



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1600

AUG 16 2013

GENERAL COUNSEL

Major-General Nicolas E. Matern
Canadian Defence Attaché
501 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear General Matern:

I would like to invite commanders and judge advocates in the Canadian Armed Forces to speak to the Response Systems Panel regarding the Canadian military justice system. As I'm sure you have seen in the press, The United States Armed Forces is facing serious sexual assault problems, and the Panel was created to address these issues. To assist in its review, the Panel would like to obtain information on the military justice systems of Canada and some of our other allies and partners to understand to what extent they differ from the U.S. system.

The sexual assault problems our Armed Forces face have the attention of the President, Congress and senior leaders of the Department of Defense. In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the Congress mandated the establishment of the Response Systems Panel to examine numerous aspects of how the U.S. Armed Forces investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate adult sexual assault offenses and to make recommendations for improvement. The Panel will be examining the current role of U.S. commanders in the administration of military justice and will also be reviewing proposed legislative initiatives that would modify the current role of U.S. commanders in the administration of military justice. The Panel expects to have a public meeting on September 24 and 25, 2013, and would welcome the participation and views from Canadian commanders and judge advocates at that meeting as well.

The Panel is comprised of nine distinguished members, five of whom were appointed by the Secretary of Defense and one member each appointed by the Chairman and Ranking Members of the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and House of Representatives. The members were selected from among private United States citizens who collectively possess expertise in military law, civilian law, the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of sexual assaults in State and Federal criminal courts, victim advocacy, treatment for victims, military justice, the organization and missions of the Armed Force, and offenses relating to rape, sexual assault, and other adult sexual assault crimes.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Taylor
Acting

