

DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION,
PROSECUTION, AND DEFENSE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT
IN THE ARMED FORCES
(DAC-IPAD)

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32ND PUBLIC MEETING

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WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2023

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The Committee met in the General
Gordon R. Sullivan Conference and Event Center,
located at 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington,
Virginia, at 9:00 a.m., Hon. Karla Smith,
Committee Chair, presiding.

PRESENT

Hon. Karla Smith, Chair
MG(R) Marcia Anderson
Ms. Martha Bashford
Mr. William Cassara
Ms. Suzanne Goldberg
Hon. Paul Grimm
Mr. A.J. Kramer *
Ms. Jennifer Gentile Long *
Dr. Jenifer Markowitz
BGen(R) James Schwenk
Dr. Cassia Spohn
Ms. Meghan Tokash
Hon. Reggie Walton

ALSO PRESENT

Mr. Dwight Sullivan, Designated Federal Official
Mr. Pete Yob, Executive Director
Ms. Meghan Peters, Acting Deputy Director
Mr. Dale Trexler, Chief of Staff
Ms. Theresa Gallagher, Attorney Advisor
Ms. Nalini Gupta, Attorney Advisor
Ms. Michael Libretto, Attorney Advisor
Ms. Terri Saunders, Attorney Advisor
Ms. Kate Tagert, Attorney Advisor
Ms. Eleanor Magers Vuono, Attorney Advisor
Ms. Amanda Hagy, Senior Paralegal
Ms. Stayce Rozell, Senior Paralegal
Ms. Stacy Boggess, Senior Paralegal
Ms. Marguerite McKinney, Management & Program
Analyst
Ms. Janelle Mclaughlin, Paralegal
Mr. Blake Morris, Paralegal
Dr. William Wells, Criminologist

* Present via video teleconference

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 8:50 a.m.

3 MR. SULLIVAN: Good morning, this is
4 the second day of the public meeting of the DAC-
5 IPAD is now open.

6 Chair Smith, you have the con.

7 CHAIR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan,
8 and good morning everyone.

9 I would like to welcome the members of
10 the DAC-IPAD and everyone in attendance today, to
11 day two of the 32nd public meeting of the Defense
12 Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution,
13 and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed
14 Forces, or DAC-IPAD.

15 Today's meeting will be in person with
16 video conference via Zoom also available, for
17 members, presenters, and other attendees.

18 The DAC-IPAD was created by the
19 Secretary of Defense in 2016 in accordance with
20 the National Defense Authorization Act, for
21 fiscal year 2015, as amended, for a 10-year term.

22 Our mandate is to advise the Secretary

1 of Defense on the investigation, prosecution, and
2 defense of allegations of sexual assault and
3 other sexual misconduct, involving members of the
4 armed forces.

5 I'd like to acknowledge again with
6 gratitude, the military justice experts from each
7 of the military services, criminal law divisions,
8 who serve as the DAC-IPAD's dedicated service
9 representatives, and who have joined us for the
10 meeting today. Welcome, and thank you.

11 We will begin today's meeting by first
12 hearing from the DAC-IPAD criminologist, who will
13 provide an update on the preliminary results of
14 the Panel Selection Study.

15 Next, the committee will receive a
16 briefing from the professional staff on the
17 current proposals for assessing the
18 implementation and performance of special trial
19 counsel, in all services.

20 After a break, the committee will
21 receive an update from the Special Projects
22 Subcommittee, and the Policy Subcommittee.

1 The committee has received multiple
2 requests to provide public comment at this
3 meeting and after the lunch break, we will hear
4 from five speakers who will each have five
5 minutes to discuss their experiences and
6 perspectives on sexual assault, and military
7 justice policy in the armed forces.

8 After the public comments conclude,
9 the DAC-IPAD director will wrap up the meeting
10 before adjournment by the DFO.

11 I'll end with a couple of housekeeping
12 items. To those joining by video, I ask that you
13 please mute your device microphone when not
14 speaking.

15 If any technical difficulties should
16 occur with the video, we will break for 10
17 minutes, move to a teleconference line and send
18 the dial-in instructions by email.

19 Today's meeting is being recorded and
20 transcribed, and the complete written transcript
21 will be posted on the DAC-IPAD website.

22 Thank you again to those in attendance

1 today, and I will now hand the meeting over to
2 Ms. Kate Tagert, to introduce our speaker for the
3 Panel Selection Study update and discussion.

4 Thank you, Kate.

5 Do you have something?

6 MR. YOB: Yes, Chair Smith, my
7 apologies. Just had two quick administrative
8 announcements.

9 One is that I inadvertently failed to
10 count for quorum yesterday, but I want to put on
11 the record that we did have quorum, as we
12 reflected in the votes that we had throughout the
13 meeting.

14 And that I will put on the record
15 today that we currently have quorum. We have
16 nine members in person, and I believe there's two
17 virtual members on at this moment.

18 So thank you for that.

19 The other administrative announcement
20 is just that we, a reminder that we're having a
21 working lunch today to discuss site visits.

22 We'll also discuss future meetings,

1 and some of the meeting dates and processes, and
2 any other administrative matters we'll cover
3 during that working lunch today, so thank you.

4 Thank you, Judge, and I'll turn it
5 over now to Kate and Dr. Wells.

6 MS. TAGERT: Okay, good morning.

7 Today the case review team is going to
8 be providing an in-depth overview of the Panel
9 Selection Study, that was first approved by the
10 DAC-IPAD earlier this year in January.

11 This presentation is going to cover
12 the original purposes of the study, and describe
13 what information we have been able to collect.

14 Finally, we will present how we
15 analyzed the data by using the Army's dataset as
16 an example.

17 We don't yet have all the services
18 complete, but we believe that any feedback that
19 you have today on the data, will help us complete
20 the other services in a more efficient manner, as
21 well as prepare for the report.

22 The staff's intent is to have a

1 standalone report for your review by early next
2 spring.

3 Before we get into the study, I just
4 want to remind everyone that the results that we
5 are looking at, are from contested courts-martial
6 that involve an Article 120, or Article 120 bravo
7 offense.

8 These cases were adjudicated in fiscal
9 year 2021 and 2022.

10 So this next slide shows you the
11 original purposes of the study, which was to
12 study the demographics of what military panels
13 look like, as well as other courtroom personnel
14 such as trial prosecutors, lead defense counsel,
15 as well as judges.

16 The good news is that we were able to
17 meet many of these objectives with some variance,
18 based on the source documents that we reviewed.

19 The subcommittee determined that by
20 reviewing the records of trial and convening
21 orders, we were able to collect the necessary
22 information of members that were detailed to

1 courts-martial, as well as those members that
2 were eventually impaneled.

3 We were able to work with the services
4 to determine and receive race, gender, and
5 ethnicity information on personnel, once we
6 provided them with the information recorded from
7 the case files.

8 Unfortunately for this study, we were
9 not able to capture the demographic information
10 of victims. And the reasons for that are two-
11 fold.

12 One, a lot of the victims in the
13 sexual assault cases that we reviewed were not
14 service members and therefore, the services do
15 not have any of their demographic information in
16 the case files.

17 Second, for the members that were
18 service members, a lot of times the source
19 documents only had their initials, and our
20 methodology was providing the names to the
21 services.

22 However, we were able to capture the

1 demographic information of the accused.

2 So there are two important reasons
3 that we decided to embark on the study. The
4 first is interestingly enough, there has never
5 been a study done on the demographic information
6 of military panel members, despite the many
7 conversations on the subject.

8 The results of this study provide the
9 public information on a process that historically
10 has not been transparent, and can inform the
11 public and the military when assessing
12 perceptions of what panel member demographics
13 actually are.

14 Secondly, the results will act as the
15 baseline going forward, to understand what impact
16 the changes to panel selection will have on the
17 demographic makeup of courts-martial.

18 As previously discussed in other
19 meetings as well as the Article 25 report that
20 you reviewed, United States v. Jeter was recently
21 decided, which found that convening authorities
22 can no longer take race into account for

1 inclusionary purposes going forward.

2 So the cases that we reviewed, as you
3 heard, the convening authorities that testified
4 said they did, indeed, take race into account
5 when selecting who they were going to detail to
6 courts-martial. But that practice is no longer
7 permitted.

8 So this will serve as a baseline to
9 see what changes, what impact Jeter has on the
10 demographics.

11 Likewise, the services soon will be
12 potentially undergoing a more robust
13 randomization system, when selecting panel
14 members. So we will also be able to see the
15 baseline between that going forward.

16 So before getting into the minutiae of
17 the results of the study, I did want to orientate
18 you to the panel selection process, and what
19 stages we are going to be focusing on today.

20 The data is focusing on the last three
21 blocks on this slide. We're talking about which
22 members the convening authority detailed to the

1 courts-martial; the bases for why particular
2 panel members were not selected; as well as the
3 personnel that were actually impaneled.

4 As you can see, the average number of
5 personnel detailed to a court-martial is 14
6 members, with the next largest number being 16
7 members.

8 So, we're not talking about a large
9 amount of people being detailed to any particular
10 court-martial. Generally speaking, a general
11 court-martial will have eight members once
12 impaneled.

13 The staff, by reviewing the
14 transcripts as well as listening to the audios,
15 was able to capture the bases of why a panel
16 member was not impaneled.

17 I did just want to briefly talk about
18 the military voir dire process, because we will
19 be discussing challenges for cause peremptories,
20 as well as the randomization process in the
21 results.

22 Detailed members once they come into

1 a courtroom, are considered assembled. Both the
2 prosecution and the defense have an opportunity
3 to challenge members.

4 Some of the challenges are just based
5 on statutory reasons. For example, members
6 should not be a lower rank than the accused.

7 The majority of challenges are based
8 on the accused's constitutional right to be tried
9 by an impartial jury.

10 There are two standards for addressing
11 challenges. The first is whether the member has
12 an actual bias, meaning that the member is so
13 inflexible that they could not yield to the
14 evidence, or the judge's instructions.

15 The second is whether or not there is
16 implied bias, an objective standard which asks
17 whether the system's appearance of fairness would
18 be questioned if the challenged member was
19 allowed to stay and hear the case.

20 Generally, these types of challenges
21 are typical to those in the civilian world.

22 What is unique about the military

1 system at least right now, is that currently,
2 military judges must grant, liberally grant
3 defense challenges for cause.

4 The reason being that the government
5 has as many peremptory challenges as they want,
6 because they're the ones that are detailing the
7 members to the panel in the first place.

8 So, additionally the defense and the
9 government only receive one peremptory strike in
10 the military court-martial.

11 So in a general court-martial, if
12 there is a surplus of more than eight members
13 remaining after challenges, a randomizer is going
14 to be applied to the remaining members.

15 So, everyone will be assigned a number
16 and then the government and the defense will be
17 given an opportunity to challenge on a
18 peremptory.

19 So, that is how panels are formed. If
20 after that peremptory challenge there's a surplus
21 of eight, those people will be randomized off the
22 panel.

1 Okay, so just so you understand where
2 we received the information the staff relied on
3 the following documents.

4 We would review the convening orders
5 and the transcripts; the list of members. We
6 would also rely on the transcripts to pull the
7 information of why a member was not impaneled.

8 Then the staff also reviewed the entry
9 of judgment, or results of trial, to determine
10 what forum was selected; the outcome of the case;
11 as well as information about the accused.

12 When we were assessing the feasibility
13 of this study, we did run into some problems.
14 The amount of information that is necessary to do
15 this study was sizeable.

16 Many of the thousands of documents we
17 reviewed were not easily searchable.

18 Secondly, the majority of cases we
19 reviewed were acquittals, meaning that they did
20 not have a transcript and the staff had to listen
21 to the audios to determine the reasons for why
22 particular members were not impaneled.

1 This table provides an overview of the
2 number of cases reviewed, and the data points
3 extracted from those files and audios.

4 We've reviewed 258 contested courts-
5 martial, and we've collected close to 48,000 data
6 points just to be able to determine the
7 demographics of a court-martial.

8 As an update, we have finalized the
9 Army, which is what you're going to be hearing
10 about today.

11 We continue to work with the other
12 service representatives to receive the race,
13 gender, and ethnicity for the others.

14 We hope to have again, the standalone
15 report to you by early next spring.

16 I'm going to pass the baton to Bill,
17 to discuss the analysis that we performed on the
18 data.

19 DR. WELLS: Good morning.

20 Want to walk you through the analysis
21 plan that we executed, before we start talking
22 about the results.

1 So, with the Army data, we have
2 information about 124 courts-martial. Within
3 those courts-martial, we have information about
4 individuals.

5 So, we took the approach with the
6 analysis, that we would look at the 124 cases in
7 terms of basic information about those cases.

8 Then in stage 2, which is part 2, we
9 took the individuals that were involved in each
10 of those 124 cases, and we aggregated them
11 together.

12 So, we pooled them together ignoring
13 which case they were involved in. And that's
14 going to give us some information about the 1,965
15 members that were detailed to those 124 courts-
16 martial.

17 Then in part 3, what we do is we take
18 those individuals, we put them back into the
19 particular case that they were involved in, and
20 we describe information about them at the case
21 level.

22 So, in part 3 what you're going to see

1 is information about each of those 124 cases in
2 terms of the individuals that were involved in
3 those particular cases.

4 So, these are the phases of the
5 analysis, and that's how we've broken down the
6 results.

7 So here's some of the results from
8 part 1. So, we obtained 72 cases from fiscal
9 year 2021, and 52 cases from fiscal year 2022,
10 and then we have the race and ethnicity of the
11 accused. Basic descriptive information about the
12 cases that we're dealing with.

13 I'll have a note about how we measured
14 race and ethnicity for the analysis here in just
15 a minute.

16 The vast majority of the accused were
17 men, and were enlisted personnel. And case
18 adjudication, 58.9 percent ended in acquittal;
19 and, 41.1 ended up as a guilty finding.

20 And then all officer panels were the
21 exception. 15.1 percent, or 15.3 percent of
22 those 124 cases.

1 The members detailed. So, this is
2 part 2 of the analysis. We ran into some
3 measurement complications when it came to
4 capturing the demographic information about the
5 members.

6 So we first obtained the cases for
7 FY22 and the demographic information for the
8 members, and we were under the impression that we
9 were going to be able to separate out the
10 measurement of race from ethnicity.

11 So we'd be able to capture a person's
12 race independent of their ethnicity, to get a
13 more detailed and accurate picture of these
14 demographics.

15 When we received the FY21 data from
16 the Army, we realized this was not going to be
17 possible.

18 The information they provided didn't
19 allow us for that separation. So, we had several
20 forms of communication with the Army to
21 understand how they were measuring race and
22 ethnicity with the FY21 and FY22 cases.

1 It's highly complicated, not highly
2 complicated but somewhat complicated. And the
3 Army is in transition in how they're measuring
4 demographic characteristics of their members.

5 So with that, we made the decision to
6 use their legacy systems, which does not separate
7 out race from ethnicity.

8 So when you see race and ethnicity
9 presented in the findings today, please know
10 that, that about a particular individual, we do
11 not know their race and their ethnicity. We just
12 know one or the other, and that's how we've
13 categorized people.

14 So, with the detailed members to these
15 124 cases, we have 1,965 members. And this is
16 the breakdown of their race and ethnic
17 categories.

18 White, non-Hispanic, 50.9 percent.
19 Black, non-Hispanic, 21.9. Hispanic, 13.5.
20 Asian or pacific Islander, 5.9. American Indian
21 or Alaskan Native, .8.

22 And then we have missing data for 136

1 individuals that their race and ethnicity was
2 unknown in the data, or that particular
3 individual could not be identified in the Army
4 data because of several potential factors that
5 Kate can talk about later, if we have questions
6 about that.

7 This provides you an understanding of
8 the demographic breakdown of the Army statistics
9 at large, from FY22.

10 463,083 active duty service members.
11 15.1 -- 15.7 percent are female; 84.3 are male.
12 And then this is the race and ethnicity breakdown
13 for the Army.

14 This is the race and ethnicity of
15 detailed members, broken down into two
16 categories. White, non-Hispanic service members;
17 and, service members belonging to a racial and
18 ethnic minority group.

19 When you delete out this unknown/other
20 category, you see that the detailed member
21 demographic breakdown matches the previous slide,
22 which is the Army demographics at large.

1 So with the detailed service members,
2 54.7 percent are White, non-Hispanic, and 45.3
3 are service members belonging to a minority
4 racial and ethnic group.

5 And then if you reflect back on the
6 previous slide, which I'll show you, the 53.6
7 percent if you ignore those unknown categories,
8 becomes 54 percent White and 46 percent minority
9 ethnic and racial group service members.

10 And those match the 54.7 and 45.3 that
11 we find in the detailed service members. So,
12 those numbers are in close alignment.

13 Army demographics in terms of those
14 two categories are presented here on the next
15 slide. And then we also show the representation
16 of men and women in the Army. 85.2 percent and
17 14.8 percent.

18 Continuing on with our impaneled
19 members, 48.9 percent of detailed personnel are
20 actually impaneled on a jury.

21 When we compare the breakdown of those
22 who are impaneled by their race and ethnic

1 category, we see that the percentages are nearly
2 identical.

3 48.7 percent of White, non-Hispanic
4 service members who were detailed, are actually
5 impaneled. 48.6 percent of minority service
6 members who are detailed, are actually impaneled.

7 So we don't see any difference here in
8 terms of the empanelment stage.

9 When we look at the excusal reasons,
10 again, we don't see differences across the
11 demographic categories here.

12 So, taking for example the challenges
13 for cause, 65.6 percent of White, non-Hispanic
14 service members are excused because of a
15 challenge for cause.

16 And that's nearly identical to the
17 breakdown for minority service members, 65.5
18 percent of minority service members are excused
19 because of a challenge for cause.

20 We also analyzed the gender of
21 detailed service members, so 75.2 percent of
22 detailed members are male; 20.2 percent are

1 female.

2 And this is very much in line with the
3 Army demographic data. However, the slight
4 difference is that men are underrepresented on
5 details, and females are slightly overrepresented
6 on details in the Army.

7 At the empanelment stage, 37.8 percent
8 of women are impaneled, and 51.6 percent of men
9 are impaneled.

10 And again, this is when you compare
11 this to the Army demographics, women are slightly
12 overrepresented when it comes to the empanelment
13 stage.

14 And, men are slightly under
15 represented in relation to their percentages in
16 the Army.

17 Yes, sir?

18 MR. CASSARA: Dr. Wells, I'm again
19 reminded of why I went to law school and not
20 math. What do you mean by overrepresented and
21 under represented?

22 DR. WELLS: Yes, great --

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 MR. CASSARA: Does it get back to a
3 very, much more basic sum for my very basic non-
4 math brain?

5 DR. WELLS: No.

6 MR. CASSARA: Thank you.

7 DR. WELLS: Great question. If you go
8 back to slide 19, that's where we present the
9 information on the percentage of men and women in
10 the Army.

