

Response Systems Panel  
Victim Services Subcommittee  
Minutes of January 23, 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 via teleconference on January 23, 2014. The purpose of the phone conference was to discuss a draft subcommittee outline for the report, discuss other issues subcommittee members would like included in the outline and report, and discuss future meeting opportunities. The teleconference began at 2:30 p.m. and concluded at 3:55 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  
Honorable Elizabeth Holtzman  
Dean Michelle Anderson  
Dean Lisa Schenck  
Honorable Christel Marquardt  
Mr. William Cassara

Participating RSP Staff Members:

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

Others Present:

Lt Col Candace Hunstiger, Designated Federal Official

After the Designated Federal Officer opened the meeting, Ms. Fernandez advised the committee that she had met with the staff the week before to put together a revised outline that was based on the information accumulated by the subcommittee.

CDR King went through the structure of the outline for the subcommittee, noting that the first page sets out the objectives, scope and the requirements set forth in the 2014 NDAA that apply to the Subcommittee's report. She discussed each section of the outline, including Victim Rights and Victim Services. The victim services section includes a discussion of SARCs, Victim

Advocates, Victim Witness Liaison and Special Victim's counsel. CDR King later finished the discussion of the outline by describing the Reporting section and indicating there was a Best Practice section, but that would be primarily filled in by subcommittee member's findings.

The subcommittee members discussed the outline and the materials they would like to see included in the subcommittee report. Dean Anderson indicated that she had two additional areas for discussion – one was victim fears, or concerns about coming forward with a sexual assault allegation. The other has to do with military culture, and attempts to change military culture, such as at the subcommittee saw during the visit to Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, as well as concerns over what happens after basic training.

The discussion continued, with members discussing potential issues to include in their report, including culture in the military, reporting (or choosing not to report), reprisal, prevention (including a potential discussion of providing services to prevent revictimization of military members), victim rights (including standing and the right to be heard as to the issue of charging), victim services, as well as the issue of non-military victims.

The phone conference ended at 3:55 p.m.

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



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

Attachments:  
Agenda