

Judge Advocate General (JAG)

JAG Corps:

SCHOOLING - An Army National Guard (ARNG) Judge Advocate (JA) will attend approximately sixteen and one-half weeks of initial military training. New ARNG JAs are required to complete the Judge Advocate Officer's Basic Course (JAOBC) and the Direct Commissioned Officer (DCO) Course within twelve months of commissioning as a condition of appointment.

APPOINTMENT ELIGIBILITY AND GRADE

In general, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

Must be at least 21 years old (for appointment as a first lieutenant you must be younger than 33), and for appointment to captain you must be younger than 39. Waivers for those exceeding age limitations are available in exceptional cases.

Must be a graduate of an ABA-approved law school.

Be a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of state or federal court.

Be of good moral character and possess leadership qualities.

Grade of rank at the time of appointment is determined by the number of years of service credit to which an individual is entitled. Generally, an approved applicant receives three years constructive credit for law school attendance; plus, any prior active or reserve commissioned service. Any time is counted only once (i.e., three years of commissioned reserve service while attending law school entitles a person to only three years constructive service credit, not six years). Once the total credit is calculated, the entry grade is awarded as follows:

3 or more but less than 7 years First Lieutenant

7 or more but less than 14 years Captain

14 or more but less than 21 years Major

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS - The JAG Corps Program is multifaceted, with the degree of participation determined largely by the individual. Officers are originally assigned to a Monthly Unit Training Assembly (MUTA). Officers attend monthly training assemblies and perform two weeks of annual training a year. If mobilization occurs, they deploy with their unit and provide legal services commensurate with their duty positions.