



# TJAG Sends

## A Message from The Judge Advocate General



### SPECIAL VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM

Today, I am pleased to announce the guidelines of the United States Army Special Victim Advocate Program (SVAP). The SVAP, created at the direction of the Secretary of Defense, exists to provide legal advice and representation to victims of sexual assault throughout the military justice process. The SVAP's initial operational capability (IOC) for offering services will be 1 November 2013.

Special Victim Advocates (SVAs) will be drawn from the Legal Assistance Division of the Offices of the Staff Judge Advocate. At this initial stage, forty five active duty Judge Advocates will be appointed Corps-wide as SVAs by their respective Staff Judge Advocates (SJAs). Attached is a spreadsheet of where the SVAs will be located for IOC. For larger installations, SVAs will be on-site and the number of SVAs might even be two while for some of the smaller installations, the SVA will receive support from another installation. SJAs should appoint Judge Advocates who have defense or trial counsel experience and ensure completion of training prior to assumption of duties. Regardless of experience, the SVAs must have the maturity and judgment to assume these responsibilities.

Implementation of this program will add to the workload of the Legal Assistance Divisions and individual offices might find it taxing to continue providing the same level of outstanding legal assistance service that our Army community has come to expect. With this in mind, two mitigation measures have been taken. First, the Army's leadership has directed the mobilization of twenty Reserve Component Judge Advocates to provide legal assistance services at those offices where our active component legal assistance Judge Advocates will be impacted the most. The attached spreadsheet outlines the offices where the mobilized Judge Advocates will work. Second, SJAs have the authority to restrict services to Retirees and their Families. Before executing this restriction, however, you should implement mitigation measures to offset the loss of services. For example, consider weekend appointments for Retirees using local Reserve Component Judge Advocates or expanding services during Retiree Appreciation Days. Additional impacts on Legal Assistance may be inevitable but explore creative ways to keep these impacts to a minimum.

I have selected Colonel James "Jay" McKee to be the program manager for the SVAP; SJAs are to keep him informed of the challenges faced and the solution sets generated. COL McKee will provide the technical supervision over the SVAs throughout our Corps, while the Chiefs of the Legal Assistance Offices will have day-to-day supervisory responsibilities related to the on-going legal assistance duties and SVAP duties. COL McKee reports directly to the Assistant Judge Advocate General for Military Law and Operations. He will manage the program

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**SPECIAL VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM**

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in coordination with Personnel, Plans and Training Office (PP&TO), Criminal Law Division, Legal Assistance Policy Division, and the Legal Center and School (LCS). The goal will be to ensure that the program meets the intent of the Secretary of Defense, addresses the needs of sexual assault victims, and complements our practice of law. Policies, handbooks and other required documents on the SVAP will be published before IOC.

Training our future SVAs is of the highest priority, and we will dedicate the resources necessary to provide SJAs with an effective long-term SVA training model. We have developed specific curriculum that will be offered at a special SVA course in October to meet the IOC deadline. Additionally an online version of the course materials will be available shortly after 1 November 2013. Regardless of the method, SVAs must complete training before assuming their duties. The LCS will then continue planning for full integration across the Corps' education and training curriculum by 1 January 2014, the full operating capability date of the SVAP, in order to accomplish both long term development and sustainment of our SVA capability. Future SVAs will be selected by PP&TO for their knowledge, skill, and experience in both legal assistance and military justice. As we move forward with this unprecedented program, the SVAP reflects a dedication by the Army to the victims of sexual assault, while always ensuring that all Soldiers receive a fair trial.

Army Strong!



FLORA D. DARPINO  
Lieutenant General, USA  
The Judge Advocate General

<b>CMD</b>	<b># of SVAs</b>	<b># of RC JAs for LA Duties</b>	<b>Supporting Installation</b>
Afghanastan	2		
Hood	2	2	
Korea	2	2	
Stewart/Hunter	2	2	
Bliss	2	2	
Bragg	2	2	
Campbell	2	1	
7th JMTC	2	1	
Fort Sam	2	1	
Lewis	2	1	
Hawaii	2	1	
MDW (all 3)	2	1	
Carson	1	1	
Riley	1	1	
Leonard Wood	1	1	
Drum	1	1	
Kuwait	1		
Jackson	1		
21st TSC	1		
Lee	1		
Sill	1		
Benning	1		
Alaska	1		
Vicenza	1		
Irwin	1		
Knox	1		
Gordon	1		
West Point	1		
Polk	1		
Eustis	1		
Huachuca	1		
Wiesbaden	1		
Rucker	1		
Tampa			Fort Stewart
Monterey			Fort Irwin
Eglin			Fort Rucker
Japan			Korea
Leavenworth			Fort Riley
McCoy			Fort Knox
Dix			West Point
Hamilton			West Point
Okinawa			Korea
Redstone			Fort Benning
<b>Totals</b>	45	20	