



TORII LEGAL ASSISTANCE

OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE



Excellence in Legal Assistance Torii Station Selected for Chief of Staff Award

BY: RUDY WARTELLA

On Tuesday, 21 July 2015, the Army Legal Assistance Office on Okinawa and the William Beaumont Army Medical Center were named as winners of the coveted Chief of Staff Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance for Fiscal Year 2014 in the small office category. This is the seventh year in a row that Torii Station has won this award (They have won 12 out of the last 13 years).

The 2014 winners in other categories included:

ACTIVE ARMY - MEDIUM OFFICES: 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command (Grafenwoehr); Ansbach Law Center; Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and Presidio of Monterey; National Training Center and Fort Irwin; US Army Japan and I Corps (Forward); US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command and Aberdeen Proving Ground

ACTIVE ARMY - LARGE OFFICES: III Corps and Fort Hood; XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg; 1st Armored Division and Fort Bliss; 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart; US Army Cadet Command and Fort Knox; US Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill; US Army Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning

RESERVE COMPONENT: North Carolina Army National Guard; US Army Support Activity, Fort Dix

A Historical Perspective

In 1987 this award was named the Chief of Staff's Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance. **Although judge advocates oversee the legal assistance and preventive law programs, the programs are actually the responsibility of commanders.** The Chief of Staff's Award honors those commands that have committed their legal resources to help Soldiers and their Families with their personal legal problems.

The criteria for evaluating the nominees include: The extent and quality of a nominee's legal assistance and preventive law programs; responsiveness to clients' needs, the professionalism of the attorneys and supporting personnel, and the use of legal specialists and noncommissioned officers. Any innovations by an office that benefit the legal assistance and preventive law programs are evaluated. Although statistics may be submitted, workload is not the sole factor used to evaluate nominees.

The Judge Advocate General appoints a board to evaluate the nominations. The President of the board is the Assistant Judge Advocate General for Military Law. The Chief, Legal Assistance Office, Office of the Judge Advocate General; the Chief, Legal Assistance Branch, The Judge Advocate General's School; one company grade judge advocate officer; and one legal specialist or noncommissioned officer are members of the board. The board recommends an office in each category to the Judge Advocate General, who selects the winners. *Excerpts from the Military Law Review, Volume 122, pp 339, 40.* Updated July, 2016

