission, vision, and values.*

Mission: To provide the new judge advocate a foundation in military law and advocacy skills, preparing him or her for the immediate demands of an Air Force legal office and laying the groundwork for continuing professional development as an airman, commissioned officer, and judge advocate.

Vision: Adult learner-focused education and training, using multiple instructional methods delivered by high-quality faculty, and mentoring from mature and highly professional commissioned and noncommissioned officers.

Values: Fostering loyalty, honesty, leadership, integrity, fairness, and teamwork, balancing concern for both people and mission through personal accountability, sense of duty, and discipline.

C. Instructional Areas and Strategic Learning Objectives

Instructions: *Determine the broad subject areas (blocks) to be covered by the course. Determine the overall learning objectives for each block, setting out the cognitive level of learning. Include affective objectives, if appropriate. Consider these carefully, as they will guide in planning the individual lessons within each*

block. See AFM 36-2236, Guidebook for Air Force Instructors, and consult the Academic Director or Standards/Evaluation Division.

1. Block I: Course Administration (series 100)

Block objectives:

Comprehend the mission and learning objectives for JASOC.

Know the administrative, logistical, attendance, and academic requirements for students attending JASOC.

Value satisfactory performance in JASOC as critical to satisfactory duty performance as a new judge advocate.

Respond to independent study, preparation, attentiveness, and active class participation as necessary for satisfactory performance in JASOC.

Respond to candid and constructive evaluations of individual lessons and JASOC as a whole as necessary for assessment of course effectiveness and improvements in future offerings.

2. Block II: Civil Law (series 200)

Block objectives:

Know the seminal legal authorities and basic principles of civil law subjects commonly encountered in an Air Force base legal office, including appointment to and assumption of command, quality force and other military personnel law, legal assistance, claims for and against the government, legal status of private organizations, procurement and fiscal law, governmental ethics, information law, First Amendment law, investigations, environmental law, and labor law.

Comprehend selected civil law principles and issues of particular importance to Air Force installations.

Apply principles of law, leadership, advocacy, and effective communication in civil law-related exercises.

Know legal research resources available to judge advocates.

Value the importance of compliance and successful litigation in civil law subject areas to the accomplishment of Air Force missions.

3. Block III: Military Justice (series 300)

Block objectives:

Comprehend the Uniform Code of Military Justice and other substantive criminal law authorities applicable to the administration of military justice.

Comprehend nonjudicial punishment and other quality force management processes from discovery of offense or other basis for action to servicing staff judge advocate review under the UCMJ, Manual for Courts-Martial, and applicable Air Force instructions.

Comprehend the Military Rules of Evidence in situations commonly encountered in courts-martial.

Comprehend the Rules for Courts-Martial and the trial process from drafting of charges through the post-trial process and appellate review.

Comprehend the fundamentals of sexual assault prosecution including legal support available to victims, current issues in sexual assault prosecutions, victims' rights and reporting options, and DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) policy generally.

Comprehend principles and techniques of effective advocacy at courts-martial and administrative discharge boards.

Apply facts, principles of law, procedure, evidence, effective communication techniques, and effective advocacy techniques during moot courts-martial, nonjudicial punishment, administrative discharge boards, and other military justice and quality force management-related exercises.

Value the importance of the military justice system to maintaining good order and discipline in the U.S. armed forces and accomplishing the mission of the U.S. armed forces.

Value proficiency in military justice and trial advocacy as core competencies for Air Force judge advocates.

4. **Block IV: Operations and International Law (series 400)**

Block objectives:

Know the organizational, command, and control structures of the combatant commands of the United States armed forces, and their Air Force components.

Comprehend the sources of law that affect military operations and the provision of legal services outside the territory of the United States.

Comprehend fundamental principles of domestic and international law, including the law of armed conflict and international agreements, in the context of military operations within and outside the territory of the United States.

Know the missions and major weapon systems of the Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

Apply principles of law, leadership, and the military arts in a simulated military operational environment.

Value proficiency in operations law and international law as important to accomplishment of Air Force missions and objectives.

5. **Block V: Leadership, Airmanship, Communication, and Professional Development (series 500)**

Block objectives:

Apply effective leadership, teambuilding, and followership skills.

Know the leadership lessons and historical accomplishments of past JAG Corps leaders.

