

**JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION SET # 1**

Coordination of Service SVC Programs

35. DoD and Services: Are the Services coordinating on SVC program training, best practices, and/or procedures? If so:

a. How often are coordination meetings held?

DoD	See 35(e) below
USA	The SVC Program manager communicates every six weeks with the other Services.
USAF	The SVC Program Chiefs/Managers of all the military services regularly communicate with one another via email and telephone to discuss SVC issues, exchange lessons learned, and share best practices. The Air Force shared its Rules of Practice and Procedure, as well as standard templates, with all of the other Services as they stood up their respective programs. The Services' SVC Chiefs/Program Managers collaborate on potential victim appeals and extend opportunities for each program to file amicus briefs in support of a particular issue. On a more formal basis, the SVC Chiefs/Program Managers meet monthly to address SVC program issues of common applicability. Individual SVCs at the installation level routinely collaborate with SVCs from the other Services who also serve within their geographic region. The Air Force hosted a Joint Service SVC training course in October 2013 to train over 60 personnel from the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air National Guard, and US Coast Guard. Air Force SVCs have also provided training at the Army's SVC course and shared lessons learned. Additionally, best practices are continuously shared within the AF SVC community via webcast training and the use of a collaborative cohort website.
USN	Intra-service VLC/SVC meetings are held at least every two months and more frequently if warranted.
USMC	The OIC, VLCO works closely with the leadership of other Service SVC programs to discuss emerging issues, best practices, and policy considerations. Coordination by email and telephone calls is continuous. Formal meetings among the leadership of Service SVC programs occur quarterly. VLCO is also aware that the Response Systems Panel recommended that Service Secretaries establish and disseminate collaborative materials and an inter-Service website for accessing materials and training, and VLCO is in support of this recommendation (Recommendation 50).
USCG	Meetings are held regularly.

b. Who participates in coordination efforts?

DoD	See 35(e) below
USA	The Army SVC Program Manager along with representatives from the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard participate in coordination efforts.
USAF	The SVC/VLC Program Managers and their principle deputies participate in the meetings.
USN	The Service VLC/SVC Program Chiefs and their Deputies typically participate in these meetings. They also assist each other on referral of military victims to the appropriate VLC/SVC program provider for legal support.

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USMC	The lead for each Service participates in these coordination efforts, specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officer in Charge, VLCO, U.S. Marine Corps - Chief of Staff, Navy Victims' Legal Counsel Program - Program Manager, Special Victims Counsel Program, U.S. Army - Chief, Special Victims' Counsel Division, U.S. Air Force - Director, Office of Special Victims Counsel Coast Guard Headquarters
USCG	Staff members from the various program manager offices attended the meetings and coordinate through available means of communication.

c. How are coordinated decisions reached?

DoD	See 35(e) below
USA	Each Service takes a turn hosting the meetings. Previous locations include the Pentagon, Marine Corps Base Quantico and Andrews Air Force Base. The upcoming meeting will be held at the Marine Corps Barracks, Washington, D.C. Coordinated decisions are reached through group consensus.
USAF	The Services share best practices, Rules for Practice, and standard templates with each other to ensure as much uniformity in practice as possible within each Service's individual structure and program management.
USN	Via group discussion and consensus. No Service VLC/SVC Program is formally bound by the policies of another, but all utilize the experience, innovations, and practices of the others, as appropriate, to improve their own operations.
USMC	Each Service makes independent decisions regarding its SVC program.
USCG	Generally, while each service provides input, services are free to reach their own decisions with respect to what training to provide and what procedures to implement.

d. Are there standards for training and procedures across the Services? If so, where are these requirements found?

DoD	See 35(e)
USA	Both the Army and Air Force are trying to model each other's training. The Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard attend Army and Air Force training.
USAF	DoD has directed the Services to share best practices. This includes sharing curriculums from SVC training courses hosted by the various services. In addition to conducting our own training course, the Air Force hosted a joint- service training course October 15-18, 2013 to train over 60 victims counsel from the Navy, Marine Corps, and Air National Guard to assist them with meeting the requirement to reach Initial Operating Capability by Nov 1, 2013. The Air Force expects to continue to offer and provide joint-service SVC training on an annual basis.
USN	Other than authorization and certification to act as a military judge advocate, the Navy VLCP is not aware of any universal standards or procedures required of all Service VLC/SVC. However, as noted, the Services cooperate, coordinate, and learn from each other. Additionally, Army, Air Force, and Navy VLC/SVC training courses have closely modeled each other, to include use of the same subject-matter experts and lecturers.

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USMC	No.
USCG	Currently, there are no standards for training or procedures.

e. Does DoD oversee operation of or standards for Service SVC programs?

DoD	DoD does not oversee operation of or standards for Service SVC programs. However, the DoD Victim Assistance Leadership Council could provide a forum for the Services' senior leaders to share best practices concerning their respective SVC/Victims' Legal Counsel programs. <i>See generally</i> DoDI 6400.07, "Standards for Victim Assistance Services in the Military Community," at Enclosure 4 (November 25, 2013).
USA	No.
USAF	<i>See answer d, above.</i>
USN	The Navy is unaware of any DoD standards relating to SVC programs.
USMC	No. In his memorandum of 14 August 2013, the Secretary of Defense directed that Secretaries of the Military Departments "shall establish a special victim's advocacy program best suited for that Service that provides legal advice and representation to the victim throughout the justice process. Each Service will identify and periodically share best practices." 10 U.S.C. § 1044e provides a statutory baseline for Service SVC programs and Directive-type Memorandum (DTM) 14-003, "DoD Implementation of Special Victim Capability (SVC) Prosecution and Legal Support" lists the advice and assistance that VLC will provide. http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/DTM-14-003.pdf
USCG	There is no DHS oversight over the SVC program, nor does any other agency provide oversight.