

What do SVCs Do?

SVCs advocate for victims' rights, including those under Article 6b of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Those rights include:

1. The right to be reasonably protected from accused;
2. The right to reasonable, accurate, and timely notice of certain proceedings;
3. The right not to be excluded from certain proceedings (e.g. preliminary hearing, motions, trial);
4. The right to reasonably be heard at certain proceedings;
5. A reasonable right to confer with prosecution;
6. The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay; and
7. The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for dignity and privacy.

Contact Schofield Barracks SVC Office to schedule an appointment.

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U.S. ARMY SPECIAL VICTIM COUNSEL PROGRAM

Strengthening the support of victims and protecting their rights within the military justice system



What is the Special Victim Counsel Program?

The Army Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) program was established in October 2013. The mission and vision of the SVC program is entirely client-based; meaning SVCs provide exceptional legal representation and advice to all clients.

SVCs empower clients by fostering an understanding of the military justice and administrative processes. This includes accompanying and advising clients during interviews, examinations, and hearings, and representing them at a court-martial as permitted by law.

SVCs ensure that their clients know that, regardless of the outcome of the judicial or administrative process, the military justice and administrative system supports them and gives them the opportunity to be heard.

Who We Are

SVCs are Army Judge Advocates who receive specialized training and are certified by The Judge Advocate General (TJAG) to serve in this role. They provide legal representation to eligible victims of sex-related offense and domestic violence. An SVC's primary duty is to advocate for the expressed interests of clients.

"[Programs should be] best suited for that service that provides legal advice and representation to the victim throughout the justice process." - The Honorable Chuck Hagel, Secretary of Defense, directing establishment of SVC programs, 13 August 2013

Client privacy and confidentiality are extremely important to an SVC. Communications between SVCs and clients are confidential and privileged due to the attorney-client relationship established.

Who Do SVCs Represent

Active Duty Army Soldiers, Dependents of Active Duty Soldiers, DoD Civilian Employees, and persons eligible for legal assistance under 10 USC § 1044 are eligible for SVC representation **if**:

1. The person reports as a victim of an alleged sex-related offense or domestic violence; **and**
2. The U.S. military has jurisdiction over the alleged offender for the commission of the offenses described above.



Even if an eligible victim has filed a restricted report, they are still entitled to SVC services to learn about the legal process and their rights.