11 So at the bottom of slide 19, you see
12 that 19 percent of service members are female.

13 And then when you fast forward to
14 empanelment, and this will become clearer with
15 part 3 of the analysis, you see that women are
16 represented at a higher rate than that 19
17 percent.

18 But what this slide shows on 24, is
19 that among females, they are impaneled at a lower
20 rate than men. That's that 51.6 percent versus
21 the 37.8 percent.

22 When we look at --

1 (Simultaneous speaking.)

2 MS. GOLDBERG: Just since you opened
3 the door --

4 DR. WELLS: Yes.

5 MS. GOLDBERG: -- to the math
6 questions, is the layperson's understanding of
7 that when men are impaneled, they're like to be
8 selected, oh wait, sorry.

9 When men are in the pool they are
10 likely to be selected half the time. When women
11 are in the pool, they're likely to be selected
12 for impaneled somewhat over a third of the time.

13 Is that the way to understand that, or
14 is there something else?

15 DR. WELLS: When we look at the
16 empanelment percentages, which aren't presented
17 here on this particular slide.

18 Sixteen percent of people impaneled
19 are female in our data. Sixteen percent.

20 MS. GOLDBERG: Maybe I'll wait till we
21 get to that slide.

22 DR. WELLS: Okay.

1 MS. GOLDBERG: And I'll ask you the
2 same question.

3 DR. WELLS: Okay.

4 (Laughter.)

5 DR. WELLS: And I got that 16 percent
6 -- 150 divided by 913, if you're looking at this
7 slide. So all people impaneled, there are 913
8 people impaneled.

9 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: Yes, on that issue.
10 So, if the Army overall is 20 percent female, and
11 they impaneled 900+ people, 20 percent of that is
12 180.

13 DR. WELLS: Right.

14 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: So you would expect
15 females to be 180, but they're only 150.

16 DR. WELLS: And when we get to part 3,
17 General, then I'll show you where that
18 percentage, where I'm drawing that percentage
19 from.

20 So, I'm already looking --

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: But is that right

1 though? We would just on this, if 20 percent of
2 900 is 180, so and we only ended up with 150?

3 DR. WELLS: Correct.

4 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: Okay, thank you.

5 MS. GOLDBERG: And sorry, maybe one
6 more just from slide 24, or I'm sorry, page 24.
7 I mean, it's just that I, just again try to put
8 this together for myself in layperson's terms.

9 Does this mean that in about, in just
10 over a third of panels, there is at least one
11 woman and about two-thirds there is not? Or is
12 that not right?

13 DR. WELLS: No, we can't draw that
14 conclusion from this.

15 MS. GOLDBERG: Okay.

16 DR. WELLS: Yes, and we'll get to that
17 in part 3.

18 MS. GOLDBERG: Okay.

19 DR. WELLS: Yes.

20 MS. GOLDBERG: I'll wait for part 3.

21 (Laughter.)

22 DR. WELLS: The next slide, which is

1 25, shows the reasons for excusal by gender. And
2 what we see here similar to race and ethnicity,
3 we don't see any particular reason for excusal
4 being used differentially for male and female
5 service members.

6 So for instance, you would see that
7 17.8 percent of women who are not impaneled, are
8 excused for a peremptory challenge. Among men,
9 that's 17.3 percent.

10 So, very similar percentages in terms
11 of the reason for excusal.

12 The next analysis breaks things down
13 in a little bit more refined manner; a little bit
14 more detailed examination of these patterns where
15 we combine the race, ethnicity, and gender of the
16 service members to look at their representation
17 in the details, and the panels.

18 And the purpose here was to give the
19 committee a more detailed analysis of the
20 combination of race, ethnicity, and gender.

21 So slide 26 just presents information
22 about the percentages from each of these

1 different demographic categories, and their
2 representation on the details.

3 So you would read this as 42.7 percent
4 of the people detailed are White, non-Hispanic
5 men. 8.2 percent are White, non-Hispanic female,
6 and so on down the chart.

7 The next slide shows the rate at which
8 each of these demographic groups are impaneled.
9 And again, we see that empanelment rates are
10 higher among men than women, for both demographic
11 groups.

12 Minority female service members, their
13 empanelment rate is 43.3 percent. White, non-
14 Hispanic female members are impaneled at a rate
15 of 29 percent.

16 White, non-Hispanic men, 52.4.
17 Minority male service members, 50.5.

18 And then when we look at --

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MS. GOLDBERG: We're not at part 3 yet?

21 DR. WELLS: Not yet, not yet.

22 MS. GOLDBERG: Does this get to that

1 part of the question I was asking before about if
2 you take a group of women of color, they will be,
3 likely to be impaneled about 43 percent of the
4 time, or they will be impaneled based on this
5 data, 43 percent of the time, White women 29
6 percent of the time, and then men generally
7 speaking, about half the time?

8 DR. WELLS: When you combine all of the
9 members together, that's what this shows. Part 3
10 is going to take a look at the individual details
11 and panels and you'll see how that, that varies
12 across the panels.

13 CHAIR SMITH: So looking at White, non-
14 Hispanic females not impaneled 71 percent of the
15 time, is that suggesting that White women are
16 struck more, or White, non-Hispanic females are
17 struck at a higher rate? Or do we have to wait
18 for the next slide?

19 DR. WELLS: Correct, they are struck.

20 CHAIR SMITH: I did well in math.

21 (Laughter.)

22 DR. WELLS: Yes, that is correct.

1 The next slide does show the reasons
2 for excusal, broken down by the different
3 demographic categories.

4 So, each of, so this only looks at the
5 people who were excused because that's what we
6 know the reason for excusal for.

7 And you see that the different reasons
8 are used very similarly across the different
9 demographic categories here.

10 You can see that by the percentages
11 reading across the particular rows. So,
12 challenges for cause are used about 65.6 percent
13 for all of the different demographic categories
14 here.

15 Peremptory challenges are used at 20
16 percent, 20 percent, 15.7, 17.8, and 16.1.

17 MS. GOLDBERG: At the risk of going
18 down a road at which I have no business being, is
19 there anything significant to the fact that the
20 randomization excusal would happen at different
21 percentages for different groups, or is that
22 statistically insignificant given the numbers?

1 DR. WELLS: I've not compared those
2 within that particular category, that
3 randomization. But overall, the pattern is not
4 statistically different from a random finding
5 here.

6 But again, I have not looked at that
7 particular row of data to see if those are
8 statistically different.

9 MS. GOLDBERG: I was asking because in
10 not being a math person, randomization strikes me
11 as one that we would expect to see basically the
12 same percentage across all the groups.

13 So, it seems unusual that it's
14 somewhat different. But you know, to your point,
15 maybe it's not actually different in a
16 significant way.

17 CHAIR SMITH: So I'm trying to
18 understand. When I look at this slide, it
19 doesn't appear when you're looking at the White,
20 non-Hispanic females compared to the minority
21 female service members, the numbers with respect
22 to the challenges for cause, peremptory

1 challenge.

2 They're not that far off, so why are
3 we getting such a significantly different number
4 when we're looking at impaneled White, non-
5 Hispanic females?

6 DR. WELLS: Correct. Very good
7 question.

8 When you look at slide 28, which is on
9 the screen, this breakdown of the reasons is only
10 looking at the 115 White, non-Hispanic women who
11 were excused.

12 And then we just look at the
13 percentages there to see what reason is used.

14 Slide 27 includes both those
15 impaneled, and not impaneled. So we're taking
16 away the group that have been impaneled, and
17 we're just looking at those 115. And when we
18 look at those reasons, we see that they are used
19 similarly.

20 So, it's you can't draw conclusions
21 about why they're being excused at a higher rate
22 because when you look at the reasons, the

1 percentages are similar across the different
2 demographic categories.

3 So this, it's a puzzling question that
4 we require more data and a more in-depth
5 examination.

6 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: Kate, did you, over
7 here.

8 MS. TAGERT: Sorry, sorry, the sweater
9 was distracting me.

10 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: I know, you were
11 hoping against hope that it wasn't me.

12 When you were going through the audio
13 tapes or whatever to figure out about challenges,
14 and whether they were peremptories or challenge
15 for cause, did you happen to collect the reasons
16 for the challenge for cause?

17 MS. TAGERT: Sir, we did not.

18 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: Okay.

19 MS. TAGERT: And the reasons we didn't
20 was well, is we just didn't have the staff to do
21 that.

22 And the reasons are varying, and we

1 didn't really know how we would code that. And
2 we're -- at the time we felt like we wanted to get
3 the demographic information of panel members and
4 the research question wasn't at that point, why
5 particular people were being kicked off panels.

6 However, that could be a study that we
7 look into if we wanted to scope it.

8 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: And you're suggesting
9 somebody else lead that study?

10 MS. TAGERT: You make suggest, no, you
11 make decisions -- I make suggestions, you make
12 decisions, sir. The Peloton line.

13 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: That's how it is at
14 my house, too.

15 (Laughter.)

16 DR. WELLS: Okay, now we're going to
17 transition into talking about part 3.

18 So, just to refresh your memory. What
19 we did when we moved from part 2 of the analysis
20 to part 3, is we took the individuals that were
21 involved in that case, and we aggregated them
22 together back into the specific case with which

1 they were involved.

2 So our unit of analysis now in part 3,
3 is the case. So our sample is 124. So we're
4 describing these 124 cases in terms of the
5 details and the panel in these particular cases.

6 So you're going to hear me talk about
7 average percentages. So that means the
8 percentage of people on a particular panel, and
9 then the average of that percent.

10 So the first analysis of part 3 shows
11 the average percent of a panel that's comprised
12 of detailed members who are White, non-Hispanic.

13 So the percent, the average percent of
14 each case in which the detail was comprised of
15 White, non-Hispanic service members.

16 You see here that that's 55.6. So on
17 average, the typical detail is 55.6 percent
18 White, and 44.4 percent minority service member.
19 And that's the detail.

20 The next slide shows you what this
21 representation looks like for each of the 124
22 panels.

1 So what you see with each of these
2 tiny little bars is a panel. The blue percentage
3 represents the members of the detail who are
4 White, non-Hispanic, and the orange bar
5 represents the percent of that panel that is made
6 up of a minority service member.

7 So this shows the variation across
8 these particular details in terms of the
9 representation.

10 When you average this out, you get the
11 results from the previous slide. 55.6 percent on
12 average is White, non-Hispanic. 44.4 percent is
13 a minority service member.

14 The next slide shows, sorry, the
15 percent of the panel that is comprised of White,
16 non-Hispanic service members, and service members
17 belonging to a minority racial ethnic group.

18 The percentages here are extremely
19 close to those on the detail. 55.3 percent of
20 the panels on average, are White, non-Hispanic
21 service members, and 44.7 are on average,
22 minority service members.

1 MS. GOLDBERG: May I ask a question
2 just because of the, to which I would appreciate
3 a very high level answer?

4 DR. WELLS: Yes.

5 MS. GOLDBERG: The standard deviation
6 here strikes me as a larger number than I usually
7 see when I see standard deviations. And I never
8 quite understand what that is, although I've, you
9 know it's been explained to me many times.

10 But could you say something about
11 that, because it looks unusually high.

12 JUDGE GRIMM: Yes, I now understand
13 what Benjamin Franklin meant when he said that
14 there are three kinds of lies. Lies, damn lies,
15 and statistics.

16 We're trying to figure out whether
17 there's a problem here that needs to be
18 addressed, that is not explained just by the fact
19 that there are fewer numbers of people in
20 categories that we would want to see on juries,
21 to make sure there's fair representation.

22 That's kind of where we want to go

1 with all this, and it's kind of hard for us to
2 figure out where all these things come together
3 to help us decide whether or not we just don't
4 know, or what needs to be done to find out so
5 that we can make decisions.

6 DR. WELLS: Yes, correct.

7 So, let me start with standard
8 deviation and then we'll come back to the larger,
9 most important broad question, which is what's
10 going on here.

11 So the standard deviation, I won't
12 bore you with the details but it's a measure of
13 variation.

14 All it is, is a measure of how much
15 the panels in this sample differ from one
16 another. And, the next chart will show that
17 visually. It will give you an idea.

18 23.4 percent does seem large. And
19 when that's the case, a better measure of the
20 middle, the average, or the typical, is the
21 median.

22 And in this case, the median is 57

1 percent. So that's very close to that 55.3
2 percent.

3 So when they're so close like that,
4 and I don't have that presented on a slide, it's
5 more appropriate to present the mean, or the
6 average, because it takes into account all the
7 data. The median does not.

8 This next slide I think will help
9 illustrate that. So again, this shows every
10 panel in these 124 cases.

11 And that 24 percent standard deviation
12 comes from an analysis of each one of these
13 particular panels. And again, it shows the
14 variation that occurs.

15 The report that you have, provides you
16 with some more details about the different
17 panels, and how many of those are more than 50
18 percent White, non-Hispanic service members.

19 Those that are 100 percent White, non-
20 Hispanic service members on the panel, and so
21 forth.

22 But this provides you a visual

1 depiction of what that standard deviation
2 captures. And that is that there's variation,
3 and there's quite a bit of it.

4 We wanted to look at the
5 representation of minority and White service
6 members, broken down by the race and ethnicity of
7 the accused.

8 What this shows is that when the
9 accused is a minority service member, on average,
10 the typical panel is comprised of a greater
11 percentage of minority service members. 59.6
12 percent versus 51 percent.

13 MG(R) ANDERSON: Can you say that
14 again? That's not what I see -- Am I looking at
15 the wrong slide? A greater percentage of
16 minority service members is on those panels when
17 the accused is a minority?

18 DR. WELLS: Correct.

19 So what the slide shows is that when
20 the accused is a White, non-Hispanic service
21 member, 59.6 percent on average of that panel, is
22 White, non-Hispanic, yes.

1 And then when you switch over, it's 51
2 percent. So that percentage drops, which means
3 the percent of minority service members on the
4 panel increases.

5 MS. BASHFORD: Bill, can you just go
6 back to the blue and orange slide for a second?

7 DR. WELLS: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. BASHFORD: And it's just because
9 the words from your report aren't up there, but
10 in slightly over half of the 124 cases, just over
11 half, more than half of the panel was White, non-
12 Hispanic.

13 And in 38 percent, more than half of
14 the panel was comprised of racial or ethnic
15 minorities.

16 So that's what that visual is showing?

17 DR. WELLS: Correct.

18 MS. BASHFORD: Okay.

19 DR. WELLS: Yes, yes. When you look to
20 the left of middle, that's when you see the
21 panels that are more than 50 percent minority
22 service member.

1 When you look to the right of the
2 middle of that chart, that's when a greater
3 representation of the panel is White, non-
4 Hispanic.

5 MS. BASHFORD: And just so it's clear,
6 the vertical lines are each individual case. So
7 you could look at case number 17, or case number
8 42, and track up and down minority, non-minority,
9 right?

10 DR. WELLS: Correct.

11 MS. BASHFORD: Okay, thank you.

12 DR. WELLS: Yes, absolutely.

13 MS. GOLDBERG: And, on the same slide
14 that Ms. Bashford was just asking about, does
15 this indicate that almost every panel had at
16 least one member that has been characterized as
17 minority?

18 DR. WELLS: No, no, that's not, that's
19 not accurate. If you look at the far right side
20 of that, those blue bars that go all the way to
21 the top? Those are panels comprised of 100
22 percent White, non-Hispanic service members.

1 MS. GOLDBERG: Then if I'm reading it
2 correctly, that's just, I mean it's not
3 insignificant but it's a, it's a relatively small
4 percentage of overall panels.

5 Is that correct?

6 DR. WELLS: That's correct. That is
7 correct.

8 CHAIR SMITH: Would it be fair to
9 assume that when we move to the right side of
10 that graphic, that those are the more, most
11 likely officer cases?

12 DR. WELLS: We'll get to that in the
13 next analysis. Yes, that was the next analysis
14 we wanted to perform.

15 CHAIR SMITH: Okay.

16 DR. WELLS: So now we're on to that
17 analysis. All-officer panel versus enlisted
18 panel.

19 So, all-officer panels have a larger
20 percentage of members who are White, non-Hispanic
21 than the enlisted panels.

22 So, on average an enlisted panel is

1 53.9 percent White, non-Hispanic service member.
2 All-officer panels on average, 63.1 percent
3 White, non-Hispanic.

4 So as you move from all-officer panels
5 to enlisted panels, you see a demographic shift.

6 Okay, the next set of analyses look at
7 gender. And this is going to get at hopefully
8 some of the questions you had earlier about the
9 representation of women on details, and panels.

10 So again, you see here on average, the
11 details in these 124 cases are 20.6 percent
12 female members, and 79.4 percent male members.

13 And if we reflect back on overall
14 representation of women in the Army, it's 15.7
15 percent. So 15.7 percent compared to the average
16 here, which is 20.6 percent.

17 Okay, so we see that on average, women
18 are overrepresented on the detail in relation to
19 their representation in the Army.

20 The next slide --

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 MS. GOLDBERG: Just for --

1 DR. WELLS: Yes.

2 MS. GOLDBERG: -- my general
3 awareness. I know this is not the subject of
4 this study, but I wonder if somebody in the room
5 knows the answer.

6 15.7 percent strikes me as actually
7 smaller than I thought of the percentage of women
8 in the Army.

9 Other than the Marines where I
10 understand the percentage is even smaller, is that
11 comparable across the services?

12 MS. TAGERT: I, off the top of my head,
13 I couldn't tell you whether or not there are more
14 women in the Army. I think there probably are,
15 but I'm not, I don't know for sure.

16 MS. MANSFIELD: Air Force has the
17 highest percentage of women.

18 MS. TAGERT: Okay, Janet Mansfield has
19 said that the Air Force is the highest percentage
20 of females.

21 JUDGE GRIMM: Louder, please. We can't
22 hear.

1 MS. TAGERT: The Air Force has the
2 highest percentage of female representation.

3 JUDGE GRIMM: Thank you.

4 DR. WELLS: The next bar chart is just
5 like the previous one that you saw in terms of
6 the details. Each of the bars represent a case
7 in our particular sample, so 124 cases.

8 And you see that again, as you move
9 left to right, it shows the representation of
10 male service members growing.

11 And the orange bar shows the
12 percentage of women on each of these details.
13 And when you compute the average, it comes out to
14 be 20.6 percent female; 79.4 percent male.

15 Next slide shows a pattern that we saw
16 previously in part 2 of the analysis, which is
17 the decrease in the representation of women on
18 panels.

19 So on the details, 20.6 percent of
20 those service members detailed are women. On the
21 panels on average, it's 16.1 percent women. So
22 we see that, see that decline.

1 And General Schwenk, back to your
2 question about the representation. I misspoke
3 earlier.

4 In the Army, it's 15.7 percent women.
5 I was looking at the breakdown of officer and
6 enlisted personnel for women, when I referenced
7 the 19 percent.

8 15.7 percent is very consistent with
9 the 16.1 percent on the panel. So I apologize
10 for that.

