

**Judicial Proceedings Panel**

**8 April 2016**

**Update on Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) Programs in the Military Services and an Overview of Special Victim Investigation and Prosecution (SVIP) Capability  
Speaker Biographies**

**Updates on the Special Victims' Counsel/Victims' Legal Counsel Program**

**10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

**Colonel Elizabeth G. Marotta, U.S. Army, Special Victims' Counsel Program Manager:** Colonel Marotta is the Army's Special Victims' Counsel Program Manager. During her Army career she has served in a variety of leadership positions, to include, Principal Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Pacific Command; Staff Judge Advocate, Fort George G. Meade; Chief, Criminal Law, Joint Base Lewis-McChord; and Deputy, Government Appellate Division. Additionally, she served as Plans Officer for the Army Judge Advocate General's Personnel, Plans and Training Office and Assistant Executive Officer to Brigadier General (ret.) Malinda Dunn, Commander, U.S. Army Legal Services Agency. Colonel Marotta deployed to Iraq and the Balkans.

**Captain Karen Fischer-Anderson, U.S. Navy, Chief of Staff for the Navy Victims' Legal Counsel Program:** Captain Fischer-Anderson is currently the Chief of Staff, for the Navy Victims' Legal Counsel Program. Captain Fischer-Anderson has previously served as defense counsel, trial counsel, staff judge advocate, senior defense counsel, instructor, department head and academic director at the Naval Justice School. She was the executive officer at Naval Legal Service Office Mid-Atlantic and was in command of Naval Legal Service Office Southeast from 2009 until 2011. Captain Fischer-Anderson has served as Force Judge Advocate for Commander Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Staff Judge Advocate to the Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy, and Chief of Staff for the Navy's Defense Service Office.

**Colonel Andrea M. deCamara, U.S. Air Force, Chief, Special Victims' Counsel Division:**

Colonel deCamara is the Chief, Special Victims' Counsel (SVC) Division, Community Legal Services Directorate, Air Force Legal Operations Agency. She is responsible for developing policies and procedures for the AF SVC program and provides professional oversight for 40 judge advocates and 26 paralegals serving in 32 locations worldwide. Colonel deCamara has served in a variety of positions throughout her career including as an area defense counsel, appellate defense counsel, executive officer, and staff judge advocate. Prior to her current assignment, Colonel deCamara was the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate and later, Executive Officer to the Commander, Ninth Air Force, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina.

**Colonel Katherine McDonald, U.S. Marine Corps, Officer-in-Charge, Victims' Legal Counsel**

**Organization:** Colonel McDonald is the Victims' Legal Counsel Organization, Officer-in-Charge for the United States Marine Corps. Prior to this assignment, she served on the Navy and Marine Corps Court of Military Appeals as a military judge. Colonel McDonald has also served as Staff Judge Advocate for Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune and Staff Judge Advocate for 3d Marine Logistics Group, Okinawa, Japan. While stationed at Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, North Carolina, she served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney responsible for prosecuting a wide range of cases to include Federal Employment Compensation Act fraud, drug possession and larceny. Colonel McDonald also served as a defense counsel and later as a senior defense counsel.

**Ms. Christa Specht Cothrel, U.S. Coast Guard, Chief, Office of Member Advocacy:** Ms. Sprecht Cothrel is the current Chief, Office of Member Advocacy, managing a division of nine attorneys, one administrative technician, and twelve collateral duty attorneys. Ms. Cothrel's responsibilities include serving as the Coast Guard's Special Victims' Counsel and Physical Disability Evaluation System Program Manager with oversight over every facet of these functions. Prior to her current position, Ms. Cothrel was a member of the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights in Washington, DC. In that role, she was responsible for ensuring educational institutions and public entities receiving federal financial aid complied with specific civil rights legislation including Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. As a member of OCR's enforcement team, Ms. Cothrel led all aspects of investigations into allegations of civil rights violations including directing on-site visits to ensure compliance with Title IX sexual discrimination/assault provisions. Ms. Cothrel was also an active duty member of the Air Force's Judge Advocate General Corps serving as an assistant professor of law at the United States Air Force Academy, government trial and appellate counsel, area defense counsel, and chief of military justice.

