

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

38. Services: How do SVC programs operate in joint and deployed environments? Are there uniform policies and procedures for SVCs in joint environments?

USA	Special Victim Counsel provide the same services to Soldiers in joint and deployed environments as those on Army Installations. The Army currently has two SVCs in Kuwait and one SVC in Afghanistan. Joint Bases such as Joint Base Henderson Hall-Myer have SVC either assigned to the installation Legal Assistance Office or SVC services are provided in coordination with another Service or installation. There are no uniform policies and procedures for SVC in joint environments.
USAF	<p>Air Force SVCs operating in joint environments have not experienced significant differences in practice when interacting with the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations, trial counsel, defense counsel or military judges and report that practice is generally consistent with their practice within the AF. The SVCs and VLCs in the National Capital Region (NCR) have conducted meetings to encourage joint collaboration. Similarly, the SVCs and VLCs in Europe have conducted a joint conference call to introduce one another and discuss differences in each program. Both the Europe and NCR SVCs/VLCs utilize email distribution lists for frequent communication. There are no uniform policies and procedures for SVCs in joint environments. AF SVCs operating in sister service courts-martial report that no written policies and procedures were provided by the court or trial counsel.</p> <p>Typically, the AF returns complex cases to the subject’s home station pre-preferral. As a result, only one AF SVC has operated in the deployed environment. His experience was with the Navy and in the context of an Article 32 investigation. The SVC reports that there were no significant differences with the investigative and Article 32 processes.</p>
USN	Service VLC and SVC communicate routinely in joint environments and refer victims to the appropriate VLC or SVC provider. Navy continues to strengthen support to Sailors who are deployed in unfamiliar surroundings, initiating a program to assign trained and certified professionals as Deployed Resiliency Counselors (DRC) to our largest ships, aircraft carriers (CVNs) and amphibious assault ships (LHAs/LHDs). DRC are credentialed clinical counselors that can assist or provide support to Sailors who are coping with or suffering from common life events, common life stressors, and discrete traumatic events, to include sexual assault. This initiative extends the reach of Navy's resiliency programs to 30 deployed commands and allows a “warm hand-off” to shore services provided by the SARC, VA, and FAP case worker when the Sailor returns to homeport. Navy VLC work closely with DRC to assist victims remotely via telephone, email, or video-teleconferencing, until or unless the victim is transferred to a naval installation with a VLC.
USMC	There are no VLCO offices physically located in joint or deployed environments. However, VLCO services are available from the VLCO office supporting their unit. Every Marine, no matter where stationed or deployed, falls within one of the four VLCO service regions.
USCG	Coast Guard SVCs have not operated in a joint or deployed environment to date.

39. (NOT USED)