



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1600

SEP - 4 2013

GENERAL COUNSEL

The Honorable Barbara S. Jones  
Chair, Response Systems Panel  
Response Systems Panel

Dear Judge Jones:

Once again, I would like to thank you and the other members of the Response Systems Panel for assisting the Department in addressing the problem of sexual assault in the military. I understand from my staff that the Panel's work is well underway and that resources are being provided to assist the Panel with this very important endeavor.

On behalf of the Secretary of Defense, I am writing to request that the Response Systems Panel, in addition to its statutory requirement to evaluate sentencing guidelines, study the advisability of adopting mandatory minimum sentences for the most serious sexual assault offenses, including rape and sodomy. Additionally, the Department requests that the Panel assess the possible collateral consequences of such mandatory minimum sentences (including likely effects on sexual assault reporting, the ratio of guilty pleas to contested cases, and conviction rates). Finally, if the Panel proposes mandatory minimum sentences, I request that the Panel also address whether Congress should establish such mandatory minimums itself or should authorize the President to do so.

Please let me know if there are any additional resources the Panel needs to ensure it can accomplish its taskings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert S. Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" at the end.

Robert S. Taylor  
Acting

