

REPORTS OF THE SECTIONS

MILITARY LAW SECTION

Robert E. Korroch, Chair

The Military Law Section has made great strides toward serving its members, the bar, and the public better.

Seminars

For the second year, the Military Law Section is sponsoring two seminars. Annually, the section hosts a fall seminar in Northern Virginia and a spring seminar in the Tidewater region. At this year's fall seminar, Torrey Armstrong of the law firm of McGuire, Woods, Battle and Boothe in McLean, led a discussion about litigating high profile military claims cases. His presentation featured the case in which he is representing the families of five Belgian skiers who were killed at Cavalese, Italy when a U.S. Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler jet severed the support cables for their ski gondola. All 20 of the gondola's occupants fell to their deaths.

For the 2000 spring seminar, the section will present a discussion of the use of non-deadly force in military peace keeping operations. This topic brings together questions of the military's role in foreign policy and the legal ramifications of using high-tech "non-deadly" weaponry. Issues presented will range from high tech and the law of war to personal liability.

The spring seminar in 1999 featured guest speaker, and widely published author, Gary Solis. Gary, a member of the Section's Board of Governors is a member of the law faculty of the United States Military Academy, West Point. Professor Solis' acclaimed book, *Son Thang*, is gaining renewed attention in its paperback release.

Annual Meeting

In 1999, recognizing how it could best serve the needs of its members, the section chose not to sponsor a program at the VSB annual meeting. Rather, the section focuses its manpower and budget on its annual fall and spring programs, described above. At the annual meeting, the section hosts an enjoyable luncheon and business meeting where members gather for a brief respite while they attend the programs of their choice. At the luncheon, the section conducts a brief business meeting where outgoing officers are honored, and incoming officers are elected and welcomed.

Newsletter

The section has an aggressive newsletter publication schedule, seeking to publish three newsletters each year. The section newsletter is a valuable source of insight into emerging issues in military law as well as news about our members and helpful background material. A list of World Wide Web sites helpful to military law practitioners is a popular feature.

Board of Governors

The section board membership is a diverse group representing numerous aspects of military law practice and service affiliation. Our membership includes Army and Air Force reservists in private practice, active duty officers from the Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard, retired officers from the Army, Navy and the Marine Corps, an assistant commonwealth's attorney (and Army Reservist), and a professor of law (retired Marine) at the U. S. Military Academy. The board meets four times each year: at the fall program in Northern Virginia; in Richmond in January; at the spring program in Tidewater, and finally at the VSB's annual meeting in Virginia Beach in June. The board's talented membership pursues an ambitious agenda with alacrity. The discussion at the board's regular business meetings always is engaging and productive, and the members always take time for informal conversation—which often is captivating as well. ❁