



KAISERSLAUTERN LEGAL INFORMER

CLAIM\$ ATTORNEY SHARES LESSONS LEARNED...



PROFESSIONAL PROFILES...

This is the latest in a series of profiles of members of the award-winning staff of the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center. We're proud of the talented team of attorneys and paralegals who meet the legal services needs of the largest community of Americans overseas. By getting to know our staff better, our readers will know who they can turn to for help with their legal problems.

Ramstein Claims Examiner Jutta Kinzinger (left), and Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center Senior Claims Examiner Martina Berndt (right) presented Claims Judge Advocate CPT Desirée Helmick (center) with a clever claims memento at her farewell luncheon.

by Steve Smith

CPT Desirée Helmick arrived in Kaiserslautern in the summer of 2005, and spent the next three years serving in positions of increasing responsibility at the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center (KLSC). She spent her first year in Legal Assistance, then moved to Claims in 2006. When KLSC Chief of Client Services Jim Wiley was mobilized in his Reserve capacity in the fall of 2007, she assumed his duties, while continuing to supervise one of the busiest claims offices in Europe.

As the longest-serving Claims Judge Advocate in the KLSC's history, CPT Helmick tackled some of the thorniest claims issues in USAREUR (including the notorious Nasatka barriers and a rash of tire shredder claims that received front page coverage in the *European Stars & Stripes*) while introducing the new-fangled "full replacement value" claims program to KMC claimants.

It is no accident that during her tenure as Claims Judge Advocate the KLSC Claims Office twice received The Judge Advocate General's Award for Excellence in Claims Support. The KLSC also won the Army Chief of Staff Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance in each of the three years she served in Kaiserslautern.

CPT Helmick looks back on her two years as the busiest Claims Judge Advocate in Europe in an article on page 2, entitled *"A Farewell to Claims—Lessons I Learned as a Claims Judge Advocate."*

CPT Helmick and her daughters, Ashley (a 2008 graduate of Kaiserslautern High School) and Christa, are headed to Fort Benning, Georgia, where CPT Helmick will serve as a Defense Counsel with the US Army Trial Defense Service. We wish them continued success in all they do.



*United States Army
Judge Advocate
General's Corps -
America's Oldest
Law Firm*

"A Farewell to Claims"

Lessons I Learned as a Claims Judge Advocate...

by CPT Desirée Helmick

As I prepare to PCS, it is time to look back on the 24 months I spent in charge of the Kaiserslautern Claims Office. I've enjoyed my tenure here. It gave me a lot of professional satisfaction to be able to pay meritorious claims, and put claimants back in the position they were in before they sustained a loss (or as close to it as the claims regulations allow). Unfortunately, not all claims are payable. Having reviewed hundreds of claims over the last two years, I've learned some useful lessons I would like to impart to future potential claimants.

1. DRIVE CAREFULLY OVER SECURITY BARRIERS

"Nasatka" barriers and tire shredders — get used to them — they are here to stay as part of our force protection measures. Drive over these barriers slowly and straight on--do not turn your tires at all. If your tires are angled when driving over tire shredders, it increases the possibility of tire punctures, and decreases the chances we can pay your claim. CRAWL over Nasatka barriers, especially if your car is heavily loaded, rides lower than normal, or has a "sagging" exhaust system. The only way a barrier claim can be paid is if the claimant can prove that the barrier was negligently installed, operated, or maintained, which is very difficult to do.

2. PARK "DEFENSIVELY" AT BALL FIELDS AND GOLF COURSES

Baseballs, softballs, and golf balls escape from ball fields and golf courses ALL the time. If you park your vehicle close to a ball field you park at your own risk, and any damage caused by escaping balls is generally not payable unless the claimant can show that the ball field was negligently designed or maintained. Again, this is very difficult to prove, so the best thing is to park as far away as possible from these fields. It may be inconvenient, but in the long run it will help protect your vehicle from damage and save you a lot of headaches.

