

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE AREA DEFENSE COUNSEL



The Office of the Area Defense Counsel (ADC) is comprised of carefully selected attorneys and paralegals whose sole focus is to advise and advocate for individual Airmen through military justice and administrative processes.

Pursuant to the United States Constitution and Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), every Airman has the right to counsel free of charge. The ADC fills that role by advocating for the rights of Airmen through each phase of investigations and proceedings. Airmen can also hire a civilian attorney at their own expense. Airmen suspected of misconduct have the right to remain silent and have an attorney present during any law enforcement interview or disciplinary investigation. Airmen also have the right to ADC representation during hearings, boards, and courts-martial proceedings.

In order to provide honest advice and unfettered advocacy, the ADC has an independent chain of command separate from the Wings, NAFs, and MAJCOMs where they are located. Communications between the ADC and Airmen are protected by attorney-client privilege.

The ADC's mission is to ethically and zealously represent Airmen and them alone.

Judge Advocates selected as ADCs are experienced attorneys who have proven through courtroom experience that they possess the skills and professionalism to counsel and defend Airmen. Paralegals selected to team with ADCs are also vetted to ensure our Airmen receive the best assistance available.

The ADC represents Airmen in UCMJ and other administrative actions, such as: courts-martial and Article 15s; security forces and OSI investigations; administrative discharges and demotions; referral EPRs and OPRs; security clearance revocations; command-directed, equal opportunity and inspector general investigations; revocations of medical credentials; and letters of reprimand, admonishment, or counseling.

Each installation typically has an ADC/paralegal team who service the entire base. In order to provide the best counsel and avoid conflicts, some Airmen may have an ADC assigned to them that is not at their current duty station. However, ADCs ensure all clients, regardless of location, receive timely and quality advice. ADCs will be physically present with their client for hearings, boards, or courts-martial.

The ADC does not judge Airmen. No matter how serious the allegation, they should feel confident they are getting the most effective representation.

In the event of a conviction at a court-martial, Airmen may also be represented by military appellate attorneys free of charge.

Airmen can always seek counsel even if they have already made statements to law enforcement, consented to searches or seizures, or otherwise been involved in an administrative or military justice process. The decision to remain silent and/or seek counsel from an attorney cannot be held against an Airman.



When an Airman encounters corrective or disciplinary actions, it can be a difficult time in their life. The ADC office takes great pride in mentoring, counseling, and providing realistic outcomes to ensure each Airman is properly prepared for their future.