

Captain Stephen R. Sarnoski

Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Navy (Ret.)



Capstone Assignment (October, 2012 – February 2014): Staff Judge Advocate, Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa, in Djibouti, Africa. CJTF-HOA conducts joint military operations, activities, and exercises to defeat violent extremist organizations and transnational threats, provides training and military assistance to strengthen the operational and institutional capabilities of East African partner nations in order to promote security and stability within their borders and throughout the region, protecting Americans and the American homeland.

Career Summary: Captain Sarnoski is a 1970 graduate (with Honors) of Windsor, Connecticut High School. In 1975, he received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration (Summa Cum Laude) from the University of New Haven. Captain Sarnoski was employed as a Windsor police officer from 1973-1985, achieving the rank of Police Sergeant in 1980, earning two Distinguished Service Medals and two Departmental Citations. He completed a Master of Public Administration Degree (with Honors) at the University of Hartford in 1980, and attended the University of Connecticut School of Law, receiving his Juris Doctorate (with Honors) in 1985. Following graduation, Captain Sarnoski was commissioned a Lieutenant in the United States Navy. Upon graduation from Naval Justice School (with Honors), he was stationed at the Navy Legal Services Office, Charleston, South Carolina, where he served as trial and defense counsel, legal assistance officer and command services attorney. In January, 1988, Captain Sarnoski reported to *USS Independence (CV-62)*, homeported in San Diego, California, where he acted as Deputy Command Judge Advocate, Discipline Officer, and Legal Assistance Officer until leaving active duty in May, 1990. Captain Sarnoski retired from 28 years of employment by the State of Connecticut as Assistant Attorney General (Public Safety). He is a member of the bars of the State of Connecticut, the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and the United States Supreme Court. His military command tours include NR Civil Law Support Activity 104, supporting the International and Operational Law Division of the Office of the Judge Advocate General; NR DIILS 401, supporting the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies in Newport, Rhode Island; and VTU LAW EAST, commanding 32 Navy Judge Advocates providing legal services to Navy commands in the eastern half of the United States. He also served as Senior Reserve Instructor, International and Operational Law Department, Naval Justice School, Newport, Rhode Island, providing International and Operational Law training for Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Judge Advocates. Captain Sarnoski has published and lectured extensively on a wide variety of topics relevant to International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights, and establishment of the rule of law in the United States, Europe, Africa and South America. His active duty assignments include the NATO Legal Advisor School in Oberammergau, Germany; Legal Advisor to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Mons, Belgium; Legal Advisor to NATO Exercise STEADFAST JAGUAR 2006; Senior Legal Planner to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command for the 2006 multi-national PANAMEX Exercise; Staff Judge Advocate to Commander, U.S. Forces Korea for Exercise RSO&I/FOAL EAGLE 2007, Staff Judge Advocate, Task Force CINCINNATUS, CJTF 82, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom from June, 2007 through March 2008; and Deputy Force Judge Advocate for NATO Joint Forces Command, Naples, Italy in support of Operation Unified Protector (Libya) in 2011. Captain Sarnoski retired from the U.S. Navy on February 24, 2014, with more than thirty-one years of Active and Reserve service.

Personal Awards: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Meritorious Service Medal (4th Award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Navy Achievement Medal (3rd Award), Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award (2nd Award), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Medal (2nd Award), NATO Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Expert Pistol and Rifle Marksmanship Medals and the Overseas Service and Sea Service Deployment Ribbons.