3. DON'T TAKE HIGH VALUE ITEMS TO SCHOOL

DoDDS schools have a standard policy that students are not allowed to bring high value items such as MP3 players to school. If such an item is brought to school and is lost or stolen, the school is not liable for the loss. This policy is printed in the Student Handbook and is stated on the first page of the daily student bulletin in Kaiserslautern schools. These types of claims are only payable if the claimant can prove that a school employee was involved and negligently caused the loss. That's a difficult burden of proof, so it is best if students simply leave such items at home.

"A Farewell to Claims"

(continued)

4. DON'T TAKE HIGH VALUE ITEMS TO THE HOSPITAL

If you have to go to the hospital, do not bring valuables with you - during treatment, they can get lost or stolen. If you cannot leave valuables at home — *e.g.*, you are coming from downrange — the best course of action, whenever possible, is to watch as a hospital staff member places your valuables in the hospital safe and obtain a proper hand receipt for the items placed in the safe, including the brand and model number of the items. If something is lost or damaged, notify hospital staff immediately and have them initiate an investigation.

5. PROTECT YOURSELF WHEN SHIPPING HIGH VALUE ITEMS

Almost all service members and civilian employees will eventually ship their property at Government expense. Unfortunately, it is a rare move when something is not lost or damaged. There are several things that you can do to protect yourself. If you are shipping high value items (*e.g.*, expensive game systems, motorcycles, jewelry, a mink coat...) make sure that they are listed separately on a high value inventory. Additionally, claimants should consider obtaining appraisals of art work or high value antiques placed in Government shipment. The costs for these valuations are not reimbursable, but it is well worth the out-of-pocket expense as these valuations can be used by the Claims Office or Carrier as a basis for paying replacement costs. Finally, you should consider obtaining private insurance to cover costs that the Claims Office cannot pay because they exceed the maximum amount allowable under the claims regulation. Check with the Claims Office to find out what the maximum allowable amount is on high value items before your next PCS move.

These are just a few of the lessons I've learned while reviewing claims files. Remember that the claims staff is there to help you and to answer your claims questions. The Kaiserslautern Claims Office's claims examiners have over 30 years' combined claims experience, and will go the extra mile to help you with your claim. Do not hesitate to contact either Martina Berndt or Karin Jordan with any claims questions you may have.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve those who serve. Thank you and *Auf Wiedersehen!*

The Kaiserslautern Claims Office is located in Building 3210 on Kleber Kaserne. Appointments are required to file claims; however, walk-in appointments are available from 0900-1530 on Wednesdays (closed for lunch 1200-1300). Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 0900-1200 and 1300-1600 and Thursday afternoon 1300-1600. You can also call the Claims Office at DSN 483-8414 or CIV 0631-411-8414. The Claims Office is closed on Federal and Training Holidays.

The Dirty Details of Divorce

by Lauren Pope

It is much more difficult to get divorced than it is to get married...

We've all heard it. The gossip... SGT Alpha's wife is sleeping with PVT Bravo. CPT Charlie kicked her husband out again. A1C Delta and his wife were seen screaming at each other at the Commissary yesterday...

But no, this article isn't about that kind of scandalous divorce scuttlebutt. Instead, we are going to talk about the dirty details of actually getting a divorce. Just when you've had enough of the drama, mention the "D" word and things get even worse. Be forewarned... ***it is much more difficult to get divorced than it is to get married.***

First, we have to talk about what Legal Assistance can and can't do for you. Army Legal Assistance Attorneys can prepare a separation agreement for you and, to a certain extent, can assist you with the divorce process. Army Legal Assistance Attorneys can counsel you on divorce, locate rules and requirements for your state, review already completed paperwork, and assist in finding a local attorney. Army Legal Assistance Attorneys cannot divorce you, cannot represent you in court regarding your divorce, and cannot prepare the documentation needed to obtain a divorce.

