



U.S. AIR FORCE JAG CORPS FUNDED LEGAL EDUCATION PROGRAM & EXCESS LEAVE PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

The Funded Legal Education Program (FLEP) provides a unique opportunity for active duty Air Force officers and enlisted members to attend law school at Air Force expense. If selected to participate in FLEP, enlisted airmen will attend Officer Training School (OTS) and then law school. The Air Force covers law school tuition, fees, and book costs while members serve on active duty as officers. Members also receive full pay, allowances and other benefits while attending law school. The Excess Leave Program (ELP) provides Air Force officers another avenue to attend law school. Through this program, officers are responsible for all application expenses, tuition and fees, and they do not receive pay or allowances. Officers continue to accrue time for promotion and retirement purposes, and remain eligible for other active duty benefits (i.e. medical). Enlisted members are not eligible for ELP.

FLEP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Active duty Air Force officer or enlisted member.
2. Must have served on active duty for at least two, but not more than six years, including enlisted time, by the time law school would begin (non-waivable statutory requirement).
3. Officer applicants must be in the pay grade of O-3 or below, with less than three years' time in grade as an O-3.
4. U.S. citizen (birth or naturalization).
5. Must have graduated from a regionally accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree.
6. Have applied to one or more daytime J.D. program(s) at an ABA-approved law school (includes previously taking the LSAT to apply to law school). Admission to an ABA-approved law school is ultimately required, but is not a prerequisite to applying.
7. Have obtained conditional release from career field.

ELP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. Active duty Air Force officer. Requirements 3-7 listed above also apply.

2. Must have served on active duty for at least two, but not more than 10 years, including enlisted time, by the time law school would begin.

TRAINING AND COMMISSIONING

Enlisted members selected for FLEP attend OTS (8 weeks), at Maxwell AFB, in Montgomery, Alabama, prior to attending law school. FLEP and ELP students are required to perform legal internships with the Air Force JAG Corps during their summer breaks after their first and second years of law school. While performing internships, ELP students will be returned to pay status and will accumulate ordinary leave. For officers, the Active Duty Service Commitment (ADSC) is six years for FLEP and four years for ELP. For enlisted members, the ADSC for FLEP is ten years.

Within a few months after reporting to their first duty location, JAGs will attend the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course (JASOC). JASOC is a nine-week course at the Air Force Judge Advocate General's School, which is also located at Maxwell AFB. At JASOC, new JAGs are exposed to the military justice system, legal assistance, civil law, and operations and international law. They also have the opportunity to participate in mock trials and practical exercises.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Air Force conducts a FLEP/ELP board once a year and the application is available online at www.airforce.com/jag. The online application window opens 1 November and the application deadline is 10 January. Once an application is submitted, an active duty Staff Judge Advocate contacts the applicant to schedule the required in-person interview, which must be completed by 1 February.

The Air Force JAG Corps selects applicants based on the "whole person" concept. Selection factors include academic performance, extracurricular activities, community service, work experience, leadership traits, personal integrity, awards and honors, demonstrated elements of core values, writing/analytical skills, adaptability and flexibility, motivational statement, and military records.

Application documents include OPRs/EPRs, motivational statement, conditional release from career field, resume, LSAT Score Report, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts (unofficial copies are acceptable), full-length color photograph in service dress, law school application form (available in the online application), officer SURF and training reports (officers only), letters of recommendation (up to five), and writing sample (no more than 10 pages). The complete list of required documents and application instructions will be available through the online application once the application window opens on 1 November.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please visit www.airforce.com/jag, call 1-800-JAG-USAF, or email af.jag.recruiting@us.af.mil.