**Military Criminal Investigative Organization Overview and Perspective  
of the SVIP Policies, Practices, and Procedures  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

**Mr. Guy Surian, U.S. Army, Deputy Chief of Investigative Operations, Investigative Policy and Criminal Intelligence:** Mr. Surian retired from the U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Command as a chief warrant officer five, and began his current duty as the Deputy G-2 & 3 in October 2000. He manages the full range of oversight, policy, practices and procedures, training and resource issues with regard to criminal investigations, criminal intelligence, antiterrorism and force protection. He has also been the program manager for sexual assault investigation policy and procedures since 2005, and he has served on numerous working groups addressing sexual assaults at the Department of Defense and Department of the Army level. He was responsible for the development of the Special Victim Unit concept for CID, the recruitment of civilian sexual assault investigators and, along with Mr. Russell Strand of the US Army Military Police School (USAMPS), developed the ground breaking Special Victim Unit Investigation Course being conducted by the USAMPS. In May 2015, the Secretary of the Army awarded him the Department of the Army Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service for his work on sexual assault investigations.

**Mr. Jeremy Gauthier, U.S. Navy, Deputy Assistant Director, Criminal Investigations & Operations Directorate, NCIS Headquarters:** Mr. Gauthier assumed duties as the Deputy Assistant Director of the NCIS Criminal Investigations and Operations Directorate in April 2016. In this position, he is responsible for the management and oversight of the criminal investigations and operations programs for the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Mr. Gauthier is a proven law enforcement leader with more than 20 years of federal criminal investigative, counterintelligence and security experience. He previously served as the Division Chief for the NCIS Family Sexual Violence Program and was responsible for management and oversight for all matters pertaining to family and sexual violence investigations. From June 2012 through August 2014, Mr. Gauthier served as the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the NCIS Northeast Field Office.

**Mr. Kevin Poorman, U.S. Air Force, Associate Director, Criminal Headquarters, Air Force Office of Special Investigations:** Mr. Poorman is responsible for overseeing agency policy, training and resources in support of the Air Force Office of Special Investigation's (AFOSI) worldwide mission to investigate major crime and counterintelligence matters affecting Air Force personnel and resources. The AFOSI is an agency with over 2,000 credentialed federal law enforcement investigators assigned to over 200 worldwide locations. Mr. Poorman has been an AFOSI special agent for 35 years; 20 years on active duty and 15 years as a Department of the Air Force civilian employee.

**Ms. Beverly Vogel, Sex Crimes Program Manager, U.S. Coast Guard Investigative Service:** Ms. Vogel is a senior special agent, assigned as the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS) Sex Crimes Program Manager, with 19 years of combined federal and local law enforcement experience. Ms. Vogel serves as the subject matter specialist for the CGIS Sex Crimes Program, and is responsible for the development of policies, procedures and protocols in support of the USCG Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs, as mandated by the Commandant of the USCG. She has worked tirelessly to promote and forge relationships with other Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies, collaborating with specialized victim's rights and sex crimes divisions within those agencies, as well as with victim advocacy, legal, medical, forensic and other specialists who work in SAPR-related fields. These efforts include the creation of the CGIS Family and Sexual Violence Investigator program, which provides over two dozen CGIS special agents with that special designation. Additionally, Ms. Vogel has 31 years of experience with the USCG, having served in the active and reserve components, and now as a civilian. She is a military veteran who retired from the USCG Reserves in 2007.

**JAG Prosecutor and Paralegal Overview and Perspective of the SVIP Policies, Practices, and Procedures  
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Lieutenant Colonel Bret Batdorff, U.S. Army, Chief, Trial Counsel Assistance Program:** Lieutenant Colonel Batdorff serves as the Chief of the Army's Trial Counsel Assistance Program. In that role, he has three primary responsibilities: (1) training the Army's prosecutors, (2) providing direct prosecutorial assistance on specific cases, and (3) managing the Army's special victim prosecutors, special victim paralegals, and special victim witness liaisons. LTC Batdorff's previous duties include assignments as a military judge, deputy staff judge advocate, brigade judge advocate, command judge advocate, senior defense counsel, defense counsel, trial counsel and claims judge advocate.