OK, with that taken care of, let's get down to business. Here are the basics of some of the most frequently asked-about topics:

Separation agreements: A separation agreement is a contract between a husband and a wife who have agreed to live apart. Sometimes



a separation agreement is prepared in anticipation of divorce, and sometimes the couple only intends to live apart for a brief period of time. A separation agreement can cover as many topics or as few topics as you and your spouse can agree upon. It is often helpful to address and agree upon topics such as child care, child & spousal support, debts, and property division up front rather than arguing each and every time something comes up during your separation. And, in some states, a separation agreement can make your divorce proceed more quickly and cheaply.

Attorneys: In many cases, it is best to hire a civilian attorney in the US to assist you with your divorce. A local attorney not only knows the law of the state, but also the local judges and their preferences. A local attorney can draft, file, and serve the required documents, appear in court on your behalf, and protect your interests. If the divorce is uncontested, you can usually find an attorney who will assist you for a fixed fee rather than an hourly rate. Always get a fee agreement up front and in writing, and don't forget to check whether the attorney has been disciplined before signing on the dotted line. Some states provide free help



for those wishing to go it alone, but most do not. Regardless, if you choose to represent yourself, you must comply with all procedural, local, and court rules or risk sanctions. Additionally, if a hearing is needed, you will need to appear and be prepared to defend your position.

Support: Army Regulation (AR) 608-99 requires all Soldiers to provide support to family members while separated. [Note: each branch of the service has different family support standards.] In the absence of a court order or separation agreement, AR 608-99 sets specific minimum amounts that must be paid monthly. Once there is a court order or other agreement, AR 608-99 requires compliance with the support obligations found in that document. A detailed handout on support obligations can be found on the shelves of the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center's Legal Assistance waiting room (Room 106 of Bldg. 3210 on Kleber Kaserne), or can be downloaded using the link to the 21st TSC OSJA web site's legal assistance handouts at the bottom of this page (CAC card required). In addition to the Army regulation, each state has its own laws and guidelines for child and spousal support. It is wise to have a basic understanding of your state's law on support before filing for divorce.

Where to file: This can get quite tricky, especially while overseas. Simply because you were married in state X does not mean that you can get divorced in state X. In

The Dirty Details of Divorce... (continued)

order for a court to be able to divorce you, it must have power over you and power over the matter. Each state has its own rules regarding when it has power over you. Some states require you to be physically in the state for a specified period immediately before you file. Some states only require that you be a resident and allow military legal residents stationed overseas to qualify. Some states have rules somewhere in between. Each state is different and therefore it would be best to consult with an attorney before you file, so you don't waste money filing in the wrong state. In some cases, a German divorce may also be an option. Our German attorney can advise you on German divorce requirements.

The so-called "Ten Year Rule": Contrary to popular belief, a spouse can be awarded a share of a service member's retirement pay regardless of how long the couple has been married. The state courts have the ability to divide retirement pay in any way they see fit. After 10 years of marriage, a former spouse can receive their portion of the retirement pay directly from DFAS, if it is properly requested. This is the only benefit that appears at the "10 year" mark. Before that, the former spouse must obtain their support directly from the service member.

And there you have it... a very brief overview of some of the most common divorce topics. It would be impossible to cover all the

dirty details here, so if you have additional questions or need further assistance, call DSN 483-8848 or CIV 0631-411-8848 to schedule an appointment to consult with an American or German Legal Assistance Attorney.

One final note... Legal Assistance Offices only advise one party when it comes to contentious issues such as divorce, separation, paternity, child custody, and nonsupport of dependents. Our rules of professional ethics preclude us from representing both parties on such matters. There may be situations in which we will have to refer you to another Legal Assistance Office (e.g., Mannheim, Baumholder, or Ramstein) for legal advice and/or representation.

In other news at this hour...

