

Thank you for your hospitality in extending an invitation to me to attend the 2007 National Federation of Paralegal Associations' Conference. Regrettably, due to my official schedule I am required elsewhere and unable to attend. However, I wanted to convey my personal gratitude and appreciation for the relationship and professional bonds that have formed between NFPA and our JAG Corps.

Navy Legalmen graduating from the Naval Justice School are joining the fleet during one of the most dynamic and challenging periods in our nation's and Navy's history. Our Legalmen are at the forefront of the global war on terrorism, serving in challenging legal environments such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Guantanamo Bay, and the Horn of Africa. In Iraq, a large number of our Legalmen analyze whether detainees should continue to be detained and the potential to prosecute them in Iraqi courts. These Legalmen ensure that each detainee receives a fair and expedient review of his case. Navy Legalmen also are engaged in convoy missions in both Iraq and Afghanistan; these convoy missions transport essential physical evidence and witnesses to and from hearings. Prosecutions which are key to reestablishing the rule of law in these countries depend on these missions. Legalmen are also supporting the rule of law by training foreign military members on human rights and humanitarian law in the Horn of Africa and Afghanistan.

I would like to express my appreciation for your continued support to our Legalmen. Your work has been very important to all of our young men and women in hardship locations. The care packages that you provide are a tangible measure that our Sailors are on your hearts and minds. I want you to know how much we truly appreciate this generous contribution.

BRUCE MacDONALD

Rear Admiral, JAGC, U.S. Navy

Judge Advocate General