

## **SOP 2 - RLO STRUCTURE**

### **AIM**

1. This part of these SOPs set out the TDLS National Organisation and Leadership Structure and the roles of PLO, RLO and APS personnel within that structure.
2. Annex A is the organisational chart for TDLS.

### **TRI-SERVICE NATIONAL ORGANISATION**

#### **Primary Organisational Principle**

3. TDLS is a national integrated organisation of ADF and APS personnel. The leadership structure must represent this both at the national and regional levels. The leadership structure must recognise both the desirability of delivering legal services on a tri-Service basis and the individual cultures and ethos of each of the Services and the APS.

#### **National Leadership**

4. The National Leadership of TDLS is performed by DGTDLs, the GC, Head of Corps/Category, the LEG managers, HMB, LRM and NPM together with the RSLG in each Region and the National leadership forum (which comprises approximately 40 personnel picked from TDLS staff posted from around Australia.) The RSLG in each Region comprises the RSSR for each Service, the senior PLO in the Region, and a civilian representative of regional civilian members of TDLS.

#### **Services**

5. The Head of the Army Legal Corps and the Head of Category for the Navy and Air Force are responsible to the Service Chief for the professional management of the members of their Service. They have a role as adviser to their Service Chiefs and as adviser to DGTDLs on single Service issues. PLO career management functions will be coordinated through the Office of NPM. Similarly, RLO career management functions will be coordinated through the Office of the LRM.

#### **Office of the General Counsel (OGC)**

6. OGC is included within TDLS organisation and provides independent legal advice to the ADO. Advice issued out of the OGC is persuasive across the ADO. Where there is considered advice from OGC or DGTDLs on an issue, funds are not to be expended in obtaining further advice from RLOs or external law firms. PLOs and RLOs are to advise commanders of that advice, but need not personally endorse that advice. The General Counsel heads OGC. The GC is the senior civilian leader in TDLS. Advice should be sought from the OGC on complex, difficult and sensitive matters. The GC is the Legal Panel Manager for the provision of external legal services.

#### **Technical Legal Control**

7. PLOs and RLOs are posted to ships/units/bases/commands in accordance with normal ADF practice. PLOs and RLOs posted to a ship/unit/base/command are required to follow the same chain of command for technical legal control as the command chain of the ship/unit/base/command to which they are posted. There may be different chains of command for different issues eg. operations, general advice, and military law.

### **LEG Managers' functions and responsibilities**

8. The LEG managers are responsible nationally for the policy, professional oversight and standards of their specialised legal function and business. The LEG managers will also be responsible for the functional organisation and operation of their LEGs. The LEG managers will be responsible for the management of resources allocated to them and for accessing appropriate professional legal skills from within TDLS (and external resources) to meet their functional responsibilities. RLOs will be invited to nominate to specialist lists from which LEG managers may access services in accordance with SOP 4.

### **NPM**

9. The NPM will act as TDLS Chief of Staff with responsibilities for the provision of strategic planning, budgetary and financial controls, IT development, corporate relations and reputation management, together with career coordination functions of all permanent civilian and military personnel.

### **Tasking of legal work**

10. Will generally be in accordance with the chain of command of the ship/unit/base/command generating the need for the work subject to availability and the need for specialist services. There will also be legal officers who are not posted to ships/units/bases/commands who are regional consultants. Legal officers posted to those units will deliver legal services to the ships/units/bases/commands, in the first instance. Sessional work for RLOs is subject to the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, which requires that Commonwealth resources be used in an efficient, effective and ethical manner. SOP 10 deals with allocation of sessional work.

### **LRM**

11. The LRM is responsible for the administration and coordination of training, professional development and career management of all RLOs.

### **Regional leadership**

12. The TDLS Regions are listed in SOP 5. In each Region there will be one RSLG, which will comprise the three single RSSRs (where practicable) and the most senior PLO in that Region, as confirmed by DGTDLs. The RSLG will have responsibility to attend to the professional leadership and stewardship of TDLS personnel posted in that Region. The RSLG has a mentoring role concerning the provision of counsel and advice on professional standards and ethical issues IAW guidance provided by HMB. The RSLG is accountable to DGTDLs and the Head of Corps/Category for the provision of recruiting, training, dissemination of information, hosting of joint Service social functions etc.