- *Captain Becky Evans, who served as Chief of Legal Assistance and Tax Attorney for the 2008 tax season, is now serving as a Trial Counsel. Her replacement, CPT Daniel Curley, arrives in August, and will begin seeing clients in September.*
- *The Kleber and Landstuhl Tax Assistance Centers are closed. They will reopen in January for the 2009 tax season. In the meantime, Lauren Pope continues to see tax clients on an appointment basis at the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center. If you need tax assistance, call the Kaiserslautern Legal Assistance Office at DSN 483-8848 or CIV 0631-411-8848 and ask for an appointment with Ms. Pope.*
- *Our Senior Trial counsel, CPT Kevin McCarthy, was promoted to Major on July 10th, and is headed to the Graduate Course at The Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, VA.*
- *Our Trial Defense Service NCOIC, SSG L'Tanja Mahone, was promoted to SFC on July 2nd.*



Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center Officer-in-Charge CPT John Kokozka (left) and departing Claims Judge Advocate CPT Desirée Helmick show off her farewell gift, made out of a tire shredder, a softball, and two golf balls—the kind of things that routinely give rise to tort claims. See related story on pages 2 & 3.

*The Ethics Corner...****GIFTS TO SUPERIORS***

by Jeannine Smith

Your supervisor's birthday is coming up, and you know he's had his eye on a new Calloway nine iron. Are you permitted to buy him that gift for his birthday?

What if your supervisor is getting promoted and PCSing, and you know that he really wants tickets to a Kaiserslautern Football Club game before he leaves. Can your office collectively get him the best seats in the house as a farewell / promotion gift?

As with most legal issues, the best answer to these and other gift questions is: it depends. To find the specific rules and the inevitable exceptions, we look primarily to the Code of Federal Regulations and the DoD Joint Ethics Regulation.

By law, employees generally are not allowed to give gifts to superiors, and superiors may not accept or solicit gifts from subordinates. Of course, there are exceptions to this rule. Before we discuss them, it's important to note that we have these rules in order to help preserve the integrity of the Federal workplace, and to avoid any appearance of impropriety or unlawful influence.

And now for the exceptions to the general rule prohibiting gifts between superiors-subordinates.

The first exception states that gifts may be given on an **occasional basis**. Birthdays and other gift-giving holidays like Christmas are considered to be occasional basis events. However, the value of a gift given on an occasional basis cannot exceed \$10 per occasion.

So, in our opening example, you are permitted to buy your supervisor a birthday gift, since his birthday qualifies under the occasional basis exception. However, the Calloway nine iron is out, since the value of the gift cannot exceed \$10.

Occasional basis gifts also include contributions of food or drink that will be shared in an office by several employees; meals at a co-worker's home; and customary gifts brought when invited to a fellow employee's home.

The second exception states that gifts may be given on **special, infrequent occasions**. The gift should be appropriate to the occasion. Special, infrequent occasions include infrequently occurring occasions of personal significance such as marriage, illness, or the birth or adoption of a child. This does not include a promotion, except as noted below.

Special, infrequent occasions also include events that terminate a subordinate-official superior relationship. These occasions include retirement, resignation, or transfer – and could include a promotion.

Keep in mind that DOD limits the value of the gift which may be accepted under this exception to **\$300 per "donating group."** A donating group includes all employees contributing to a group gift. An employee may not contribute as part of more than one group. If an employee does, then the value of the gifts from the groups with the common donor is aggregated as if the gift was from a single donating group. The \$300 limit applies to the total value of that gift.



GIFTS TO SUPERIORS... (continued)

So, in our second example, your office – as a donating group – could buy the boss a farewell gift of tickets to a professional sporting event from the city where he performed his military service, as long as the cost of the tickets does not exceed \$300, and each contributor only contributes as part of one group.

Let's change the facts a bit. What if the supervisor was just getting promoted, and not moving? In that case, the subordinate-official superior relationship would **not** be terminated, and the promotion alone does not qualify for the special, infrequent occasion exception.



Now that you have an understanding of the rules and exceptions, let's look at the rules about asking colleagues for contributions.

