
Vision

Survivors who find healing,
gain understanding,
and make a full return to life.

Mission

To provide survivors with compassionate representation through expert legal advice and effective advocacy within the military justice process so survivors can confidently exercise their voice and choice.

Important Contacts

SARC Office
(406) 731-4225

SARC 24/7 Hotline
(406) 781-6005

Mental Health Clinic
(406) 731-4451

Chaplain
(406) 731-3721

*Contact command post after hours

Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate 24/7
Hotline
(800) 799-7233

Command Post
(406) 731-3801

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
(800) 273-TALK (8255)

The Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) team works for you. You have your own team of Attorneys and Paralegals dedicated solely to your concerns. SVCs will diligently work to protect your rights to privacy, dignity, and confidentiality. Your SVC will work directly with Sexual Assault Response Coordinators (SARCs) and other supporting agencies to provide advice, assistance, and advocacy throughout the military justice process.



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SPECIAL
VICTIMS'
COUNSEL



Malmstrom SVC Office

(406) 731-1367

You Have RIGHTS

As a person who has suffered harm by a military member, you have several important rights:

Protection from your assailant. This includes measures such as *no contact orders/protection orders, reassigning the assailant*, and even *pretrial confinement*. You should also consider whether an expedited transfer would be appropriate.

Restitution IAW state/federal law. You may be eligible to receive reimbursement of expenses *incurred as a result of the assault*.

Timely notice of all proceedings. You will be *notified of the time and place of important hearings/events* in the case so you can participate, if you desire.

Ability to participate in proceedings. If you *want to be present* or have your rights represented, *you can*. You can only be excluded by a military judge.

Be heard and have a voice in the process.

Not only will commanders consider your input on how a case should be handled, but you can speak at *confinement, sentencing, and parole hearings*.

In-court representation for your rights.

Whenever you have a right to be heard, you have the right to *have your attorney speak for you*.

Speak with the Government. You can consult with the Government about your rights or you can speak with your SVC. You can even express a desire for the case to be tried in the civilian system. The Air Force will not inhibit your input on the process.

Treated with fairness and respect for your dignity and privacy. You have a right to report a sexual assault without fear of *reprisal, ostracism, or discrimination*. You have a right to decide whether to cooperate in the investigation/prosecution of the case. You should be treated with dignity and *not harassed or bullied*. You also have *privacy rights* under military law. Your SVC can help you protect your privacy while you participate in the case and will advise you about what actions may affect your privacy interests.

You Have OPTIONS

Every survivor is unique. You have several options during the recovery process. Your SVC can assist you in determining what options you have and what decisions would be in the best interests for your recovery. Talk with an SVC about these options and any other concerns you have.

Restricted vs. Unrestricted Reporting: Restricted reporting allows you to keep the assault confidential while still receiving limited services, including SVC, SARC, chaplain, and counseling. Unrestricted reporting notifies law enforcement of the crime and may hold your assailant responsible for his/her actions.

Participation Options: Survivor involvement is necessary to successfully prosecute an offender. The Air Force knows not every survivor is willing to undergo the stress of supporting the prosecution of a case. Therefore, you can choose not to participate at all, express a *preference for civilian or military jurisdiction*, provide input on *alternate disposition*, or choose to *participate fully*.

Non-Rated Period: Everyone is impacted differently by an assault. If you feel your performance has been negatively impacted by the effects of the assault (trouble sleeping, cannot remember tasks, cannot be around others, etc.), you can request that your command not evaluate you for specific periods of time.

Expedited Transfer (ET): Your current base or assignment may not be helping you recover from the assault. An ET is a request to PCS to a new base that will put you closer to family or a support network. You can also request that *the assailant be transferred*. Alternatively, you can request that you or your assailant be reassigned on base.

Early Separation: In limited circumstances, you may be able to request to separate from the Air Force before your ETS because of the effects of the assault. This may not be available for many victims, but it is important to discuss this with an SVC to see whether you could qualify.

You Have HELP

SVCs provide you with many different services based on what you want. You do not have to navigate life after an assault on your own. SVCs can provide help in the following ways:

Confidential Advice

- Discuss your rights and options
- Ensure you understand the investigative and court-martial processes
- Answer your questions about what to expect in each stage of the case

Representation

- Communicate with investigators, commanders, and legal office personnel about the status of the case
- Provide you regular case updates
- Attend interviews with law enforcement
- Appear at hearings and courts-martial
- Provide legal assistance on civil matters related to the assault

Advocacy

- Communicate your decisions to decision makers and commanders
- Argue for your privacy rights throughout the process and before military judges
- Assist you in presenting impact evidence at trial and sentencing hearings

In addition to SVC services, you can receive help from other agencies and offices, to include:

- Counseling services from Mental Health
- Support from a victim advocate or SARC
- Privileged discussions with chaplains
- Other resources provided in the local area.