11 Does that clarify?

12 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: Yes.

13 DR. WELLS: Sorry about that 19 percent
14 reference. It was incorrect.

15 But the pattern again just like in
16 part 2 shows that the representation of women on
17 details, is greater than the representation on
18 panels.

19 We don't see that change when we just
20 look at the racial and ethnic demographic
21 characteristics.

22 We don't see that decline from the

1 representation on details to panels, but we do
2 see that decline from details to panels among
3 women.

4 Next slide shows the bar charts for
5 the panels. So again just like before, each of
6 the 124 cases is represented here.

7 And as you move to the right, you see
8 the blue charts, or the blue lines, the bars that
9 go all the way to the top. And those cases, that
10 panel is made up of 100 percent men.

11 DR. SPOHN: And by comparison, there
12 are no panels made up of 100 percent women?

13 DR. WELLS: That's correct.

14 And you can see the highest
15 representation of women is in the very first case
16 listed on this particular chart.

17 Similar to the analysis of race and
18 ethnicity, we looked at the representation of men
19 on panels by the race and ethnic category of the
20 accused.

21 And we see that on average, when a
22 panel is on a case when the accused is White,

1 non-Hispanic, it's 80.6 percent men.

2 And very similar when the accused is
3 a minority service member, it's 78.6 percent
4 male.

5 Officer versus enlisted panels. We
6 see here that the representation of men on all-
7 officer panels, is lower compared to when it's an
8 enlisted panel.

9 In other words, the representation of
10 women on officer panels is higher than when it is
11 an enlisted panel.

12 MS. GOLDBERG: At some point, are we
13 going to get to your thoughts on why this may be
14 so, or is that just for us to draw conclusions
15 from the numbers?

16 It would be interesting to hear the
17 thoughts of the group that has studied this so
18 extensively.

19 MS. TAGERT: For the percentage
20 difference between women detailed versus
21 impaneled, I can tell you anecdotally and
22 probably Stacy can as well, a lot of the reasons

1 that women were challenged for cause were they
2 were either victims of sexual assault, or had
3 someone close to them that were also victims of
4 sexual assault.

5 As well as being long term either not
6 victim advocates, but --

7 MR. CASSARA: SARC representatives.

8 MS. TAGERT: SARC representatives. And
9 judges appeared to look at that position
10 differently across the services.

11 If someone had volunteered for that
12 position and had been doing it for a long time,
13 they were generally challenged for cause.

14 It appeared that judges seemed to be
15 drawing a line between people that were just kind
16 of tapped for it historically and said, you know,
17 this is just a job, I was told to do it.

18 But again, these are just kind of
19 observations we made when reviewing the case
20 transcripts.

21 CHAIR SMITH: Recognizing that men are
22 just as likely to have an experience with either

1 a significant other who has been sexually
2 assaulted, or you know, family member or whatever
3 the case may be.

4 Was that treated, I know it's
5 anecdotal, but was it treated any differently?
6 Were the questions asked of men you know, anyone,
7 I assume they were, but just the women were the
8 ones who ended up being struck versus the men?

9 MS. TAGERT: So for the cases that I
10 examined, there were, men were challenged for
11 cause if they had a close family member who was a
12 victim of sexual assault.

13 And many of them reported whether it
14 was their wives, or their children. So, yes.

15 MS. GOLDBERG: Just to pick up on Chair
16 Smith's point. That would mean that men reported
17 that relationship at lower numbers than women.

18 I know you're not offering us a data
19 report, but from your impression is that, that
20 men indicated less frequently than women that
21 they knew someone, or had someone close to them
22 who had been a victim of sexual assault?

1 MS. TAGERT: I couldn't make that
2 observation.

3 MS. GOLDBERG: Thanks.

4 And I also to be clear, I know you
5 have more of the report to go through. I wasn't
6 actually trying to derail the presentation of the
7 data, but I, this is an interesting and important
8 discussion so I hope we have more time for it.

9 Thank you.

10 JUDGE GRIMM: So as not to interrupt
11 the presentation, at some point I am just curious
12 about the inquiry that is done by the military
13 judge when there's a challenge for cause, to
14 determine what kinds of questions you might be
15 able to give us some guidance on, they asked
16 before they made the ruling on cause.

17 Because in the civilian sector, just
18 because someone said that they had had a close
19 family member who had had a sexual assault, or
20 had been a victim of some sort of assault, if
21 they, the follow up would be, would you be able
22 to put that aside and decide this case based only

1 on the evidence and the instructions that I give
2 you, and not let that interfere with your
3 deliberations.

4 And that would have a big impact on
5 whether the judge said cause, or not cause.

6 Now that might not prevent a
7 peremptory challenge, but there's only one
8 peremptory challenge that can be made.

9 So, not now, but at some point I'd be
10 grateful to hear what kind of observations you
11 had having heard the tapes, about the level of
12 follow up by a military judge when there's that
13 challenge for cause.

14 MS. TAGERT: Sure, and we could
15 certainly provide you some examples as well, so
16 you could see them yourselves.

17 But just also keep in mind that there
18 is the liberal grant for defense challenges as
19 well. So potentially, that rehabilitation is not
20 necessarily going to work all the time.

21 MG(R) ANDERSON: Hi, this is Marcia
22 Anderson.

1 Not to gum this up, I just, I attended
2 a court-martial and I'm trying to remember if any
3 of the inquiries were to, to the panel members,
4 were did they know anyone who was ever accused of
5 sexual assault, or had been convicted.

6 I didn't, I don't know if that's a
7 common question or not.

8 MS. TAGERT: That was a question that
9 was asked especially for people, officers in
10 command, as well as, I'm not sure if it's a
11 general question on the questionnaires.

12 But yes, that was something that we
13 saw addressed in voir dire.

14 MR. SULLIVAN: Allow me to make a
15 point. And this goes to Judge Grimm's point.
16 There's one important distinction between the
17 challenge for cause in a civilian setting, and
18 challenge for cause in the military setting.

19 And that is the fact that the military
20 member may also sentence. So, something of this
21 nature may be much more impactful in terms of a
22 judge thinking this person may be influenced by

1 this in terms of reaching a sentence.

2 So it's also important to note that
3 that's about change. So for offenses, for cases
4 in which all findings of guilty occur at, are for
5 offenses that occur after December 27, 2023.

6 And this is true of covered offenses
7 and non-covered offenses. For all UCMJ offenses,
8 you will no longer have member sentencing.

9 So it may be that some of these
10 rulings would have a different, the averages may
11 be different in a situation where the judge is
12 not also considering whether this person would be
13 able to sentence without the experience of being
14 in it.

15 JUDGE GRIMM: That's very helpful.
16 That's a good point. Thank you.

17 MS. BASHFORD: Just one quick follow up
18 on that having attended a couple of the
19 prosecutor training courses.

20 They are affirmatively being told, at
21 least the couple courses I went to, don't push on
22 the rehabilitation because it's going to be an

1 automatic flag on appeal.

2 There's no point going through this
3 and then having it overturned on appeal. So they
4 were told don't do the standard rehab we would
5 have done in civilian court.

6 JUDGE GRIMM: All right, thank you.

7 DR. WELLS: I promise you we're just
8 about done with the data, two more slides. The
9 last part of Part 3 is the analysis of race,
10 ethnicity, and gender together. So what we've
11 done is computed the average percent at which
12 each of these demographic groups is represented
13 on details and then the average percent at which
14 these demographic groups are represented on
15 panels. And if you look at the last two slides
16 in your handout, you'll see that the pattern is
17 very similar to what we saw with the analysis of
18 gender.

19 So on details, we see that on average,
20 for example, 11.9 percent of the detail is
21 comprised of racial and ethnic minority female
22 members, 11.9 percent. And when you look at

1 their representation on panels, it drops to 10.7
2 percent, which is on the next slide. So it moves
3 from 11.9 to 10.7. And then when you look at the
4 representation of white non-Hispanic females, it
5 declines from 8.7 to 5.4 percent.

6 So when we look at the racial and
7 ethnic and gender demographic categories
8 together, we see that that gender pattern holds
9 up for those particular racial and ethnic groups
10 as well. So this last slide shows the rate or
11 the average panel in terms of the representation
12 of these racial, ethnic, and gender groups
13 together.

14 We also wanted -- sorry.

15 (Simultaneous speaking)

16 PARTICIPANT: Sorry --

17 DR. WELLS: I just want to say we
18 realize that what we have here in our report and
19 the presentation is a lot of data. And it's not
20 necessarily complicated data, but it's
21 complicated data to summarize and present and
22 generate take-aways from. So, you know, just a

1 couple of the high-level observations that Kate,
2 Nalini, Stacy, and I have based on looking at
3 these patterns, we see that the details, in terms
4 of their representation of racial and ethnic
5 individuals, very much is similar to overall
6 Army; right? And you can see that by slides 18
7 and 19. If you look at slides 18 and 19, that's
8 where you can find that. There's not a
9 substantial difference there.

10 Empanelment, so as you move from the
11 detail to the panel, the rate of empanelment for
12 racial and ethnic minority service members is
13 nearly identical to the rate of empanelment for
14 white, non-Hispanic service members. So we think
15 these are important observations from these
16 analyses and from these data. And I'll turn it
17 over to Kate in case she has any other summary
18 comments that she wants to make.

19 MS. TAGERT: No. I think that's it
20 but, you know, we have time for questions and
21 discussion so.

22 MS. BASHFORD: Since, again, more than

1 half of these cases resulted in acquittals, have
2 we looked at the average composition of an
3 acquitting panel as opposed to a convicting
4 panel?

5 DR. WELLS: Great question. We
6 started to look at those data, and as we were
7 considering what to do and how to analyze those
8 and going down that road, I became a little
9 concerned because so many factors and so many
10 variables influence a guilty versus acquittal
11 outcomes. Simply looking at one variable might
12 not be very insightful, so we haven't gone down
13 that road.

14 CHAIR SMITH: Was there any
15 consideration -- I think one of the things that
16 we've heard repeatedly, and I don't know how we
17 necessarily address it, but one of the things
18 we've heard repeatedly during public comments is
19 minority officers having all-white panels. Are
20 you going to look at -- kind of like separately
21 break that down a little bit more just looking at
22 the officer cases or?

1 DR. WELLS: We have not broken that
2 particular -- we haven't broken down the analysis
3 to that fine of a level yet, but that's certainly
4 something that, with these data, we can do that.
5 We can look at racial and ethnic demographic
6 characteristics by enlisted versus officer
7 ranking.

8 MS. GOLDBERG: First of all, thank
9 you. I mean this is, you know, just like, you
10 know, just a mountain of work but in a range of
11 work that you're ability to distill it into this
12 base line that many of us have some capacity you
13 can understand, and it's really fantastic.

14 I just have a question for the moment
15 tied to your overall take-aways that you just
16 described, which I heard were the overall
17 detailed percentage generally tracks the -- with
18 respect to race or race/ethnicity, those
19 percentages and the overall empanelment
20 percentages just tracks percentages of the
21 population of the Army with respect to race and
22 ethnicity for men. You didn't draw a similar

1 take-way with respect to participation of women,
2 and I guess one question is why not.

3 And a second is something very
4 particular on slide 41 that may be related in
5 terms of the drop off, the slide 41 question --
6 page 41 question is, you know, we see that women
7 drop off by a percentage from detail to
8 empanelment. You've addressed some of the
9 reasons that you saw why that might be so. Is it
10 notable that the percentage of white women drops
11 off by 3.3 percent where women of color drops off
12 by 1.2 percent, or is that not notable given the
13 small numbers?

14 DR. WELLS: My opinion is that -- to
15 that last question is that is notable, and it's
16 very curious. And I think it's potentially worth
17 looking into.

18 To your first question about drawing
19 conclusions about gender -- and Kate and I talked
20 about this as well, and when I was originally
21 putting these slides together, we were very much
22 focused on race and ethnicity, because that was

1 sort of the charge in what we intended to look
2 at. But the findings when it does come to
3 gender, especially as it pertains to the change
4 from a representation on details to the
5 representation on panels is worth talking about
6 we felt. But again, in terms of a summary take-
7 away at this point, in terms of our observations,
8 we were so focused on race and ethnicity with the
9 purpose of this particular study, that's why we
10 remained focused on that.

11 MS. GOLDBERG: Thank you. So we
12 shouldn't draw anything from the fact that you
13 didn't lift up your gender findings for the --
14 your take-aways.

15 The other question I had with respect
16 to race is, you know, certainly we've heard
17 anecdotally, I would say sort of overwhelmingly
18 anecdotally, that service member upon service
19 member and from some of their -- the lawyers of
20 the accused that it is very typical to have an
21 all-white male panel deciding cases. Your data
22 seems to offer a different picture.

1 I'm struck by that, and I'm also
2 struck by the fact that, you know, we heard
3 repeatedly not just here but one reads about the
4 perception of unfairness or disparity, racial
5 disparities, particularly in panel selection.
6 Your data seems to tell another story, and I
7 wonder why you think the perception is so
8 persistent if the data suggests otherwise, and
9 does that raise any kind of questions about maybe
10 how the -- you know, either questions about the
11 data or questions about the perception or
12 something else?

13 MS. TAGERT: Well, first, this is only
14 Army data. So the Army is the largest service.
15 I don't know if that is maybe a factor. It's
16 just a larger pool of humans. I think that we
17 would have to see all of the services before we
18 could say, you know, the perceptions maybe are
19 incorrect. I don't know until we see the other
20 services. But I can't answer why the perception
21 is that, you know, that the panels are non-
22 minority and this data. I just -- I don't know.

1 JUDGE WALTON: Let me ask, were you
2 able to determine whether there was a difference
3 in the acquittal rate when the panel was
4 comprised of either minorities or females and
5 when it was not?

6 DR. WELLS: Again, we started to
7 explore that question, but we don't have findings
8 on that one. And again -- and it's an obvious
9 question to ask, I think, and it's an interesting
10 question to ask. My concern and why we haven't
11 gone forward right now -- and certainly, if the
12 committee is interested in that, we can analyze
13 those data and present the results -- my concern
14 was isolating or only looking at -- not isolating
15 but only looking at one variable, which is the
16 composition of panels and the acquittal/guilty
17 outcome, is problematic because we know that so
18 many other factors influence that particular
19 outcome.

20 CHAIR SMITH: I was thinking or just
21 -- sorry -- I was thinking of discussing here
22 with Bill, when you look at the -- who's being

1 charged, right, from the very beginning, maybe
2 one of your first slides, minorities are very
3 over-represented in terms of, you know, the
4 charging decisions. So perhaps that's also part
5 -- playing -- part at play here is that general
6 over-representation of -- well, I don't know if
7 it was over-representation but looking at what
8 are the charges, you know, the white, non-
9 Hispanic versus the minority for a theft
10 question, or what's happening as it goes down the
11 road and then other specific crimes, I don't
12 know.

13 MR. CASSARA: I can put on my defense
14 trial lawyer hat, which I wore for 30 years, and
15 I think I can answer some of Chair Smith's
16 questions. I can tell you that the majority of
17 my clients were African American males over the
18 course of 30 years. I can tell you that some of
19 them would say, "I want as many African Americans
20 on my panel as we can get." And some of them
21 would say, "I want as few African Americans on my
22 panel as we can get." In cases involving a

1 sexual assault, some of the defense bar says "I
2 want as many women on the panel as I can get."
3 Most of, I could say in my cases, it was the
4 opposite. We wanted as few women on the panel as
5 we could get. I just don't know -- I don't know
6 that there is a statistic. You know, again --

7 CHAIR SMITH: A perception.

8 MR. CASSARA: Yes. I don't do
9 numbers. I do real world, you know, empirical
10 data. And in terms of my empirical data and my
11 experience, I don't know that I can draw a
12 conclusion from any of those one way or the other
13 so.

14 DR. SPOHN: So not wanting to
15 complicate things even more, but I think what is
16 somewhat confusing is when you start talking
17 about the proportions on cases as opposed to the
18 proportions in the who are detailed and the
19 proportions who are impaneled overall. So when
20 you start looking at cases, then it becomes more
21 complicated. And I'm wondering if you're
22 thinking about taking this to the next level by

1 doing, you know, some sort of multi-variate
2 hierarchal models where you are controlled for
3 individuals nested within cases, and that way you
4 can -- I could tease out some of the nuances that
5 people are talking about here.

6 So is it race, ethnicity, or is it
7 gender that's driving these results? Is it the
8 racial and ethnic characteristic of the
9 defendant? Do you intend to go the next step and
10 try to tease out what's really driving the
11 difficulty?

12 DR. WELLS: That's a great question,
13 Dr. Spohn, and the structure of these data would
14 lend themselves very nicely to that kind of
15 analysis. And I think we could potentially
16 explore that. I think where we're limited is
17 data about the case itself within which these
18 details and panels are nested.

19 So for instance, one of the things we
20 would want to examine is the demographic
21 characteristics of the victim, and we simply
22 don't have those. So we have case level

1 information that's pretty basic information about
2 the accused and the judge basically at this
3 point. So we hadn't thought realistically about
4 performing that kind of analysis.

5 MG(R) ANDERSON: When I was looking at
6 the slides on gender composition of details and
7 panels, and I looked at the panels that -- and
8 details that had a large percentage of females,
9 it just occurred to me that that might represent
10 the mission of that particular installation where
11 the case was brought. So on an installation
12 that's heavy on support people, you know,
13 communications, intel, logistics, medical -- yes,
14 may have a higher percent of females than you
15 will at an installation that focuses on combat.
16 So I don't know -- we were talking about
17 randomization -- whether that's something we need
18 to factor into our recommendations or findings or
19 just, you know, passing on that as a possible way
20 where we need to employ randomization, even if it
21 means detailing people from other installations
22 so that you have a better panel selection.

1 DR. WELLS: I'll let Kate respond in
2 terms of the availability of data about -- that
3 is correct, that's accurate. And that's why it
4 is we have to use some caution in comparing the
5 percentages we're finding on these specific
6 panels to representation in the Army at large,
7 because of the point that you raised. Kate, do
8 you want to talk about the availability of data
9 from specific installations?

10 MS. TAGERT: Yes. We -- you know,
11 when we first were doing the project, we were
12 thinking well, we really want to get down to the
13 granular level and look at the demographics at
14 the installation where these courts-martial were
15 held, but the data is not readily available for
16 us. And it's also kind of like we would have to
17 have a, you know, time freeze of that particular
18 moment in time. So, you know, those -- we want
19 to get to that level, but I don't know if the
20 juice is worth the squeeze when we're just trying
21 to, you know, give some information as to what
22 panels are looking like. But we can certainly

1 discuss that going forward if we wanted to kind
2 of continue down this road.

3 I think one of the issues with this
4 data is obviously that the system has now
5 changed, and it's going to change even more with
6 the randomization. So we're now looking at old
7 data, and we won't know what's happening on the
8 granular level going forward with the changes
9 that are going to be in effect, that are now in
10 effect.

