

GENERAL ORDERS

No. 8

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 1 April 1975

RESPONSIBILITY FOR LEGAL SERVICES

The following assignments of responsibility for the legal services of the Army are effective this date.

1. General Counsel of the Army. The General Counsel, a civilian attorney appointed by the Secretary of the Army, is the chief legal officer of the Army. He has such duties and responsibilities as the Secretary assigns to him. They include the following:

a. Supervising execution of the policies of the Secretary concerning the legal services of the Army.

b. Determining the position of the Army on any legal question or legal procedure. For this purpose the General Counsel is authorized, within his discretion, to communicate directly with any member or employee of the Army on any legal matter, keeping the Chief of Staff advised as appropriate, and to effect appropriate coordination with the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice and other Federal agencies.

c. Providing professional guidance on any subject of law or legal procedure to all military and civilian attorneys of the Army.

d. Acting as counsel to the Secretary of the Army, the Under Secretary, the Assistant Secretaries, and other officials of the Secretariat.

2. The Judge Advocate General of the Army. The Judge Advocate General is the legal adviser of the Chief of Staff of the Army, members of the Army Staff, and members of the Army generally. He also serves as military legal adviser to the Secretary and other members of the Secretariat in coordination with the General Counsel. The military justice responsibilities of The Judge Advocate General are specified in law, Executive Orders and regulations; other responsibilities of The Judge Advocate General are specified in law and regulations. He has staff responsibility for providing legal services and professional guidance to military and civilian attorneys of the Army.

3. Agency Legal Offices. The assignment of responsibility in paragraph 2 above does not preclude the existence of legal offices headed by civilian attorneys in agencies of the Army below Secretariat level, such as those in the Army Materiel Command and the Corps of Engineers. However, such offices are not autonomous and are subject to the following policies:

a. They operate under the professional guidance of The Judge Advocate General of the Army (see para 2 above) as well as that of the General Counsel of the Army.

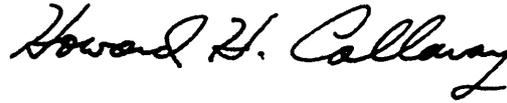
b. A new agency legal office to be headed by a civilian attorney may not be established without the prior approval of the General Counsel.

c. The term "General Counsel" may not be used to designate the head of any legal office of the Army save that of the General Counsel of the Army.

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4. **Implementation.** The provisions of these orders shall be implemented by new or amended regulations, as appropriate.

5. **Rescission.** Department of the Army General Orders 22, 1971 is rescinded.



HOWARD H. CALLAWAY
Secretary of the Army

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