



# BIOGRAPHY



## UNITED STATES NAVY

### JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

CDR Aaron C. Rugh , JAGC, USN  
JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS

CDR Aaron Rugh was born in Emporia, Kansas, but grew up in Neosho, Missouri, a small town in the Ozark Mountain region of Southwest Missouri. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in socio-political communications from Missouri State University in 1994 and received his Juris Doctorate from Duke University School of Law in 1997. Subsequently, CDR Rugh was admitted to the Missouri Bar. In 2009 he was awarded a Masters of Laws (LL.M.) degree in Litigation and Dispute Resolution by the George Washington University School of Law.

CDR Rugh was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in February 1996 and attended Naval Justice School beginning in October 1997. He reported to Naval Legal Service Office, Mid-Atlantic, his first duty station, in December 1997 and worked at Naval Base Norfolk, NAS Oceana and NAB Little Creek as a Legal Assistance Attorney and as the Assistant Senior Defense Counsel. He then reported to the U.S. Naval Academy as an Assistant Professor of Law.

In 2002 CDR Rugh transferred to Trial Service Office East, Norfolk, Virginia, where he served as Senior Trial Counsel. Subsequently, CDR Rugh was the Head, Standards of Conduct and Government Ethics Branch, Administrative Law Division (OJAG Code 13) and coordinated litigation programs for the Criminal Law Division (OJAG Code 20). In 2008 CDR Rugh deployed to Iraq and served as an operational law attorney for Multi-National Forces – Iraq before attending graduate school.

Beginning in 2010, he served as Commanding Officer, Naval Legal Service Office Southeast, Mayport, Florida, a position he acceded to after serving as the command's Executive Officer. He then served as a military judge, Northern Judicial Circuit, Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary. He is currently Director, Navy Trial Counsel Assistance Program onboard Washington Navy Yard.

CDR Rugh's military decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. He has been designated as an "Expert" in the Military Justice Litigation Career Track.