11 CHAIR SMITH: So I know Ms. Long is
12 online and she has a question, but one thing I
13 wanted to talk about to the committee, and I was
14 talking to Pete about it, is maybe really where
15 we need to go is maybe a recommendation that they
16 -- that the armed forces, armed services maintain
17 this data, the victim data, the panel data,
18 etcetera, etcetera so that a clear look can be --
19 we can have a clear look at exactly who's being
20 impaneled, what's happening, charging, etcetera.
21 But Ms. Long?

22 MS. LONG: Hi. Thank you, Chair,

1 and thank for the presentation. I just -- I had
2 a comment on if -- I know this is a goal we were
3 looking at here but if we're going out and
4 looking at here but if we're going out and
5 looking at outcomes based on gender or race and
6 multi-variables, I would just make sure that we
7 are capturing other characteristics about the
8 case itself so that we're not drawing conclusions
9 based on demographics that might be looking at
10 different kinds of cases. And I think this goes
11 to what you talked about, the different
12 variables. I think that would give us an
13 accurate picture of whether or not the
14 demographics impact the outcome, if it does at
15 all. If we could look at different spots and I
16 understand that's very involved and for later.
17 But I just -- I wanted to raise that if you take
18 this deeper.

19 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: Thank you. One
20 thought on the issue of the perception that we
21 heard in testimony about all-white panels and the
22 data that says they're not -- they're rare that

1 you have an impaneled all-white panel. And it
2 goes back to your problem with the Army on their
3 data that they provided you. So Hispanic is a
4 significant number. There are white Hispanics.
5 There are black Hispanics. There are Asian
6 Hispanics. And so if a white Hispanic is one of
7 the people that we capture in our data as a
8 minority, and you didn't look like a minority to
9 the accused who then comes and tell us, "I had an
10 all-white panel," and our data says, really,
11 well, the Army, because they mask, as you guys
12 pointed out, ethnicity and race together, that's
13 a problem with the data that you had that you
14 then used. And it might explain, to some extent,
15 why we ended up where we ended up.

16 DR. WELLS: I think that's a correct
17 observation.

18 DR. SPOHN: So one of the criticisms
19 lodged against the use of preemptory challenges
20 in the criminal non-military system is that
21 they're typically used to excuse racial
22 minorities and there's quite a bit of research

1 showing in various jurisdictions that there is
2 over -- minorities are over-represented in the
3 percentage of individuals on a panel who are
4 excused using a preemptory challenge, but it's
5 particularly by the prosecutor as opposed to the
6 defense attorney, at least in the civilian world.

7 I'm wondering if your data does not
8 show this? They don't show that preemptories are
9 more likely to be used against non-whites. Can
10 you break it down by who made the preemptory
11 challenge, whether it was the prosecutor or the
12 defense attorney? And also, do you think that
13 these results might differ from results in the
14 civilian world, because the number of
15 preemptories are so circumscribed. There's only
16 one for each side whereas in the civilian world,
17 there might be six or eight or ten depending on -

18 -

19 MS. BASHFORD: Twenty --

20 DR. SPOHN: -- depending upon the
21 severity of the charge?

22 MS. TAGERT: Yeah. So for this

1 particular study, you would not break down the
2 challenges by prosecution versus defense. And as
3 far as -- yeah, we didn't capture that so we
4 would have to go back through the cases.

5 DR. WELLS: I think that is an
6 extremely interesting observation about the
7 difference between what we know in research in
8 the civilian world and this, yes.

9 JUDGE WALTON: The question I had was
10 were you able to assess in reference to the
11 victims and the alleged -- and the accused
12 whether they were individuals who knew each other
13 or did not, because I would suspect that that
14 would have in impact on the high acquittal rate
15 that you have in the military as compared to what
16 you have in the civilian world? And I would
17 suggest that probably if you were looking at a
18 college campus, you would have the same
19 demographic; and, therefore, you have some of the
20 same results where you probably have a acquittal
21 rate -- because I think it's more difficult to
22 get a conviction in a situation where the

1 individuals know each other as compared to when
2 they don't.

3 MS. TAGERT: So for this particular
4 study, we did not look at the relationship
5 between the accused and the victim, but in the
6 case review study, we did. And I would say the
7 majority of cases, they knew each other or were
8 colleagues or were married. So it was -- we had
9 maybe one or two cases where it was a stranger
10 situation.

11 MS. BASHFORD: It's pretty common in
12 the civilian world that acquaintance covers a lot
13 of different relationships between long-term
14 relationships and very short-term relationships.
15 But as I recall -- and Jen might have more up-to-
16 date data -- about 80 percent of reported cases
17 were between -- the parties knew each other to
18 one degree or another.

19 MS. GOLDBERG: Two somewhat related
20 questions here. You know, I was struck by the
21 data showing that cases involving an accused
22 person designated as minority, there's a higher

1 percentage of minority individuals on the panel,
2 selected into those panels than others. And I'm
3 asking you, I guess, not to speculate -- but I
4 wonder if in light of the recent Jeter ruling
5 whether that is no longer going to be the case
6 and whether there's been a sort of incline -- you
7 know, sort of a willingness, as was allowed, to
8 take race into consideration in ways that we will
9 see disappear or at least reduced going forward.
10 So that's one data question.

11 And the other question, back on the
12 presumption issue, is I think there has been
13 research on the perception issue, or it's been at
14 least documented in surveys, right, the -- you
15 know, the perception by women in the armed forces
16 probably, particularly people of color. I mean I
17 don't have the data in front of me, but I wonder
18 if you're familiar with that research on
19 perception. And maybe it's been shared with us
20 in the past, but I think it would be useful for
21 us to be reminded of that, if we haven't seen it
22 recently as a committee as we try to make sense

1 of what to do with this data.

2 MS. TAGERT: Yes. We can certainly
3 look at the research perceptions regarding
4 military panels, but I don't think we came across
5 a ton of it. But of course, the IRC report, the
6 perception is just a loss of trust in the system
7 overall, which may bleed into every single issue
8 that may, you know, when we're talking about fair
9 trials for a system. So trust has been concluded
10 as a problem that is broken in the military
11 system. But as far as particular to the race,
12 gender, and ethnicity of military panels, I don't
13 know how much research is out there as far as
14 perception is concerned.

15 DR. WELLS: To just make a point about
16 your first question, too, is you know, we have
17 data and statistics and then we also heard today
18 that there is a process involving decision-making
19 and nuances and how we generate these end
20 results. And I think it's really important to
21 look at both of those things.

22 Your question about the post Jeter

1 decision, so one thing to keep in mind is back to
2 our measurement problem, separating out race from
3 ethnicity. If the Army is going through a
4 transition where they are changing the way that
5 they capture demographic information about
6 people, examining these data post Jeter is going
7 to present a measurement problem, because we have
8 to measure the demographic characteristics of
9 people on details and service members on panels
10 pre and post the same way; otherwise, we can't
11 draw any conclusions about the effect that Jeter
12 has.

13 So I think it's important for the
14 committee to understand that that's going to be a
15 complicated factor for any future data collection
16 to look at how these panels, and how these
17 details might look different post Jeter. I think
18 it's a very important question to ask when we get
19 around to that point or if the committee wants to
20 get around to the point of answering that, that
21 is a measurement issue to please keep in mind.

22 MS. BASHFORD: Dr. Wells, when you did

1 the data analysis from the case review project,
2 you found there, as you did here, that lots of
3 over-represented as -- lots of minorities over-
4 represented as the accused in sexual assault
5 cases. But at least in the case review project,
6 you also found that they were acquitted at higher
7 rates as well. Did you get to that portion of
8 this just to -- for a comparison?

9 DR. WELLS: We did not. Yeah. We
10 haven't gone down that road, but you're familiar
11 with the data. We could certainly start to
12 unpack that if that's something that the
13 committee is interested in looking at. We were -
14 - I'm not sure if the right word is "scrambling,"
15 but we were working pretty diligently when the
16 FY22 data came in and we knew this meeting was
17 going to occur to get these analyses right, so we
18 were focused on the core analysis.

19 CHAIR SMITH: Ms. Long has another
20 question.

21 MS. LONG: Sorry. Thank you, Chair.
22 One thing just in terms of maybe guiding the

1 perception. I know yesterday when we were going
2 over this in our subcommittee, I was reminded --
3 and Kate and Bill or others that -- correct me if
4 I'm wrong -- that the typical number of panel
5 members for a general court-martial is eight. So
6 I mean I think when we're thinking of perception,
7 sometimes percentages that appear on a 12-person
8 jury, even that may see -- may produce that
9 there's four women. When we're down to eight,
10 then maybe you're seeing two women or minority
11 representation two versus four, like when we're
12 talking about 20 percent or 30 percent, and that
13 might be something that -- and my take-away was
14 that that might really influence perception
15 because the true numbers could be very low, and
16 that's not always captured when we're looking at
17 data or different tables. So I don't know if
18 that's wrong. Please let me -- you know, please
19 correct me.

20 DR. WELLS: No. I think that's an
21 interesting observation about how people perceive
22 representation on juries or panels of different

1 sizes. I think that's an interesting empirical
2 question.

3 MS. GOLDBERG: Actually, my question
4 dovetails with yours, Jen, which is since panels
5 do not need to be unanimous to reach their
6 conclusion, when I look at the red and blue
7 charts where you might have -- you know, you may
8 have a significant number of panels that have one
9 or two individuals or a person of color and maybe
10 one who's a woman? The accused also knows going
11 in that that person, you know, in a system where
12 that requires only three-quarters of panel
13 members to agree, the -- that they affect -- you
14 know, knowing that the panel may not be unanimous
15 may also have something to do with perceptions of
16 fairness.

17 DR. WELLS: No. That --

18 MS. GOLDBERG: I'm putting a question
19 mark --

20 DR. WELLS: Yeah.

21 MS. GOLDBERG: -- at the end to make
22 you think.

1 DR. WELLS: No. And again, I think
2 that goes back to understanding the processes
3 that trial and defense counsel use when they make
4 their decisions in that selection process.

5 MS. BASHFORD: I just want to say that
6 the understatement of the day so far goes to Kate
7 Tagert who referred to this project as somewhat
8 substantial. Truly, the amount of work everybody
9 on this team has done has been outstanding. And
10 as I said yesterday, the idea that you had to
11 listen to audio tapes, I mean that's a
12 possibility of -- since the numbers are really
13 not that big over the two-year period, another
14 possibility for a recommendation would be that in
15 sexual assault -- contested sexual assault
16 courts-martial, that the voir dire conversation
17 be recorded for all cases, not just convictions -
18 - be transcribed I mean.

19 MR. YOB: Hi. I just wanted to make
20 a point that I appreciate Eleanor coming up and
21 doing this for me. The chart that we did
22 yesterday that we talked about implementation of

1 prior DAC-IPAD recommendations, if you note that
2 on page 21, it refers back to the December 2020
3 DAC-IPAD report on racial and ethnic disparities,
4 Recommendation 36 noted that -- from this panel -
5 - the recommendation to the Secretary of Defense
6 direct that military departments to record and
7 track the race, ethnicity, sex, gender, age, and
8 grade of victims and the accused for every
9 investigation initiated by military law
10 enforcement.

11 And recommendation 37 was similar; the
12 Secretary of Defense direct the military
13 departments to record beginning in fiscal year
14 2022 the race and ethnicity of military police
15 and criminal investigators, trial counsel,
16 defense counsel, victim's counsel, staff judge
17 advocates, special and general convening
18 authorities, preliminary hearing officers,
19 military court-martial panelists, military
20 magistrates, and military trial and appellate
21 court judges involved in every case investigated.

22 So those two recommendations have been

1 made. They're reported as incomplete
2 implementation and no action taken at this time.
3 But that was a prior recommendation from the
4 panel I just wanted to point out for you all.

5 CHAIR SMITH: So how do we, as a
6 committee, kind of renew our request or
7 recommendation that that occur?

8 MR. YOB: I think in the report that's
9 coming out of this data that's being worked on, I
10 think that could be referenced back to -- if it
11 reinforces, you know, additional argument and
12 impetus for implementing those prior
13 recommendations or re-emphasizing those in this
14 report that should be coming. Do you want to
15 speak on that, Kate?

16 MS. TAGERT: I think the question of
17 whether or not the services are required to track
18 this information is different from the study that
19 we conducted, which was reviewed in source
20 documents. As we know, we can ask the services
21 for data. It doesn't necessarily mean that the
22 data is going to be good or reliable, so I think

1 it's a -- I think there are two different issues,
2 and we -- you know, the ability to get the
3 victims' race, ethnicity, and gender would have
4 been us requesting from the services to provide
5 us, which would have been different than our
6 methodology of tracking information ourselves.
7 But yes, are the services supposed to be tracking
8 this? Yes. Can we request it? Yes. Would we
9 be able to do an analysis of this? Probably not
10 because we're looking at realtime cases but yeah.

11 DR. MARKOWITZ: Is there a specific
12 request that we can help with, for us to make, as
13 an add-on to this report?

14 MS. TAGERT: I suppose the committee
15 could ask the services -- I guess -- we received
16 the gender, race, ethnicity of all parties except
17 the victim. I'm not sure if we ask the services
18 for every victim in these cases whether or not we
19 will get either accurate or they will have the
20 data, but we can request it.

21 MS. GOLDBERG: Since you have done so
22 much work listening to all of the tapes and

1 really coming to an understanding of the reasons,
2 were there particular reasons that a person might
3 have been excused for cause? I wonder if there
4 is a way the committee could benefit from all of
5 the work you've done in that area by either with
6 a writeup of some of what you just described to
7 us indicating the, you know, the particular focus
8 and the breakdown that you saw when people were
9 more likely to be excused for cause, if they had
10 volunteered for SHARP (phonetic) as opposed to
11 being cast in for a brief period of time?

12 I know you weren't setting up to do
13 that research. Again, I don't know how hard it
14 would be to go back, so I'm not asking you to
15 scale another mountain here with that. But your
16 description just now aligned with a lot of what I
17 heard impressionistically, and I think having the
18 benefit of looking at so many cases, it would be
19 useful to leverage the knowledge you have, if
20 that's possible.

21 MS. TAGERT: From a Social Science
22 perspective, I would be very cautious about us

1 doing that, because for cases -- or some cases
2 that we didn't have to look into the audio
3 because I could rip off the transcript, who was
4 detailed and then who sat. So I would -- that's
5 a different study, I think, and if you wanted to
6 look at those reasons, I would want to set it up
7 with Dr. Wells to be reflective of all the cases.
8 And again, some of the staff members did
9 different services so, you know, not everyone
10 looked into the Air Force, not everyone looked
11 into the -- so I don't know. I would be cautious
12 about that. I think it's a different study,
13 because the study was focusing on the
14 demographics and not necessarily the reasons as
15 to why particular people were getting kicked off.

16 MS. GOLDBERG: Thank you.

17 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: One thought going
18 back to the discussion of the recommendations we
19 made in the past on collection of demographics,
20 maybe -- you know, this is old data. That
21 recommendation was based on old data.

22 Maybe we should consider putting an

1 RFI out now to the services and asking them what
2 data are you now collecting or planning to
3 collect regarding demographics of our enlisted
4 individuals and then also asking them the
5 ethnicity, racial issue of are they collecting
6 race according to these categories and
7 separately, the Hispanic ethnicity or what are
8 they doing?

9 Then we have within a couple of months
10 while they're finishing up with the other
11 services, we'd have that input and we'd know
12 where things are today.

13 MG(R) ANDERSON: That's why you're
14 called General.

15 (Laughter.)

16 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: I'm called a lot of
17 other things at home.

18 (Laughter.)

19 MR. YOB: Thank you, General Schwenk.
20 We'll follow-up on that.

21 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: Certainly.

22 CHAIR SMITH: Anymore questions? No.

1 Thank you so much. It's clear -- I mean echoing
2 what everyone's already said -- that this was
3 just a tremendous undertaking. We know that
4 you're continuing to do it but really fabulous
5 and interesting data that you presented.

6 DR. WELLS: Thanks for your patience
7 as we work through all of the statistical papers.
8 I appreciate your patience on that.

9 MR. YOB: Okay. I also want to thank
10 the panel.

11 (Applause.)

12 MR. YOB: A lot of hard work and a lot
13 of good analysis. So we're going to move into
14 the discussion or presentation from Ms. Nalini
15 Gupta on Performance Metrics for the Offices of
16 Special Trial Counsel that are being developed.
17 Just, while getting set up, I just want to remind
18 everybody we -- I think we're doing a pretty good
19 job, but when you're speaking, please not only
20 turn on your mic but sort of lean into your mic a
21 little bit so we make sure we capture what you're
22 saying, especially for the folks that are online

1 listening to us, so thank you.

2 CHAIR SMITH: All right. Ms. Gupta.

3 MS. GUPTA: Thank you. The slides are
4 going up but in the meantime, please refer to Tab
5 5 of your materials where the slides have been
6 printed for you.

7 So good morning, panel members. Today
8 I'll be briefing you on performance measures that
9 have been developed by the Department of Defense
10 to assess the effects of the creation of the
11 Offices of Special Trial Counsel.

12 I want to clarify that I am sitting in
13 front of you not as a DAC-IPAD Staff Attorney but
14 instead as an attorney for the Defense Legal
15 Services Agency, or DLSA. The DLSA staff created
16 this plan at the direction of the General Counsel
17 and not in support of any of the panels or
18 committees that we work with.

19 Okay. On slide 2, I have the
20 background and methodology for this plan. The
21 Fiscal Year 22 National Defense Authorization Act
22 required that the SECDEF publish a plan, due to

1 Congress in December of 2022, addressing the
2 manner in which -- and I'm going to read the
3 language from the statute -- "the Department of
4 Defense will analyze the effects of the changes
5 in law and policy with respect to the disposition
6 of offenses over which a special trial counsel at
7 any time exercises authority."

8 So that language you may find somewhat
9 convoluted, as I did, but I do want to emphasize
10 one point, which is we interpreted or understood
11 this language to be asking us to develop
12 performance measures that were not just focused
13 on the performance of the OSTC. Instead this was
14 asking us to assess the effects of the changes in
15 the law, the effects of the creation of the OSTC.
16 And we understood that to be much broader than
17 just OSTC performance. The creation of the OSTC
18 affects victim experience. The creation of the
19 OSTC affects defense -- the defense bar and the
20 defense-covered offenses. So we saw ourselves as
21 being tasked to set up holistic and comprehensive
22 measures. And that's what -- that's the plan

1 that you're going to be briefed on.

2 In developing our performance
3 measures, we -- the staff conducted research on
4 best practices from the civilian sector and
5 interviewed nonprofits and research organizations
6 that have been involved in developing performance
7 measures for the civilian sector and civilian
8 judicial systems. And these organizations have
9 done some cutting edge work looking beyond sort
10 of traditional metrics such as conviction rates
11 or sentences, and the staff had developed --
12 learned some measures that also look at
13 experience, the processing of cases, things of
14 that sort.

