



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL  
1322 PATTERSON AVENUE SE SUITE 3000  
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5066

JAGINST 1214  
16 May 2025

JAG INSTRUCTION 1214

From: Judge Advocate General of the Navy

Subj: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT

Ref: (a) NAVPERS 15839I  
(b) JAGINST 1520.1D  
(c) JAGNOTE 1504  
(d) JAGINST 1500.4B

Encl: (1) Environmental Law Assignments

1. Purpose. To provide information and guidance regarding the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG Corps) environmental law community to include the management, professional development, and assignment of officers specializing in environmental law.

2. Discussion

a. The practice of environmental law directly facilitates JAG Corps support of the U.S. Navy in its mission to defend the nation, preserve economic prosperity, and preserve freedom of navigation. The JAG Corps environmental law program seeks to cultivate and sustain a highly specialized cadre of environmental law practitioners. The JAG Corps is committed to providing environmental law officers with the education, training, and experience necessary to develop and maintain the critical expertise needed to achieve mission requirements.

b. This instruction applies to active-duty Navy judge advocates. Reserve judge advocates interested in serving in environmental law billets must coordinate assignment through the Navy Reserve Law Program Manager.

3. Community Management

a. The Judge Advocate General (JAG) will designate a judge advocate to serve as community sponsor for the environmental law program. The community sponsor should normally be in the paygrade of captain (O-6) with the environmental law subspecialty code (1207Q) and have substantial environmental law experience attained from successfully serving in multiple environmental law billets. The community sponsor will serve as the Major Area Sponsor and Subject Matter Expert in accordance with, and be reflected in, reference (a). The JAG may appoint an assistant community sponsor who should normally have a 1207P code and have

served in multiple environmental law billets. The community sponsor will periodically update the JAG and Deputy JAG on environmental law community matters.

b. The community sponsor's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, coordinating with the Assistant Judge Advocate General (Education, Training & Professional Development) (AJAG 07) and the JAG Corps Officer Community Manager (OCM) to review and develop core skill requirements and educational skill requirements and conduct curriculum reviews.

c. Pursuant to reference (b), the OCM annually assesses fit/fill, utilization, and the inventory of subspecialty coded officers and provides a recommendation on allocation of subspecialty curricula to the JAG Corps Senior Detailer (PERS-4416). The community sponsor will collaborate with the OCM, PERS-4416, and AJAG 07, as appropriate, regarding the subspecialty curricula to inform the execution of the Navy Fully-Funded Postgraduate Legal Education at Civilian Institutions Program.

#### 4. Postgraduate Education and Subspecialty Codes

a. Judge advocates may pursue postgraduate legal education for environmental law pursuant to reference (b). In detailing individuals to postgraduate legal education in environmental law, preference will be given to those who have completed an assignment under paragraph 5.b.

b. Upon completion of postgraduate legal education funded by the Navy, judge advocates will be assigned the environmental law subspecialty code (1207P) in accordance with reference (a). Judge advocates who have earned a degree that was not funded by the Navy qualifying for the environmental law subspecialty may apply for the JAG subspecialty code (1207P) via the community sponsor. Officers may be eligible for additional subspecialty code (1207Q) after serving in 1207-coded tours following postgraduate legal education and should ensure their Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) reflects appropriate designation in accordance with reference (a). Judge advocates that do not already possess a 1207P/Q code may apply for a subspecialty code reflecting significant experience through on-the-job training (1207S). Such officers would usually, but need not, have served in an environmental law-coded billet for greater than 18 months prior to application.

c. For judge advocates seeking to pursue an environmental law subspecialty code through on-the-job training (i.e., strikers), the community sponsor will coordinate with the AJAG 07 to publish training criteria to achieve the designation.

d. Subspecialty codes will be documented in the officer's OMPF.

e. Total Force Management, Office of the Judge Advocate General, will inform the community sponsor of new JAG Corps accessions who have prior environmental law experience, such as direct appointments.

