

Response Systems Panel
Comparative Systems Subcommittee
Minutes of January 15, 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 other appropriate federal regulations. The Comparative Systems Subcommittee (CSS) of the Response Systems Panel held a meeting on January 15, 2014, to review the issues identified for the subcommittee to address and determine future requirements. The meeting began at 7:17 a.m. and concluded at 10:00 a.m. The transcript of the January 15, 2014 meeting will be appended and is incorporated herein by reference.

Participating CSS Members:

Professor Elizabeth Hillman, CSS Chair
Brigadier General (ret.) Malinda Dunn, CSS Member
Brigadier General (ret.) John Cooke, CSS Member
Mr. Harvey Bryant, CSS Member
Mr. Russ Strand, CSS Member
Ms. Rhonnie Jaus, CSS Member (by phone)
Colonel (ret.) Dawn Scholz, CSS Member (by phone)

Other Participants:

Colonel Patricia Ham, RSP Staff Director
Ms. Terri Saunders, RSP Deputy Staff Director
LTC Kelly McGovern, CSS Staff Branch Chief
Mr. Dillon Fishman, RSP Staff Attorney
Ms. Janice Chayt, RSP Staff Investigator
Ms. Maria Fried, Designated Federal Officer

Introductory Remarks

At 7:17 am Ms. Fried opened the subcommittee meeting. Professor Hillman began the subcommittee meeting by explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to review the extensive list of topics the subcommittee needs to consider in writing their report.

Professor Hillman also noted that the report will need to recognize that the military jurisdiction itself has a lot of subparts with the various branches of Service, different sizes of installations and the remoteness of different locations. She stated the subcommittee will need to elaborate on solutions that will fit all those different places and not just one.

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Deliberations

Mr. Strand stated one of those areas that the CSS will struggle with will be SANEs. The members briefly discussed the issue of military medical clinics have the capability of providing sexual assault forensic examinations (SAFE).

Professor Hillman began by covering a list of topics that they have received sufficient information to begin deliberating. Mr. Strand also suggested the issue of sustainment be addressed across all of the topics. He noted that there is a lot of energy and resources available now, but questioned whether it will be sustainable and whether these are permanent changes. BG(R) Dunn and Prof. Hillman agreed that resourcing will be critical to the CSS recommendations.

The committee members deliberated on several of the issues associated with investigation issues. It was noted that in the military system there is no discretion, all reports of sexual assault are investigated. The issue concerning collateral misconduct will cross over with both other subcommittees, but this committee will address it with a narrow focus as it pertains to the actions of the investigator.

Mr. Strand initiated a discussion on police involvement in restricted reports. During the open meeting the Ashland Police testified that they have detective interview victims to tell them about the process and obtain some information about the incident. The victim can still opt not to pursue an investigation and none is initiated. They have found that this can show a victim that they can work with the police and they feel it results in a number of cases being reported and documented that were not reported in the past.

The committee discussed the issue of sexual assault incidents and training at universities. It was noted that some universities have their own police departments that handle cases internally, while others report incidents to the local civilian police. All universities are required by Title IX to do an investigation into all allegations administratively.

Mr. Strand provided a briefing on the preparatory meeting-site visit to Fort Hood, TX and Professor Hillman provided a briefing on the preparatory meeting at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland.

The subcommittee discussed the value of additional site visits to gather information. It was suggested site visits be planned to Washington to visit Navy personnel at Bremerton Naval Base, and see two consolidated facilities with the military's Sexual Assault Response Center at Joint Base Lewis McChord and the civilian equivalent at Dawson Place in Everett, Washington.

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Visits were also suggested for the Naval Base at Norfolk, Virginia and another civilian consolidated center in Philadelphia, as well as a possible visit to the Washington Naval Yard.

The subcommittee members discussed the process for creating the draft report. The members agreed that the staff will research each topic and provide factual background information from the various meetings and other sources and provide citations to support the discussion. From these drafts, the committee members will develop their findings and recommendations, but may request additional information from the staff as needed.

BG(R) Dunn asked if changes had been made to the work place survey and if any results of a new survey would be available for consideration in this report. All indications were that no new survey would be done prior to the CSS report due this spring or the RSP report due in June 2014.

Ms. Fried closed the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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



Elizabeth Hillman

Chairperson for the Comparative Systems Subcommittee,
Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel