

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

36. Services: How do the members of the SAPR program, VWAP, FAP, coordinate with legal assistance attorneys, and SVCs coordinate the services provided to victims?

USA	<p>Army Victim Witness Liaisons (VWL) work directly for the trial counsel and assist victims and witnesses as needed with travel, information about the process, referrals to helping agencies, and other assistance. When a victim has an assigned SVC, the VWL will coordinate directly with the SVC to ensure that all of the needs of the victim are being met and to determine if any additional assistance is required. As required by the circumstances, VWLs may refer and assist victims with referrals to helping agencies including FAP, medical, financial or off installation services.</p>
USAF	<p>Each program 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.</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 victim advocates. Briefings and educational seminars are also provided to the FAP and VWAP programs. At the local level, SVCs provide regular trainings to SAPR personnel on the responsibilities of the SVC program as well as applicable privileges that protect the victim advocate-victim relationship. At the Air Force level, the SVC program briefed at the 2014 SAPR Refresher Training in Pittsburgh, PA to an audience of SAPR personnel from almost every AF installation in the world on contemporary issues, program challenges, and pending legal developments that will impact victims. Some SVCs have also coordinated with the SAPR/FAP/VA/VWAP personnel on a broader scale, such as the Hurlburt Field, FL SVC office’s membership in a local partnership council that addresses broader community goals of combating sexual assault and domestic violence.</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 actually walk a victim over to meet with the SVC at the time of referral, if possible. As the SVC is bound by the attorney-client privilege and the SARC/VA are bound by the victim-advocate/victim privilege, communications which would disclose confidential information must be approved for release by the client. SVC coordination is not only to educate the SARC and VA about the SVC role in representing the victim, but also to address any SAPR-specific issues the client may be facing, such as safety concerns or applying for an expedited transfer. While training is almost exclusively provided in person, most regular coordination with SAPR, FAP, and VWAP personnel is over e-mail or over the phone. (Atchs 36.1 – 36.5). Because many SVC clients are geographically</p>

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separated from the SVC, the SARC/VA are invaluable local assets in 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.

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 their 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 the VWAP, it's generally the VWAP coordinator, victim-witness liaison, or trial counsel at the base level who reaches out to the SVC to provide information consistent with their respective duties.

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. The VWAP program applies to all cases involving a victim or witness of a crime under the UCMJ and the victim liaison coordinates with other programs when applicable. Legal offices also chair the Victim Witness Assistance Council, participate in installation Community Action Information Boards and Integrated Delivery Systems meetings, and are members of the installation Family Advocacy Committee. Collectively, these programs foster a network of helping agencies where SAPR, FAP, and VWAP can discuss legal assistance services and possible referrals of victims.

SARC

The monthly Case Management Group is the primary mechanism through the SAPR program for all agencies to gather and share information about a case. Discussions about issues pertaining to a specific victim are conducted on an informal basis through one-on-one discussions between the SARC and the relevant victim service.

FAP Intake

When a victim of child or spouse/partner sexual abuse is assessed by a FAP provider, the FAP provider contacts the servicing SVC office to inquire about whether the victim may be eligible for an SVC and make a referral to the SVC. FAP providers also provide victims with DD Form 2701, *Initial Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime*.

Reference:

- DD Form 2701, *Initial Information for Victims and Witnesses of Crime*
<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/efoms/dd2701.pdf>

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	<p>ATTACHMENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Atch 36.1 – SVC Briefing Slides – Ramstein AB - Atch 36.2 – Joint SARC/SVC Handout – RAF Lakenheath - Atch 36.3 – SVC Briefing Slides – RAF Lakenheath - Atch 36.4 – SVC Flyer – RAF Lakenheath - Atch 36.5 – SVC Handout – RAF Lakenheath
USN	<p>The Navy team approach allows victims to seek support from a number of different entities within the overall SAPR response. VWAP, FAP and legal assistance attorneys coordinate efforts to best serve the needs of each victim. Relations between each of the entities are proactively developed so each is aware of both the nature of the services available and the individuals able to provide them. Generally, VLCs are co-located with the SARCs at the Fleet and Family Support Centers to allow for ongoing communication and case coordination. The monthly Sexual Assault Case Management Group ensures the victim has access to quality services and addresses and challenges and barriers that may be in place. VWAP and FAP providers are familiar with the role legal assistance attorneys and VLC can provide and where necessary refer clients to those services; likewise legal assistance attorneys and VLC are familiar with VWAP and FAP provider services and refer clients to those services as necessary. VLC services are provided in addition to and not instead of other victim support services offered by the Navy. SARCs oversee the management of a sexual assault case and VAs are the day-to-day support providers ensuring victims know what services are available and can help shepherd a victim to the relevant service provider. There may be overlap by trial counsel and VLC in providing necessary VWAP forms to the victim. VLC and trial counsel communicate early and often in a sexual assault case to ensure each counsel understands what has been provided to the victim in terms of legal forms and information. VLC communicate and train with SARCs, VAs, and Family Advocacy Program representatives to ensure service providers understand their respective authorities, areas of responsibility, and remain current on each other’s services and programs.</p>
USMC	<p>VLC work closely with other victim support programs to ensure victims receive all available assistance. VLC meet regularly with Victim Advocates and Sexual Assault Response Coordinators assigned to their clients. VLCO services supplement, not replace, the services offered by the SAPR program, VWAP, and FAP. Although VLC replace legal assistance attorneys with regards to providing legal advice related to crime victims’ rights, legal assistance attorneys continue to provide traditional forms of legal services. Traditional forms of legal assistance are those matters without a direct nexus to the crime of which he or she is a victim and include areas such as family law, immigration law, leases, taxes, consumer affairs, estate planning, and powers of attorney. VLC may refer the victim, when appropriate, to the local Legal Assistance Office.</p>
USCG	<p>SVCs coordinate directly with the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator and Family Advocacy personnel assigned to assist the victim in each case.</p>