



## Establishment of the Marine Corps Trial Services Organization and the Chief Trial Counsel of the Marine Corps

Effective 1 June 2021, all trial services personnel will fall within the Marine Corps Trial Services Organization (TSO), led by the Chief Trial Counsel of the Marine Corps (CTC). Lieutenant Colonel Nicholas L. Gannon has been assigned as the CTC and will assume his duties on 1 June 2021. This Practice Directive serves as interim direction pending publication of a revision to MCO 5800.16 (LSAM), Volume 16.

### *Reporting Relationships*

The establishment of the TSO will impact the reporting relationships between trial services personnel and the Legal Service Support Section/Team (LSSS/T) Officers in Charge (OICs). On 1 June 2021, the LSSS/T OICs will no longer be in the reporting chain for TSO personnel, to include the legal services specialists and civilian personnel attached to the TSO. Similar to the Defense Services Organization (DSO) and the Victims' Legal Counsel Organization (VLCO), the reporting chain for trial services personnel will reside within the TSO. *See* Enclosure (1). The LSSS/T OICs will continue to serve as RSs/ROs for trial services personnel whose current reporting periods will extend beyond 31 May 2021 and terminate before 30 September 2021. Leaders shall ensure that legal services specialists at the rank of E-4 or below be evaluated in accordance with MCO 1616.1 (Junior Enlisted Performance Evaluation System (JEPES)).

The Trial Counsel Assistance Program (TCAP) will be moved from Military Justice Branch (JMJ) and placed under the direct supervision of the CTC.

Similar to DSO and VLCO personnel, LSSS/T OICs shall continue to exercise administrative supervision over TSO personnel. This includes overseeing the professional development and career progression of TSO personnel assigned to the LSSS/Ts. The LSST OICs at MCAS Iwakuni and MCAS Yuma shall no longer serve as TCs or STCs.

### *Qualifications, Detailing Authority, and Supervision*

On 1 June 2021, the CTC will assume detailing authority for all trial services personnel. This includes the authority to review and approve qualifications in accordance with Volume 16 of the LSAM. The CTC will also be responsible for conducting inspections of the TSO in accordance with the Legal Support Inspection program and coordinating all TC-related professional responsibility concerns with the Rules Counsel in accordance with Volumes 1 and 2 of the LSAM.

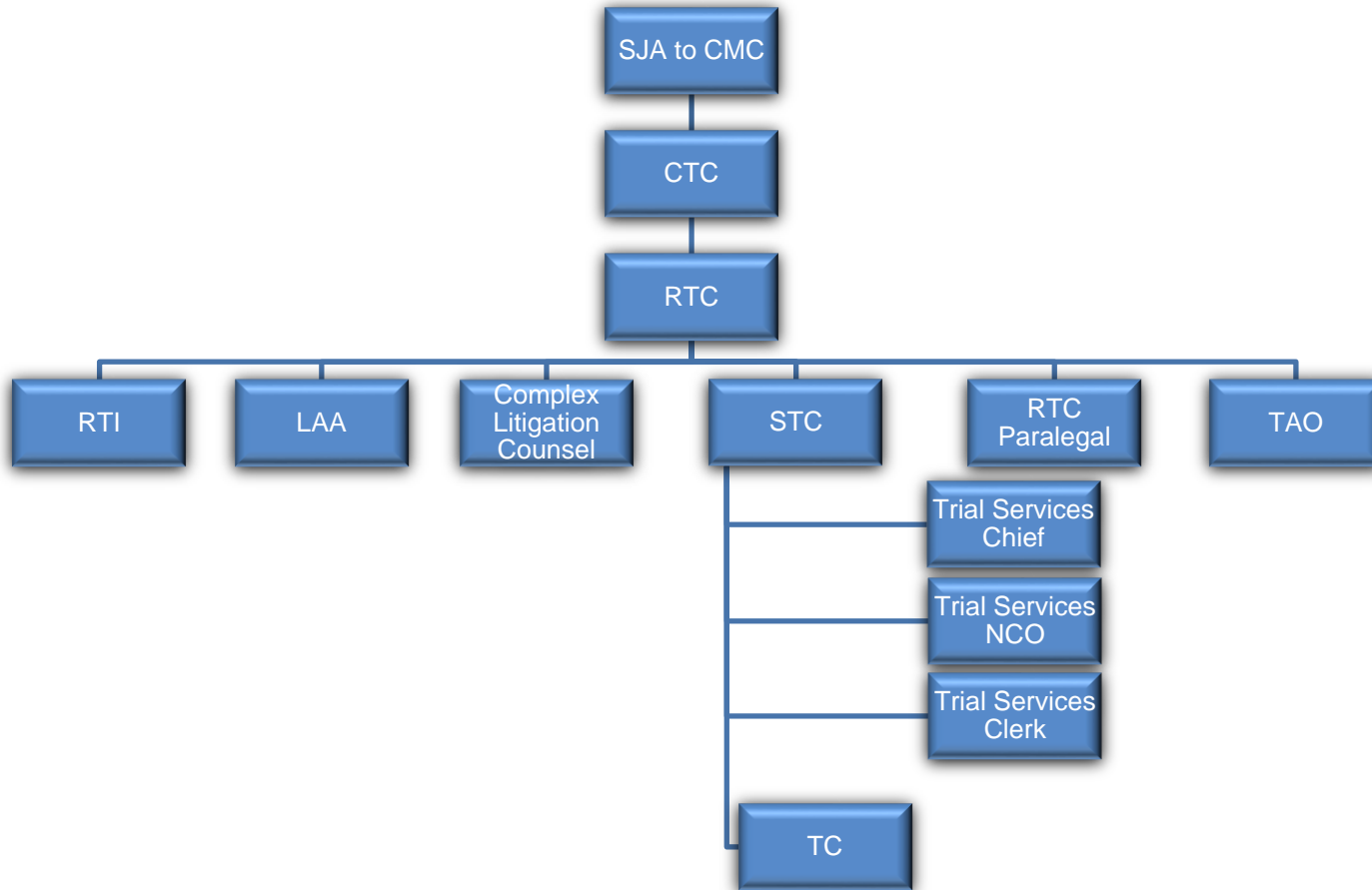
### *Tour Lengths and Reassignment of TSO Personnel*

Judge advocates will normally be assigned to the TSO for a minimum of 18 months. A judge advocate assigned to a supervisory billet within the TSO will normally serve in that billet for a minimum of two years. The LSSS OIC, in coordination with the CTC, shall establish a TSO tour completion date for each trial counsel. If circumstances arise that require curtailing or extending a trial counsel's tour, the LSSS OIC shall coordinate with the CTC to establish a new mutually-agreeable end of tour date.

Direct any questions about this Practice Directive to the JMJ Branch Head at (703) 693-9005, the JMJ Deputy Branch Head at (703) 693-8955, or TCAP at (703)-614-1513.



# TSO Reporting Chain





# TSO Relationship to MCI and LSSS/T

