



The Judge Advocate General's School Master Curriculum Plan: Advanced Sexual Assault Litigation Course

*Course Code: ASALC
June 2015*

A. General Information

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

Length of course: 5 days

Student quota and profile: 18 students (12 judge advocates and 6 Office of Special Investigation agents). Students should be assigned or likely to be assigned duties to prosecute, defend, or represent victims or investigate sexual assaults and similar cases. Judge advocate students should be certified (or nearly certified) under Article 27b, UCMJ, and should have attended TDAC.

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 prepare judge advocates and OSI agents to meet the challenges of investigating, prosecuting, defending, and representing victims in sexual assaults and similar crimes.

Vision: Practical instruction in advanced issues connected to investigating and litigating sexual assault cases, tailored to the attorney who is already experienced in legal work on behalf of command and the OSI agent who is already experienced in criminal investigation; emphasizing experiential methods, common issues, effective communication, problem solving, and critical thinking.

Values: Fostering Air Force Core Values, expertise in military justice, efficiency, maturity, dependability, good judgment, moral courage, and ethical conduct.

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 your guide in planning the individual lessons within each block. See AFM 36-2236, Guidebook for Air Force Instructors, and consult the Academics Division.

1. Block I: Course Introduction, Administration, and Graduation (series 100)

Block objectives:

Comprehend the mission and learning objectives for the Advanced Sexual Assault Litigation Course (ASALC).

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

Characterize attentive, active, and constructive participation in ASALC as important to successful service as an advocate or investigator, as appropriate, investigating, prosecuting, defending, or representing victims in sexual assault cases.

2. Block II: Legal and Investigative Skill Sets in Sexual Assault Cases (series 200)

Comprehend the importance and complexity of effectively presenting expert testimony and evidence in sexual assault/special victim cases.

Comprehend proper victim interview techniques and methods for presenting victim testimony at trial.

Comprehend the methods, techniques and skills that are necessary to conduct effective direct and cross examination of an accused in a sexual assault/special victim trial.

Comprehend the importance of ethically working with OSI (for judge advocates) or trial counsel, defense counsel, and special victim advocates (for all) from inception through trial in sexual assault and special victim cases.

Apply effective advocacy techniques to present expert testimony, victim testimony and accused testimony in a court-martial setting.

Value teaming and cooperation between AFOSI and trial counsel in the process of building and litigating a sexual assault case.

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

JAG School resident faculty, adjunct faculty from cognizant JAG Corps activities, and guest speakers provide instruction.

Methods of instruction will be informal lectures, panel discussions, guided discussions, and experiential exercises. Informal lectures and panel discussions will be during plenary sessions. Guided discussions and experiential exercises will occur in small group seminars facilitated by resident or adjunct faculty. Guided discussions and experiential exercises will provide opportunities for application of information provided in prior informal lectures, requiring participants to use critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

There are no academic requirements for ASALC graduation. Accordingly, participant performance is not formally evaluated, although seminar facilitators will provide contemporaneous feedback on performance during guided discussions and experiential exercises, particularly during video review of student performances. Attendees are expected to participate attentively, actively, and constructively.

Assessment of instructional effectiveness may be by diagnostic survey or examination of participants at the start of the course, followed by summative survey or examination at the close of the course, an end-of-course participant critique, and alumni surveys within 12 months 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

Legal Skill Set Fields

Civility in Practice.

Communication especially with sexual assault victims, and between counsel and investigators.

Interview techniques.

Direct and cross-examination techniques, especially concerning alleged sexual assault victims, investigators, and expert witnesses.

G. Student Selection

Student selection will be made by The Judge Advocate General from nominations from the field. Students should be assigned or likely to be assigned duties to prosecute, defend, or represent victims or investigate sexual assaults and similar cases. Judge advocate students should be certified (or nearly certified) under Article 27b, UCMJ, and should have attended TDAC.