Value the importance of developing leadership skills to success as an Air Force officer and judge advocate, and the contributions of past JAG Corps leaders to the status of Air Force judge advocates today.

Apply effective oral and written communication skills, and mandatory requirements for Air Force communications.

Value the importance of speaking and writing well in the Air Force way.

Comprehend the ethical responsibilities, accountability, and training obligations related to the rules and standards governing professional conduct of JAG Corps members.

Respond to information on Air Force operational capabilities and JAG Corps contributions to those capabilities.

D. Methods of Instruction, Faculty, and Evaluation/Assessment

Instructions: Describe who will teach the course, how they will teach it, and how student performance will be evaluated. If there is no evaluation, so state. See AFM 36-2236, Guidebook for Air Force Instructors, for information and guidance on selection of teaching methods. Also state any other methods used to assess instructional effectiveness for the course as a whole (e.g., end-of-course critiques, pre- and post-course student self-assessments, diagnostic testing, and graduate assessments of alumni and their supervisors. consult the Academic Director or Standards/Evaluation Division as needed.

JAG School resident faculty, both judge advocate and paralegal, provide instruction. Guest speakers may also contribute to instruction.

Methods include informal lecture, faculty demonstrations, seminar guided discussions, faculty panel discussions, experiential exercises, and field trips. The experiential exercises will require students to prepare legal reviews of a proposed administrative discharge, counsel legal assistance “clients,” draft court-martial charges, advise “commanders” on nonjudicial punishment, advocate in moot courts-martial, administrative discharge boards, and other trial advocacy exercises, and perform as airmen and attorneys in mock operational exercises.

Evaluation will be by written examination, written quizzes, seminar participation, and performance in experiential exercises. Seminar participation and exercise performance will be evaluated based on rubrics on file. Criteria for graduation are set out in AFJAGS OI 53-12.

Other assessment of instructional effectiveness will be by end-of-course participant critique, and alumni and supervisor surveys approximately one year following graduation.

E. JAG Corps Major Knowledge Areas

Instructions: This section contains descriptions of the JAGC Corps Major Knowledge Areas identified by TJAG. It remains the same for each Master Curriculum Plan and serves as a reference for completing Sec. F.

Professional Legal Knowledge. Knowledge of the law and processes involved in JAG Corps fields of practice.

Legal Skill Sets. Knowledge of the lawyering skills that attorneys and paralegals must maintain or be able to support (e.g., advocacy, client services, discovery management, interviewing, investigating, legal and factual research, legal writing, and litigation).

Universal Skills. Skills required by all who (1) lead and work with people and (2) manage and use resources. These skills include communications, information technology, interpersonal skills, leadership, mentoring, office management, and personnel development.

Professional Situational Awareness. Knowledge that provides context on national security issues and on JAG Corps, unit, command, and Air Force history, missions, organizational structures, and perspectives.

F. Lesson Fields

Instructions: Summarize the subjects addressed in the course and tie them to the appropriate JAG Corps Major Knowledge Areas described in Sec. E, above.

Professional Legal Knowledge Fields

Military Criminal Law

Civil Law

Operations and International Law

Ethics and Professional Responsibility

Special Interest Subjects (e.g., Sexual Assault Policy & Response)

Legal Skill Set Fields

Trial Advocacy

Civility in Practice

Client Relations and Communication

Computerized Legal Research

Suicide Prevention

Universal Skills Fields

Leadership

Followership

Effective Writing

Effective Oral Communication

Database Utilization

Personnel Management

Resource Management

Personal Fitness and Readiness

Professional Situational Awareness Fields

JAGC Leadership Perspectives

Military Judges' Perspectives

Air Force Operational Capabilities

JAGC Contributions to the Air Force Mission

JAGC History, Culture, and Support of Air Force Core Values

DoD SAPR Policy and Sexual Assault Prosecutions

G. Student Selection

The course is open to USAF and ARC judge advocates, and allied nation legal officers. Students are selected by HQ USAF/JAX on behalf of The Judge Advocate General. HQ USAF/JAX selects newly commissioned officers chosen to be judge advocates, active duty officers who have successfully completed the Funded Legal Education Program and the Excess Leave Program, inter-service transfer officers, and officers selected as ARC judge advocates.