

**144.** Describe what, if any, formal or informal processes have been established for communication of best practices or other issues related to the SVC program and/or representation of sexual assault victims between the military services as well as the frequency and nature of such communications.

USA	<p>The Special Victim Counsel (SVC) Program Managers have established both informal and formal processes to communicate. The SVC program managers of the respective SVC programs regularly reach out to one another via email and telephone to communicate SVC issues and exchange lessons learned/best practices generated by their respective services. On a more formal basis, the SVC program managers meet monthly to discuss a variety of SVC program issues. The last meeting took place at CID Headquarters in Quantico Virginia on 4 April 2014 and involved Army CID, AF OSI, and NCSI to discuss best practices for collecting evidence when an SVC was involved in the case.</p>
USAF	<p>The SVC Program Chiefs/Managers of all the military services regularly communicate with one another via email and telephone to discuss SVC issues, exchange lessons learned, and share best practices. The Air Force shared its Rules of Practice and Procedure, as well as standard templates, with all of the other Services as they stood up their respective programs. The Services' SVC Chiefs/Program Managers collaborate on potential victim appeals and extend opportunities for each program to file amicus briefs in support of a particular issue. On a more formal basis, the SVC Chiefs/Program Managers meet monthly to address SVC program issues of common applicability. Individual SVCs at the installation level routinely collaborate with SVCs from the other Services who also serve within their geographic region. The Air Force hosted a Joint Service SVC training course in October 2013 to train over 60 personnel from the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air National Guard, and US Coast Guard. Air Force SVCs have also provided training at the Army's SVC course and shared lessons learned. Additionally, best practices are continuously shared within the AF SVC community via webcast training and the use of a collaborative cohort website.</p>
USN	<p>One of the first initiatives undertaken when standing up of the Navy Victims' Legal Counsel Program (VLCP) was establishment of a Share Point Site. The site is accessible only to Navy VLC and to VLC from other Services who request access and are approved. The site is controlled by an administrator, currently assigned to the VLCP and carefully monitored. Access to the site will be cancelled once an individual detaches from their VLC billet. Navy VLC share best practices on a daily basis and post issues requiring assistance that other counsel may have already encountered. The Share Point site also contains a motions bank.</p> <p>With regard to other military services, Navy VLC program managers regularly reach out to other Services via email or phone on common issues or cases. Lessons learned and best practices are discussed as frequently as on a bi-weekly basis. VLC courses offered by the Air Force, Army and Navy have been open to and attended by other service victims counsel. Motions, Standard Operating Procedures and Memorandums of Understanding have been shared amongst the different service programs. More</p>

	<p>formally, program managers from each service have met in person to discuss program issues. The Navy and Marine Corps heads of the VLCP speak regularly (as often as weekly) via telephone, as do their deputies.</p>
USMC	<p>The VLCO has established open lines of communication across the organization using an intranet site, regularly scheduled teleconferences, Marine Corps-wide publications, and specialized certification training. These combined efforts have allowed VLCO to effectively implement best business practices and continually address emerging issues. The OIC, VLCO published an initial policy memorandum providing guidance on how Victims' Legal Counsel (VLC) should conduct themselves in representing clients, emphasizing the applicability of rules of professional responsibility, including JAGINST 5803.1D. The VLCO SharePoint intranet site was implemented from the start. It is used by the OIC to issue ongoing policy guidance and used by VLC to post questions or comments on new issues. SharePoint also serves as a place to store templates and key documents. Additionally, the OIC, VLCO has conducted weekly conference calls with Regional VLC since the stand-up of VLCO to discuss emerging issues and synchronize business practices. Furthermore, a new VLCO chapter in the Marine Corps Manual for Legal Administration provides many standard practices. Finally, each VLC certification course includes specific blocks of instruction on best practices related to providing legal services to eligible victims.</p>
USCG	<p>The SVC program managers currently meet monthly to discuss a variety of SVC program issues, including best practices. Additionally, the SVC program managers of the respective SVC programs regularly communicate with one another via email and telephone to discuss SVC issues and exchange lessons learned/best practices. Coast Guard SVCs have had the opportunity to attend SVC training provided by the Army and Navy and will attend an Air Force SVC training scheduled in May 2014. SVC best practices and SVC program issues are discussed at each of these trainings.</p> <p>Independently, the Director of the Coast Guard's Special Victims' Counsel program holds monthly JAG chats with Coast Guard SVC to discuss issues and communicate lessons learned. SVCs from other military services have been invited to CG SVC JAG chats to discuss best practices and present particular program topics.</p>