



JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL

May 28, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Tenth Public Meeting of the Judicial Proceedings Panel was held on May 19th, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

Arlington, VA - The tenth public meeting of the Judicial Proceedings Panel (“JPP” or “the Panel”) was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, in Washington, D.C.

During the first half of its day-long public meeting, the JPP members heard from thirteen current and former members of the military about social and professional retaliation each experienced after reporting a sexual assault while serving in the military. The JPP also received a briefing from Human Rights Watch on its report released last week: “Embattled: Retaliation against Sexual Assault Survivors in the U.S. Military.” The report, which is based on interviews with more than 150 survivors of sexual assault, details the retaliation and negative repercussions for survivors who reported or sought assistance with recovery from the sexual assault and provides recommendations for Congress and the Department of Defense to better combat and prevent retaliation in the Armed Forces. Additionally, the JPP heard from a victims’ attorney who is representing military survivors of sexual assault in a federal lawsuit filed in March about the issue of retaliation and remedies for survivors.

During afternoon sessions, the JPP heard from sexual assault response coordinators and victim advocates who described retaliation issues they see among Service members making reports of sexual assault at their installations. The Panel also heard from noncommissioned officers and installation-level commanders from the military Services about retaliation issues and their work to prevent, manage, and respond to retaliation within their organizations. During the public comment session that concluded the meeting, the JPP heard testimony from three former military members who were survivors of sexual assault.

The JPP held this meeting 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. At its next session on June 18, 2015, the Panel will continue its review of issues related to retaliation against victims of sexual assault crimes and will also resume its evaluation of victim restitution and compensation issues. The JPP will continue its work through September 2017 and will provide reports and assessments to the Secretary of Defense and Congress.

Information about the Judicial Proceedings Panel and future meetings is available on the Panel’s 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.