



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
VICE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-2000

IN REPLY REFER TO:
5800
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15 Aug 13

From: Vice Chief of Naval Operations
To: Chief of Naval Personnel
Commander, Navy Installations Command
Judge Advocate General of the Navy
Commander, Navy Reserve Force

Subj: ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVY VICTIMS' COUNSEL PROGRAM

1. Effective immediately, the Navy will establish a Victims' Counsel Program to provide dedicated legal support to military and dependent victims of sexual assault.
2. Victims' Counsel shall report to the Judge Advocate General. Accordingly, the Judge Advocate General shall establish an appropriate command and control structure for Navy Victims' Counsel, assign qualified and trained Judge Advocates to serve as Navy Victims' Counsel, and develop the scope of services to be provided. Victims' Counsel will coordinate, as appropriate, with installation Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs), command Sexual Assault Prevention Response Victim Advocates, Staff Judge Advocates, Trial Counsel, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Defense Counsel, and others, in providing legal support to eligible victims of sexual assault.
3. The Navy Victims' Counsel Program will require approximately 30 Judge Advocates, assigned to Navy installations worldwide. Current JAG Corps manning is insufficient to resource Navy Victims' Counsel at the level required. Chief of Naval Personnel is directed to provide an additional 30 billets to the JAG Corps authorized end strength. This growth is in addition to growth already programmed through FY17.
4. Commander, Navy Installations Command is directed to provide logistical support for Navy Victims' Counsel personnel and to coordinate with the Judge Advocate General to implement the stand-up and maintenance of the Navy Victims' Counsel program at installations worldwide.
5. Commander, Navy Reserve Force is directed to support implementation, as necessary, including making Reserve Judge Advocates

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available until sufficient active judge advocate resources are available to staff and sustain the program.


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