

**JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SET # 6**

**129. (Update to JPP RFI 22) Services: Sustainment of the SVC program:**

**a. How many SVC billets were authorized for your FY15 SVC program?**

<b>USA</b>	No billets were authorized in FY15.
<b>USAF</b>	For FY15, the Air Force SVC Program was authorized 51 SVCs; 6 Senior SVCs (SSVC); and 25 Special Victim Paralegals (SVP).
<b>USN</b>	In FY15, 29 judge advocate billets were authorized for the VLC Program, in addition to the COS and DCOS for VLCP.
<b>USMC</b>	Six. The six billets are for the VLCO, Deputy VLCO, and four VLC (Pendleton, Quantico, Parris Island, and Okinawa). However, the Marine Corps currently has 16 Marines assigned to VLC billets.
<b>USCG</b>	A total of six full-time SVC positions (one O-4, and five O3s), one GS-15 Program Manager, and one shared support personnel (an E-6 yeoman). Currently, there are also ten USCG attorneys who have volunteered and were trained to serve as Special Victims' Counsel when the fulltime attorneys exceed their maximum client load.

**b. How many SVC billets are authorized in FY16?**

<b>USA</b>	Twenty-three billets were authorized in FY16.
<b>USAF</b>	For FY16, the Air Force SVC Program is authorized 51 SVCs; 6 Senior SVCs (SSVC); and 25 Special Victim Paralegals (SVP).
<b>USN</b>	In FY16, 31 judge advocate billets are authorized for the VLC Program, in addition to the COS and DCOS for VLCP.
<b>USMC</b>	Please see 129.a., above.
<b>USCG</b>	The current billet structure will remain the same. Additionally, the SVC Program has been authorized two reservists for FY16 to serve as fulltime SVC. One is funded from 1 April through 30 September 2016 and one is funded from 15 June 2016 through 30 September 2017. There are also, as mentioned above, additional attorneys trained as SVC who can take clients if the full-time SVCs reach their maximum client capacity. There is no specific cap on the number of collateral-duty SVCs who may be trained. The Coast Guard will fund as many collateral duty SVCs as necessary to meet the needs of the service. However, the current structure and additional billets contemplates shifting towards having most cases handled by full-time SVCs.

**c. How many SVC billets will be authorized in FY17?**

<b>USA</b>	Twenty-four billets were authorized in FY16.
<b>USAF</b>	For FY17, the Air Force SVC Program is authorized 51 SVCs; 6 Senior SVCs (SSVC); and 25 Special Victim Paralegals (SVP).
<b>USN</b>	At a minimum, 32 judge advocate billets, 10 yeomen and one civilian Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) will be authorized for the VLCP in FY17. Navy JAG Corps leadership continually assesses demand for VLC services to ensure the Navy has an adequate number of VLC in the right places to be responsive to victims' needs.
<b>USMC</b>	The number of FY17 billets that will be authorized is not known at this time. See 129.d., below.
<b>USCG</b>	The current billet structure will remain the same in 2017 with the additional reservist who is funded through 30 September 2017 and collateral duty SVCs. As previously

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	noted, the SVC Program is evaluating options to provide additional capacity. There is no specific cap on the number of collateral-duty SVCs who may be trained. The Coast Guard will fund as many collateral duty SVCs as necessary to meet the needs of the service. However, the current structure and additional billets contemplates shifting towards having most cases handled by full-time SVCs.
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**d. What is the long-term plan for sustaining personnel and funding requirements for the SVC program?**

