

**Torii Station Wins Prestigious Chief of Staff Award  
For  
Excellence in Legal Assistance**

On Wednesday, 7 July 2010, the 10th Support Group Legal Assistance Office on Okinawa was named as one of three offices to win the coveted Chief of Staff Award for Excellence in Legal Assistance for Calendar Year 2009. The other winners in Active Army - Small Office category were the Netherlands Law Center and the US Army Communications-Electronics Command and Fort Monmouth.

The 2009 winners in other categories include:

**Active Army - Medium Office**

Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center and Presidio of Monterey; Fort McPherson; Kaiserslautern Law Center; Mannheim Law Center; Stuttgart Law Center; US Army Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth; US Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee; US Army Japan and I Corps (Forward); US Military Academy and West Point.

**Active Army - Large Office**

XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg; 1st Armored Division; 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley; 2nd Infantry Division; 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart; US Army Air Defense Artillery Center and Fort Bliss; US Army Armor Center and Fort Knox; US Army Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill; US Army Infantry Center and Fort Benning.

**Reserve Component**

12th Legal Support Organization; 78th Legal Support Organization; 108th Training Command (Initial Entry Training); Camp Atterbury Joint Maneuver Training Center; Florida National Guard.

According to HQDA, the selection rate for winners in this year's competition reflects a careful evaluation of the applications, recognizing only those offices that were truly exceptional. Offices that did not win this year continue to deliver quality Legal Assistance; however, they did not demonstrate the degree of excellence to satisfy the award criteria.

**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.*

### **Torii Station Legal Assistance Services**

The Torii Station Legal Assistance Office wants to take this opportunity to remind the Army on Okinawa of the services we provide. We offer walk-in Powers of Attorney, Notary Assistance, and Affidavits. We have appointments available with a legal assistance attorney five days a week. Please call 644-4332 if you have a personal legal issue that you want to discuss with a legal assistance attorney. We are located in Building 218 (across the street from the Torii Post Office); in Room 219.

July, 2010.