

Fact Sheet: Senior Trial Counsel...The Air Force “Special Victims Unit”

The Air Force has run a special victims’ prosecuting unit for 40 years called the Senior Trial Counsel (STC) Program, our “special victims unit” of top-notch prosecutors handling sexual assault cases. The facts about STCs:

- **Currently comprised of 16 hand-selected litigators stationed across the United States, Europe, & Asia**

- ✓ Since 1972, the Air Force has selected its best and most experienced litigators to serve as Senior Trial Counsel and try the toughest cases
- ✓ 7 STCs specialize in prosecution of sexual assault cases; the current team has tried 145+ sexual assault cases
- ✓ Not limited to sex assault cases: prosecute child sex abuse, shaken baby cases, and homicides
- ✓ STCs prosecuted over 85% of all General Courts-Martial in the Air Force

- **Robust, mature STC program integrated into fabric of Air Force military justice**

- ✓ Frequent interaction between SJAs and STCs on wide-range of cases leads to close coordination on high visibility prosecutions such as sexual assaults
- ✓ On sexual assault prosecutions, SJAs use STCs from the investigation stage, to charging decisions, to trial and sentencing

- **STCs specifically trained in sexual assault litigation**

- ✓ Each STC attends advanced litigation skills-focused courses such as Prosecuting Complex Crimes Course (Navy) and Advanced Trial Advocacy Course (Air Force)
- ✓ Annually, each STC attends an Air Force Trial Advocacy Course
- ✓ STCs also take specific sexual assault prosecution courses (e.g., National District Attorneys Association’s Sexual Assault Course)