

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

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

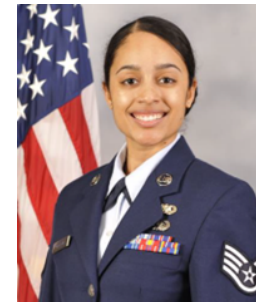
Malmstrom VC Team

Victims' Counsel



Capt Michael Brown

Victims' Paralegal



SSgt Christina Garcia

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.