

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
DIRECTOR, RESERVE AFFAIRS DIVISION  
AND  
STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE TO THE COMMANDANT/  
DIRECTOR, JUDGE ADVOCATE DIVISION**

**Subj:** MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING PERTAINING TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF INDIVIDUAL MOBILIZATION AUGMENTEE (IMA) JUDGE ADVOCATES

**Ref:** (a) DoDI 1235.11, Management of Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA)  
(b) MCO 1001.62C, IMA Program  
(c) Reserve Legal Support Annex, Marine Corps Legal Support Strategic Action Plan, 2017-2025

1. **Parties.** This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made between the Director, Reserve Affairs Division, and the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant/Director, Judge Advocate Division, hereinafter referred to as the Parties.

2. **Purpose.** The purpose of this MOU is to establish a standing exception to policy in reference (b) for Marine judge advocates within the IMA Program.

3. **Background.** In the last several years, Reserve Marine judge advocates across the Selected Marine Corps Reserve (SMCR) and IMA communities have been consolidated into an IMA Detachment almost exclusively under one Reporting Unit Code (RUC), with few exceptions, with direct supervision by the Judge Advocate Division. In 2017, this element was transferred to RUC 88600, Headquarters and Support Battalion, HQMC. This consolidated element is known as the Reserve Legal Support IMA Detachment (RLS) led by a Deputy Director of the Judge Advocate Division who reports to SJA to CMC/Director Judge Advocate Division. RLS was formed to ensure the efficient and effective employment and oversight of quality legal support services across the Reserves and reinforcement of legal support to the Active Component (AC). It is organized into eight branches, each with a different mission requiring different legal skills and serving different supported elements. See Reference (c).

a. RLS structure includes eight branches of legal support and IMA judge advocates are transferred to new assignments between branches serving differing functions within this consolidated structure. For example, a judge advocate may serve in a three-year billet as a Trial Counsel within the Reserve Trial Support Branch, and then upon completing that assignment, be transferred to an operational law instructor billet within the Reserve Operational Law Branch. Each billet has a distinctly different role, requiring different legal skills, serving a different mission and supported element, but the officer remains an IMA within RLS.

b. Reference (a) establishes policies for the management of the IMA Program within the Marine Corps, specifically setting forth maximum years that Marines may be assigned to the IMA Program. An exception to this policy is necessary for Reserve judge advocates because almost all Reserve judge advocate billets, except eight SMCR command SJA billets, are within the eight branches of the RLS IMA Detachment, providing little to no opportunity to serve in SMCR billets or any other judge advocate billets outside the IMA Detachment.

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4. Reserve Judge Advocate Assignment Policy

a. The standard tour lengths applicable to the IMA Program in reference (b) will not apply to judge advocates in the RLS IMA Detachment, Headquarters and Service Battalion, HQMC, Henderson Hall (RUC 88600).

b. Judge advocates may rotate between branches of the RLS. A standard length of time in a RLS branch is three years. The OpSponsor must request tour reset via the Inventory Development and Management System (IDMS) module.

c. Judge advocates may transfer between branches, including transfers from trial to appellate billets within the JRT Branch without restrictions.

d. Judge advocates may rejoin the RLS at any time, and are not subject to the one year restriction from rejoining the RLS once transferred to the IRR. In other words, a judge advocate who is transferred to the IRR after a tour in the RLS may rejoin the RLS at any time the judge advocate is competitively selected to a new RLS billet regardless of time served in the IRR.

e. Judge advocates in the RLS IMA Detachment must maintain satisfactory participation throughout their tour to be eligible to exceed standard tour lengths and rejoin the RLS within one year of transfer to the IRR in accordance with references (a) and (b).

5. Administration

a. A judge advocate approaching three years of time in an IMA billet must identify an open billet within another branch of RLS for transfer. The judge advocate must apply for that open billet as required by the posting on the Judge Advocate Division home site including by submitting a Reserve Qualification Summary Professional Summary ideally 90 days but no later than 31 days before the end of tour.

b. If selected and upon transfer to the new billet BIC in another branch of RLS, the RLS OpSponsor will submit tour reset via IDMS with vacated billet BIC information in the remarks column. Transfer should occur within 30 days of tour expiration.

6. Modification and Termination. This MOU shall remain in force until such time as it is modified or terminated. All modifications must be mutually agreed upon by both Parties in order to be binding.

Date:

18 FEB 2022



DAVID J. BLIGH  
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant



HELEN G. PRATT  
Major General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Director, Reserve Affairs Division