## 5. Detailing and Assignments

a. Enclosure (1) reflects designated environmental law assignments. See also reference (b). These assignments are intended for judge advocates who have an environmental law subspecialty code (1207P/Q). Judge advocates with a 1207P code are expected to serve in multiple environmental law assignments to develop and maintain the requisite level of expertise to serve in more senior environmental law positions. Each cycle, judge advocates with a 1207P code shall request detailing to at least one 1207P-coded billet in their current pay grade. The needs of the Navy, career needs of the individual, desires of the individual, and Navy policies impacting detailing (e.g., co-location and the Exceptional Family Member Program) will continue to be considered during the detailing process.

b. When a judge advocate demonstrates the proficiency to pursue the specialized practice of environmental law (e.g., a direct appointment with prior environmental practice experience or a striker) but has not earned a 1207P code, the JAG may choose to assign the judge advocate to one of the billets identified in enclosure (1). The assignee must work under the direct supervision of an experienced judge advocate holding a 1207P code. This subparagraph is not intended to vary Navy policy on the assignment of officers to P-coded billets.

c. The community sponsor will provide recommendations to JAG on personnel assignments to environmental law positions during officer detailing sessions.

## 6. Mentorship and Training

a. Mentorship. The environmental law community sponsor and senior environmental law judge advocates will facilitate training, experience, and professional development of junior environmental law officers to ensure effective integration and continued progression in the environmental career path.

b. Training. To further professional development and maintain core skills, judge advocates practicing environmental law will adhere to training requirements promulgated in reference (c). The environmental law community sponsor will coordinate with the AJAG 07 and Naval Justice School on the training continuum for environmental law judge advocates. The environmental law community sponsor will represent community interests in the annual Board of Advisors process consistent with reference (d). For judge advocates assigned to a 1207P-coded billet prior to obtaining the 1207 subspecialty, the community sponsor will facilitate appropriate training per reference (c) before/upon arrival to that position.

7. Review and Effective Date. Per OPNAVINST 5215.17A, the community sponsor will review this instruction annually around the anniversary of its issuance date to ensure applicability, currency, and consistency with Federal, Department of Defense, Secretary of the Navy, and Navy policy and statutory authority using OPNAV 5215/40 Review of Instruction. This instruction will be in effect for 10 years, unless revised or cancelled in the interim, and will be reissued by the 10-year anniversary date if it is still required, unless it meets one of the exceptions in OPNAVINST 5215.17A, paragraph 9. Otherwise, if the instruction is no longer

16 May 25

required, it will be processed for cancellation as soon as the need for cancellation is known following the guidance in OPNAV Manual 5215.1 of May 2016.

8. Point of Contact. The point of contact is the community sponsor listed in reference (a).



LIA M. REYNOLDS

Acting

Releasability and Distribution:

This instruction is cleared for public release and is available electronically only via the Navy Judge Advocate General's website, <http://www.jag.navy.mil/>.

Environmental Law Assignments

<b>Assignments for 3rd or more Environmental Law Tours</b>
Legal Advisor to Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Installations and Logistics (OPNAV N4)*
U.S. Fleet Forces Fleet (USFF) Environmental Counsel
Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CPF) Environmental Counsel

<b>Assignments for 2nd Environmental Law Tour</b>
Legal Advisor to Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment)
OPNAV N4 Deputy Legal Counsel
Office of Legislative Affairs Environmental Legislative Counsel
Code 10 Maritime Environmental Law (2 billets)
USFF Deputy Environmental Counsel
Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (CNRMA) Region Environmental Counsel (REC)
Staff Judge Advocate, Commander, Joint Region Marianas (JRM)
Commander Navy Region Southwest (CNRSW) REC
Commander, Navy Region Northwest (CNRNW) REC
Commander, Navy Region Southeast (CNRSE) REC
Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) Force Judge Advocate*
Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific/Task Force 73*
Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Naval Special Warfare Command*
Staff Judge Advocate, Commander, Navy Expeditionary Combat Command*

<b>Assignments for 1st Environmental Law Tour</b>
OPNAV N4 Assistant Legal Counsel
C3F Deputy/Environmental Counsel
CPF Assistant Environmental Counsel
USFF Assistant Environmental Counsel
CNRMA Deputy REC**
CNRSW Deputy REC**
CNRNW Deputy REC**
CNRSE Deputy REC**
Staff Judge Advocate, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii*

All billets are 1207P-coded unless specifically identified.

\*Billets are 1207H coded, denoting that postgraduate education in environmental law is not required, but is preferable, for officers detailed due to the job's significant engagement with environmental law issues.

\*\*Denotes assignments that may be served by judge advocates without a postgraduate degree in environmental law when insufficient officer inventory exists with the requisite education, or when other circumstances dictate the detailing of experience-based expertise.

Note: The community sponsor may periodically and separately identify additional assignments not 1207-coded but which would benefit those seeking to develop environmental law competency.