



JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL ON SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE MILITARY

<http://jpp.whs.mil>

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Fourth Public Meeting of the Judicial Proceedings Panel on Sexual Assault in the Military was Held on November 14, 2014 in Arlington, VA.

Arlington, VA - The fourth meeting of the Judicial Proceedings Panel on Sexual Assault in the Military (JPP) was held on Friday, November 14, 2014, at the Holiday Inn Arlington at Ballston. The meeting began with a briefing on the Department of Defense perspective and involvement with the special victims' counsel programs implemented by each of the military services, followed by an overview of how attorneys for victims of sexual assault in civilian jurisdictions obtain information necessary to protect victims' statutory rights and legal interests.

The Panel next heard from the heads of each Service's special victims' counsel programs, who briefed the JPP on their organizations, indicators for assessing program performance, how counsel are selected and trained to serve as special victims' counsel, and practical issues they are addressing in their respective programs. Following the program managers, judge advocates who currently serve as special victims' counsel discussed their day-to-day practice and experiences and answered questions from the Panel.

The meeting's afternoon session began with a trip report from JPP member Victor Stone, who attended the week-long Army Special Victims' Counsel Training Course at The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August, 2014. The remainder of the meeting featured discussions with military criminal investigators, prosecutors and defense counsel, who provided the Panel members with perspectives regarding how the Services' victims' counsel programs impact different aspects of the military justice system, including investigations, prosecutions, and safeguarding the due process rights of alleged perpetrators of sex-related offenses.

This meeting was the fourth held by the JPP as part of its congressionally mandated mission to conduct an independent review and assessment of judicial proceedings conducted under the UCMJ involving adult sexual assault and related offenses for the purpose of developing recommendations to improve such proceedings. The Panel's next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2014. The December meeting will feature sessions to hear additional perspectives regarding the special victims' counsel programs as well as an afternoon session with the senior judge advocates from the military services. The JPP will continue its work through September 2017 and will provide reports and assessments to the Secretary of Defense and Congress.

For more information about the Judicial Proceedings Panel and future meetings visit the website, <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.