



U.S. Army Col. Robert DeSousa and Venneman attend the Vets and Military Law Section reception for judge advocates.

Vets and Military Law Section

FBA Reception for Judge Advocates a Big Success

The Eastern District of Pennsylvania Chapter and the Vets and Military Law Section hosted a reception for judge advocates at Fort Indiantown Gap Community Club on July 21. Third Circuit Vice President Frank McGovern spoke about the benefits of the FBA. Participants represented several branches of service, both Army and Air Force, active-duty soldiers from Fort Detrick and Fort Drum, U.S. Army Reserve soldiers, and professionals from 10 states in the National Guard, including Georgia, Wisconsin, Vermont, and Oregon.

“This event offered an opportunity to receive updates,” explained Past National FBA President and U.S. Army Col. Robert DeSousa, staff judge advocate for Pennsylvania. “It also allowed for the opportunity to collaborate between all components of the staff judge advocate community.”

Presenters provided updates on topics including: separations and

discharges, noncommissioned officer development, and the Office of Special Investigations.

Speakers at the event included: U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Anthony Carrelli, adjutant general of Pennsylvania; U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Daniel Hill, National Guard adviser to the Judge Advocate General; and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Christian Rofrano, chief counsel of the National Guard Bureau.

“This was a great opportunity for staff judge advocates to learn, network, and build professional relationships. There is a lot of wisdom and experience in this room,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Philip Botwinik, staff judge advocate for the Georgia National Guard.

The event was recorded for Pennsylvania staff judge advocates who are presently deployed with the 28th Infantry Division in support of Operation Spartan Shield in Kuwait.

The Pennsylvania National Guard is one of the largest and most deployed National Guards in the nation. ©



Attendees of the FBA reception for judge advocates pose for a photo at the Fort Indiantown Gap Community Club.