<b>USA</b>	No update to JPP RFI 22.
<b>USAF</b>	The Air Force continuously assesses the capacity of the SVP Program to provide competent legal services to victims of sexual assault, while also closely monitoring emerging requirements and program expansions that necessitate the allocation of additional resources. Just over \$4 million in sustainment support was programmed for Fiscal Year 2017. AFLOA/CLSV and AF/JAX conduct an annual review of program requirements to determine whether additional funding and resources should be requested. For example, the Air Force recently presented a Fiscal Year 2018 submission to increase the number of SVPs by 21 to 46 total, which would provide a 1:1 SVC:SVP ratio in the field and improve client support.
<b>USN</b>	All military VLC billets are currently funded through the Future Years Defense Program (FYDP). The civilian DCOS position was initially funded in FY16 through the FYDP. POM 16 further provided Naval Legal Service Command with \$300,000 each year through the FYDP to support VLC travel, training, supplies, and technology in addition to the referenced civilian billet.
<b>USMC</b>	<p>The Marine Corps included in its 44XX structure review to the Deputy Commandant (M&amp;RA) a request to grade shape the O-4 Deputy OIC, VLCO position to an O-5. The request also included supplementing the current VLC end strength by adding an additional 9 structured O-3 billets.</p> <p>In 2015 Judge Advocate Division submitted an “Additive Capability” to Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps for inclusion in POM 17 for funding through FY20 in the following amounts:</p> <p>FY17: \$314,000  FY18: \$323,720  FY19: \$333,431  FY20: \$343,433</p> <p>These requested amounts have been added to the Baseline Budget for 2017.</p>
<b>USCG</b>	The full time SVC positions are permanent positions designated for that role and the Coast Guard does not anticipate difficulties sustaining those positions. As previously noted, given the rising demand for SVCs, the Program is evaluating options to provide additional capacity.

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**e. How is SVC program funding allocated in POM planning or other resource management planning?**

<b>USA</b>	Fiscal Year 16 funds were allocated to OTJAG through a reprogramming action by the SAPRO Office. In FY 17 and outer years the POM Process will be used to plan and allocate SVC Program resource requirements.
<b>USAF</b>	Funding to support the SVC Program is segregated into its own program element in order to facilitate tracking of expenses associated with the SVC Program. Programming and tracking execution of the funds is the responsibility of the resource advisor to TJAG, AF/JAZ.
<b>USN</b>	See answer to question 129(d).
<b>USMC</b>	See response to 129d, above.
<b>USCG</b>	The full time SVC positions are permanent positions based on data that justify the request. Funding for the SVC Program beyond personnel costs, both for full time and collateral duty SVCs, is centrally managed through the budget for the Office of the Judge Advocate General. Funding is built into the annual budget request for the Judge Advocate General and if demand for SVC services exceeds the budgeted amount there is an existing arrangement for the Judge Advocate General to obtain additional funds for military justice related expenses from the Assistant Commandant for Resources.

**f. Are there plans to expand or narrow the scope of the SVC program from FY16 to FY17? If so, please explain.**

<b>USA</b>	It is anticipated the Secretary of the Army will expand the scope of persons eligible for SVC services to include DoD civilian employees where the perpetrator is a Service member, in accordance with FY15NDAA.
<b>USAF</b>	There are no plans to formally expand or narrow the scope of the Air Force SVC Program and SVC representation. The Air Force continues to satisfy the requirements of 10 U.S.C. Sec. 1044e regarding SVC services. In practice, the services required by a client of an SVC can vary significantly. Some clients request SVC representation for fairly limited purposes. Other clients articulate more complex or wide-ranging needs, and the SVC attempts to meet those needs within the ethical bounds and those limitations found in 10 U.S.C. Sec. 1044e. For example, SVCs have represented clients at involuntary discharge boards and coordinated with the Office of Airmen's Counsel to assist clients facing physical disability boards. SVCs have supported clients in interviews with IG investigating officers and provided representation to clients pursuing retaliation complaints, Congressional inquiries, and relief from other agencies. SVCs are representing their clients before appellate courts, including as cases are reviewed post-trial on appeal, or through case completion as defined by Rule for Courts-Martial 1209. Although not a formal expansion of the Program, the Program's appellate practice continues to grow and is expected to increase in FY16 and FY17.
<b>USN</b>	Navy is expanding the scope of the VLCP in FY16 to include appellate representation of victims of sexual offenses. As the program has been in existence for 25 months, some sexual offense cases are being remanded for deficiencies on the merits or on sentencing. The most frequent interface with the appellate process will be filing petitions for extraordinary relief in the nature of a Writ of Mandamus. However, VLC may also provide representation of clients at the appellate level where victims' rights are implicated.

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<b>USMC</b>	There are currently no plans to narrow or expand the scope of the VLC program.
<b>USCG</b>	At present the focus of the SVC Program is on promotion, implementation and execution and there are no plans to change the scope of the Program.