



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

Brigadier General (Retired) Evelyn Foote
18101 Glover Ct.
Accokeek, MD 20607-3223

FEB 27 2014

Dear Brigadier General Foote:

I received your letter dated February 2, 2014. I regret that you believe the Response Systems Panel did not value your testimony at the public hearing and want to assure you that nothing could be further from the truth.

There are three subcommittees established to assist the panel in the vast scope of the work Congress charged the Panel to examine in twelve short months. In addition to being the Chair of the Response Systems Panel, I am also the Chair of the Role of the Commander Subcommittee. On January 8, 2013, the Role of the Commander Subcommittee held a meeting in Arlington, Virginia during which a number of retired military officers and commanders presented their thoughts and opinions both for and against senior commanders retaining authority to refer sexual assault cases to courts-martial. This panel of officers was similar to the panel you were a part of at the January 30th public meeting; in fact, you were the only officer testifying in favor of Senator Gillibrand's proposed legislation who did not also appear at the January 8th subcommittee meeting.

Following this meeting, the subcommittee members drafted and deliberated on the subcommittee's initial assessment over the course of several additional meetings. This assessment was based upon numerous hours of testimony and evidence gathered from multiple sources, to include the panel of retired officers from the January 8th subcommittee meeting. Verbatim transcripts of all the subcommittee's meetings and deliberations are available on the panel's website, <http://responsesystemspanel.whs.mil>.

The subcommittee members strongly felt it was important that retired officers both in favor of and against removing convening authority from commanders should also appear at the January 30th public hearing so that those Response Systems Panel members who are not on the Role of the Commander Subcommittee, and therefore not present at the January 8th hearing, could have the benefit of the information prior to deliberating and ultimately voting on the initial assessment from the subcommittee. The full Panel members also had the benefit of being able to review a verbatim transcript of the January 8th subcommittee meeting to aid their preparation. Under the law governing how the Panel operates, the full Panel is not permitted to discuss the interim assessment prior to convening in a public session. As a result, members of

the public heard the Panel members' thoughts, deliberations, decisions, and rationale at the January 30th meeting at the same time the Panel members heard them.

The perspective and insights you and other retired military officers shared, both at the January 8th subcommittee meeting and the January 30th public meeting, contributed to the debate among the members and were instrumental in helping the Role of the Commander Subcommittee and the Response Systems Panel arrive at their findings in the initial assessment. In closing, I want to personally assure you that the full Panel made no decisions and did not deliberate on its initial assessment until after it heard and considered your and other retired and former military officers' valuable insights.

Sincerely,



Barbara Jones
Chair
Response Systems Panel