



JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL

February 4, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Today of the Initial Report of the Judicial Proceedings Panel

Arlington, VA – (One Liberty Center, 875 N. Randolph Street) – The Judicial Proceedings Panel (JPP) submitted its initial report today to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives, as required by section 576 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013. This report summarizes the JPP’s assessments from the first six months of its review of judicial proceedings for adult sexual assault and related offenses conducted under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) since 2012, when Article 120 of the UCMJ was amended. The report is available electronically on the JPP website (<http://jpp.whs.mil/>).

For this initial report, the JPP focused on Article 120 of the UCMJ, the Special Victims’ Counsel Program, victim rights, and victim privacy issues in sexual assault crimes. The JPP made eleven recommendations and referred seventeen issues for additional consideration by a subcommittee that will be established later this year. The JPP will continue its review through September 2017.

Since August, the JPP has held seven days of public meetings, hearing from military leaders, sexual assault survivors, sexual assault advocacy groups, DoD and civilian victim services personnel, military and civilian prosecutors, defense counsel, military and civilian victim counsel, academics and subject matter experts, legislators, and private citizens. In addition to public testimony, the JPP received and reviewed thousands of pages of documents from the Department of Defense, the Military Services, and victim advocacy organizations.

The JPP wishes to thank all who have contributed to its review. Through this and future reports, the JPP is committed to improving the military judicial proceedings used to adjudicate sexual assault crimes.

To view the JPP’s Initial Report or for more information about the mission of the Panel, please visit the Judicial Proceedings Panel’s website at: <http://jpp.whs.mil>. Media and any other inquiries may be directed to Ms. Julie Carson at whs.pentagon.em.mbx.judicial-panel@mail.mil or (703) 693-3849.