



**TRIAL DEFENSE SERVICE
FORT SILL FIELD OFFICE
FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA 73503**

WHAT IS THE TRIAL DEFENSE SERVICE?

The Trial Defense Service (TDS) is a separate organization of attorneys and paralegals with their headquarters in Arlington, VA. While attorneys may be serving at your installation, they are not part of the local command. TDS attorneys are completely independent and have a separate reporting and rating chain that is completely separate from your installation or command.

You should not have any reservations about talking to your Trial Defense attorney. The attorney-client confidentiality protects conversations between you and your attorney. This rule prohibits your attorney from revealing confidential matters unless you consent.

Because TDS does not have to “please” the Government or your commanders, your attorney will work with you to obtain the best possible results in your case. They will carefully evaluate your case and honestly advise you of the best course of action for your case. If you decide to plead guilty, your attorney will negotiate with the Government to seek the best possible result for you.

In addition, should your TDS attorney engage in any pretrial negotiations with the Government prosecutor concerning your case, such negotiations are protected under the Military Rules of Evidence. These rules prevent information gained in such pretrial negotiations from being used by the Government against you.

A soldier suspected or charged with a crime may always obtain a civilian attorney for representation, at no expense to the Government. While the services of your TDS attorney are completely free of charge, a civilian attorney will likely expect payment of their retainer and fees, regardless of the result.

Your TDS office is here solely to serve you, the client. You will receive competent and caring representation concerning your legal problems. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at 580-442-2223/3123.