

WHAT IS AN SVC?

A Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) is a Legal Assistance attorney who received specialized training, and whose sole mission is to provide victims of sexual assault with confidential legal representation related to issues that arise as a result of a sexual assault.

ATTORNEY-CLIENT CONFIDENTIALITY

Your privacy and confidentiality are important. Anything you discuss with your SVC is confidential and will not be disclosed to any third parties without your express permission.



HOW CAN I CONTACT AN SVC?

Please contact the Fort Gordon Special Victims' Counsel:

CPT ROBERT BESIER

(Name)

706-791-3015

(Telephone Number)

In regard to other assistance available, please contact the Command Victim/Witness Responsible Official, or the person identified below:

MR. JOHN STILL

(Name)

706-791-1992

(Telephone Number)

john.m.still.civ@mail.mil

(Email Address)

For further information on crime issues, see the DoD Victim and Witness Assistance Council website at:
<http://vwac.defense.gov/dodprograms.aspx>

SPECIAL VICTIMS' COUNSEL PROGRAM



INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF RAPE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Contact: (706) 829-8318
Fort Gordon, Georgia

WHAT IS AN SVC's MISSION?

SVCs provide legal counseling and advocate your interests throughout the administrative and military justice process. Your SVC may:

- Be present and advise you during interviews with investigators, trial counsel, and defense counsel;
- Obtain information relevant to the sexual assault case, such as the status of the investigation and relevant information about the accused;
- Protect your rights and advocate your interests with counsel for the government. You have a right to consult with government counsel regarding certain decisions, such as plea negotiations and whether or not charges will be preferred. Your SVC will represent you during this process and communicate your position on such matters;
- Represent you in administrative and UCMJ proceedings;
- Assist you with post-trial submissions, including a victim impact statement;
- Provide referrals to other services such as Trial Defense Service, behavioral health, Family Advocacy Program or chaplain services.

WHO IS ENTITLED TO AN SVC?

All Servicemembers, dependents, or DoD employees who report a sex-related offense, whether the report is restricted or unrestricted.

COULD I GET INTO TROUBLE FOR REPORTING A SEXUAL ASSAULT?

Federal law protects anyone who reports a sexual assault from retaliation, reprisal, ostracism, or maltreatment. If you feel you have been retaliated against as a result of reporting a sexual assault, contact your SVC.

If you are suspected of misconduct in connection with the sexual assault, you will be referred to Trial Defense Service.

Should you require further assistance, or if you need to speak with an SVC, please contact your local SVC at the contact information located on the back of this pamphlet.

VICTIM RIGHTS

In addition to your right to assistance from an SVC, you have the following rights during courts-martial:

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for your dignity and privacy;
- The right to be reasonably protected from the accused;
- The right to be notified of court proceedings;
- The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, unless the court determines your testimony would be materially affected if you as the victim witness heard other testimony at trial;
- The right to confer with the attorney for the government in the case;
- The right to available restitution;
- The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, and release of offenders.

