**Tips: Tab 12--Evidentiary Foundations**

- To introduce evidence in court, counsel must first lay the foundation for the evidence. For example, for lay witnesses, this means establishing that the witness personally observed what happened.

- The following MREs are the most common rules relating to laying a foundation.

-- 405 – character of the accused (reputation or opinion of the accused)

-- 602 – witnesses must have personal knowledge of what they testify to

-- 608 – evidence of character, conduct, or bias of a witness (opinion, reputation, evidence of character, specific instances of conduct, evidence of bias)

-- 701 – opinion by a lay person

-- 703-705 – opinion by an expert

-- 901 – authentication of evidence

-- 902 – self-authenticating documents

- [Military Evidentiary Foundations](https://cs3.eis.af.mil/sites/afjagc/AFLOA/JAJ/JAJG/field/How%20To%20Case%20Primers/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2Fafjagc%2FAFLOA%2FJAJ%2FJAJG%2Ffield%2FHow%20To%20Case%20Primers%2FMilitary%20Evidentiary%20Foundations%20%282013%29&FolderCTID=0x0120002E326A96D8B2EA4B88B57A96A15451C6&View=%7b501F5966-4EFD-4DE2-847D-65563D0F4B0D%7d) – the evidence bible; refer to this book for a list of specific questions on laying a foundation for all types of evidence