

Military Law: Bridging the Gap

by Alfred F. Arquilla

The Military Law Section bridges the gap between military lawyers serving in the armed forces (on active duty or within guard or reserve) and lawyers in private practice. The section provides a forum where members share research, ideas and expertise. The section publishes three newsletters per year, which contain articles about emerging issues in military law. A popular feature of these newsletters is a list of Internet sites helpful to military law practitioners.

Military law is particularly relevant to lawyers in private practice because Virginia has one of the largest military populations in the United States and is the home of numerous military installations from all five military services. They include the Pentagon and related military headquarters throughout northern Virginia, the army bases at forts Myer, Belvoir, Lee, Eustis, and Monroe, the air force at its Langley base in Hampton, the navy installations throughout the Tidewater area, the Marine Corps base at Quantico and the Coast Guard Training Center in Yorktown. The author of an article in this issue is the commandant of the Army Judge Advocate General's School, which is co-located with the University of Virginia Law School in Charlottesville. Virginia's military population consists of not only those serving in uniform, but also their spouses and children and the large number of retired military members and their families.

Military law includes not only court-martial proceedings in which service members are tried for serious violations of the law, but also the numerous administrative proceedings conducted by or on behalf of the military services on a daily basis. They relate to military rank and pay entitlements, security clearances, military veteran rights, federal employment rights and privileges to use military facilities, or entry to military installations. Military law also involves the adjudication of tort claims on behalf of or against the military and the resolution of admiralty, environmental and operational law issues. Military legal assistance, encompasses the daily legal advice and assistance that military lawyers provide to military members and their families throughout Virginia—primarily on family law matters, consumer and landlord-tenant law and wills.

The Military Law Section is relevant to all lawyers in and out of the military who handle legal matters involving military installations or on behalf of military members and their families in Virginia.



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