

**From:** Fried, Maria A CIV OSD OGC (US)  
**To:** Saunders, Terri A CIV OSD OGC (US); Ham, Patricia A COL USARMY OSD OGC (US)  
**Subject:** Fw: Attendance at the Austin, TX Response Systems Panel  
**Date:** Thursday, November 21, 2013 7:28:24 PM

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**From:** Brown, Melissa D MAJ USARMY (US)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2013 05:59 PM  
**To:** Fried, Maria A CIV OSD OGC (US)  
**Subject:** Attendance at the Austin, TX Response Systems Panel

Good morning,

I am a National Guard Officer interested in participating/attending the December session of the Response Systems Panel in Austin, TX. I have been personally affected by the complexities of our current system and would like to participate in the discussion of how and where our system needs to change. I want to turn my negative event into an opportunity to help other Soldiers and leaders.

Years ago, while on active duty I was sexually assaulted and hesitant to use the reporting system. Well after the event I used the restricted reporting system in order to get medical help for myself. I later changed my report to unrestricted and had the matter investigated. I knew that my case would be weakened due to the lack of physical evidence but felt an obligation to protect other soldiers from being victimized. I got two memorable phone calls following the investigation. The first was from the CID agent who told me the investigation was complete and my sexual assault charge had been substantiated and the case was referred to my Brigade Commander for action. The second call was several months later from the Brigade legal officer who informed me that the Brigade Commander would not be pursuing any judicial or non-judicial punishment against the Soldier who assaulted me.

VR,  
MAJ Melissa Brown