

Judge Advocate Continuation Pay



Information Paper

Purpose: To provide information regarding the Navy Judge Advocate Continuation Pay (JACP)

Background: In September 2000, the Navy first offered JACP for eligible judge advocates. It was designed to improve retention and to help alleviate the financial burden of student loan debt on junior judge advocates. Since its inception, over 500 JACP payments have been made, totaling over \$10.9 million.

JACP is governed by OPNAVINST 7220.10, dated 17 December 2005. It allows for three installments of JACP to be paid over an eligible judge advocate's career. Eligible judge advocates are encouraged to take advantage of this continuation pay and to ensure they understand the obligations associated with accepting the pay.

Who is Eligible: Judge advocates may receive their first JACP payment one year after selection by a Career Status Board and completion of their initial active duty service obligation. The second payment is offered on the officer's anniversary date of graduation from Naval Justice School (NJS) after promotion to the rank of lieutenant commander. The third payment may be received on the next anniversary date of graduation from NJS following completion of 10 years of continuous active commissioned service as a judge advocate.

Benefits: JACP totals \$60,000 and is paid in three phases. Phase I is a payment of \$30,000, Phase II is a payment of \$15,000, and Phase III is a payment of \$15,000.

Obligation: An officer who accepts JACP also accepts a service obligation with each payment. The service obligation is three years for Phase I, two years for Phase II, and two years for Phase III. These service obligations run consecutively with any other obligated service (e.g., obligated service for accepting augmentation, obligated service for postgraduate education, obligated service from earlier JACP payments.) The governing instruction explains recoupment of JACP if an officer fails to complete a JACP service obligation.