

Career Goals and Objectives

A Personal Checklist

- Strive to improve the service you and your unit give the gaining command and other clients. Pro-actively study the workload and needs of the command. Maximize feedback. Find better ways to do the usual, volunteer for the challenging jobs.
- Obtain the skills and experience to be XO and CO. Master reserve unit administration; learn from center personnel about training plans, drill documentation, awards, fitness reports, and performance evaluations. Read the message board regularly.
- Become trained and certified as an instructor. Get trial advocacy training and become certified by an organization like NITA. Use your courtroom experience to train active duty JAGs. Major goal: Teach a topic at the Military Law Update Workshop. Volunteer locally as an instructor in standards of conduct, law of armed conflict, and premobilization briefs. Develop preventive law briefs and forms.
- Become known. Volunteer (to the REDCOM SJA) to serve as Legal Advisor to a reserve center, and for other ad hoc assignments, such as recruiting, retirement, or other special projects. Volunteer as a special assistant to the Naval Reserve Senior Judge Advocate, or as a member of selection boards and policy boards.
- Help other service members by supplying legal information pamphlets, such as those provided free by state bar committees.
- Apply to serve on policy boards, which help integrate JAGs into the wider Reserve program. Prepare for service on the REDCOM policy board by submitting items to the center board and serving on the center board. Use the policy board to improve local, regional and national procedures and practices. Review past board reports for format and potential topics.
- Expand your military knowledge. Learn the missions of other units. Complete the correspondence courses of the Naval War College. Take the 2-day Reserve Joint Operations Planning Seminar of the Armed Forces Staff College (offered in Norfolk and elsewhere). If near a joint command, tell its SJA that you will participate in joint exercises.
- Learn about JAGs in other services. Attend the annual, regional on-site training of Army JAGs. Support the ABA military committees, the Navy-Marine Corps Reserve

Lawyers Association, the Judge Advocates' Association, and the Federal Bar Association. Join the military law committee of your state bar. Attend the Judicial Conference of the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, held each May.

- Pursue professional training: the reserve refresher, SJA, and operational law courses of the Naval Justice School; the two-week reserve courses at the Naval War College and the National Defense University; the law of armed conflict and other courses at the Army JAG School; the off-campus night programs of the Naval War College offered at major bases.
- Subscribe to, and read regularly, professional publications like the Naval Institute Proceedings, Army Lawyer, Naval Law Review, etc. Goal: Write a military law article for a professional journal.
- Help recruit top applicants for the JAG Corps. Attend recruiter training and join the recruiting district assistance council. "Adopt" a law school for the Navy. Speak to student and civic groups about the opportunities in Navy JAG. Keep a direct contact at the nearest NLSO to expedite tours and recruiting. (If in doubt, contact OJAG Code 61).
- Be prepared to travel (at your expense) to the best billet you can land. Network with JAGs, active and reserve, to uncover billets available. Think each day what you can accomplish for the Reserve, do it, and document your achievement.
- Perform so well that your superiors nominate you for awards -- Navy Achievement Medal for junior officer personnel, Navy Commendation Medal for more senior members. After 10 years of reserve participation, apply for the Armed Forces Reserve Medal. When you receive a letter of appreciation, be sure to inform your superiors and OJAG Code 62.
- Learn how to draft nominations for awards. Practice by writing up a nomination of your Legalman for the Kimberly Kay Clark Award and yourself or a shipmate for the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.
- In the words of Admiral Steve Glass, become a cub reporter. Take pictures of Reserve and active duty events and activities. (Black and white are best for PAO purposes.) Make it a habit to mail pictures and writeups to the FLAG GRAM, your REDCOM SJA, and state bar newsletters.
- Get purple training and experience. A "purple suiter" is an officer trained to serve in joint service commands. (The color symbolizes the blending of talents and efforts of all services -- red, white, and blue combine to make purple.) If you have background or interest in joint training, tell your CO and the REDCOM SJA.

- Go to sea. There is no finer opportunity in the Navy Reserve than the chance to serve our sailors at sea.
- Commanders who want to be competitive for pay and promotion should make the most of the chances to be CO of a VTU LAW unit.
- Whether in pay or out, do your utmost to perform Annual Training. Keep your CO and the SJA informed of your interest and availability.