



## JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS PANEL

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **The Judicial Proceedings Panel Releases Its Final Report on Sexual Assault in the Military**

Arlington, VA – The Judicial Proceedings Since Fiscal Year 2012 Amendments Panel (JPP) has released its final report—the culmination of three years of the Panel’s review and assessment of issues involving judicial proceedings under the Uniform Code of Military Justice related to sexual assault in the Armed Forces.

Over the course of its term, the JPP issued 11 reports to the Secretary of Defense and Congress presenting its research, findings, and recommendations on the topics assigned to it by Congress and on two topics referred by a predecessor sexual assault advisory committee—the Response Systems Panel. The JPP also investigated two additional issues that came to its attention as the Panel conducted its other assessments: retaliation against those who report sexual assault and the rights of victims at the appellate stage of the judicial process.

The Judicial Proceedings Panel Final Report addresses these JPP reports, which can be found on the JPP website at <http://jpp.whs.mil>. These reports are:

- Judicial Proceedings Panel Initial Report (February 2015)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Restitution and Compensation for Military Adult Sexual Assault Crimes (February 2016)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Article 120 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (February 2016)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Retaliation Related to Sexual Assault Offenses (February 2016)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Statistical Data Regarding Military Adjudication of Sexual Assault Offenses (April 2016)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Military Defense Counsel Resources and Experience in Sexual Assault Cases (April 2017)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Victims’ Appellate Rights (June 2017)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Sexual Assault Investigations in the Military (September 2017)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Statistical Data Regarding Military Adjudication of Sexual Assault Offenses for Fiscal Year 2015 (September 2017)
- Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Panel Concerns Regarding the Fair Administration of Military Justice in Sexual Assault Cases (September 2017)

A five-member independent federal advisory committee tasked by Congress in 2013 to conduct an independent review and assessment of military judicial proceedings for sexual assault offenses since fiscal year 2012, the JPP held 32 public meetings between August 2014 and July 2017 during which

the members heard testimony from hundreds of witnesses, including sexual assault survivors and victim advocacy organizations, military leaders, military and civilian prosecutors, defense counsel and victims' counsel, former military judges, victim services personnel, and numerous others. The Panel also received thousands of pages of documents from the Department of Defense, the military Services, and other interested parties.

During three years of review, the JPP has observed and assessed many constructive and important changes to combat sexual assault in the military and improve support for victims. The Panel emphasizes the fundamental importance of a fair and just military justice system to the operational readiness of the United States Armed Forces. As stated in the Judicial Proceedings Panel Report on Panel Concerns Regarding the Fair Administration of Military Justice in Sexual Assault Cases, "It is vital for the military justice system to strike the right balance between the needs of the victim and the needs of the defendant. Both must be properly addressed if the system is to be fair and just, and perceived as such."

The Panel thanks the hundreds of individuals who have contributed their time, insights, and effort to its work, including its staff. The Panel also expresses its thanks to the Secretary of Defense and Congress for their recognition and support.

More information about the JPP, including the full version of this report and testimony and materials considered by the Panel members, is available on the JPP's website at <http://jpp.whs.mil>.