ABOUT US

The Area Defense Counsel provides free and confidential legal representation to Air Force members in actions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, such as courts-martial and Article 15 non-judicial punishment. We also represent Air Force members in a variety of administrative actions, such as discharges, demotions, referral performance reports, letters of reprimand/admonition/counseling, unfavorable information files, control rosters, and command-directed investigations. You do not need to have received paperwork to get help from the ADC. If you are under investigation, or if you are even just worried that some action may be taken against you, then you can come see us about it.

Remember, under military law, an Air Force member suspected of committing a criminal offense has the right to remain silent and the right to consult with a military lawyer free of charge prior to making any statement. Additionally, any statement that is made, whether oral or written, may be used against the member in a court-martial, Article 15, non-judicial punishment action, or administrative action. The fact a member exercises either the right to remain silent or the right to consult with an attorney cannot be held against the member by Air Force authorities.

HISTORY

The Area Defense Counsel program was established in 1976 to provide defense services to Air Force members independent of base legal offices. The Area Defense Counsel represents you—not the Air Force, not your commander.

In 1983, Maj. Gen. Thomas Bruton, then The Judge Advocate General of the Air Force, put it this way: "It is not the job of the defense counsel to assist or make it easy for the Government to establish or present its case. To the contrary, the independent defense structure pioneered by the Air Force was in part established to enable defense counsel to freely make those many difficult and sometimes challenging decisions without fear of command interference or reprisal."

CONTACT

If you find yourself in need of our services or have any questions at all, please call us to make an appointment. We can be reached by phone at DSN: 673-4417 or COMM: 843-963-4417. Our office is located at 101 East Hill Boulevard, Building 503, Room 119.