



CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20318-9999

21 November 2013

The Honorable Barbara Jones
Chair
Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault
Crimes Panel
One Liberty Center
875 N. Randolph Street, Suite 150
Arlington, VA 22203-1995

Dear Madame Chair:

Thank you for your 23 October letter and the work your panel is conducting for the Secretary of Defense and all of our men and women in uniform. It is clear your mission is difficult but important to our team. Your work will have a lasting impact on our military judicial system and our ability to hold offenders accountable, while ensuring that the rights of victims of these horrendous crimes are upheld. The Joint Chiefs wholeheartedly support the panel's efforts.

I understand you are proceeding deliberately, realizing the effects that changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice could have. In terms of your question regarding the panel's terms of reference, the approach this panel has taken thus far reflects inherent differences between our military justice system and those of civilian governments. We appreciate those differences and will make every effort to ensure effective communication regardless of system or terminology.

As a follow up to the first set of responses we submitted to your team on 5 November, please be assured the Joint Chiefs and I will continue to provide you as much information and support as we can to ensure that your review moves forward efficiently and successfully. We look forward to assisting you and benefiting from your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Martin E. Dempsey", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

MARTIN E. DEMPSEY
General, U.S. Army