

SOP 1 - ROLES OF RLOs

AIM

1. The aim of this SOP is to set out the roles typically performed by RLOs according to their rank, billet/posting and experience.

BACKGROUND

2. Defence is Australia's largest organisation and employer, and as such, RLOs can expect to be exposed to the wide range of circumstances calling for their skilled and experienced advice in circumstances that are often different to those encountered in their civilian occupations. Service as an RLO will be rewarding and enjoyable, if RLOs are proactively involved in the performance of their roles and duties, and the management of their careers.

3. Real opportunities exist for RLOs to undertake operational roles both within Australia, and overseas. RLOs are encouraged to participate in the operations and other activities of the ships/units/bases/commands they serve, to gain exposure to ADF operating environments. This activity assists in building the credibility of individual RLOs, and also enables the RLO to relate to, and better understand operational circumstances, when taking instructions and providing advice.

ROLES

4. Table 1 annex A sets out the progressively more skilled roles for RLOs as they advance in rank and experience. PLOs and senior RLOs should assist junior RLOs to perform their roles and gain skills and experience by allowing them to understudy.

5. On appointment RLOs will typically be allocated duties commensurate with their military experience to enable them to gain confidence in the performance of their roles under the guidance and with the assistance of more senior RLOs.

6. These duties will normally encompass the provision of legal aid advice in a military context, prosecuting or defending defence members before a CO, and providing advice to defence members in relation to summary offences. Newly appointed RLOs may also be tasked to review minor investigation reports.

7. When opportunities arise newly appointed RLOs are to be offered and encouraged to perform understudy roles in relation to more complex matters, to enable them to gain confidence and experience. Remuneration arrangements allow RLOs performing understudy roles to receive payment at the training day rate.

8. During the first ten years after appointment, RLOs (up to and including the rank of MAJ(E)) are required to act in a relief manning/shadow posting for a period of not less than 10 weeks, constituted by continuous periods of not less than 5 days. This requirement is to apply pro-rata for RLOs appointed before 1 Jul 03.

9. In relation to roles, the RSLG is responsible for:

- a. ensuring that their panel members undertake the necessary courses of study to qualify them for promotion to the next rank; and

- b. so far as is practicable, assisting panel members to gain common skills and experience regardless of their Service, so that RLOs are capable of performing appropriate duties with any Service.

Table 1

ROLES BY RANK	COL (E)	LTCOL (E)	MAJ (E)	CAPT (E)	LEUT (E)
1. 'Shadow' posting	X	X	X	X	X
2. Posting to deployable units as a sole legal officer	X	X	X	X	X
3. JA / DFM	X	X			
4. Prosecuting officer/Defending officer at Court Martial/DFM	X	X	X	X	
5. Prosecuting officer/Defending officer at Summary hearing			X	X	X
6. S.154 Reviewing officer	X	X			
7. Counsel assisting at major BOIs	X	X	X		
8. Counsel assisting - other BOIs		X	X	X	
9. Counsel representing – BOI	X	X	X	X	
10. Reviewing officer - BOI reports	X	X			
11. Providing legal assistance to member	X	X	X	X	
12. Providing legal aid advice to member	X	X	X	X	X
13. Providing urgent and demanding legal advice to a senior Commander	X	X	X	X	
14. Providing training to other LOs and to other ADF members	X	X	X	X	

ROLES BY RANK	COL (E)	LTCOL (E)	MAJ (E)	CAPT (E)	LEUT (E)
15. Assisting assessment of LO legal skills	X	X			
16. ADR	X	X	X	X	X
17. Acting as Investigating Officer for the Military Inspector General	X	X	X		
18. Acting as President of Board of Inquiry	X	X			
19. Acting as Director Military Prosecutions	X				
20. Acting as Director Military Defence	X	X			
21. Investigations under D(I)Rs	X	X	X	X	X