

## Role of a VC?

A VC is a lawyer who provides crime victims (usually victims of sexual offenses) with free legal advice and advocacy in order to empower victims throughout military justice and administrative processes.

- *Legal Advice:* VCs ensure crime victims understand their legal options and the pros and cons of those options so that victims can make informed choices.
- *Advocacy:* VCs use their legal skill set to give voice to their clients' choices and to persuade others to respect rights afforded to victims by the Constitution, federal laws, regulations, and instructions.
- *Empower:* Where possible, VCs work to remove barriers to a victim's full participation in the military justice system

## Independent

The VC is independent of the base's Chain of Command. The VC does not work for the Wing Commander, the base legal office, the SAPR program, or law enforcement.

**This means that the VC will always work for the client**

## Confidential

When a VC forms an attorney-client relationship with a crime victim, conversations between the VC and the victim are confidential. Conversations are protected by an attorney-client privilege.

**The VC will always protect the client's confidences**

## Useful Numbers & Resources

<b>SAPR Office</b>	406-731-4225
<b>SARC 24-hr Report Line</b>	406-781-6005
<b>DoD Sexual Assault</b>	<a href="http://www.sapr.mil">www.sapr.mil</a>
<b>Military One Source</b>	1-800-342-9647 <a href="http://www.militaryonesource.mil">www.militaryonesource.mil</a>
<b>The Rape Crisis Center</b> 24-hr Hotline	<a href="http://www.thercc.org">www.thercc.org</a> 608-251-7273
<b>DoD Safe Helpline</b> (Live chat available)	<a href="http://www.safehelpline.org">www.safehelpline.org</a> 1-877-995-5247
<b>Benefits Emergency Department</b> <b>(Sexual Assault Forensics Exam)</b>	406-455-5000
<b>Medical Assistance</b> Malmstrom Hospital Appointments	406-731-4633
<b>Mental Health Assistance</b> Mental Health Family Advocacy	406-731-4451 406-731-2161
<b>Domestic Abuse Victim Advocate</b> 24/7 hotline	406-201-5207
<b>Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC)</b> <b>Serving Malmstrom</b>	406-750-3605
<b>Airmen &amp; Family Readiness Center</b> Malmstrom AFRC	406-731-4900
<b>Malmstrom Base Chapel</b>	406-731-3721
<b>Legal Office</b>	406-731-2878
<b>Law Enforcement</b> Security Forces (LE Desk) Command Post	406-731-3895 406-731-3801
<b>Equal Opportunity</b>	406-731-4525

## Victims' Counsel



**MALMSTROM  
AIR FORCE BASE**

## VC Office

**Malmstrom Office:**

**Comm: 406-731-1368 or DSN: 632-1368  
&**

**Comm: 406-731-1367 or DSN: 632-1367**

**Address:**

**30 73rd St N, Bldg 772**

**(Co-located with BECO)**

***\*Located behind Base Legal Office***

## Requesting VC Services

### How to Apply for Services

If a crime victim would like to apply for VC services, the victim can request that any of the agencies below submit a referral on his/her behalf, or the victim can contact an VC office directly. If the victim meets VC program eligibility criteria (or is granted services pursuant to an exceptional circumstances request), then a lawyer/paralegal team will contact the victim to establish an attorney-client confidential relationship.

### **Referral Agencies**

- Family Advocacy
- Chaplain
- MTF Providers
- OSI/SFOI
- Legal Office
- Commander/First Sergeant
- IG/EO



### Eligibility

There are many factors considered when determining whether a crime victim is eligible for services. Any crime victim—whether a military member or civilian, whether an adult or a child—who is interested in receiving VC services should complete a referral form so that an eligibility determination can be made.

## Victim Rights

A victim of an offense under the UCMJ has several rights, including:

- The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for his/her dignity and privacy
- The right to be reasonably protected from the person accused of committing the offense
- The right to be notified of court proceedings related to the offense and not excluded from public court proceedings related to the offense except under exceptional circumstances
- The right to be reasonably heard at certain proceedings
- The right to confer with the attorney for the government in the case
  - The right to available restitution
- The right to proceedings free from unreasonable delay

## Malmstrom VC Team

### Victims' Counsel



Capt Michael Brown

### Victims' Paralegal



SSgt Joshua Saeger

### How can the VC Assist?

A VC can help clients understand reporting options, navigate investigative/administrative /military court processes, attend interviews with clients, assert the victim's rights, act to protect victim privacy and address safety concerns, provide legal assistance, assist victims facing collateral misconduct allegations, help victims with IG, EO, Article 138 and Congressional Complaints.