

Information Paper

SUBJECT. United States Army Military Police School (USAMPS) Sexual Assault Investigations Education, Training and Consultation Program

1. Purpose. To provide an update regarding USAMPS' sexual assault investigations education, training, consultation support and continued development of the Special Victims Unit Investigations Course (SVUIC).

2. Facts.

a. Special Victims Unit Investigations Course (SVUIC): As a result of extensive research and collaboration with experts in the field, a significant gap was identified in the area of sexual assault investigations training. To address this issue, USAMPS researched and developed the SVUC. This course is designed to take what criminal investigators and prosecutors have already learned in previous training and assist them in mastering the science and art of a sexual assault investigation while honing critical thinking skills. SVUIC is an intensive advanced two week specialized educational course that incorporates innovative investigative procedures and techniques, and takes advantage of many USAMPS developed promising best practices. As an example USAMPS conducted research and developed a new interview approach called the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI) technique. The FETI has anecdotally proven to be a compelling paradigm shift in obtaining substantially more information and forensic physiological evidence from trauma victims, witnesses, and suspects. The FETI technique is a featured promising best practice by numerous national organizations including: End Violence Against Women International, Battered Women's Justice Project, New York State Police Academy, and International Association of Chiefs of Police. DOD SAPRO determined that the SVU course fills a critical need within DOD and has agreed to provide substantial funding for this course.

b. FY 14 Funding: USAMPS has received 1.8 million dollars of FY14 funding and is anticipating expenditure and proper disbursement of all funding received in support of the SVUIC.

c. FY 13 Training Progress: USAMPS has conducted 1 SVUIC course thus far this FY and is anticipating conducting 9 more SVUIC courses prior to 30 Sep 14. Students for these courses include prosecuting attorneys from the US Air Force, US Army, US Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard along with special agents from US Army CID, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, Marine Corps CID, Coast Guard Investigative Service, Peace Corps and Department of Defense Inspector General.

d. Support to NCIS: In response to a request from NCIS, USAMPS will conduct two joint SVUIC courses with USAMPS, USACIDC, and NCIS training support at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) this fiscal year. This has been a great collaborative effort, which will produce an excellent opportunity for NCIS to receive SVUIC training and meet their service specific requirements. NCIS also provides adjunct instructors to the SVUIC to assist in practical exercise reviews and student critiques of interviews.

e. Support to Coast Guard Investigative Services (CGIS): Special Agents from CGIS have been trained in the SVUIC on a regular basis since FY 12. GCIS also supports the SVUIC by providing highly qualified sexual assault agents and graduates of the SVUIC, to assist as assistant instructors during practical exercise intensive portions of the SVUIC.

f. FY 14 Training Load: USAMPS has scheduled 10 iterations of the SVUIC for FY 14 (including at least two SVUIC courses at FLETC) training approximately 440-500 special agents/investigators and prosecuting attorneys from participating DOD services.

g. Support to National Guard Bureau: USAMPS has provided SVUIC training allocations for over 100 attorney's from the Army & Air National Guard to assist them in training a cadre of trained professions responsible for conducting sexual assault related 15-6 investigations.

h. Instructor Requirements: USAMPS continues to work in close coordination with USACIDC in meeting SVUIC instructor requirements. USAMPS has completed hiring actions for two additional SVUIC instructors and a training technician. USACIDC has agreed to provide a Sexual Assault Investigator (SAI) supervisory special agent for each SVUIC iteration. USACIDC has also provided a senior warrant officer special agent for duty at USAMPS to provide long-term stability and leadership for the Behavioral Sciences Education & Training Division (BSETD) Special Victims Unit (SVU training branch). USAMPS is working with HQ, NCIS to identify a qualified trainer to assist in all future SVUIC. USAMPS will reimburse NCIS for this position.

i. TRADOC Accreditation: The SVUIC is a US Army Training & Doctrine Command (TRADOC) approved course.

j. FLETA and POST Accreditation: The Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation (FLETA) team reviewed the SVUIC 7-9 Aug 12. FLETA provided full accreditation on 25 Apr 13. Additionally, Course documents and lesson plans have been submitted to Missouri Police Officer Standards & Training (POST). We are anticipating the received of POST credits for this course.

2. Summary: USAMPS has been on the leading edge of education, training, research and consultation assistance and has developed viable programs to meet current and future DOD sexual assault investigations and prosecution educational, training and consultation needs. USAMPS has worked with numerous military and civilian organizations and agencies to share out innovation approaches and promising best practices as well as our innovative approaches and training methodologies as “good news stories.” As a result of USAMPS innovative approaches to the investigation and prosecution of sexual assaults, we have been routinely asked to present these new investigative methodologies at DOD senior leader conferences and military/civilian national and international conferences. USAMPS will continue to work with all of our military and civilian partners and stakeholders to shape our collective way ahead to ensure all sexual assaults are properly and thoroughly investigated with a focus on the reported criminal act. We also want to ensure victims are treated with the utmost empathy and understanding and anyone who is found to have committed a sexual assault are held accountable for their actions.

Comments from SVUIC students that graduated 24 May 2013

- I thought that it [SVUIC] was a positive experience and released a level of frustration I've been experiencing lately
- Best classroom based instruction I have received in 27 years of military experience (four career fields and two services) and 20 years of civilian law enforcement experience
- Fantastic course. I'm glad trial counsels are coming. It is very educational for trial work.
- It's a good course that helps the understanding of the FETI and shows errors of the past
- A lot of good insight into the process of trauma
- Very effective presentations, wished I would have had this information 29 years ago.
- Instructors were extremely professional and competent on the subject matter and solidified their credibility
- I would recommend a version of this course focusing on victim trauma and victimology be given to all military leaders
- This course is very well constructed and flows well building on knowledge and skills
- Fantastic course. It challenged my personal bias and shifted my analytical approach. I was uncomfortable during the majority of the course, but that discomfort is what opened my eyes and made me a better JAG as well as a better person.
- I told my LTC back home how this course changed my analytical approach as well as personal beliefs and bias'. He responded by questioning his approach to sexual assaults has been misguided. We are all eager to learn and grow.
- Very good. It only took 4 years to get in.
- Great, was valuable in many ways including the way I see victims and my ability to empathize was improved.
- Learned a new approach to gathering information from a victim.
- The information provided a lot of good tools I can use when I get back to the office. The practice interviews were great and insightful.
- It has been the best-encountered experience I have ever had.
- Outstanding, very informative. [Do you feel the material covered in the course prepared you for future duties?] Absolutely. The way I was taught at [Federal Law Enforcement Training Center] FLETC did not prepare me for victim interviews.
- Good overall teaching style and material. This course should be offered to all commanders, SJA and agents.
- This course will change you for the better.
- [FETI] it is a good technique that is designed to help agents while keeping the victims from being traumatized from our interview.
- This was an excellent training course. It was very informative and interesting. This was the best training course I have attended in the past 15 years.

- If I were King for a day, I would like to see a condensed version provided to command teams.
- One of the best courses I've attended.