15 And so we drew -- a lot of our
16 research was influenced by the work that these
17 organizations have done. I have some of the
18 names of those organizations on the slide;
19 Prosecutorial Performance Indicators Project was
20 one. That was an organization out of Florida
21 State University. The Justice Management was
22 another. I had the pleasure of speaking with Ms.

1 Long in her capacity as CEO of AEquitas as well.
2 We also talked to the Department of Justice to
3 determine what type of work they were doing to
4 assess the work of the U.S. Attorneys Offices.
5 We spoke with a Department of Defense Sexual
6 Assault Prevention and Response Office or SAPRO.
7 And of course, we spoke with the services
8 themselves to see what other work -- what work
9 they've already done in the sector to assess the
10 performance of their JAGs.

11 So on slide 3, I'm going to speak to
12 the relevance of this plan for the DAC-IPAD. So
13 the plan that I am about to brief on was
14 submitted by the Office of General Counsel to
15 Congress in December of 2022. And that plan
16 required that the Joint Service Committee set up
17 a subcommittee to review this plan and comment on
18 the performance metrics and provide input to the
19 General Counsel. So that information is
20 predecisional. We have not -- we do not know
21 what the final plan that the General Counsel will
22 submit after she receives the comments will look

1 like. That's why I think this plan is relevant
2 to the DAC-IPAD.

3 The DAC-IPAD may choose from one of
4 its future projects to use its expertise to weigh
5 in on what performance metrics for the Offices of
6 Special Trial Counsel as well as the effects of
7 the Special Trial Counsel they would like to see.
8 They may want to add or delete or modify the
9 metrics that they are about to see.

10 Alternatively, another place that the DAC-IPAD
11 may want to use its expertise is actually collect
12 data on some of these performance metrics and
13 publish that data so that we can see trends over
14 the next few years.

15 Okay. On my next slide, I have the
16 categories of performance measures and collected
17 data. So we ended up developing seven categories
18 of performance measures. And across these seven
19 categories, we have a total of 38 performance
20 measures. So I want to start by just giving you
21 an overview of what these categories of
22 performance measures are and then in future

1 slides, I will talk about each of them in more
2 detail. So you will see and as listed on the
3 slide, seven categories are due process
4 protections; alleged victim experience;
5 accountability; timeliness and resource
6 prioritization; competence and capacity;
7 communication; and demographics.

8 On the next slide labeled
9 "considerations," I just want to -- before I get
10 into the specifics of the performance measures, I
11 want to highlight three considerations and
12 limitations of the plan you're about to hear.
13 First, through conversations with our
14 criminologist, Dr. Wells, who you just heard
15 from, we determined that at least three years of
16 performance measures and data would be required
17 for any sort of meaningful trend analysis.

18 Because a lot of this data required
19 has not previously been collected by the
20 services, it will be difficult to make any sort
21 of comparisons between the pre OSTC world and the
22 OSTC world, which brings me to the second bullet

1 which is the success of this plan is contingent
2 on robust and uniform data collection by the
3 services. In order to make any comparisons
4 across services, they need to use consistent data
5 fields and consistent definitions.

6 And my last point, and it's -- I do
7 want to emphasize this because this, in
8 conversations, I realize that this was somewhat
9 of a concern among many people. And I want to
10 say these performance measures are only a first-
11 level analysis. They can tell you what a trend
12 is, but they cannot tell you why a trend is
13 happening. And to understand the why, you have
14 to do more sophisticated analyses. You have to
15 do case reviews or perhaps multi-variate data
16 analyses. Nonetheless, these performance
17 measures are helpful because they allow you to
18 identify trends and anomalies and understand
19 where you may need to do more study.

20 All right. I am on -- for those of
21 you following along, I am on slide 7 entitled,
22 "Due Process Protections." Oh, there we are.

1 All right. Okay. So due process -- and now that
2 the slides are up, if you would like, after the
3 slide presentation in Tab 5, the actual plan is
4 included. So you can also follow along with that
5 if you prefer. And you'll see that for each of
6 the performance measures that are going to be
7 listed on the next slides, there is the actual
8 way of calculating the performance measures so
9 the data required, as well as the how to
10 calculate the percentage, as well as the specific
11 rationale for why this performance measure was
12 included. I didn't include all that information
13 in the slide just because it's too much
14 information, but that is all in the plan itself.

15 Okay. So the first category, as
16 mentioned, are due process protections. These
17 are measures intended to assess the protection of
18 the rights of the accused. As you see, we have
19 three performance measures in this category.
20 These performance measures, I think, go to the
21 point that the performance measures are holistic
22 and broad and not -- are not just assessing the

1 performance of prosecutors but assessing the
2 performance of other players such as defense
3 counsel and the judiciary.

4 The idea behind these three measures
5 is that tracking things like case dismissals or
6 appellate reversals or prosecutorial misconduct,
7 ineffective assistance of counsel, or judicial
8 error will allow the services to identify the
9 need for targeted trainings or amended policies
10 for the STCs, defense counsel, and military
11 judges. And in particular, the trends for
12 prosecutorial error and IAC may be of particular
13 interest, because the legislation that created
14 the OSTC, the NDAA, required that STCs and
15 defense counsel handling covered defenses are
16 experienced and highly qualified, highly skilled.
17 So these measures might be somewhat telling or
18 somewhat interesting.

19 The second category of performance
20 measures are alleged victim experience measures.
21 These are defined as measures intended to assess
22 the participation and experience of victims

1 throughout the military justice process as well
2 as adherence to their rights. And in front of
3 you, you'll see that we have six measures in this
4 category.

5 These measures were informed by a
6 number of things including adherence to victims'
7 rights under Article 6B which is the equivalent
8 of the Crime Victims Rights Act for the military
9 as well as 10 U.S.C. 1044(e), which is the
10 provision of the Code that provides for an SVC
11 for all eligible victims. These were also
12 informed by DAC-IPAD and other committees'
13 observations about victims' preferences or
14 victims' experience.

15 For -- and let me give you a couple
16 examples. You may remember from DAC-IPAD study
17 on SVCs that victims are better served by longer
18 -- in general, better served by longer
19 relationships with fewer counsel. So under 2.4,
20 we wanted to measure the number of counsel a
21 victim typically goes through for the duration of
22 their case.

1 2.5 was influenced by an IRC
2 observation that prosecutors are rarely allowing
3 opportunities for victims to confer on their
4 cases. So we wanted to measure the percent of
5 victims that are offered the opportunity to
6 confer with the SVCs about their initial
7 disposition of a decision.

8 I'm going to flag one additional issue
9 under 2.6. We wanted to measure victim
10 satisfaction but at the time, we didn't feel that
11 we had the resources to or the time to develop
12 the correct measurements for that. So we
13 included 2.6 as a sort of placeholder and asked
14 the services to think about how they can develop
15 processes and measures for victim satisfaction.

16 The third category of performance
17 measures and collected data are accountability
18 measures. And these are defined as measures
19 intended to assess the accountability of the
20 accused with regard to substantiated allegations.
21 And you'll see that we have six performance
22 measures in this category.

1 These performance measures in the
2 category look more like some of the traditional
3 metrics that have been used to assess
4 prosecutorial success such as conviction rates or
5 confinement terms. You'll see under 3.4 and 3.5
6 that there are two different measurements of
7 conviction rates. The first goes to assessing
8 conviction rates only for the covered offense
9 that was referred. And the idea is that we want
10 to know, for example, for sexual assault cases,
11 how often that there is actually a conviction on
12 the sexual assault instead of a lesser included
13 offense or a known related offense.

14 3.5, on the other hand, goes to
15 assessing the total conviction rate for the --
16 for any OSTC case. So those are case convictions
17 in which -- those would include cases in which
18 there was a conviction that was obtained for a
19 known and related offense but not necessarily the
20 covered offense such as the sexual assault.

21 I also want to highlight the
22 importance of prosecution rate. That was

1 included under 3.9. As you may remember from the
2 DAC-IPAD's case review report, many military
3 investigations do not result in preferral of
4 charges. So we included prosecution rate because
5 we saw it as important in understanding the
6 attrition of cases as they go through the system
7 as well as providing context to the conviction
8 rate.

9 One other one I want to draw your
10 attention to is 3.2, which are the deferral rate
11 in cases resulting in alternative decisions. We
12 thought it was important to get a more holistic
13 understanding of how service members may be held
14 accountable, so we included this performance
15 measure to assess the percent of cases that are
16 being deferred to commanders when STC choose not
17 to exercise authority as executive leadership as
18 the percent of those different cases that result
19 in some sort of alternative disposition such as
20 non-judicial punishment or administrative action.

21 The next category is timeliness and
22 resource prioritization. This is defined as

1 measures intended to assess the efficiency and
2 timeliness of case processing and the appropriate
3 prioritization of OSTC resources. The timeliness
4 measures are meant to help assess where there may
5 be delays in the investigation or the processing
6 of cases. As you all know, these -- because
7 these delays cause detrimental effects to both
8 victims and the accused.

9 We specifically included under 4.2 a
10 metric to determine how long it takes before an
11 STC is notified of a case that may involve a
12 covered offense and then how long an STC takes to
13 determine whether the case does, in fact, involve
14 a covered offense. The idea behind the measure
15 is that it would allow the services to understand
16 whether STC's involvement earlier in the
17 investigative process is either slowing down the
18 investigation or expediting the investigative
19 process.

20 The metrics for resource
21 prioritization, which are under 4.6, 4.7, and
22 4.8, were informed by metrics in the civilian

1 sector that are used to determine if cases that
2 are unlikely to result in a conviction at trial
3 are being identified early in the process. So
4 those metrics included the ability to identify
5 dismissible cases prior to preferral under 4.6
6 instead of cases that are referred after a no
7 probable cause finding in an Article 32 and then
8 finally, the percent of the conviction rate for
9 cases referred after a no probable cause finding
10 at an Article 32.

11 Okay. On slide 10, I have competence
12 and capacity of STC measures. These are measures
13 intended to assess the experience levels and
14 capacity of STCs. And there are only three
15 measures in this category; STC caseload, STC
16 experience levels, and STC training.

17 The legislation that created the OSTC
18 required that the services provide an optimum
19 number of caseloads -- I'm sorry -- optimum
20 caseloads for STCs. So the first metric is meant
21 to assess the percentage of STCs that actually
22 have caseloads that fall within that optimum

1 range. Similarly, the STC experience level
2 performance measure and the training performance
3 measure are meant to determine if STCs are
4 meeting target experience levels before they're
5 being detailed and if they're completing training
6 prior to -- the required training prior to being
7 detailed.

8 Two more categories. The second to
9 last category is that of communication. These
10 are measures intended to assess communication
11 between STCs and commanders in the military
12 justice process, and there are two measures in
13 this category. And the idea behind these two
14 measures is that they will help assess how well
15 STCs are communicating with commanders now that
16 there are additional players in the military
17 justice system.

18 So under the NDAA, commanders above
19 the accused and the victim have the opportunity
20 to provide input to STCs on case disposition. So
21 that is what we would want to measure under the
22 first measure on this slide. In addition, we

1 would want to measure how smoothly information is
2 being communicated from STCs to commanders when
3 they defer cases so we can understand if
4 information is being lost in the process. So
5 that is the intent behind measure 6.2.

6 And my final category for performance
7 measures and collected data is demographics. And
8 these are measures intended to capture
9 demographic factors of the accused at various
10 stages in the military justice process. We have
11 ten performance measures in this category,
12 although on the slide you'll only see five just
13 because I grouped accused and victim in the same
14 category just for the clarity of the
15 presentation.

16 These measurements adopt the
17 methodology of The Sentencing Project which is an
18 organization that was brought to our attention by
19 Dr. Spohn during conversations with her. The
20 performance measures are meant to identify the
21 representation of the victim and the accused of
22 certain demographic groups at specific stages at

1 the military justice process. And they compare
2 it to the representation of that same demographic
3 group at the previous stage of the process.

4 That's a little complicated, so I'm
5 going to offer an example. So an example would
6 be that we would determine that percent of
7 accused that would belong to a minority racial
8 group at referral and compare that percent to the
9 percent of accused that belong to the same racial
10 group at preferral, which is the previous stage.
11 And through this analysis, we would be able to
12 identify if the racial group is
13 disproportionately represented at referral as
14 compared to preferral.

15 I said this before. But particularly
16 for this, I want to emphasis this is, again, just
17 the first level analysis to identify any
18 disparities. It would require further study once
19 you identify potential disparities to see if
20 there is, in fact, one.

21 And you would have to control for
22 variables such as crime rates or reporting rates

1 when you're doing additional study. But this
2 would help identify where there may be an issue
3 warranting further study. So those were the --
4 that was the plan.

5 Again, it was submitted to the
6 Department of Defense in -- it was submitted by
7 the Department of Defense to Congress in December
8 of 2022 and is undergoing commentary from the
9 Joint Service Committee who are going to provide
10 additional feedback to the General Counsel. For
11 my final slide, I just want to identify that this
12 is not the only requirement. Section 547 of the
13 NDAA is not the only requirement in place to
14 analyze the effects of the creation of the OSTC.

15 There's, in fact, another requirement
16 in the FY23 NDAA, and that's the information in
17 front of you. And I only bring this up to show
18 you that there continues to be a lot of interest
19 in assessing this new system and what the effects
20 are on the overall military justice process.

21 That's my presentation. I welcome any questions.

22 MG(R) ANDERSON: Hi, this is Marcia

1 Anderson. I looked in your appendix at C9. And
2 under 5.1, the STC case load, the different
3 services, and their projections for what they
4 consider the optimum case load. Do you know if
5 the services did any kind of any comparison with
6 the civilian workload for similarly situated
7 counsel?

8 MS. GUPTA: I did not know that. I do
9 not know if the service reps have any information
10 on that. Otherwise, I cannot answer that
11 question. Unfortunately, I don't have any
12 information on that.

13 DR. SPOHN: Are the services
14 themselves going to be collecting and analyzing
15 this data? Or will it be housed somewhere else,
16 for example, DAC-IPAD?

17 MS. GUPTA: That's a really good
18 question. I was thinking about this as I was
19 preparing for the presentation. The statutory
20 requirement was that DOD develop a plan to
21 collect data and assess the -- or a plan to
22 assess the facts.

1 It does not specify who is going to be
2 in charge of collecting data or releasing that
3 data. So it is an open question, I think, how
4 this information -- if this information will, in
5 fact, be collected. And if so, how it will be
6 released to entities outside of the Department.

7 That's why I think there is room if
8 the DAC-IPAD is interested in taking on some of
9 this data collection and analysis. There is room
10 since we don't know what this is going to look
11 like moving forward. And we know that the
12 services had quite a bit of limitations in
13 collecting data and have not traditionally
14 collected a lot of the data that's required for
15 these performance measures.

16 CHAIR SMITH: So this might be a silly
17 question. So this is the plan for doing it.

18 MS. GUPTA: Yes.

19 CHAIR SMITH: But there's no plan for
20 actual implementation. Is that correct? You
21 said three years of data. But are they saying,
22 okay, we've got our plan and that's that? Or --

1 MS. GUPTA: In my personal opinion, I
2 think that is potentially the problem that this
3 might not be realized because the requirement by
4 the NDAA was to develop a plan. But it doesn't
5 specify who is going to ultimately collect this
6 data.

7 CHAIR SMITH: Right, okay. Thank you.

8 MR. CASSARA: And that sounds --

9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 CHAIR SMITH: Right, so --

11 MR. CASSARA: -- develop a plan.

12 CHAIR SMITH: -- questions on what we
13 could do as a Committee to help move along the
14 implementation?

15 MS. GUPTA: Sure. Well, I think
16 there's obviously always room to make
17 recommendations that the services should collect
18 data in support of this plan or whatever version
19 of this plan that the Committee may want to weigh
20 in on. So the Committee may identify things that
21 they don't like in this plan or that they wanted
22 added to this plan. So there's always that. But

1 I do think that this might be a role for the DAC-
2 IPAD is actually identifying some of these
3 measures that you think are of particular
4 interest and then doing your own analysis so that
5 you feel confident in the results and the data
6 that's being collected.

7 DR. SPOHN: But the NDAA from fiscal
8 year 2022 says develop a plan addressing the
9 manner in which the DOD will analyze the effects
10 of the changes in law and policy. So it seems to
11 suggest that the plan is not just a plan as to
12 how they will do it but that they will analyze.
13 I mean, am I reading that incorrectly? It says
14 they will analyze.

15 MS. GUPTA: Okay. That's a more
16 optimistic view. And I think that's welcome.
17 And I welcome it because obviously I would hope
18 that I didn't develop a plan kind of as a
19 conceptual exercise and for no other reason.

20 I think there's obvious limitations as
21 you know with services data collection. And this
22 plan is called Plan C because it was -- the

1 Section 547 requirement had three parts. The
2 first two parts were plans for a data management
3 system and tracking pretrial information.

4 So if those are realized, our DLSA
5 staff, so Eleanor Vuono and Terry Gallagher,
6 worked in those parts of the plan. And if those
7 plans are realized, that will make it easier in
8 our opinion for this plan to be executed because
9 we recommended the data fields be collected
10 consistently across the services to support
11 things like these performance measures. Again, I
12 just don't know. I can't comment on if and how
13 those will be realized.

14 CHAIR SMITH: Ms. Long has a question.

15 MS. LONG: Thank you. And thank you,
16 Nalini and others, for putting this together.
17 This is obviously near and dear to our heart.
18 And I wanted to offer some context as maybe a way
19 of also looking at these performance measures for
20 the way that in the civilian world we envision
21 them because we were very much inspired by the
22 work of Dr. Spohn and others who were looking at

1 the reasons -- potential reasons or impacts of
2 certain case variables on the outcome of a case,
3 case characteristics.

4 And our idea was that while the
5 research is very important, and it is. It really
6 guides us. So often as practitioners, we'll read
7 about research years after it's done and then try
8 to implement it.

9 And it's always the question of is it
10 applicable to your jurisdiction. So these
11 performance measures while I understand the NDAA
12 is saying they should be used to assess, unlike
13 other assessments, for us, we really see this as
14 a process of ensuring that we're managing and
15 really achieving our outcomes in real time. So I
16 feel like for the OSTC and other offices that are
17 looking at this, the idea is to look at the
18 measures and develop plans internally so that you
19 are looking at your practice and you're
20 responding real time to trends by trying to
21 uncover them and figure out if there is a problem
22 with the practice or a positive of the practice

1 that you have to reinforce, if there's an area of
2 training that you need, there's an area of
3 recruitment.

4 They really shouldn't be seen as yet
5 another outside -- well, they may be used here as
6 that. But I'm hoping that they're not just seen
7 as another outside entity or people reviewing the
8 office but away from the office to manage and
9 mentor their staff. And if the certain outcomes
10 that they think are positive that they're
11 practicing towards turn out to be not really
12 meeting the objectives that they want, then it's
13 a time to go back internally and figure out what
14 needs to be different than what is being done.

