

Response Systems Panel  
Victim Services Subcommittee  
Minutes of January 9, 2014 Meeting

The Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel (RSP) is a federal advisory committee within the Department of Defense (DoD) operating pursuant to Section 576(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the Government in Sunshine Act of 1976, and governing federal regulations. The Victim Services Subcommittee (VSS) of the RSP held a meeting on January 9, 2014 on the implementation and enforcement of crime victim rights. The meeting began at 9:01 a.m. and concluded at 3:43 p.m. at the RSP offices at 875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 150, Arlington, VA 22203. A transcript of the meeting is hereby incorporated by reference.

Participating VSS Subcommittee Members:

Ms. Mai Fernandez, Chair  
Judge Barbara Jones  
Representative Elizabeth Holtzman  
Judge Christel Marquardt  
Dean Michelle Anderson  
Dean Lisa Schenck  
Ms. Meg Garvin  
Mr. Bill Cassara

Participating RSP Staff Members:

Colonel Patricia Ham, RSP Staff Director  
Ms. Terri Saunders, RSP Deputy Staff Director  
Commander Sherry King, VSS Branch Chief  
Ms. Julie Carson, RSP Staff Attorney  
Ms. Rachel Landsee, RSP Staff Attorney

Other Participants:

Ms. Maria Fried, Designated Federal Official

Presenters:

Mr. Doug Beloof, Lewis & Clark Law School  
Mr. Russell Butler, Executive Director, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center  
Mr. Jonathan Jeffress, Assistant Federal Public Defender, District of Columbia  
Major Ryan Oakley, USAF, Department of Defense Office of Legal Policy

After the meeting was opened, Ms. Fernandez welcomed the subcommittee members and noted that the subject of the meeting was the implementation and enforcement of the Crime Victim Rights Act.

Professor Beloof introduced himself as a law professor at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland Oregon, a former prosecutor and judge. Mr. Beloof informed the subcommittee that he was intimately involved in the drafting and passage of the Crime Victims' Rights Act. He discussed the history and applicability of the Crime Victims' Rights Act and answered questions from the Subcommittee members.

Mr. Butler then began his presentation by introducing himself as the executive director of the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center. He explained that the Center has victim advocates, attorneys and social workers as well as some policy people. He first explained the history of victims' rights in Maryland, which started with guidelines, then constitutional rights, then a statute. Additionally, Mr. Butler explained that they have set up law clinics in Maryland and D.C. that litigate cases for victims' rights that is a model of what the DoD SVC is designed to be.

After a break, the Subcommittee reviewed their Terms of Reference as well as the additional duties added under the FY14 NDAA. CDR King noted that the Joint Services Committee report addresses civilian systems and will be useful to the subcommittee when released. CDR King next handed out the proposed outline for the subcommittee to begin working from.

After a brief break, the subcommittee called Mr. Butler to begin his additional presentation. Mr. Butler informed the subcommittee that his organization has litigated as counsel for victims within the Maryland court system, the DC courts, and the federal trial and appellate courts. Mr. Stone then introduced himself and noted that he has spent the last year working with Mr. Butler as a victims' advocate. Mr. Stone noted that he helped write and was involved in every version of the Attorney General's Guidelines. He discussed crime victims' rights and answered questions from the Subcommittee members.

Major Oakley then spoke to the Subcommittee on behalf of the DoD Office of Legal Policy, Personnel and Readiness. He discussed DoD's Victim Witness Assistance Program and crime victims' rights applicable to the military. He described the multi-disciplinary and collaborative approach that includes VWAP coordinators at local installations, criminal investigators, chaplains, family advocacy personnel, sexual assault response coordinators, judge advocates, unit commanding officers, corrections personnel, victim advocates, and other service designated personnel. He added that VWAP is also a key element of the DoD's forthcoming Special Victims Capability, to provide enhanced support for victims of sexual assault, serious domestic violence, and child abuse.

Mr. Jeffress then spoke to the Subcommittee as an assistant federal public defender for nine and a half years in Washington D.C. He discussed the perceived advantages and disadvantages of the Crime Victim Rights Act, 18 USC 23771, from a defense counsel perspective and answered questions posed by the Subcommittee members.

The Subcommittee meeting was closed by Ms. Fried at 3:43 p.m.

I hereby certify, to the best of my knowledge, the foregoing minutes are accurate and complete.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mai Fernandez".

Mai Fernandez  
Chair  
Victim Services Subcommittee  
Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel

Attachments:

1. Biography – Victor Stone
2. Statement of Doug Beloof
3. CRS Report on the Crime Victims’ Rights Act
4. Crime Victims’ Rights Act Summary