Your Rights As A Victim.

As a victim of a crime, you have the following rights under the Victim's Rights and Restitution Act of 1990 (Public Law No. 101-647):

- To be treated with fairness and with respect for your dignity and privacy;

- To be reasonably protected from the accused;

- To be notified of court proceedings;

- To be present at all public court proceedings related to the offenses, unless the court determines that your testimony would be materially affected if you heard other testimony at trial;

- To confer with the attorney for the Government (Trial Counsel) in the case;

- To receive available restitution;

- To receive information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment, parole eligibility and release of the accused.

Points of Contact:

Service Central Repository

SYLVIA MITCHELL
(Name)

703-695-8872/DSN:225
(Telephone Number)

Confinement Facility

(Name)

(Telephone Number)

Service Clemency and Parole Board

ANDREA FITZ
(Name)

703-607-1180/DSN: 312-327-1180
(Telephone Number)

Other

(Name)

(Telephone Number)

For further information on crime issues, see the DoD Victim and Witness Assistance Council web page at:
http://dod.mil/vwac

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

POST-TRIAL INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS AND WITNESSES OF CRIME

DD FORM 2703, MAY 2004 Previous edition is obsolete.

Post-Trial Information For Victims and Witnesses of Crime

Introduction.

This brochure details the post-trial process and your rights in that process. Most important is your right to be notified of changes in the confinement status of the offender in your case.

Location of Confinement Facility.

The Victim and Witness Assistance Program does not end with the completion of the court-martial. If the accused is convicted of any offense, the court-martial will sentence the accused. If the sentence includes confinement, the accused, now called "inmate", is usually taken immediately to jail. If there is a confinement facility at the installation where the trial was held, the inmate will be held there temporarily.

Depending on the security level of the inmate, he/she may be assigned to various work details around the installation. If the inmate's period of confinement is minimal, and there are adequate facilities on the installation, the inmate may serve the entire sentence at the installation.

If there is no confinement facility at the installation, the facility is not adequate to house the inmate, or the sentence is in excess of what is handled on the installation, he/she will be taken to a regional confinement facility. The inmate may later be transferred to other facilities available, based on length of sentence, programs and security levels. You will be notified of these changes if you fill out a form called DD Form 2704, "Victim/Witness Certification and Election Concerning Inmate Status." It is very important that you keep the confinement facility informed of your current address and telephone number.

Convening Authority Action.

The other parts of the sentence (e.g., forfeitures of pay, reduction in rank) will not be effective until the "convening authority", usually a senior officer, takes "action" on it, generally within 6 to 9 months. The convening authority may disapprove the findings, disapprove or reduce any part of the sentence, or approve everything except a punitive discharge. The convening authority cannot increase any part of the sentence. You have the right to submit a statement to the convening authority on how you feel about the inmate receiving clemency. You can ask the Trial Counsel about this right.

Clemency and Parole Consideration.

Military inmates are eligible for parole consideration when they have completed 1/3 of their confinement, and every year thereafter. You may make a statement to the Clemency and Parole Board on how the crime affected you. The statement may be on audio or video tape or in writing and may be sent to the Service Clemency and Parole Board at the address on the back of this page. A personal appearance before the Board may also be permitted.

Notification Rights.

You have the right to be notified in writing of the following changes in the inmate's status: transfer to another facility, parole, escape, release from confinement, or death while in confinement. If the inmate is released on temporary home leave (for example, to visit a dying parent), the confinement facility will make every effort to notify you in advance.

How To Exercise Your Rights.

If you want to exercise these rights, and be notified of the dates of any clemency and parole hearings, and changes in the inmate's status, you must fill out DD Form 2704, "Victim/ Witness Certification and Election Concerning Inmate Status." You MUST notify the Service Central Repository of all address and telephone number changes if you want to receive notices. This information will be kept confidential.

Points of Contact.

From now on, your point of contact will be the confinement facility or the Service Central Repository listed on the back of this page. Please call if you have any questions.