15 And I say that because I feel like so
16 often and I feel like we've heard this in the
17 length of the DAC-IPAD when people come and
18 testify, it feels like practitioners are always
19 feeling like -- and we do have to assess them,
20 that they're constantly just providing data to
21 see if they're doing well by some measure or how
22 they're doing when, in fact, we really should be

1 helping them understand the clarity, what their
2 goals are, and helping them to achieve it. So
3 that's just some of the context that I wanted to
4 put out there. I hope that this can bring in
5 this particular case and some specific things
6 just some language. And I understand this is
7 defense and prosecution.

8 But really it's, like, fingernails on
9 the chalkboard when I see alleged victim. I came
10 up in Philadelphia and we say "complaining
11 witness". A lot of people may not like that.

12 But I feel like it would be nice to
13 find another language besides alleged victim
14 because that doesn't seem like the balance we're
15 trying to achieve. So I'm hoping we can do that.
16 And then finally just somewhere on the case
17 outcomes, one thing we did do with jurisdictions
18 in the civilian world was trying to work with
19 them to determine case complexity is what we
20 called it. Basically so that when you're looking
21 at the outcome of a case, of a conviction, or
22 whether preceded, that you're looking at like

1 cases.

2 You're comparing apples with apples as
3 much as you can so that you're not weighing the
4 outcome where, let's say, a victim is not
5 participating the same as you would weigh one
6 where a victim was participating or had different
7 kinds of evidence. So I'm sorry. Thank you for
8 letting me have the floor. I talked too much.
9 This stuff excites me, so thank you for
10 presenting on it.

11 MS. GOLDBERG: This is Suzanne
12 Goldberg. I appreciate all that you just said
13 and agree with, I think, virtually everything. I
14 also want to say thank you for the excellent
15 presentation and outline here.

16 I have just two observations about two
17 of the areas of work for what it's worth. And
18 having taught civil procedure for a very long
19 time and beginning that course of due process,
20 it's hard not to say something about due process.
21 So I'll start there which is that I think these
22 measures are obviously important ones.

1 My sense is they will capture very
2 high level data. And they probably won't capture
3 that much because when we think about the number
4 of cases in which -- I taught on the civil
5 procedure side. But still when we think about
6 the number of cases in which an ineffective
7 assistance of counsel claim is sort of granted,
8 or motion is granted.

9 It's pretty infrequent and
10 prosecutorial error likewise. And most error
11 tends to be deemed harmless. I wonder if,
12 assuming this is implemented at some point, it
13 would be useful to dig in a little bit to motion
14 practice and understand the kind of types of
15 arguments that are frequently being made and the
16 bases for those arguments to pick up on Jen's
17 point just now.

18 That is the kind of information that
19 I think will be quite -- has the potential to be
20 quite educational for OSTC as it thinks through
21 how it's handling cases and meeting its due
22 process obligations. On alleged victim

1 experience point, I don't know if this is
2 encompassed in the SVC assignment timeline
3 subpoint or the continuity subpoint. But I
4 thought it might not be there, so I want to just
5 note that one of the issues that I've heard about
6 is how quickly a victim or a complaining witness
7 is able to meet with somebody who's the person
8 who's going to be their SVC.

9 And how frequently those meetings take
10 place or the amount of time those meetings last.
11 And I think it's obviously very difficult to look
12 at the data and draw conclusions because each
13 case is different. But that also seems like a
14 very important kind of qualitative piece of
15 information when we think about how to assess
16 victim experience.

17 MS. GUPTA: Thank you for both of
18 those points, and I appreciate the due process
19 point. On the victim experience, 2.3 was meant
20 to get at how fast victim's counsel are being
21 assigned to a victim who requires -- eligible
22 victims who request one. There's a statutory

1 requirement that in the absence of exigent
2 circumstances, they should be able to get an SVC
3 within 72 hours. But we did not measure -- and
4 it's a good point -- that frequency question was
5 not included in that.

6 MS. GOLDBERG: And just to add one
7 additional facet to that, I think it's frequency.
8 I also think it's -- there could be a lag between
9 assignment and initial meeting. So that would be
10 a data point possibly. Thank you so much.

11 MR. CASSARA: Ma'am, I just have a
12 couple of quick observations. And Jennifer and I
13 look at -- we come from completely different
14 worlds in terms of how we view these. But we
15 agree more than we disagree, I think, on a lot of
16 these things.

17 As you're looking at due process
18 protections, actually, Suzanne, I think -- I
19 don't have any statistical analysis from the rate
20 of reversal compared to the civilian world. But
21 as an appellate lawyer, while I don't win
22 anywhere near as much I would like to, I think

1 that the rate might be higher than it is in the
2 civilian world. And that can be attributed to,
3 of course, my great lawyering.

4 Or it could be attributed to errors
5 that occur at the trial level that might not
6 occur as frequently in the civilian world. I
7 don't have any way of knowing without measuring.
8 But I was wondering on the due process
9 protections if there would be a consideration
10 because the military on an appellate status has -
11 - the courts are given what's called a (audio
12 interference) de novo review. That's the term.

13 It's changed a little bit in terms of
14 the standard. But we still have a factual
15 sufficiency review and a robust legal sufficiency
16 review. And as I'm looking at the three
17 categories in which cases may be successfully
18 appealed, I'm thinking that a fourth one could be
19 factual or legal sufficiency.

20 I think that would account for more
21 than some. And then my other question as it
22 relates to 2.6 to Jennifer's point and in her

1 area of expertise. Really not a question, more
2 of an observation of how do we measure victim
3 satisfaction.

4 Kind of like talking to a divorce
5 lawyer and say, well, are your clients satisfied?
6 Well, half the people you come into contact with
7 are satisfied and half think you're the worst
8 person in the world. Am I satisfied when I go to
9 the dentist? Well, my tooth is fixed, but I
10 hated going to the dentist. What metric are we
11 using to gauge victim satisfaction?

12 MS. GUPTA: Ms. Long, did you want to
13 speak to that first, or I'm happy to address my
14 thoughts on it.

15 MS. LONG: Oh, you should go first and
16 then I'll chime in whenever. This is your show.

17 MS. GUPTA: Thanks for the first
18 point. And I do think there's a number of things
19 including what you mentioned that could be added
20 to the due process protections. That's why I
21 think there's a great role for the DAC-IPAD in
22 this plan.

1 On the victim satisfaction, I had the
2 same question which is why I punted it to the
3 services. I felt that -- I spoke with a number
4 of SVCs to assess and civilian sector
5 organizations. And they just presented to me a
6 number of the challenges that they have in
7 assessing victim satisfaction.

8 When do you measure it? Do you
9 measure it right after the findings where if
10 there's an acquittal, obviously the feelings are
11 going to be a lot different? Do you measure it
12 sometime in the process?

13 How do you reach victims? Do you send
14 a text message? Just all the process questions,
15 I did not feel -- I felt that that was a much
16 more complicated question which is why we had a
17 placeholder because I think there's a lot of room
18 for a lot of work. But all of your points are
19 valid concerns that I heard across the board
20 about the complexities of measuring victim
21 satisfaction, when to do it, how to do it, et
22 cetera.

1 DR. MARKOWITZ: So --

2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 DR. MARKOWITZ: So go ahead, Jen.

4 MS. LONG: I was just going to say I
5 know that there are some civilian jurisdictions
6 that have attempted to do this. I agree. We had
7 the same concerns of how is this measured by
8 something outside, like, the outcome of a case
9 that might be outside of anybody's control.

10 But I think we were trying to focus on
11 the objectives that seemed fair and reasonable
12 like -- or that were prioritized like a victim's
13 safety. In some cases, intimidation or threats
14 is there. Did the victim receive that? How was
15 that responded to?

16 The victim's ability to be -- or the
17 communication levels were things they claimed
18 were they notified of different parts of the
19 process and, again, the timeliness of that
20 notification. In terms of, again, the things
21 that are more subjective, were things helpful?
22 Was information helpful?

1 Some of those might need a narrative
2 response. And then a large jurisdiction that
3 might be unwieldy in the military. It may not be
4 just because the number of cases in each service
5 a year may not be that much.

6 And again, it's prospective to get
7 better. So if there's a narrative about why
8 something wasn't helpful or what someone wanted
9 to hear, that might be something that we could
10 use to improve the experience. But it was trying
11 to capture those type of things, communication.
12 And so for the services, they may identify some
13 of those objective things where someone feels
14 heard and respected, even if the outcome is not
15 what they would want it to be.

16 DR. MARKOWITZ: Thanks. So I may have
17 missed this. Apologies if I did. Related to the
18 alleged victim experience 2.1, restricted
19 reports, is this a purely quantitative measure?
20 Or are we talking about getting information about
21 sort of the how and the why they occurred in this
22 measure, whether it was purposeful, how long it

1 took for it to become unrestricted from when it
2 was initially restricted, anything like that?

3 MS. GUPTA: This is a purely first
4 level analysis quantitative measure. And the
5 idea being that if you see an anomaly or a trend,
6 you could do -- or if you just had time and
7 resources, you could do exactly the type of
8 analyses that you're asking.

9 DR. MARKOWITZ: Thank you.

10 MS. GOLDBERG: This is Suzanne
11 Goldberg. Just going back to the exchange that
12 Bill and you and Jen were just having, I wanted
13 to offer an insight from the civil procedure side
14 of the world again which is there's actually
15 pretty substantial data that even when people
16 lose a civil case, they will report satisfaction
17 with the process if they feel they were treated
18 fairly. I haven't looked for that data on the
19 criminal side.

20 I think it gets to some of the points
21 that Jen was raising about how will people feel
22 heard by measures of communication and by the way

1 they were treated in the process. And I do think
2 although I'm not a social scientist, there are
3 ways of asking the questions, like, even though
4 you lost or whatever, you did not receive the
5 outcome that you had hoped for in this case. Do
6 you feel that you had a meaningful opportunity to
7 be heard that gets at the kind of core concepts
8 of due process as far as the participant's
9 experiences go?

10 DR. SPOHN: Let me just add to
11 Suzanne's comments that there is a large amount
12 of literature on procedural justice which is, I
13 think, what you're referring to. And the
14 preeminent person is Tom Tyler. And he's written
15 books and many, many articles about procedural
16 justice versus substantive justice.

17 And there are scales that you can use
18 to measure. A lot of the work is done in
19 policing. But there is some work also with
20 victims of crime and their treatment by the court
21 system. So I think you don't have to reinvent
22 the wheel on this because there's a lot of

1 validated scales on how to measure procedural
2 justice.

3 And I also wanted to reiterate what --
4 or just affirm what Jennifer said about
5 researcher-practitioner partnerships as opposed
6 to researchers coming in and asking for data and
7 then just providing statistical analyses. The
8 MacArthur Foundation has funded for several years
9 now a justice and fairness and prosecution
10 project. And it's run out of Florida
11 International University. Have you talked to
12 Besiki?

13 MS. GUPTA: Yeah, they were another
14 organization that I spoke with. And I think I
15 know exactly what you're about to say.

16 DR. SPOHN: Yeah, so Besiki
17 Kutateladze has done a lot of work with I think
18 four or five prosecutors' offices in Florida.
19 And they're now expanding to some other
20 jurisdictions. And they're very much focused on
21 how prosecutors' offices themselves can measure
22 and use the data to improve their operations.

1 MS. GUPTA: Thank you for that point.
2 In my research for this project speaking to that
3 organization as well as a couple of others, I saw
4 that they're working with the prosecutors'
5 offices in developed dashboards to show the data
6 for the community to understand what's happening
7 in that office as well as, of course, with the
8 prosecutors and offices themselves to understand
9 the data. So I think that was very remarkable
10 and definitely something that there's a lot of
11 room for that type of transparency in the
12 military.

13 CHAIR SMITH: Ms. Tokash?

14 MS. TOKASH: This is Meghan Tokash.
15 I think the services OSTCs have laid a good
16 groundwork for many of the alleged victim
17 experience metrics. We, of course, as the DAC-
18 IPAD were given their business rules.

19 And I would note for the record that
20 every service's business rules has at least some
21 form of a victim engagement plan. And I think
22 that would be particularly helpful in a resource

1 that could probably be tapped into to see how
2 those victim engagement plans are being deployed
3 and how they are being captured in terms of data.
4 I'll also note this is probably a really good
5 opportunity too for the military as they're
6 building out these offices to consider things
7 like uniform guidelines for victim and witness
8 assistance.

9 The Department of Justice learned a
10 very difficult lesson borne out of prosecutorial
11 violations of the Crime Victims Rights' Act in
12 the Epstein case in the Southern District of
13 Florida. So now there are more stringent
14 sanctions even within the AG's policy for federal
15 prosecutors who violate the CVRA. So those may
16 be some other thoughts in terms of being able to
17 capture that alleged victim experience in a
18 quantitative fashion. Thank you.

19 MS. GUPTA: Thank you.

20 JUDGE WALTON: In reference to the due
21 process metrics that you're going to apply, a
22 necessity, for example, whether effective

1 assistance of counsel was provided. The reality
2 is that since we don't have to determine whether
3 it was both ineffective or poor representation
4 and prejudice, just this week, I dismissed a
5 challenge of ineffective assistance based upon
6 lack of prejudice which in many cases is really
7 not telling you whether quality representation
8 was, in fact, provided. And the same is true in
9 reference to prosecutorial error.

10 Many times, you may believe that there
11 was inappropriate conduct engaged by the
12 prosecutor. But you're not going to reverse the
13 conviction because you conclude that the evidence
14 was overwhelming. Therefore, there was no
15 prejudice resulting from the prosecutorial
16 misconduct. So in many cases, you're not going
17 to have an assessment from the court as to
18 whether there was, in fact, poor representation.
19 It's only going to be an affirmance based upon
20 lack of prejudice.

21 CHAIR SMITH: Any other questions? I
22 think it's time for us to break. So if there are

1 no more questions.

2 MR. CASSARA: Not another question.

3 That was fantastic. Thank you so very much.

4 MS. GUPTA: Thank you. I appreciate
5 your time.

6 CHAIR SMITH: All right. So we're
7 going to break until 11:35. Thank you, again,
8 Ms. Gupta.

9 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
10 went off the record at 11:17 a.m. and resumed at
11 11:35 a.m.)

12 CHAIR SMITH: Okay, everyone, I think
13 we can get started here. And we're going to
14 start with the Special Projects Subcommittee, Ms.
15 Tokash.

16 MS. TOKASH: Good morning. This is
17 Meghan Tokash, I'm the chair of the Special
18 Projects Subcommittee, and I want to recognize
19 Eleanor Vuono and Meghan Peters, who are the two
20 attorney advisors who advise us on almost
21 everything as it pertains to the subject matters
22 that we as a subcommittee have looked into and

1 investigated.

2 The subcommittee met for an hour
3 yesterday morning on December 5 from 10:30 until
4 11:30. During that time, we reviewed the very
5 helpful chart that was prepared by Eleanor and
6 Meghan with respect to the DAC-IPAD
7 recommendations and implementation status.

8 So we've reviewed that chart, and we
9 also then turned our attention to future studies.
10 We were given a couple of options, as well as the
11 room for discussion to talk about and think about
12 areas of focus. And three came to mind.

13 The first was public access to court-
14 martial filings and records. So the problem
15 being -- when Congress enacted 140(a), it
16 directed the Department of Defense to facilitate
17 public access to docket information, filings, and
18 records, taking into consideration restrictions
19 appropriate to judicial proceedings and military
20 records.

21 Then in January of this year, the
22 Department issued policy guidance to allow the

1 services to withhold court-martial filings and
2 records until 45 days after certification of the
3 record of trial. In addition, the services need
4 not release court-martial records if there is an
5 acquittal on all charges.

6 So the proposal would be that while
7 the DAC-IPAD could study this issue and recommend
8 changes to Congress, the Military Justice Review
9 Panel is also reviewing the same question.

10 So we discussed as a subcommittee
11 whether the DAC-IPAD wants to focus on different
12 topics, and we arrived at the decision that we
13 actually do want to study this topic because we
14 heard from various stakeholders as a full
15 committee that access to information has been
16 very difficult. So that is one of our first
17 areas of study that we want to look into.

18 The second is a, what I believe to be
19 a very quick area that we need not actually
20 study. I think it's actually time for a decision
21 on this.

22 This is should the DAC-IPAD recommend

1 again, because the DAC-IPAD in fact did in
2 October of 2020 recommend that Congress amend
3 Article 34, UMCJ, to reflect that uniform
4 referral standard, that the services state in
5 their business rules.

6 So that is the evidence to obtain and
7 sustain a conviction criteria. The reason why I
8 bring this up now and say that this could be
9 something that could be completed in a letter to
10 Congress versus a report is because all of
11 services have indicated in their business rules
12 that they will in fact be using that standard for
13 referral.

14 Typically and comparatively, the
15 Department of Justice does not have its -- have
16 that standard embedded in statute. So as a
17 subcommittee, we first shied away from going back
18 towards that recommendation.

19 However, it just doesn't quite sit
20 quite right that there is a statutory referral
21 standard of probable cause when all of the
22 services have indicated in their OSTC business

1 rules that they will be using a higher elevated
2 standard.

3 So that in my opinion could be a
4 quick, a quick hit project that could be done.
5 Obviously this would not make this year's
6 legislative cycle. It would be for next year's
7 legislative cycle.

8 And then the final thing that we
9 discussed, perhaps putting a pin in yesterday,
10 but based on the robust discussion from this
11 morning after Ms. Gupta's fantastic presentation
12 with respect to criteria for judging the
13 performance of the OSTC, I think that the time is
14 right for the subcommittee to actually study this
15 area.

16 So the option would be to study
17 performance measures for assessing the
18 disposition of covered defenses as it pertains to
19 the OSTC.

20 I'm going to turn to my attorney
21 advisor colleagues to make sure they're keeping
22 me honest here and that I did not say anything

1 wrong or inartful. Thank you.

2 MS. PETERS: All right, thank you, Ms.
3 Tokash.

4 An additional topic the subcommittee
5 discussed involved a study of judicial rulings
6 and motions practice in sex assault courts-
7 martial. An important question is are the judges
8 following and applying the military rules of
9 evidence in the pretrial and trial phases of the
10 case.

11 As a staff, we noted that we have
12 collected cases completed in fiscal years 21 and
13 22, and we have a lot of courts-martial records
14 that can inform this kind of a study. And we are
15 grateful that in all of these projects, there are
16 a combination of shorter term and longer term
17 goals associated.

18 So the staff can as a next step
19 develop a research proposal with a plan to move
20 forward and then bring that back to the full
21 committee for everyone's awareness of our need
22 for future planning.

1 And the staff is grateful for the
2 sessions we've had yesterday and today that
3 provided incredible feedback on how to shape the
4 studies, and the types of areas of focus you want
5 to bring to these broader topics. And, the way
6 you want to have an impact and the way to
7 energize and leverage the expertise of this
8 committee in areas that are going to be helpful
9 along the lines of these four topic areas.

10 So again, we have a lot of work to do.
11 I know the subcommittee is ready to do it and
12 take on some new projects. And as we develop the
13 research plan, refine our research questions,
14 we'll bring that continually back to the
15 subcommittee and the full committee to refine
16 them and move forward with your great feedback
17 and input.

18 MS. MAGERS VUONO: That's it.

19 CHAIR SMITH: All right, so I think
20 what we're going to do is vote on the four
21 projects that Ms. Tokash mentioned and that
22 Eleanor and Meghan mentioned.

1 And if no one's opposed, we'll just
2 vote all together for all four, unless someone
3 wants to talk about any one of the projects that
4 they're interested in. Okay.

5 So all those in -- well, anyone
6 opposed to assigning those four projects to the
7 Special Projects Committee? Hearing no
8 opposition, I think that then we are in
9 agreement.

10 MR. YOB: Yes, and I can record that
11 as a 12-0 vote in favor of moving forward on all
12 four of the recommendations from the
13 subcommittee.

14 MS. PETERS: Thank you.

15 MS. MAGERS VUONO: Thank you.

16 JUDGE GRIMM: Nothing substantive, I
17 just want to express my thanks not only to
18 Eleanor and Meghan, who are extraordinarily
19 productive and amazing in what they bring to us.

20 But our chair, Ms. Tokash, has had a
21 good year. And she has -- she is a terrific
22 person at undertaking organizing and getting us

1 to do things that have proven to be successful.
2 So I want to make sure that the record shows that
3 she is every bit as deserving of credit as our
4 wonderful staff.

5 (Applause.)

6 CHAIR SMITH: All right.

7 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: Okay, it's up to us.

8 So the Policy Subcommittee. And unlike the
9 Special Projects Subcommittee, where the staff
10 attorneys and the paralegal allowed the chair to
11 talk about things, I'm not allowed in my
12 subcommittee. And I can't understand why they
13 feel that way.

14 But anyway, so we're looking forward
15 to the future, having gotten approval for our
16 report yesterday. And Terri will tell you what
17 we've come up with as our preferred path.

18 MS. SAUNDERS: Thank you, General
19 Schwenk.

20 Before I get to the Policy
21 Subcommittee update, I want to take just a moment
22 to clarify something from yesterday to the extent

1 that there was any confusion. And that involves
2 the vote on recommendation 54 for the
3 randomization of panel -- of the panel studies
4 review.

5 Recommendation 54, in part, would have
6 the convening authority retaining the authority
7 to detail the members once they have been
8 randomly selected. So in essence, ordering those
9 members to appear at the appointed time and
10 place.

11 I wanted to -- I wanted to compare
12 that with recommendation 57, which you all voted
13 on at the last meeting, which would have the
14 convening authority or having the authority to
15 excuse members from panel duty or make
16 availability determinations. And then
17 recommendation 58 would follow onto that, which
18 would require that there be some transparent
19 method of documenting that.

20 So recommendation 54, which you voted
21 on yesterday on detailing, there is little
22 discretion in that, that the convening authority

1 would be telling those people who had already
2 been selected to appear for the court-martial.

3 Whereas recommendation 57 on
4 availability determinations and excusals, there
5 is discretion for that convening authority to
6 determine -- to determine whether members should
7 be excused or whether they're -- whether they are
8 available in the first place to sit on the court-
9 martial.

10 So I did want to clarify that and make
11 a note. I know several people yesterday voted
12 against recommendation 54, and I wanted to offer
13 them the opportunity, if they chose, to either,
14 to change their vote.

15 Ms. Tokash.

16 MS. TOKASH: This is Meghan Tokash.
17 So the concern that I stated on the record
18 yesterday involved the appearance of objectivity
19 as it pertains to the availability and excusal
20 determination as it pertains to the convening
21 authority and the selection of court-martial
22 panel members.

1 So my original vote yesterday on
2 recommendation 54 was a nay vote because -- it
3 has been now clarified. And I think it was a
4 little bit complicated by the fact that it was
5 talking about removal of certain language. It
6 was almost like a compound recommendation.

7 So I just changed my vote to a yay for
8 54, but my vote for recommendation 57 is still a
9 nay.

10 MS. SAUNDERS: Thank you. And Judge
11 Walton, did you -- you had voted nay yesterday on
12 recommendation 54. Do you wish to keep your vote
13 on that or change a vote?

14 JUDGE WALTON: I'll change it.

15 MS. SAUNDERS: Oh, to a yay?

16 JUDGE WALTON: Yes.

17 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay. And I don't know
18 if Mr. Kramer is still with us.

19 MR. KRAMER: Yes, I am.

20 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay, Mr. Kramer, I
21 don't know if you were, hopefully you were able
22 to follow all of that.

1 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

2 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay.

3 MR. KRAMER: And I'll do the same as
4 Ms. Tokash and Judge Walton.

5 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay. So then the --
6 that brings up the next question regarding
7 recommendation 57, in which there is discretion
8 in excusal or availability determinations.

9 I believe in the previous meeting you
10 both had voted yay or yes to -- for passing that
11 recommendation. Do you wish to change your vote
12 on that recommendation? In other words, do you
13 believe that the convening authority should
14 retain discretion to make availability
15 determinations or to excuse members from court-
16 martial panel duty?

17 JUDGE WALTON: Yes, I think the
18 convening authority should have that discretion.

19 MS. SAUNDERS: And sir, that is
20 consistent with your vote at the last meeting.
21 And Ms. Tokash, you had voted nay at the last
22 meeting on that.

1 MS. TOKASH: Correct, and I'm still
2 continuing to vote that way.

3 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay.

4 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

5 MS. SAUNDERS: Yes, you are voting?

6 MR. KRAMER: The same as I did, yes.

7 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay, so you had voted
8 yes for that recommendation and you want to --
9 you want to keep that vote.

10 MR. KRAMER: Right.

11 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay.

12 MR. KRAMER: Yes.

13 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay, well hopefully I
14 think we've clarified that. Is there anyone else
15 who has a question or comment on those two
16 recommendations? Okay, we can move past that
17 then.

18 So now I'll provide the Policy
19 Subcommittee update. So the Policy Subcommittee
20 met yesterday for about an hour and we, you know,
21 we're, as you all know, we've just closed out the
22 Article 25 random panel selection study. And so

1 the purpose of the meeting was really to decide
2 what was the subcommittee going to do next.

3 The subcommittee looked, you know,
4 discussed a number of issues and decided on two
5 primary issues that they want to study in the
6 coming year. The first one is Military Rule of
7 Evidence 513, which is the psychotherapist
8 patient privilege.

9 There are several issues surrounding
10 that rule of evidence. Primarily they're looking
11 at a concern that has -- that has concerned
12 practitioners recently, which is the 2022
13 decision by the Court of Appeals from the -- for
14 the Armed Forces decision U.S. v. Mellette, which
15 essentially said that the plain reading of the
16 rule covers only communications between the
17 patient and therapist but does not cover the
18 diagnosis and treatment of the patient.

19 So the Joint Service Committee I know
20 has looked at this. They have recently put
21 forward a proposed recommendation to change the
22 rule, but it does not change it to provide -- to

1 extend the privilege to diagnosis and treatment.
2 It's, you know, essentially a more minor
3 recommendation.

4 So the subcommittee would like to look
5 at that issue. And also there are other issues
6 surrounding MRE 513. I think the subcommittee
7 would like to take a more holistic look at that.
8 So that is one issue.

9 The other issue is Article 6(b)
10 victims' rights. You know, particularly looking
11 at the comparative -- comparing the standard of
12 review for when a victim seeks relief at the
13 appellate level with that in the Federal Crime
14 Victims' Rights Act, understanding that there
15 are, you know, differences between the two
16 statutes.

17 So looking at the differences there,
18 determining whether there should be changes in
19 the standard of review. And you know, we think
20 there may be other issues within Article 6(b)
21 that the subcommittee will want to look at as
22 well as we dig into that. So we're still in the

1 process of developing that plan.

2 One additional issue which is not
3 necessarily a review per se that the subcommittee
4 wants to take up but it is -- they want to have a
5 meeting in which they hear from military
6 investigators and military prosecutors on what is
7 the state of how they were handling digital
8 evidence, for example, as compared with civilian
9 communities.

10 You know, an example would be in the
11 military in, you know, in -- the committee has
12 looked at this issue previously, or actually the
13 predecessor committee, of you know, if a victim
14 has digital evidence, how that is obtained. Is
15 it obtained through a subpoena versus, you know,
16 being voluntarily offered by the victim, which is
17 what has previously been the case often in the
18 military.

19 So I think they just wanted to have
20 those two groups come in for a subcommittee
21 meeting, just to see if that is changed. You
22 know, what is the current state of how those

1 groups are handling that type of evidence.

2 So that -- have I forgotten anything,
3 General Schwenk?

4 BGEN(R) SCHWENK: No, but you did
5 remind me on why you told me to stay quiet.
6 You'd have to understand the law a little bit to
7 explain things, which leaves me out. So no,
8 you're good.

9 CHAIR SMITH: I think with the digital
10 evidence, didn't we also say we wanted defense
11 counsel, right? Did you say that?

12 MS. SAUNDERS: Oh, I didn't say
13 defense counsel, but absolutely, we could write
14 that in.

15 CHAIR SMITH: I think they already
16 discussed that.

17 MS. SAUNDERS: Okay. So based on
18 that, we'd like to take a vote on the direction
19 of the Policy Subcommittee, those three issues.
20 So I think the easiest thing is anyone opposed to
21 the Policy Subcommittee looking at those items?

22 Hearing no opposition -- did you have

1 a comment? No? Yeah, sure.

2 MS. GOLDBERG: Thank you so much for
3 describing our work. And just noting for the
4 record that we also discussed looking at
5 restorative engagement and justice practices and
6 have interest in exploring those in more depth
7 down the road.

8 And I'm noting this here only because
9 this issue has come up a number of times and it
10 has been difficult for very good reasons to get
11 this squarely on our and your research agenda.
12 So we agreed to at least start to take some steps
13 towards an eventual established project in that
14 area.

15 CHAIR SMITH: Right, I think we said
16 we were going to wait until March on the
17 restorative justice issue or engagement and see
18 where things are at that point.

19 All right, so anyone opposed to those
20 three topics, and then down the road I think
21 we'll discuss when we get closer to March, the
22 restorative engagement? Hearing no opposition.

1 MR. YOB: I'll note for the record
2 that it's all in favor of proceeding on those
3 points that were raised.

4 CHAIR SMITH: Thank you.

5 MS. SAUNDERS: Thank you all.

6 CHAIR SMITH: Are we going to break
7 for lunch?

8 MR. YOB: So we're moving into the
9 lunch hour. We're going to have a working lunch.
10 My recommendation is we take about ten minutes.
11 Let's say we come back at 1:10 to start the
12 working lunch. That'll give you a chance to go -
13 - 12:10, my mistake.

14 And we'll begin at 12:10 with the
15 working lunch in this room, which will be in the
16 administrative session, so we'd ask the public to
17 please wait outside during that session.

18 When we conclude the working lunch,
19 we'll move in -- we'll take a short break, and
20 then we'll move into the public comment period.
21 And then after that, we'll do a wrap-up of, in a
22 final session.

1 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
2 went off the record at 11:56 a.m. and resumed at
3 1:03 p.m.)

4 MR. YOB: Okay. Again, my name is Pete
5 Yob. I'm the Staff Director for the DAC-IPAD.

6 We are going into our public comment
7 session. We welcome members of the public to
8 come in and give comments that will help inform
9 the Committee. We ask them to focus on comments
10 that will help inform the policy decisionmaking,
11 and they understand that we're not an
12 investigative body who can investigate specific
13 matters they bring. But to the extent that they
14 are germane to informing our work, we ask them to
15 do that.

16 These are the comments, and the
17 matters submitted are from the individuals who
18 come to speak. They don't necessarily reflect
19 endorsement of the DAC-IPAD or agreement with
20 what they're saying. Those are individual
21 comments, but we're really happy to have people
22 come in and help inform us of different issues.

1 So, with that, I will introduce our first
2 speaker. This is Mr. Jerry Clifft who's going to
3 speak with us, and he's going to share some
4 information about his case, I believe.

5 MR. CLIFFT: Good afternoon.

6 My name is Jerry Clifft, formerly GM3
7 in the United States Coast Guard.

8 In 2016, I was convicted at a general
9 court-martial of sexually assaulting my wife.

10 And I'd like you to consider the following
11 statements:

12 "I was tired of him asking for sex.
13 So, I said, 'Just take me.' I wanted him to
14 think I was into it. I took initiative. I
15 switched positions. I told him I loved him twice
16 and once after. I was hoping he'd be willing to
17 reconcile after asking for a divorce. I never
18 said, 'No' or 'Stop.'"

19 When asked by defense counsel if she
20 considered herself an active participant, she
21 said yes. But she felt as though she was
22 assaulted.

1 Not only did she admit to making all
2 those statements on the stand, those versions --
3 I'm sorry -- those statements were the final
4 version of events she chose to give to the
5 members of the jury.

6 Not to mention her numerous pretrial
7 statements were a rapidly moving target in which
8 she claimed to have been assaulted repeatedly on
9 different days and at different times.

10 And even in the face of these wild
11 inconsistencies and a final version that could,
12 no doubt, be considered consensual, I was
13 convicted and handed a four-year sentence.

14 So, that's the bar? That's the
15 prosecutorial burden met? Beyond reasonable
16 doubt, and worthy of a lifetime of sex offender
17 registration, that had merit to indict me, let
18 alone convict me -- to destroy the one thing a
19 person can take to the grave, their reputation
20 and their name.

21 What reasonable jury would run with
22 that evidence and convict? Our great military

1 justice system allowed themselves to be used by
2 an embittered individual and grow her divorce and
3 custody case, allowed her to teach me a lesson
4 for trying to leave. And she was rewarded
5 handsomely for it.

6 My pay and insurance for three years
7 and numerous other tangible benefits, all
8 outlined in the U.S. Code, her entitlements as a
9 victim, and it was only after she was well-
10 informed of these benefits that her sexual
11 assault allegation followed.

12 The CCA affirmed on appeal; yet,
13 called it a concededly close case. That sounds
14 like a cowardly misstep by the military justice
15 system. And the CAAF denied review without
16 explanation.

17 My appeals were finalized in 2018, and
18 I filed a Fourth Circuit habeas petition in 2019,
19 and it was also denied.

20 I asked you before, what reasonable
21 jury would look at the evidence and vote guilty?
22 Well, perhaps they did so because they were no

1 longer capable of being reasonable.

2 In February of 2023, I was contacted
3 by a member of my jury shortly after their
4 retirement, and they told me of an event that
5 occurred outside of the record of trial.

6 Immediately after my ex-wife's direct
7 testimony, a recess was called, and she was
8 placed in a room that shared a thin, false wall
9 with the jury. That certainly would not have
10 been our first choice. Trial counsel is,
11 typically, in charge of the courtroom layout.

12 She proceeded to wail, cry, and carry
13 on for approximately 15 minutes, according to the
14 juror -- all while her victim advocate told her
15 things like how great she did, and that she did
16 her part, and that it would all be over soon.

17 The juror said it was as if she was in
18 the same room with them and every member of the
19 jury looked eager for it to be over with. One
20 even made the comment, "Anyone else
21 uncomfortable?"

22 The juror made sure the bailiff was

1 informed, asked him to tell the judge that they
2 were moving rooms, as a result. And the jury did
3 so because they felt the situation was
4 prejudicial.

5 It took seven years for this
6 information to make its way to me.

7 The implications in this scenario are
8 many, and all of them are the antithesis of due
9 process.

10 Surely the bailiff told somebody. Who
11 did the bailiff report to and work with and
12 interact with almost exclusively during the
13 entire court-martial process? Trial counsel.

14 A Petition for a Writ of Coram Nobis
15 is on its way, and a thorough debate hearing
16 will, hopefully, follow.

17 And while I cannot fathom a version of
18 events in which the investigating court or the
19 appellate court could actually find that that
20 incident did not constitute a violation of my
21 right to an impartial jury and require immediate
22 correction, it would not surprise me if they did.

1 If the authority receiving that petition has any
2 integrity, they will recommend corrective action
3 in my favor.

4 Before I end, these are my children.
5 That's my daughter Charlotte, and she's eight. I
6 have a great relationship with her and her
7 mother, despite no longer being together.

8 Elijah and Aidan are two and five in
9 these pictures. I saw them eight years ago.
10 This was not enough to take that from me.

11 I'm waiting for somebody to stand up
12 and help me make it right. And I've asked a lot
13 of rhetorical questions and that was not one of
14 them.

15 MR. YOB: Thank you, Mr. Clifft.

16 I'll now introduce Mr. Travis Clark,
17 who is going to discuss his case with you.

18 LTC(R) CLARK: How many more innocent
19 service members like him have to be victimized by
20 the corrupt UCMJ process before balance of the
21 scales of justice and restore honor to a broken
22 system? And how much longer will falsely accused

1 and wrongly convicted have to wait until their
2 cases are reviewed and reversed?

3 My name is Lieutenant Colonel Randall
4 Clark, retired. I served 34 years in the Army,
5 both as an enlisted soldier and as an officer.

6 I have seen the great side of the
7 Army, but I've also seen the dark side of the
8 Army, and everything in between.

9 I have been a panel member for two
10 court-martials and served as the board president
11 for 15 separation boards.

12 I have personally recruited more than
13 431 members - people for some form of military
14 service, and based on what I've seen in the last
15 two years, I wish I could do every contract that
16 I've talk to.

17 My son, former Second Lieutenant
18 Dalton Clark, U.S. Army, was falsely accused of
19 domestic violence by his ex-wife and wrongly
20 convicted by the U.S. Army.

21 Many would ask why I'm speaking at the
22 panel that focuses on sexual assault. And it's

1 because my son's accuser also threatened me, to
2 accuse me of sexual assault. And the same
3 justice tactics used in sexual assault
4 investigations would have been used on me.

5 My son's accuser falsely accused him
6 after he filed for divorce and challenged her
7 custody of his daughter. She had extramarital
8 affairs with a man and abandoned their daughter
9 of three months for 40 days in North Carolina
10 prior to his filing, while he was stationed in
11 Korea and her stateside. She took his property
12 to move in with another man two states away,
13 including his truck.

14 She left two dogs for over 40 days in
15 a basement, where the police had to be called on
16 her when it was discovered that she was barely
17 feeding the dogs and had neglected them so much
18 that it would have been better if she had just
19 let them go. Their collars had grown into their
20 necks.

21 When I called to check on my
22 granddaughter and attempted to collect my son's

1 property, she threatened to falsely accuse me of
2 sexual assault. And over the last decade of my
3 career, I know exactly what would have happened,
4 even without evidence.

