

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



# JUDGE ADVOCATE





## THE MARINE JUDGE ADVOCATE

The Judge Advocate Division is much like a large firm, composed of more than 400 judge advocates and a comparable support staff. While you will most likely serve as a prosecutor or defense counsel in military courts-martial during your first tour, you will also have the opportunity during your career to practice law in areas as diverse as operational law, family law, environmental law, labor law and international law. Additionally, you may argue appellate cases before the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals or the United States Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces.

Marine Judge Advocates have addressed difficult international law issues such as arms control, the Geneva Conventions and military commissions. Marine Judge Advocates serve worldwide in such places as southern California, Washington, D.C., Hawaii, Japan, Spain, Italy and Germany. Additionally, Marine Judge Advocates have had the opportunity to deploy in just about every international crisis, from Grenada, Kosovo and Somalia to Haiti, Djibouti, Iraq and Afghanistan.

# LEADER, WARRIOR, ATTORNEY.

To practice law is a privilege. To practice law as a Marine Officer is a distinction reserved for the few who have what it takes, mentally, morally and physically, to become a leader of Marines. If you prove yourself worthy, you will not only serve in the field of law, but you will serve your country as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

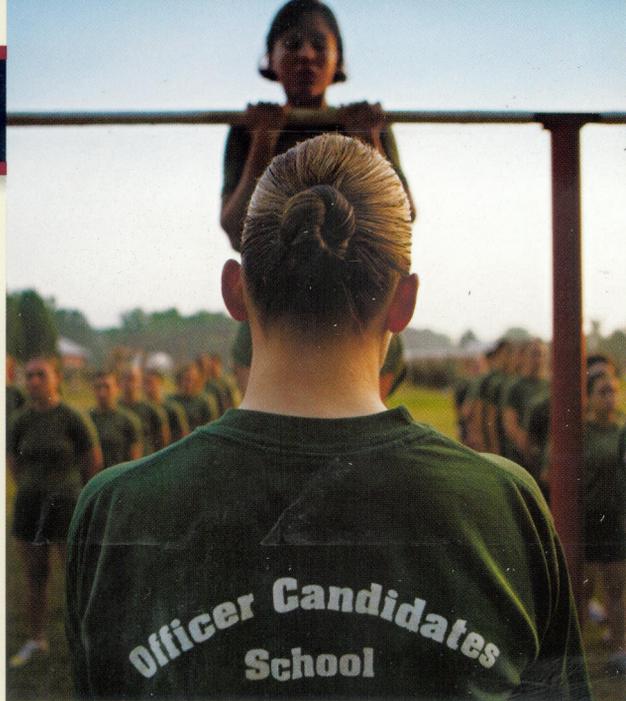
After successfully completing law school and Officer Candidates School, you will have proven to yourself and to the Corps that you have what it takes to be an officer and judge advocate among the world's greatest warriors.

As a Marine Corps Judge Advocate, you will immediately be given the responsibilities of maintaining your own caseload and advising Marines on legal issues.

Additionally, the training you receive as a Marine Corps Officer will prepare you to be a leader from day one.

While most new civilian attorneys are relegated to research duty on cases tried by others, you will be building your skills and acquiring real legal experience in the courtroom.





you are not eligible for tuition assistance in this program, you will receive up to three years of constructive service credit. A calendar year of constructive service credit is awarded for each year of law school completed before you are commissioned, meaning you will be advanced in seniority and eligibility for promotion.

### ADVANCED LAW STUDIES

Crucial to the career of any attorney is the need for continuing legal education. As a judge advocate, this education will be provided at government expense. Following The Basic School (TBS), you will receive your initial instruction on the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and the military justice system at the Naval Justice School (NJS) in Newport, Rhode Island.

This training ensures that you have all the tools necessary to be an effective Marine Corps Judge Advocate. While at NJS, you will also receive an additional week of instruction during Basic Operational Law Training (BOLT), providing you with the skills necessary to properly advise commanders on operational law matters.

Upon your appointment as a judge advocate, you may have the opportunity to obtain a Master of Laws Degree (LLM) at government expense. This can be done at a civilian university or at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia. Additionally, you will be able to attend professional courses conducted by law schools and institutes throughout the country. The Marine Corps sends more than one-third of its judge advocates to courses like these every year.



## JUDGE ADVOCATE PROGRAMS

There are several routes you can take to become a Marine Corps Judge Advocate. Whether you seek your commission as an undergraduate, as a law school student or as an attorney, there is a program for you.

### PLATOON LEADERS CLASS—LAW

This option is open to college seniors who have been accepted for full-time study at an ABA-accredited law school, and first- and second-year law students.

In addition to tuition assistance, Marines receive constructive service credit for each year in law school prior to commissioning. You will be promoted on schedule while you're attending law school, and your compensation will increase based upon your length of service and pay grade once you begin active duty.

While in law school, you will be mentored by judge advocates that are currently serving. During your law school summers, and following graduation and completion of the bar examination, you will have the opportunity to serve in legal billets at Marine Corps bases and stations across the United States.

### OFFICER CANDIDATE COURSE—LAW

Third-year law students and bar-certified lawyers begin their training at the Officer Candidate Course. Although

## **PRACTICE OF LAW**

As a Marine Corps Judge Advocate, there are many areas of specialty in which you may practice law:

### **TRIAL ATTORNEY**

- As a prosecutor, you are responsible for investigating, assembling and preparing a court-martial while working closely with investigating agencies such as Military Police and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.
- As a defense counsel, you are responsible for representing your client at a court-martial or administrative discharge hearing.
- As a litigator, you will review evidence, interview witnesses, consult with other judge advocates on your team and use your trial advocacy skills to represent your clients.
- You will try cases before a military judge or before a jury of Marines and/or naval personnel.
- You may also argue appellate cases before the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals or the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

### **CIVIL LAW/LEGAL ASSISTANCE ATTORNEY/IN-HOUSE COUNSEL**

- As you gain experience, you may transition to other areas of law such as Civil Law and Legal Assistance or act as in-house counsel.
- You will write ethics opinions and research issues pertaining to Environmental, Fiscal, Government Contracting, Labor and Employment, Claims and Tort Litigation Law and other legal matters.
- You will also work closely with Marines and Marine families on Family, Consumer, Tax, Estate and Immigration Law issues.

### **OPERATIONAL LAW ATTORNEY**

- You may serve aboard a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), a ship of approximately 2,000 Marines that deploys globally, where you are responsible for all legal matters pertaining to the unit.
- You may deploy with a Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF), a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) that deploys globally for larger-scale operations, where your responsibilities could include handling Rules of Engagement, Laws of War, Detention Operations, Investigations, Fiscal Law, Government Contracting, Foreign Claims, Military Justice, Host Nation Justice Systems, Legal Assistance and other legal issues that arise in a deployed environment.



## HAVE TWO PROFESSIONS INSTEAD OF ONE

As a judge advocate, you are first and foremost a Marine Officer. This means that before you take on courtroom duties, you will be trained as a leader and warrior. You will attend the same Officer Candidates School as any other potential officer, and you will learn the duties and skills of a Marine Officer at The Basic School. In addition to your legal responsibilities, you may eventually have the opportunity to serve in billets outside of the legal field, to include commanding your own unit.





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