

143. Are Special Victim Counsel trained on Undue Command Influence and its potential impact on prosecution of sexual assault cases?

USA	Yes. All Army lawyers receive training on the issue of unlawful command influence in both the officer basic course and the graduate course. Issues relating to unlawful command influence are also taught in military justice short courses held at TJAGLCS.
USAF	All Special Victims' Counsel are trained on Undue Command Influence at the Judge Advocate Staff Officer Course, the basic course required to receive designation as a Judge Advocate. All counsel are required to be certified under Article 27b, which also involves training on UCI and other litigation-related matters at the basic course. SVCs are exposed to and made aware of UCI-related issues in multiple courts-martial cases involving their clients. Continuing legal education training, either through formal courses or through informal webcasts, may also include UCI as one of many litigation/trial-related training topics.
USN	Yes. All Navy lawyers receive training on Unlawful Command Influence (UCI) as part of the Military Justice (Procedure) curriculum during the Basic Lawyer Class where they receive their UCMJ 27b certification. Prior to becoming certified as Victims Legal Counsel (VLC), which is the Navy's title for Special Victims Counsel, all Navy attorneys must be 27b certified and have prior trial experience. In addition to the basic training received at the Naval Justice School, UCI, as it relates to sexual assault cases, will be addressed at East and West Coast Navy VLC training in April and June of 2014.
USMC	All Marine Corps judge advocates receive baseline training regarding professional responsibility and undue command influence during the Basic Lawyers Course at Naval Justice School. Additionally, judge advocates selected for assignment to the Victims Legal Counsel Organization (VLCO) are required to attend specialized training on the role of the VLC, specifically addressing best practices (to include a specific block of instruction on professional responsibility) and fact-focused representation of victims.
USCG	All Coast Guard judge advocates receive training on the issue of unlawful command influence. This training is one aspect of Article 27(b), UCMJ, and certification for judge advocates. All Coast Guard SVC attorneys are 27(b) certified prior to becoming Special Victim Counsel.