



**JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL
ON SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY**

<http://jpp.whs.mil>

September 9, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The second Public Meeting of the Judicial Proceedings Panel on Sexual Assault in the Military to be Held on September 19, 2014 in Arlington, VA.

Arlington, VA - The second meeting of the Judicial Proceedings Panel on Sexual Assault in the Military will be held on Friday September 19, 2014, from 8:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Arlington, VA. The meeting will take place in the Glebe and Fairfax Ballrooms of The Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston, 4610 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203, and is open to the public.

The Judicial Proceedings Panel was established by the Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel, in June, 2014, in accordance with section 576(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. The Judicial Proceedings Panel is an independent federal advisory committee tasked with conducting an independent review and assessment of military judicial proceedings for sexual assault offenses since fiscal year 2012, for the purpose of developing recommendations to Congress and the Secretary of Defense for improvements to such proceedings.

The focus of this meeting will be on recent and proposed changes by Congress to the rape and sexual assault provisions (Article 120) of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), which applies to active duty members of the Military Services and Reserve and National Guard Service members when in active duty status. Presenters will include civilian legal experts who will discuss their assessments of Article 120, military justice practitioners who will describe the impact on trial practice of recent and proposed changes to Article 120, and the Chiefs of Criminal Law from each of the Services to provide the military policy perspective on Article 120.

In addition to reviewing the current statute, the Panel will hear perspectives about whether the definition of rape and sexual assault under the UCMJ should be amended to include situations in which sexual acts occur as a result of access or coercion by a Service member abusing his or her position in the chain of command. California Congresswoman Jackie Speier and Florida Congresswoman Lois Frankel, both advocates for the proposed change, will appear before the Panel to discuss their perspectives and answer questions from Panel members. Rep. Frankel will be accompanied by a sexual assault survivor from her district, Ms. Elisha Morrow, who will share her personal experience and perspective concerning military trainers and trainees and sexual assault. The Panel will also hear from judge advocates from the Services about their experiences in prosecuting abuse of power offenses under Article 120.

The meeting includes time reserved for public comment.

For more information, the current meeting agenda, and future updates, please visit the Judicial Proceedings Panel's website at: <http://jpp.whs.mil>. Requests to make public comment, submission of written comments or materials for the Panel's consideration and any other inquiries may be directed to Ms. Julie Carson at whs.pentagon.em.mbx.judicial-panel@mail.mil or (703) 693-3849.