



# TJAG SENDS

## A Message from The Judge Advocate General



### ***New Year, Same Resolution — Be Ready!*** **8 January 2018**

Readiness is both a state of mind and a physical manifestation. As we prepare for the next fight and kick off 2018, I want you to consider what you and your teams are doing to Be Ready.

Senior judge advocates and civilian leaders must focus on their teams' substantive mastery of their legal support to warfighters. Robust, nonnegotiable internal training programs are the 'brick and mortar' of a competent lawyer and paralegal. Rigorous standards in research and writing must be continually emphasized and reinforced. Are team members trained and mentored on the content of advice rendered, as well as the effectiveness of its delivery? Are counseling programs in place to ensure feedback opportunities both to and from teammates? As each of us is a work in progress, we must be humble enough to hear constructive criticism, and courageous and deft enough to deliver it to our teammates.

Stepping beyond 'unit readiness' programs, I want each of you to begin 2018 carefully examining how you will improve. In what ways will you be a different lawyer or paralegal by January 2019? We all have a heavy workload in our present job, but we can always find time for growth. Set goals now and pursue them aggressively. What will you read? What skill will you deliberately cultivate and refine? What aspect of the law of armed conflict – let's just say rules governing detainees or rules relating to targeting and protected places – will you study this year? How much time will you devote to learning the new rules under the Military Justice Act of '16? Will you wait until you're a TC/DC or post-trial NCO to learn the changes? (Hint – the answer is a resounding "no.") Recognize the difference between an idea and a plan and ensure that you have a feasible strategy to improve yourself and your team.

And then more personally, how will you focus on becoming a better Soldier, civil servant, and member of your family and community? How will you better exemplify servant leadership in 2018? Service is a calling. Service in our JAG Corps – the absolute best law firm in the world – is an awesome and humbling privilege. How will you practice law in 2018 to enhance the legacy of the amazing Soldiers and civilians who built our Corps over the last 242 years? What brick will you place in our Corps' history?

Readiness is as much mental as physical. The year 2018 will be successful and exciting for our Corps and our Army – because we have the best lawyers, paralegals, and Soldiers in the world.

I'm proud to serve with you. Now get after it.

***Be Ready!***

CHARLES N. PEDE  
Lieutenant General, USA  
The Judge Advocate General