



# Office of Command Counsel Newsletter

February 2003, Volume 03-01

## CLE 2003

**T**he AMC Continuing Legal Education Program for 2003 will be held at the Grosvenor Hotel, Lake Buena Vista, Florida 19-23 May 2003.

To help in the design of the program we asked the Chief Counsels to work with legal offices within the MSC structure to identify topics and speakers for Committee consideration. We had an excellent response and it will be a challenge for the Committee to make determinations on CLE Program coverage.

It is a pleasure to announce that the following people comprise the CLE 2003 Committee.

**Kathi Szymanski, COL Dave Howlett, Steve Klatsky, Vera Meza, Bill Adams, Larry Anderson, Mike Lassman** and **Holly Saunders.**

The design of the CLE will be different this year in several respects. You may recall the last 5 years or so we have had plenary sessions, electives, and Legal Focus Sessions in the Acquisition, Employment, Environmental and Intellectual Property areas.

This year we are attempting to identify "tracks". There will be acquisition, employment, environmental and intellectual property "tracks."

Additionally, we have identified two very focused topic issues, each running for three hours each. One will be designed by CECOM's **Mark Sagan** and cover Source Selection. Another, chaired by HQ AMC Employment Team Chief **Mike Lassman** is a mock Merit Systems Protec-

tion Board hearing in front of an MSPB Judge.

Further, we hope to have the Army General Counsel **Steve Morello** as the keynote speaker. And, if our good luck continues, General **Paul Kern** will address us during the AMC Attorney Awards Program.

Program coverage will include an Ethics Update, Fiscal Law, Contractors on the Battlefield, and the revised AMC Attorney Career Program regulation,

Additionally, in what will be an exciting development there will be an open forum with the AMC Command Counsel and Chief Counsels.

It is likely that as we plan further in the next few weeks that you may be contacted by a CLE Committee member seeking your services—of course, working with the Chief Counsels.

## Snow Emergency Abbreviated Special Edition--Much More in April

# Performance of Non-Legal Missions and Functions by AMC Legal Office Personnel

During the October AMC Chief Counsel's Workshop a discussion with the Army General Counsel explored the issue of the conduct of non-legal missions and functions by legal office personnel.

As a result, each AMC major subordinate command (MSC) Chief Counsel was tasked to: describe non-legal missions and functions performed, the history and background of reasons behind performance of such duties, and the number of man hours expended.

## Conclusions

a. Reductions in legal office staffing result in attorneys performing work previously accomplished by support personnel.

b. Reorganization, restructuring and downsizing of AMC MSC size results in the assignment of an increasing number of non-legal missions and functions to AMC legal offices.

c. Commanders and Directors rely on attorneys to do more than just provide legal work, as they trust our work ethic and analytical skills.

d. Much of the work defined as non-legal encompasses work that includes some portion that is a legal function.

## Hours

The responses filed by our subordinate legal offices and the Office of Command Counsel have been tallied (work hours). The hours spent across the AMC legal community to perform non-legal functions is miniscule when placed in context with our overall attorney numbers.

a. Processing Real Estate Reimbursement Claims: 1,000

b. Congressional inquiries: 1,700

c. Litigation Support (Administrative functions): 1,500

d. FOIA: 1,200

e. Report of Surveys: 260

f. Financial Disclosure Statements: 250

Total: 5,910 man hours

## Recommendations

a. Accept assignments given by our Commanders and Directors.

b. Advise leadership that we will do the job, but describe that this is not traditional legal work

c. Ensure that these additional non-legal missions and functions are a factor in determinations regarding reorganization and budget/personnel reduction decisions.

d. Be honest: advise when these assignments might impact the performance of our traditional legal functions.

A copy of this report was briefed to and provided to the Army General Counsel.

# Faces In The Firm

## HELLO

### TACOM

**Melinda Carlson** recently joined the the Legal Office as Automation Assistant, and will be working primarily on the IP Team.

Melinda comes to the Legal Office from the Corporate Information and Technology Directorate where she worked for 15 years.

### TACOM—RIA

TACOM-RI welcomes paralegal Diana (Dee) Bain. Dee comes to us from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Trenton, New Jersey, and previously worked in the legal office at TACOM-ARDEC.

Her husband, COL Dolas (Dale) Bain, is stationed at Rock Island as part of the NW Installation Management Agency.

### CECOM--Ft. Belvoir

**Arthur Samora** has joined the Fort Belvoir Branch, Business Law Division C. Art is a Patent Attorney and comes to the CECOM Legal Office from private patent law practice.

### AMCOM

Welcome to **Ruth Micka** assigned as secretary to the General Law Division, comes to us from Mons, Belgium.

Welcomes are to **1LT Jonathan Thomas** assigned to the JAG Office from a reserve unit in Clarksville, TN. on active duty for one year and **CPT Erika McPherson** assigned to the JAG Office from Ft. Knox, KY

### AMCOM

**Col Roger W. Cornelius**, Deputy Chief Counsel/SJA retired on January 3, 2003.

**Winslow Hill**, Patent Advisor retired on January 3, 2003.

These two outstanding representatives of the legal and patent communities have earned well-deserved retirements.

## DEATH

We regret to inform the AMC Legal Community that **CPT Douglas Becker** wife Amy Becker died 12 December 2002.

CPT Becker we are all thinking of you and your family.

Be very safe and careful during the rest of the winter.

We'll see you in the Spring