

# **OFFICE OF THE STAFF JUDGE ADVOCATE 48<sup>TH</sup> FIGHTER WING, RAF LAKENHEATH, UK**



## **JURY DUTY EXEMPTION**

Generally, state and federal courts obtain names of prospective jurors from pools of individuals who are registered to vote. Therefore, if you are registered to vote in your state of legal residence, you may be summoned for jury duty by a court in that state. If you are an active duty military member stationed overseas, and you have been summoned to jury duty by either a state or federal court, you are eligible for an exemption under federal law (10 U.S.C. 982). Under DODD 5525.8, you are exempt from jury duty if you are:

- a general officer,
- a commander,
- a member of an operating force in training, or
- stationed overseas

Air Force Instruction 51-301 paragraph 9.27 explains the Procedures For Obtaining an Exemption From Jury Duty.

Thus, if you are stationed at RAF Lakenheath or any other installation in Europe, you are exempt from jury duty in your state of residence. However, you still must officially notify the court of your exemption with a letter from your immediate commander. On the back is a sample letter that your commander can send on your behalf.

## Immediate Commander's Letterhead

**RETURN ADDRESS**  
**COURT CLERK ADDRESS**

Re: Excusal From Jury Service (**NAME OF SERVICE MEMBER**)

Dear Sir or Madam:

(**YOUR GRADE AND NAME**), a member of the United States Air Force on active duty, has been summoned to perform jury duty (**WHEN, WHERE, AND ON WHAT JURY**). Under 10 U.S.C. 982, Department of Defense Directive 5525.8 and Air Force Instruction 51-301, this member has been determined by me, an authorized designee of the Secretary of the Air Force, as exempt from duty on the jury in question because such jury service would unreasonably interfere with the performance of the member's military duties or would adversely affect the readiness of the unit, command, or activity to which the member is assigned. Under 10 U.S.C. 982(b), this determination is conclusive.

Please excuse (**GRADE AND NAME**) from jury duty. If you have questions or cannot accommodate this request, contact me at (**COMMANDER'S DUTY PHONE NUMBER**) or the RAF Lakenheath Legal Office at 011-44-1638-52-3553. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

**IMMEDIATE COMMANDER'S  
SIGNATURE BLOCK**