Contributions of no more than \$10 may be solicited in the federal workplace, but only for special, infrequent occasion gifts described above, or for the occasional sharing of food and refreshments in the office. Keep in mind that, while no more than \$10 may be solicited, there is nothing that prohibits an employee from contributing more than \$10. To ensure that contributions are truly voluntary, employees should not use someone in the supervisory chain to solicit contributions, and should not keep a list of employees who contribute. An employee soliciting contributions may recommend a specific amount, but that recommendation *must* be coupled with a statement that the employee whose contribution is solicited is free to contribute less than the recommended amount or nothing at all.

One final note: gifts from an employee's spouse to another employee's spouse will be considered a gift between employees subject to the above rules, unless there is an independent basis for the gift to the spouse.

What about gifts from sources outside of the government? Stay tuned – that will be the subject of our next Ethics Corner...

Note: Jeannine Smith is a civilian attorney in the Civil Law Division of the 21st TSC OSJA, specializing in Ethics and Fiscal Law. She is also a Major in the US Army Reserve, assigned to an IMA position with The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, VA. She has also served as a civilian attorney with the European Regional Medical Command, as an Active Duty JAG with the V Corps OSJA, and an associate with the firm of Ross, Dixon & Bell LLP in Washington, DC.

NEWS FLASH...

The 21st TSC Office of the Staff Judge Advocate welcomes our new Chief of Military Justice, MAJ Amber Williams, our new Chief of Operational Law, CPT Ryan Howard, our new Senior Trial Counsel, CPT Mark Oppel, our new Administrative Law Attorney, CPT Christopher Curry, our new Chief of Legal Assistance, CPT Daniel Curley, our new Management Division NCOIC, SGT Lavelle Jones, and our new Pre-trial Paralegal Specialist, PV2 Heather Adjado.

“What Do You Mean, I’m Going to German Jail?!!!”

by Joe Hall

“But I’m a Soldier -- the Germans can’t try me!” Wrong.

“How about me? I’m a DOD civilian – and me, I’m a family member.” You, too, can be tried by the Germans and placed in German prison.

We live in Germany. We are all subject to German criminal and civil laws. However, under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and its German supplement, special rules have been implemented regarding which country – the US or Germany, will try a particular criminal case.

In general, the Germans have waived their right to prosecute for crimes committed by our uniformed military members. However, the Germans have reserved their right to recall their waiver and try a case if it is of special interest to the German community.

For our civilians, both DOD employees and all family members, the Germans have the primary right to try them for criminal offenses, since we can only try our civilians by court-martial in time of war or if they are in an area of contingency operations (*e.g.*, “downrange”).

What Happens if I am Caught Committing a Crime?

Let’s look at the process:

- First, the German police will likely arrest you. If they do, you should let them know that you have SOFA status and would like them to notify US authorities.

- If you are military, you will usually be released to the MPs or to your unit. If you are a DOD civilian or family member, if the offense was serious, you will probably be placed in German pretrial confinement.

- If you have been released pending trial, come to the local legal office (Kleber for

Army, Ramstein for Air Force) International Law Section. They will brief you on what you can expect as help from the US Government and how the German criminal prosecution system works.

- If you are in pre-trial confinement, ask the prison officials to contact the US Forces legal liaison office (the Kleber or Ramstein international law offices). The international law paralegals will do “housecalls” and come to the prison to brief you. If you are in pre-trial confinement, you will probably stay there from three to eight months depending on how complicated the case is.



What help will the US Government provide?

If you are in German pre-trial confinement, the international law liaison paralegals will visit you once a month and bring a chaplain with them if you want; also, they will arrange for an initial medical exam and for quarterly follow-up medical exams by a US Forces doctor.

More good news – the US Government will normally pay the cost of your reasonable attorney fees; you select the attorney and the Government will pay his/her reasonable, customary local fees. (If you hire the most expensive attorney in town, you will likely pay the amount of his/her fees considered above average.) The US Government will also pay

various court costs that normally would be charged to you.

At your trial, a US Government Trial Observer observes the proceedings to ensure that all your rights are respected (*e.g.*, right to a translator; to know the charges; some right to cross-examine witnesses). While German trials may differ to some degree from US trials, years of experience have shown that the German trial courts routinely observe the accused’s guaranteed rights and that the proceedings are fair.