### **Head of The Military Bar**

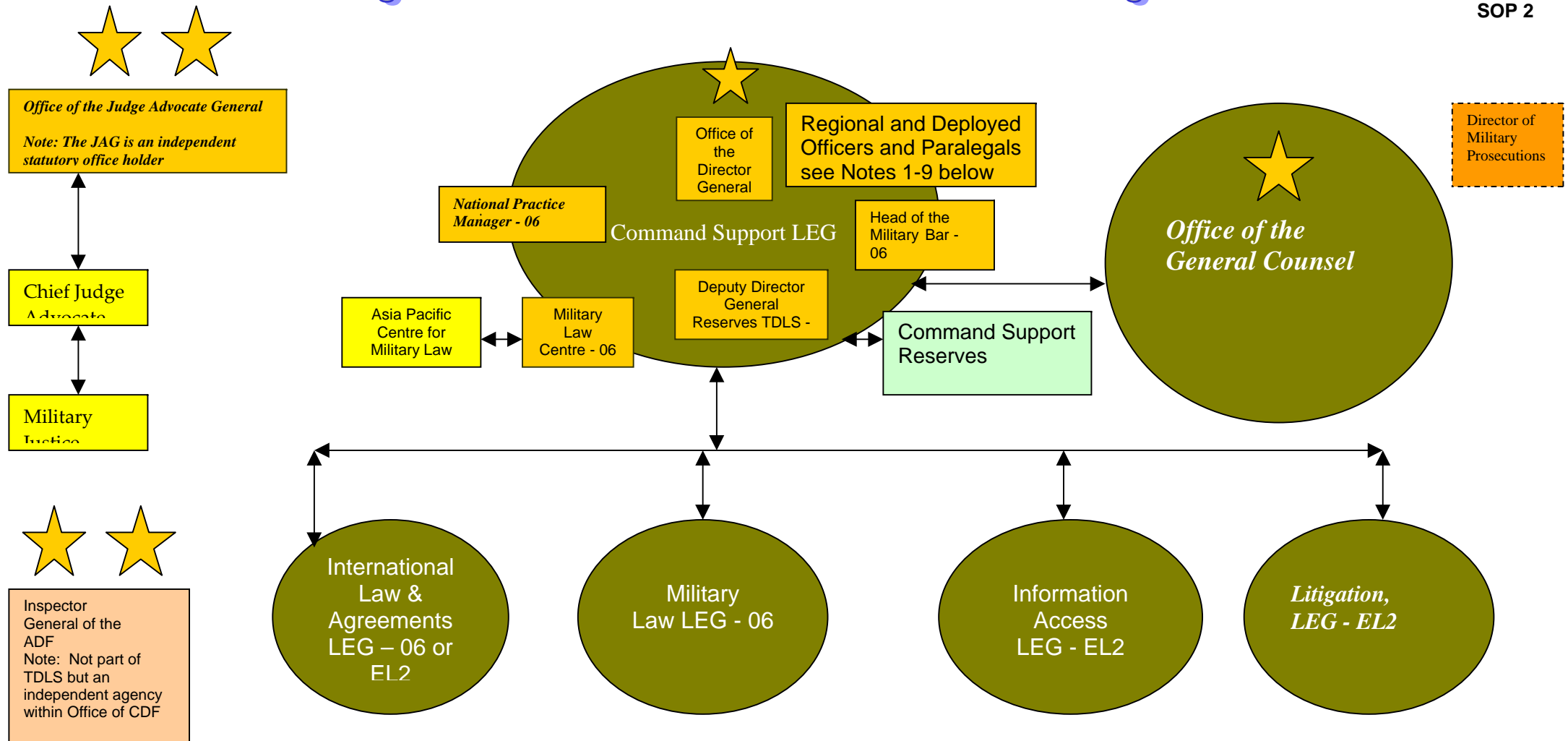
13. The Military Bar is the collegial professional grouping of all PLOs, RLOs and TDLS civilian legal officers. It is led by the Head of the Military Bar (HMB), who is directly responsible to the DGTDLs for the promotion of professional standards and ethics, and for the facilitation of the relationship between the Military Bar and external professional bodies.

**Retired Senior Officers Advisory Body**

14. A group of distinguished retired officers may be invited by the DGTDLs to provide honorary duties on an 'as required' basis. This body will be headed up by a senior retired RLO.

# The Defence Legal Service National Structure and Organisation

Annex A to  
SOP 2



**NSW.** HQAST, HQSO, MHQ, CJTF-SEA, LHQ, HQ 2 DIV, HQ TC-A, Trial Defence Team, Maritime Systems Division - DMO, Asbestos Litigation Cell, HQ 5 BDE, DNSDC, HQ AC, 86 WG, 84 WG, ADFWC, 41 WG, 81 WG, HMAS ALBATROSS, HQ ARTC, CSU Wagga,

**VIC.** Joint Logistics Command, HQ TC-AF, CSU Williams, HMAS CERBERUS, SCMA, HQ CQTC, ALTC.

**QLD.** DJFHQ(L), HQ 7 BDE, DCS Enoggera, TDLS Brisbane, 82 WG, HQ AAVNTC, HQ Combat Support Group, HQ 3 BDE, 395 ECSW.

**ACT.** NHQ, NAVY SYSCOM, ADFA, RMC, 1 MP Bn.

**NT.** HQ 1 BDE, HQ NORCOM, 322 CSW.

**SA.** HQ 9 BDE, 92 WG.

**WA.** HMAS STIRLING, CSF PEARCE, HQ 13 BDE .

**TAS.**

**OVERSEAS & DEPLOYED** HQ PKF UNMISSET, ASNCE-EM, 324 CSS – Malaysia, ALS Directorate - UK, HQ USAF JAI -US, Op Slipper.

9.10. UK – ALS Directorate Upavon, USA – HQ USAF JAI Washington

LEG = Legal Element Group