

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

143. (Update to JPP RFI 36) Services: How do the members of the SAPR program, VWAP, FAP, legal assistance attorneys, and SVCs coordinate the services provided to victims?

USA	<p>The Army coordinates services provided to the victims through two methods. The first is the use of the monthly Sexual Assault Review Board (SARB) or Case Management Group (CMG), which provides a forum for the Senior Commander and key SH/SA representatives (minus the FAP) to discuss all open cases pertaining to Sexual Assault (SA), Sexual Harassment (SH) and Retaliation cases associated to SA/SH. The CMG is where the Senior Commander receives an update and way forward for each case. Another method is the Army’s pilot program of the SHARP Resource Centers (SHARP-RC) (this does not include FAP cases). The SHARP-RC is discussed in detail in question #144.</p>
USAF	<p>Each program that supports victims assesses the needs and requests of the victims they support and coordinates with the other programs to provide multi-disciplinary support to sexual assault victims. Additionally, the SARC, VWAP, FAP, legal assistance attorneys, and SVCs coordinate services provided to victims at monthly case management group (CMG) meetings. The CMG addresses emotional, physical, and spiritual care of a victim in a collaborative environment with the collective goal of supporting the victim’s well-being. The CMG convenes monthly to review each case, direct system coordination, and assess victim access to services and tracks the case until final disposition. The installation commander or vice commander co-chairs the CMG with the installation SARC. In attendance are representatives from Mental Health, the chaplain, and the legal office along with all full-time VAs and the victim’s commander. See RFI 104.</p> <p><u>SVC</u> SVCs must protect client confidences and communicate with SAPR, VWAP, or FAP based on their client’s needs and consent. With consent, SVCs coordinate services on a case-by-case basis consistent with their client’s goals.</p> <p>A substantial part of SVC coordination with SARCs comes in the form of training that SVCs provide to SARCs and VAs. Briefings and educational seminars are also provided to FAP and VWAP personnel. At the local level, SVCs provide training to SARC personnel on the roles and responsibilities of the SVC as well as applicable privileges that protect the VA-victim relationship. While training is almost exclusively provided in-person, most regular coordination with SAPR, FAP, and VWAP personnel is via e-mail or phone.</p> <p>As most referrals for SVC services come from SARCs, SVCs (with the permission of their client) also notify the SARC once they have been assigned to represent a client and provide periodic coordination with the SARC on an individual victim’s issues, when appropriate. At many bases, the SARC will personally walk a victim to meet with the SVC at the time of referral. As the SVC is bound by the attorney-client privilege and the SARC/VA is bound by the victim-advocate/victim privilege, communications that would disclose confidential information must be approved for release by the client. SVC coordination not only educates the SARC and VA about the SVC role in representing the victim but also addresses any SARC-specific issues the client may be facing, such as safety concerns or applying for an expedited transfer. Because many SVC clients are geographically separated from the SVC, the SARC/VA are invaluable local assets in</p>

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providing support to the victim. Some SARC/SVC offices have created joint SVC/SARC advertisements that simultaneously promote both services to potential clients in the region, while others ensure they are present at monthly Case Management Group meetings to coordinate with both SAPR personnel and commanders on client issues.

SVC communication with the FAP and VWAP are generally more tailored to the circumstances in which a victim requires information, services, or referrals. For FAP, this would be a client who has been referred for counseling and some aspect of that counseling has a nexus to the sexual assault case. It may also involve discussions regarding protective orders if there are safety concerns and visitation orders if there are children in the home. With VWAP, the VWAP coordinator, victim liaison, or trial counsel reach out to the SVC to provide information to the victim through the SVC consistent with their respective duties and obligations.

Installation Legal Office

Each installation legal office has a Preventive Law Program that publicizes legal assistance services that are available, including legal assistance and referrals to the SVC Program. For SVC clients who are also eligible to receive traditional legal assistance at the legal office, the client may choose to consult with a legal assistance attorney on a discrete matter that is not a matter covered by SVC representation.

VWAP assistance is available in all cases involving a victim or witness of a crime under the UCMJ. The VWAP Coordinator manages the program while the designated victim liaison provides support to the victims and witnesses in a case. The Victim Witness Assistance Council is run under the auspices of VWAP, and a VWAP representative participated in the installation Community Action Information Board, Integrated Delivery Systems, and Family Advocacy Committee.

SARC

The monthly Case Management Group (CMG) is the primary mechanism through which the SARC coordinates services and support for a victim with other helping agencies.

