

From: Amy Stevens
To: Ham, Patricia A COL USARMY OSD OGC (US)
Subject: RE: Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel
Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 1:57:48 PM

Yes. That is fine. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.

From my Android phone on T-Mobile. The first nationwide 4G network.

----- Original message -----

From: "Ham, Patricia A COL USARMY OSD OGC (US)"
Date: 01/28/2014 1:43 PM (GMT-05:00)
To: Ms. Stevens
Cc: "Saunders, Terri A CIV OSD OGC (US)"
Subject: RE: Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel

Ms. Stevens:

I work with Ms. Saunders. I am treating your email below as public comment - which means it will go to the panel members for their consideration and will be posted on the panel website. If that is not what you intended, please let me know.

COL HAM
Staff Director

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Stevens [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 11, 2014 1:00 PM
To: Saunders, Terri A CIV OSD OGC (US)
Subject: Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crimes Panel

Good Afternoon, I would appreciate being linked in on any public communications and/or opportunities to comment regarding this panel. I am very involved nationally in advising mental health clinicians on how to address the epidemic of military sexual trauma (MST) and the issues around it. I am a former Naval officer who experienced severe reprisals while I was on active duty in the early 1980s for reporting incidents of MST. While I did not experience assault myself, I felt the full brute of what happens when someone tried to do the right thing when facing an inappropriate culture in a dysfunctional command environment. I strongly believe that accountability within the chain of command is essential. We fire skippers off ships when ensigns run ships aground. Navy culture is supposed to be that leadership is key regardless of who is committing the act that endangers shipmates. I believe the same approach is needed around the issue of sexual assault. Prevention in the past held the victims responsible for staying out late at night or being "too sexy" for their peers. The recent amendments to the 2014 Defense Authorization Act provide a good start on changes that are needed. Healing for victims needs to include trauma-informed approaches which support them in their courage to report assaults. Treatment and victim care needs to be improved as well as firmly prosecuting perpetrators. Thank you for progress to date and for any opportunity I might have to contribute.

Respectfully,

Dr. Amy Stevens, Ed.D., LPC

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Founder: FaceBook Group : "GA Military Women"