



RESPONSE SYSTEMS TO ADULT SEXUAL ASSAULT CRIMES PANEL
875 N. RANDOLPH STREET
ARLINGTON, VA 22203-1995

September 17, 2013

Mr. Robert S. Taylor
Acting General Counsel
Department of Defense Office of General Counsel
1600 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1600

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for your September 4, 2013 letter requesting that the Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel ("Response Systems Panel") study the advisability of adopting mandatory minimum sentences for the most serious sexual assault offenses. As you know, Section 576(d)(1)(C) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 requires the Response Systems Panel to assess advisory sentencing guidelines used in civilian courts in adult sexual assault cases and whether it would be advisable to promulgate sentencing guidelines for use in courts-martial. In my opinion, the study of mandatory minimum sentences and their possible collateral consequences is an implied task in our statutory requirement to study sentencing guidelines, accordingly, we will study the advisability of adopting mandatory minimum sentences.

As you noted, the Response System Panel's work is well underway. The Panel's next public meeting is September 24-25, 2013 at the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, the same location as the June public meeting. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Jones", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Barbara Jones
Chair
Response Systems Panel