



PREVENTIVE LAW SERIES
DEFENSE SERVICES



Prepared by:
Legal Assistance Department
Region Legal Service Office Southwest
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San Diego CA 92136-5072
(619) 556-2211

The Legal Assistance Department, as part of Region Legal Service Office Southwest, is separate from Defense Service Office (DSO) West. DSO West offers counseling for Marines and Sailors facing disciplinary and administrative actions, such as non-judicial punishment (NJP) or Administrative Separation. The primary purpose of this counseling is to advise you of your rights at the proceeding. The Defense Section also provides general information regarding the procedures and potential punishments and reviews the charges and evaluates the evidence against you.

PERSONAL REPRESENTATION WALK-IN HOURS

DSO West personal representation walk-in hours for general defense advice are from 0900 - 1100 and 1300 - 1600 on Monday through Thursday and from 1200 - 1500 on Friday.

NJP Counseling is offered at MCRD SAN DIEGO between 1300 and 1630 on Tuesday and Thursday only. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis. If you arrive for counseling outside the prescribed times without prior coordination, you will be requested to return during the aforementioned times. Requests for counseling at other times, if requested by the unit primarily in order to impose restriction before a weekend or holiday, will not be granted.

Marines who request to consult with a judge advocate prior to NJP should first seek service from MCRD, Miramar Pendleton, bring their Service Record Book, and a copy of all evidence the unit has to support (or contradict) the charge to the Defense Section. The more information you provide to the defense counsel, the better he or she will be able to advise you. You should understand, however, that due to the defense counsel's limited access to information and limited ability to evaluate your case during NJP counseling, an attorney's initial advice to you may change during the course of representation at a court-martial as more information becomes available.

DEFENSE SERVICES FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATION BOARDS

Clients may consult with defense counsel on administrative separation procedures (Notification or Administrative Separation Procedures) during personal representation walk-in hours.

Where a service member elects to appear before an administrative separation board, commands are responsible to submit proper requests for defense services.

Generally, you are not authorized a defense counsel to represent you at NJP. Therefore, attorneys do not form an ongoing attorney-client relationship with you. Nevertheless, all communications between you and a defense attorney are considered confidential.

OTHER DEFENSE SERVICES PROVIDED

DSO West provides assistance for the following situations:

- Adverse Evaluation
- Administrative Separation Board/Board of Inquiry
- Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR)
- Complaint of Wrongs (Article 138/1150)
- Discharge Upgrade
- Enlistment Contract
- Humanitarian Transfer
- Non-Judicial Punishment (NJP) Advice

WARNING: PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND NOT INTENDED TO BE TAKEN AS SPECIFIC LEGAL ADVICE. FOR LEGAL ADVICE IN A PARTICULAR SITUATION, ALWAYS CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY.

- Non-Judicial Punishment (NJP) Appeal
- Security Clearance Revocation Advice
- Summary Court-Martial Advice
- Representation at administrative discharge boards
- Interrogation counseling
- Competency Review Board advice
- Provide advice and limited representation for Initial Review Officer hearings
- Other advice and counseling as relevant and necessary
- Assistance in obtaining results of trial and submitting matters for consideration to the GCMCA prior to separation

DSO West does NOT offer representation in the following areas:

- Equal Employment Opportunity complaints
- Civilian criminal cases
- Court-martial appeals
- DOHA Security Clearance Hearings

ELIGIBILITY FOR SERVICES

Active-duty military personnel, including reservists called to active duty, are eligible for DSOW services. A **valid military ID** is required to receive services.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

The Legal Assistance Department, as part of Region Legal Service Office Southwest, **is separate from DSO West.**

A legal assistance attorney is available by appointment Monday from 0800 - 1100 and 1300 - 1500, Tuesday through Thursday from 0900 - 1100 and 1300 - 1500, and Friday from 0900 - 1045. Powers of attorney and notaries are available Monday through Friday at the same times. For more information, please contact the Legal Assistance Office, located in Building 56, 32nd Street Naval Station, San Diego, CA, by telephone at (619) 556-2211, or our office at Naval Air Station North Island – Coronado, Building 318 – Second Deck, above the Fleet and Family Support Center, Saufley Road, by telephone at (619) 545-6437.

RESOURCES

Defense Service Office West: DSOWestAdvice@navy.mil; www.jag.navy.mil/legal_services/dso/DSO_West.htm

- Headquarters (Naval Base San Diego): 3395 Sturtevant St. Ste. 2, San Diego, CA 92136; (619) 556-7539
- Fort Worth: 1525 Chennault Ave. Rm. 108, Fort Worth, TX 76127; (817) 782-3761
- Bremerton: 365 S. Barclay St. Bldg. 433 Code 1307, Bremerton, WA 98314; (360) 476-2157

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