Some Practical Tips:

- If you are guilty, it is probably best to admit it early on. Assuming responsibility for your actions and expressing remorse are significant factors in determining the length of your sentence. A sincere apology to a victim is looked at very favorably by German courts.

- When you are in pretrial confinement, prison visits by relatives and friends must be approved by the prosecutor; the international law office can help arrange those approvals if you do not have a defense counsel to do that.

- Don’t expect your German defense attorney to visit you more than one time (if that) while you are in pre-trial confinement. Don’t expect your attorney to make many objections at trial; and don’t expect him to do very much cross examination of witnesses. In the German system, the judge is responsible for examining the witnesses and for finding the truth – think of the procedure more like that of an Article 15 hearing or a Summary Court proceeding. The judge will ask the questions that go to excuse or mitigate the offense, as well as ask the questions that will prove culpability.

- At any German hearing, organize your thoughts before you speak, and speak up. Avoid slang. Don’t chew gum. Think of the court proceeding as if

“What Do You Mean, I’m Going to German Jail?!!!” (continued)

it were the most important job interview you will ever have – if you don’t make a good impression in a job interview, you won’t get the job, but as a defendant in German court, you might well “get the works.”

Commanders’ Responsibilities:

Commanders have certain SOFA related command responsibilities, as well as responsibilities to members of their commands who are pending German criminal prosecution or

who are confined in German jails. Among those are:

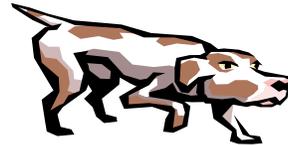
- Report incidents involving breaches of the German criminal law to the supporting international law office.
- Flag the alleged offending soldier. Suspend PCS orders on civilians.
- Do not initiate UCMJ action, including Article 15s, until jurisdiction is resolved.
- If a Soldier is in German jail, inventory, secure, and safeguard his property.

In Closing...

Army in Europe Regulation 550-56 describes the foreign criminal jurisdiction procedures in Germany, and it provides a much more detailed description of how that system works than what is described here. If you or a member of your command is unfortunate enough to run afoul of the criminal law in Germany, read that regulation.

Note: Joe Hall is Chief of International Law for 21st TSC.

YOU AIN’T NOTHIN’ BUT A (DANGEROUS) HOUND DOG...



by Joerg Modellmog

The King oversimplified matters when he sang “You ain’t nothin’ but a hound dog.” German law distinguishes between three classes of dogs. There are ordinary dogs, there are dogs that behave dangerously, and finally there are dogs that are deemed dangerous regardless of their actual behavior.

Each of the 16 German states has adopted regulations regarding the protection of their inhabitants against “fighting/dangerous dogs.” Certain dogs are presumed by law to be dangerous, based on their breed, because the breed is characterized by a marked tendency to bite and a low level of provocation. These pure or cross-breed dogs include American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, and Pit-Bull Terriers.

Breeding and trading of dangerous dogs is prohibited. German federal law also bans importing dangerous dogs. If you read a newspaper ad for the sale of such dogs, exercise extreme caution, as such an ad cannot be addressed to readers in Germany.

An exemption can only be granted if the owner can show a legitimate interest, *e.g.*, the dog is needed for professional reasons (such as military watch dog). A personal preference for a specific breed of dog is NOT sufficient. The dog must also pass a temperament test, to gauge its potential for increased aggressiveness and dangerousness, and be tagged with an electronic chip.

For dogs other than those defined by law as being dangerous to be considered dangerous, they must have demonstrated an inclination to attack livestock or people. Strict restrictions (permanent leash, wearing a muzzle in public) will be imposed on the owners of dogs demonstrating such behavior, and that specific dog may be prohibited, too. If you give such a dog to someone else for care-giving for more than four weeks (*e.g.*, while you go on vacation), you must notify the local authorities.