**Lieutenant Commander Ryan Stormer, U.S. Navy, Trial Counsel Assistance Program:** LCDR Stormer is currently assigned to the Trial Counsel Assistance Program in Washington D.C. His first duty station was at Region Legal Service Office Northwest, Branch Office Whidbey Island where he served as a trial counsel for Region Legal Service Office Northwest and as a Special Assistant to the United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington. LCDR Stormer's previous duties include assistant command judge advocate, instructor in military justice and evidence division officer. While deployed to Iraq, he served as the Officer-In-Charge of the Office of Criminal Investigations, Deputy Chief of the Central Criminal Court of Iraqi Liaison Office, and as the Executive Officer under the United States Forces-Iraq Staff Judge Advocate. He has also served as senior defense counsel. In 2004, LCDR Stormer received Region Legal Service Office NW Junior Officer of the Year. He earned a Master of Laws degree, with highest honors, in Litigation and Dispute Resolution from The George Washington University Law School in 2013.

**Captain Bradley Palmer, U.S. Air Force, Special Victims Unit Senior Trial Counsel:** Captain Palmer is a senior trial counsel in the Special Victims Unit and represents the government as lead trial counsel in the prosecution of complex courts-martial with a primary focus on prosecuting crimes of sexual violence. He has six years of military litigation experience as both a prosecutor and defense counsel. Prior to commissioning, Captain Palmer worked as a commercial litigation associate for the law firm of Perkins Coie LLP focusing primarily on antitrust and securities litigation. Captain Palmer graduated from Arizona State University College of Law in 2006.

**Major Jesse Schweig, U.S. Marine Corps, Officer in Charge, Trial Counsel Assistance Program:**

Major Schweig has been on active duty for 8 years and has served as a defense counsel, trial counsel, senior trial counsel, complex trial counsel, and battalion judge advocate. He has been detailed to more than 100 cases as a defense counsel and more than 200 cases as a trial counsel. He has tried more than 40 cases involving a wide variety of charges, to include the SVIP subject areas of child pornography, sexual assault, homicide, child abuse, and severe domestic violence. He has served as an instructor for the Naval Justice School, the Family Advocacy Program, the Trial Counsel Assistance Program, and the Trial Counsel Orientation Program. Major Schweig has also been a guest speaker on the subject of military law at both the Emory Riddle and University of North Carolina schools of law.

**Victim Witness Liaison Overview and Perspective of the SVIP Policies, Practices, and Procedures  
3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.**

**Ms. Christa Thompson, Special Victim Witness Liaison Program Manager:** Ms. Thompson serves as the Special Victim Witness Liaison Program Manager, Trial Counsel Assistance Program Office, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. In that role, she has three primary responsibilities: (1) create and implement training events for the Army's special victim witness liaisons (SVWL), (2) provide policy guidance to SVWLs on victim and witness support in special victim cases, and (3) oversee the hiring of SVWLS assigned to the Special Victim Capability team at identified installations. Ms. Thompson has over 30 years of experience with the Department of Defense and began her career as a victim witness liaison while stationed at Fort Carson in 1995. She realized immediately after becoming a victim witness liaison that she has a passion for helping and working with victims of crime. She is highly regarded as a subject matter expert in the victim witness field by her peers and the attorneys who work with her. Over her career, she has assisted hundreds of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, child molestation and abuse.

**Mr. John Hartsell, Associate Chief, Military Justice Division:** Mr. Hartsell is the Associate Chief of the Military Justice Division, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. Mr. Hartsell received a direct commission as an Air Force judge advocate in June of 1992. He served as a circuit trial counsel, a military judge, and a staff judge advocate. He is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Court of Florida and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. He retired from active duty as a Colonel in 2014, grew a beard, and joined the civil service.

**Mr. William Yables Jr. Paralegal Specialist, Installation Victim Witness Liaison Officer:** Mr. Yables is the Paralegal Specialist at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate for Marine Corps Air Station New River, North Carolina. He also serves as the station's Staff Judge Advocate Victim Witness Assistant Coordinator (VWAC). As the Installation VWLO, he is responsible for the overall management of the Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP). His primary duties are to maintain the list of all VWACs service providers, directs military and civilian programs on and off the installation, chair's the VWAP council, and ensures victim and witnesses receive their rights. Furthermore, he conducts annual training on numerous topics including VWAP overview, victim and witnesses rights, North Carolina state compensation, Article 139 Claims, Personnel Claims Act, and transitional compensation for abused family members. Mr. Yables retired as a Master Sergeant after serving 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps as a legal services specialist.