

Deputy Judge Advocate General for Reserve Affairs and Operations

We are well on our way to creating a unified and vibrant Total Force, delivering first rate legal service to the Navy. I have been working in close coordination with JAG Corps leaders to ensure that our alignment and focus remain on point. We have now designated Reserve officers as Pillar I (Military Justice), Pillar II (Command Services/Legal Assistance) or Pillar III (subject-matter experts) counsel. Pillar III includes admiralty, environmental, and international/cyber law experts. To effectively manage these practice groups, we have detailed CAPT Tim Sceviour (Military Justice), CAPT Joe Velling (Command Services/Legal Assistance), and CAPT Michael Shaw (Subject-Matter Experts) as Assistant Force Judge Advocates, whose duty it is to provide mentorship and leadership for personnel within their respective pillars.

Our program remains robust. We continue to attract and retain outstanding personnel, which I attribute in large part to the successful cooperation between the Career Transition Office in Millington and CAPT Janet Donovan and her staff in Norfolk. We have seen a record number of JAG accessions joining the Reserves upon leaving active duty, and maintaining their continuum of service. In addition, we have worked hard to ensure that promotion opportunity remains healthy.

On the individual augmentee front, the Reserve JAG team continues to provide outstanding legal support. On any given day we have Reserve JAG Corps officers and legalmen deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantanamo, Djibouti, and Kuwait. We passed an important milestone this past year with over 300 Reserve judge advocates and legalmen deployed since the attacks on Sept. 11.

Last January, we had our Reserve Commanding Officer and Staff Judge Advocate Conference in New Orleans, La., where we trained new Reserve commanding officers and discussed the way ahead with the Reserve JAG leadership. We were joined in New Orleans by RDML Bryan "Clutch" Cutchen, deputy chief of Navy Reserve.

As 2011 progresses, I look forward to working with all of you to create a Total Force legal community that is second to none.

I can never close without thanking all of you, active and Reserve, for the hard work and sacrifices that you and your families make in order to serve our country. They are significant, and deeply appreciated. I look forward to seeing you in the fleet and throughout our "worldwide law firm." Until then, thank you so very much for all that you do to support our nation, our Sailors and their families. I couldn't be more proud of you.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven M. Talson".

STEVEN M. TALSON
RADM, JAG Corps, U.S. Navy