FAP

When FAP conducts intake with an alleged victim of domestic violence or abuse, the FAP provider has a responsibility to inform the victim about the SVC Program and SVC eligibility. The FAP provider can make a referral to the SVC. The FAP and SARC will coordinate on any adult sexual assault case to determine which program should take the lead for victim support and services. The SARC will transfer to the FAP any case that does not fall under the SARC's purview, such as a child sexual assault case. Finally, FAP may be the first agency to have contact with an alleged victim of sexual assault, in which case the FAP provider may be responsible for informing the victim about VWAP and providing the victim the DD Form 2701, *Initial Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime*.

ENCLOSURES:

1. SVC Poster

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	2. SVC Handout
USN	<p>Case coordination is an ongoing activity, led by the SARC who oversees all case management. Relationships between SARCs, VAs, Family Advocacy Program (FAP) personnel, Legal Assistance (LA) attorneys and VLC are proactively developed so each is aware of the nature of services available by each service provider and the individual able to provide them. Monthly Sexual Assault Case Management Group (SACMG) meetings attended by SARCs, VAs, FAP and VLC ensure victims have access to quality services and address the challenges and barriers present in a particular case. The core members of the SACMG include the Installation CO, the SARC, all SARCs assigned to the installation, a legal representative, Chaplain, and a Mental Health representative. The non-core members include those individuals working with a specific victim and include the SAPR Victim Advocate, the victim’s mental health provider, medical provider, Chaplain, Victims’ Legal Counselor, and the victim’s CO.</p> <p>Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) and FAP providers are familiar with the role LA attorneys and VLC provide and they refer clients to those services. Likewise, LA attorneys and VLC are familiar with VWAP and FAP provider services and refer clients as necessary. SARCs are responsible for overseeing the management of sexual assault cases, VAs provide day-to-day support to sexual offense victims, FAP personnel interact with VLC on domestic violence cases with a sexual offense component, and VLC educate, assist and advocate on behalf of victims at various judicial and administrative proceedings. The goal is for TC and VLC to communicate early and often in a sexual assault case to ensure VWAP forms are being provided and that victims are kept up to date on information specific to their case. VLC train with SARCs, VAs, and FAP representatives to ensure each service provider understands their area of responsibility, and remains current on each other’s services and programs.</p> <p>In August of 2015, the Navy Office of the Judge Advocate General hosted the inaugural Legal Assistance for Victims of Sexual Offenses and Other Crimes Conference in Orlando, Florida. Over 200 legal assistance attorneys, Disability Evaluation System Counsel, Victims' Legal Counsel/Special Victims Counsel, VWAP representatives, defense counsel, and prosecutors came together to discuss overlapping roles and established professional networks for each discipline. The course was designed to improve DoD's ability to provide comprehensive, legal assistance to victims through an integrated, interdisciplinary approach while addressing any legal support seams among distinct legal practice areas. A panel of subject matter experts from legal assistance, the Disability Evaluation System, Victims' Legal Counsel, and Military Justice demonstrated this integrated and interdisciplinary approach through a variety of hypothetical scenarios. Attendees were subsequently broken up into regional groups and provided the opportunity to work together to apply this approach in additional hypothetical scenarios. See enclosure (22) from Question 133 for the curriculum of this course. Following the Conference, the Office of the Judge Advocate General established a cross-community collaboration for victims SharePoint site, where legal practitioners from all communities of practice are able to share best practices, find contact information for other types of attorneys, and share resources. The Navy Office of the Judge Advocate General is currently procuring funding from the Department of Defense to host a similar conference this year.</p>

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USMC	<p>All of these stakeholders have working relationships and coordinate services on a daily or as-needed basis to meet each victim’s needs. However, they also coordinate their efforts through a variety of other formalized means. First, these stakeholders meet formally to coordinate services for sexual assault victims during the Case Management Group. The CMG brings the key players in the community together to develop strategies and procedures in the system’s response to sexual assault. In this team approach, the SARC and the SAPR VA are at the center of the CMG implementing care and services for the victim. Second, the Family Advocacy Committee (FAC) at the installation is a multi-disciplinary team that ensures an appropriate Coordinated Community Response (CCR) for victims of assault and abuse involving intimate partners. This facilitates the identification of immediate needs, development of a plan of action, and evaluation of the implementation of the plan. The FAC identifies and monitors trends and risks, utilizing this information to facilitate quality improvements that are then reflected in installations' standard operation procedures. Third, the quarterly installation Victim Witness Assistance Councils bring these multi-disciplinary team members together for the specific purpose of improving coordination of services provided to victims and witnesses of crime at all stages.</p>
USCG	<p>SVCs coordinate directly with the SARC and Family Advocacy personnel assigned to assist the victim in each case and, coordinate any communication between the client and a legal assistance attorney through a telephone introduction.</p>