Here is some good advice for all dog owners: Liability insurance (*Hundehaftpflichtversicherung*) is highly recommended for **all** dogs - regardless of class. Under

German law, dog owners are held liable for any incidents associated with their dogs, whether or not the incident was the owner’s fault. There is strict liability for damage caused by dogs and other domestic animals. There is no “one free bite” rule in Germany.

A dog owner would be fully liable if his/her dog breaks loose, crosses a street, and the driver of a car, swerving to avoid hitting the dog, smashes his vehicle against a tree. A person supervising an animal has the same obligations as the owner. The supervising person must also be mature and strong enough to walk the dog.

Leaving a dog unattended for long periods, locked out on a balcony, or locked in too small a room, can violate municipal regulations, leading to the imposition of a fine and/or restrictions on the dog owner; so can allowing a dog to bark continuously (“cryin’ all the time,” as Elvis would say).

Fortunately, German law distinguishes between different types of dogs and encourages their owners to provide appropriate living conditions, protecting the dog, as well as the general public.



KAISERSLAUTERN LEGAL SERVICES CENTER

Building 3210
Kleber Kaserne

Legal Assistance 483-8848
Claims 483-8414
Tax Assistance 483-7688
International Affairs 483-8854
Trial Defense Service 483-8165
Administrative Law 484-7450
Criminal Law 484-8311



CPT Marvin McBurrows, former Officer-in-Charge of the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center, was promoted to Major on July 1st before he and his wife Kelly and daughter Sage (trying on her dad's "upgraded" black beret) departed K-town for the Grad Course.

Funded Legal Education Program: Looking for a Few Future JAGs

by Steve Smith

The U.S. Army's Office of The Judge Advocate General is now accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program. Under this program, the Army projects sending up to 25 active duty commissioned officers to law school at government expense, if funding permits. Selected officers will attend law school beginning the Fall of 2009, and will remain on active duty while attending law school.

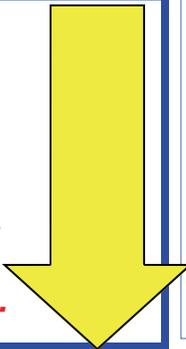
Interested officers should review Chapter 14 of Army Regulation 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program) to determine their eligibility. This program is open to commissioned officers in the rank of Second Lieutenant through Captain. Applicants must have at least two but not more than six years of total active Federal service at the time legal training begins. Eligibility is governed by statute (10 U.S.C. § 2004) and is non-waivable.

Eligible officers interested in applying should immediately register for the earliest offering of the Law School Admission Test. Applicants must send their request through command channels, to include the officer's branch manager at AHRC, with a copy furnished to the Office of The Judge Advocate General, ATTN: DAJA-PT (Ms. Yvonne Caron-10th Floor), 1777 North Kent Street, Rosslyn, VA 22209-2194, to be received before 1 November 2008. Submission of the application well in advance of the deadline is advised.

Interested officers should contact Lieutenant Colonel P.J. Perrone, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, at DSN 484-8747 or CIV 0631-413-8747 or by e-mail at pj.perrone@eur.army.mil for further information.

NOTE!

The Kaiserslautern Ost Autobahn exit will be closed for construction this summer. Follow these directions to find the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center...



Directions to Kleber Kaserne. From Vogelweh, Ramstein, or Landstuhl take the A6 towards Mannheim. Take the Kaiserslautern Centrum exit and follow the priority road (Mainzer Strasse) into K-town. Turn left at the traffic light near Sam Kullman's diner, and left again at the Shell station. Head east on Mannheimer Strasse, passing the cemetery on your left, and some flower shops on your right. Turn right at the light at the west end of Kleber Kaserne, and follow the western perimeter of Kleber until you come to Gate 3. Follow the priority road through Kleber, turn left at the clinic, and park in the Shoppette parking lot. Bldg. 3210 is directly across from the Shoppette. Enter the end door of Bldg. 3210, closest to the Shoppette.