5 I have seen men jailed with no
6 evidence. I have seen them jailed because of a
7 policy that accusers cannot consent after one
8 alcoholic beverage. I'll say it again, after one
9 alcoholic beverage. They can drive legally, but
10 they can't consent to sex.

11 I have seen others barely survive
12 these cases, and then, have their careers
13 destroyed or be processed out via non-judicial
14 punishment and separation boards, even after they
15 were found not guilty at trial.

16 I have seen and known others who took
17 their own lives because they could not live under
18 the shadow of being a sex offender, and many of
19 them had no more than a parking ticket or a
20 speeding ticket in their entire life, including
21 my son -- an Eagle Scout, an honor student, and a
22 wrestler for the University of Minnesota.

1 The military was their life and they
2 were betrayed in a way as if they were the lower
3 than slime.

4 I have even talked my son out of
5 committing suicide.

6 In the most ironic twist you will hear
7 today, my son's accuser falsely accused the man
8 she was having an affair with, too. While she
9 was screaming and hollering on a 911 call, that
10 "This man is beating me," he, a police officer,
11 was video-recording everything.

12 He was arrested, put inside a police
13 car. The policeman reviewed the video and
14 released him, but they refused to charge her with
15 filing a false police report. They simply asked
16 her to leave.

17 Equal rights should mean equal
18 justice. This evidence was denied in court.

19 She also claimed that the previous
20 fiance prior to Dalton had physically abused her,
21 and her mother stated that this was not true.
22 So, the civilian police again refused to go after

1 her former fiance based on zero evidence.

2 In Dalton's case, despite the fact
3 that nine witnesses testified that she had
4 physically abused my son, and all he had done was
5 restrain her, he was convicted.

6 In one incident where my daughter was
7 a witness in the back of a truck, she struck
8 Dalton while he was driving down an interstate
9 pulling a boat at 80 miles an hour and almost
10 caused an accident. I almost lost of my children
11 that day.

12 And I want you to truly ask
13 yourselves, who is the victim here? Because the
14 military wants to appear to be fair to the
15 accused.

16 This was Dalton's military-appointed
17 attorney's very first case, while the
18 prosecution's were seasoned attorneys. Imagine
19 multiple adults competing against a five-year-old
20 child. The panel or the jury of his peers
21 consisted of mainly senior officers, and the
22 prosecutor even waved at two panel members that

1 she personally knew. I observed this myself.

2 We asked for a change of venue for the
3 trial, but it was denied. We asked for a witness
4 to be subpoenaed -- also denied.

5 Dalton's accuser was even recorded as
6 asking him to say, "Just say that I hit you and
7 I'll drop the charges." Why would she ask such a
8 thing if there were any evidence?

9 I took an oath to defend the
10 Constitution against all enemies, foreign and
11 domestic. When the enemies of the great country
12 have more legal rights than its heroes, that
13 process is an enemy of all that is good in this
14 country.

15 My plan is to reach out and speak at
16 every high school/college that I am able to and
17 share with the American people what has happened.
18 I do it right now at the airports when I wear my
19 hat as a veteran.

20 The influencers who are pushing people
21 to join the military do not understand what is
22 happening with the UCMJ processes.

1 I'm asking you to review and reverse
2 these cases now. Balance the scales of justice
3 for those who can't speak to you today.

4 And there's a lot of people out there
5 right now that don't have the money to come here
6 and talk, but they would. There's a lot of
7 people out there that don't know this process
8 happens; they would be here.

9 I sat with people with my son visiting
10 him, family members, that every person I talked
11 to was the same thing; it seemed like the
12 prosecution was stacked against the defense in
13 every case I talked, every one of them.

14 I'm an educated man just like you guys
15 are. There's no way in any world that you stack
16 the deck in a trial. There's no way. You need
17 to look at this and you need to reverse these
18 processes and balance the scales.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. YOB: Thank you, Mr. Clark.

21 Mr. Arvis Owens will now make a
22 comment.

1 MR. OWENS: Thank you.

2 First and foremost, one of my
3 collateral duties was as a data analyst. So, I
4 wanted to mention the data a little bit.

5 It's that the data, you look at the
6 population of the data, and someone can give you
7 a sliver. So, you either get inconclusive
8 evidence or it supports whatever they want. So,
9 I'll leave you with that.

10 So, two years after my conviction, a
11 neighbor came up to me while I was raking leaves
12 in the yard and hugged me. He's a retired
13 military officer and he says to me that, "They
14 know you didn't do it."

15 I asked him who "they" is, and he put
16 his head down. He, then, admits to me that he
17 had to produce outcomes at trial because all not
18 guilty verdicts in sexual assault cases were
19 reviewed by Congress.

20 I have had neighbors report that I was
21 giving out Halloween candy and I had no right to
22 have a school bus stop near my home. I have been

1 cursed at, spit on, and treated in ways that I
2 never imagined possible in this country.

3 I have been denied jobs because
4 companies worry about liability insurance claims
5 if I were accused again. If I use my military
6 experience on an application, it draws questions.
7 If I don't include it, I am being deceptive.

8 A friend shared with me that companies
9 will hire those who have killed, but not those
10 convicted of sexual assault, even if your case is
11 overturned.

12 There is a member of our group who
13 earned a law degree, and even though the sex
14 assault portion of his case was overturned,
15 female partners and associates forced him out of
16 a law firm. He tried to open up his own office,
17 and the overturned allegation still followed him
18 via reviews. He drives for a ride-sharing
19 company. Imagine if all of you with law degrees
20 only could drive for a ride-sharing company.

21 The military will title you and place
22 you in the National Crime Information Center when

1 you're accused of a crime and leave you in that
2 system even if your case is overturned. They
3 will add a "not guilty" at the end of your
4 charges, but it will still show up in background
5 checks. And there is no DoD process to remove
6 you.

7 I am told that the listing will exist
8 for 40 years. You can't adopt children or join
9 law enforcement agencies or sponsor a spouse for
10 citizenship, and endure other host of
11 restrictions. You're international travel and
12 employment options are limited.

13 Most Americans don't know that the
14 military will title you, even if you are
15 discharged via a non-judicial administrative
16 process.

17 The military has the CATCH program,
18 where an accuser may make a restricted report
19 against someone and they never find out about it.
20 It will be kept on file for 10 years.

21 In my case, we found medical evidence
22 via private investigator and we weren't allowed

1 to use it. Yet, they violated my HIPAA rights,
2 and there was no evidence there in my file.

3 A civilian accuser may testify in a
4 military court, but the military has no
5 jurisdiction to charge and prosecute them for
6 perjury.

7 In military prison, they ask the
8 accused to sign confessions or they will not pay
9 for classes that they consider treatment, and you
10 will decrease your chances of being paroled. Why
11 ask for a confession after you have convicted
12 someone? They don't mention that you can pay for
13 those classes yourself, but, even if you do, they
14 will deny you credit for them and not grant you
15 parole.

16 A military accuser is forgiven for
17 collateral misconduct, but, even if someone's
18 case is overturned, they are subject to
19 administrative boards, discharge, downgrades,
20 denied promotions, and experience extremely slow
21 restoration of benefits.

22 I know that you do not have the

1 authority now, but what I am asking you today is
2 to ask for the authority to take confidential
3 testimony. You can share their evidence and
4 testimony and protect their names.

5 What if I told you we have a former
6 service member who saw hundreds of sex assault
7 wrongful convictions at one military base in one
8 year, and was fired when she came forward lodging
9 a protest? She was ranked No. 1 of 40 people in
10 her category.

11 She heard three women at a command
12 conspire to falsely accuse a man to get a new
13 duty station, but nothing was done when she
14 reported it.

15 Or a Veterans Administration
16 representative who will tell you about a private
17 agreement with the Services not to investigate
18 false sex assault allegations. When the VA
19 system flags them -- they usually get 70 to 100
20 percent -- they will downgrade them and ask for
21 additional information. And then, if they submit
22 fraudulent information, they'll go after them for

1 that, but not false allegations.

2 We have a member of the invisible war
3 willing to talk about false allegations
4 privately.

5 We have someone who worked for one of
6 the largest military-centric victims' rights
7 groups, and hear her talk about public and
8 private social media groups where they coach
9 accusers how to win their military sex assault
10 cases with zero evidence.

11 You can hear from a senior officer
12 from a Service that puts officers' names in a
13 black book if they do not comply with the justice
14 expectations in cases and other things.

15 A former officer wrote sex assault
16 policy while in the military and left in disgust
17 when they were violating it.

18 Hear from retired officers being rated
19 on their officer evaluation reports based on how
20 they handled sex assault cases.

21 We have former investigators from
22 every Service -- NCIS, OSI, CID. I don't have

1 the Coast Guard, but we're working on it. But
2 all of them are scared of reprisals.

3 We have retired JAGs and law
4 professors who have looked at this and are
5 willing to come forward privately.

6 Please help us make that happen.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. YOB: Thank you, Mr. Owens.

9 We have Ms. Barbara Snow who will make
10 a public comment.

11 MS. SNOW: Your Honor, all Committee
12 Members, I want to thank you for the opportunity
13 to speak to you in person today.

14 I do so as perhaps a less likely voice
15 in your oversight efforts -- efforts, however,
16 that require a broad net to capture the many
17 threads and, fundamentally, the root causes of
18 sexual assault and related offenses in the U.S.
19 military, and efforts that go to our national
20 security.

21 I was trained as a criminal defense
22 attorney to zealously advocate for my defendant

1 clients. The little bit of training I received
2 from Brigadier General Wells, the individual who
3 was just relieved as the Army's Lead Special
4 Trial Counsel, when he was the Great Plains
5 Regional Defense Counsel, was how to engage in,
6 quote-unquote, "death by a thousand cuts."

7 After being on the receiving end of
8 Brigadier General Wells' "death by a thousand
9 cuts" approach, and interpersonal interactions
10 with him, in trying to obtain redress in a
11 severely flawed IG system, I have a deep
12 understanding of how the military victimizes, and
13 then, how it re-victimizes.

14 To be clear, and as we've heard from
15 others today already, the criminally accused in
16 the military justice system have not been immune
17 from victimization in the system, either.

18 I have provided a detailed chronology
19 of my interactions with Brigadier General Wells
20 to the Army IG's office. Among the many documents
21 I provided is the cataloging of trauma I
22 sustained because of emotional and psychological

1 abuse.

2 Despite some very personal information
3 in the investigation, I recommend its contents be
4 used to train military justice practitioners on
5 how this type of abuse -- emotional,
6 psychological, and spiritual -- can be initiated
7 within and occur among military ranks, even in
8 places and with people you would not readily
9 suspect.

10 I would be less than helpful coming
11 here today to ask, through your Committee, and
12 any authorized recommendations and actions its
13 members can make and take, that the DoD and all
14 other stakeholders hold a mirror up to the
15 military justice system without being willing to
16 myself show places where that mirror could be
17 held for better understanding and rectification
18 of very serious issues.

19 I know how hard your Committee has
20 worked, and is working, to identify the number of
21 other places requiring acknowledgment for
22 improvement.

1 It is much more often the case that I
2 am a conduit for messages to be conveyed. It has
3 been a highly, highly educational position to be
4 part of the message -- one that screams, however
5 calmly, that we are still a long way off from
6 parity, where the privileged are not
7 automatically believed and those reporting on the
8 outside of privilege do not have to prove their
9 case, to include their veracity and their
10 stability.

11 For a reporting party to have to do
12 any of those things is contrary to the purpose of
13 what are supposed to be independent and competent
14 investigations -- not to mention trying to do one
15 or more of those things is incredibly difficult
16 when you are in a trauma response triggered by
17 misconduct endured by the investigatory process
18 itself.

19 I, respectfully, implore this
20 Committee and other policymakers and
21 stakeholders, especially in light of Brigadier
22 General Warren Wells' removal from his position,

1 and the reasons for it, to ensure that the
2 remaining current Lead Special Trial Counsel are
3 properly vetted; to ensure they have the
4 requisite character and experience to lead their
5 respective offices. It is a foolish errand to
6 remove one and assume that there isn't a larger
7 issue that needs to be addressed with others.

8 Respectfully, the U.S. military should
9 fully understand this in the face of continuing
10 sexual assaults and other related offenses, the
11 myriad of other kinds of abuses, suicide rates
12 that remain unabated, and an overall culture that
13 is not inviting to recruits.

14 I also implore this Committee and
15 other policymakers and stakeholders within their
16 authority to explore and implement reliable
17 training measures and metrics to ensure all of
18 the current and future Lead Special Trial Counsel
19 and all other Office of Special Trial Counsel
20 personnel are sufficiently knowledgeable and
21 skilled to comfortably execute their duties in
22 what is really, really the sacred place of

1 special victim work.

2 The papers submitted in advance of my
3 comments speak to specific vetting and training
4 recommendations.

5 I do want to emphasize the need for
6 subordinate input on the selection of any Lead
7 Special Trial Counsel, and I would be remiss if I
8 did not also emphatically recommend the need for
9 psychological testing of service members,
10 particularly as they progress through the ranks
11 and are placed in positions where their first
12 priority should be on the well-being of those
13 they lead.

14 I also request this Committee
15 investigate how deep the attitudes and conduct
16 are reported to the Army IG regarding Brigadier
17 General Wells goes, both with him and throughout
18 the U.S. military.

19 In a society that likes to separate
20 things into artificial categories, emotional and
21 psychological abuse is but an integral part of
22 many special victim cases.

1 Sexual assault and related offense
2 numbers are barometers of the health of any
3 democracy. The safe and full participation of
4 both men and women in all areas of society, to
5 include in the military, is critical to the
6 security of our Nation.

7 It is time that everyone who dons its
8 uniforms understands this. Men can lead women,
9 and women can lead men. They can serve right next
10 to each other as two brothers and sisters in
11 arms.

12 Democracy abhors complacency. So,
13 please continue to fight against any complacency
14 as you continue to honor your oversight mandate.

15 I, with Ms. Peterson and Mr. Sweezy
16 (phonetic), stand by to provide whatever
17 assistance your Committee and the larger DoD
18 needs in the special victims space and in all
19 areas impacting that space.

20 Thank you for your time, and God bless
21 our Nation.

22 And I actually have, Your Honor, if

1 it's okay, I have brought some books for whoever
2 would like to take them. They are the books that
3 I used in the research with my coauthors.

4 MR. YOB: And I had indicated, if you
5 would like to leave those for us, and any
6 Committee member who would like to take one of
7 the books that's being left, that's perfectly
8 acceptable. And there will be left the copies --

9 MS. SNOW: Thank you.

10 MR. YOB: -- for informational
11 purposes.

12 CHAIR SMITH: Thank you, Ms. Snow. I
13 appreciate you did this.

14 MR. YOB: And that concludes our
15 public speakers. We did have a fifth speaker who
16 had indicated interest, but, relatively recently,
17 the person stopped communicating with us. We
18 weren't sure whether that person would appear
19 today. So, we left a spot. But I do not believe
20 that she has shown up. So, we will have only
21 four speakers today.

22 So, that concludes the speakers. We

1 have no more speakers.

2 I suggest that we take a five-minute
3 break, and then, we come in to do concluding
4 comments and a wrap-up of the meeting.

5 MS. TOKASH: Mr. Yob, this is Meghan
6 Tokash, for the record.

7 Madam Chair, I would just like to put
8 on the record a potential topic for the Special
9 Projects Subcommittee would be to look into the
10 transparency of the vetting and selection of Lead
11 Special Trial Counsel. I would just like to put
12 a pin in that for potential future study.

13 MR. YOB: As the Staff Director, we'll
14 note your suggestion and we'll take that up at a
15 later time, but we note it in the record.

16 Thank you, Ms. Tokash.

17 Madam Chair --

18 MR. KRAMER: Can I add something, too?
19 I'm sorry.

20 MR. YOB: Yes.

21 MR. KRAMER: We've talked before about
22 whether you want to call it, conviction

1 integrity, or something similar to that of the
2 Innocence Project in civilian courts. And I
3 wonder if we can put a pin in that one, too.

4 MS. BASHFORD: The Case Review
5 Subcommittee is taking that under advisement or
6 looking into that.

7 MR. YOB: Thank you.

8 That's exactly what I was going to
9 say, Ms. Bashford, is that's already in the
10 works, and we'll continue to look into that issue
11 and proceed forward with it.

12 But thanks, Mr. Kramer, for that.

13 MR. KRAMER: Sorry, I guess I missed
14 that. Thank you.

15 MR. YOB: Sir, great comment, though.
16 Thank you.

17 Any other comments?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIR SMITH: So, we're going to take
20 a five-minute break?

21 MR. YOB: Yes, Chair Smith, I would
22 recommend that.

1 CHAIR SMITH: Okay. Until 1:40.

2 MR. YOB: Thank you.

3 CHAIR SMITH: All right. Thank you.

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
5 went off the record at 1:35 p.m. and resumed at
6 1:47 p.m.)

7 MR. YOB: So, as a wrap-up, I can only
8 describe this as a substantial meeting that we've
9 had today, a very positive meeting.

10 We accomplished quite a bit. We
11 approved two report contents, and more to follow
12 on that as we finalize those two reports. That
13 should be forthcoming by the end of the year.

14 We had informative presentations on
15 our ongoing Panel Selection Study with Dr. Wells
16 and Kate Tagert. So, we thank you for that.

17 Also, Nalini Gupta on the performance
18 metrics, which was a very well-presented overview
19 of the process and engaged in a lot of debate on
20 that, or a lot of discussion, I would say. So,
21 well done.

22 We also approved a way forward on our

1 subcommittee activities, which we won't go into
2 detail because we've just covered them today.
3 But those subcommittees will move forward on the
4 approved projects.

5 And we've also got some suggestions
6 for some other projects, which they'll develop
7 and come back to the Committee on, to propose as
8 additional work that they can do.

9 We discussed site visits, and we are
10 prepared to and we will form a project group with
11 our staff to move forward on those ideas for site
12 visits, and also, to talk about our future
13 meetings and how we're going to conduct our
14 future meetings. And we'll get back to everybody
15 on that.

16 Finally, I want to thank our public
17 commenters who took the time to come in today and
18 share information with us.

19 I also want to, as a final note, just
20 -- well, along the lines of public comment, I
21 just want to put on the record that we're happy
22 to have members of the public come; we're happy

1 to have members of the press come.

2 A member of the press had asked me if
3 filming was allowed and I said no. Because if we
4 started to have filming, it could be disruptive.
5 If we allowed somebody to film, we would have to
6 allow everybody to film, and only with
7 preapproval, with specific news networks, and
8 well in advance will we allow filming.

9 I did note that it appeared that
10 somebody who I told specifically not to film was
11 filming. That is not allowed. If that person
12 returns, we'll have the discussion with them
13 about whether they will be allowed to have
14 filming materials, et cetera, in the room, since
15 they didn't comply with the specific request.
16 But I'll put that on the record, that that was a
17 violation that I noted.

18 With that said, though, on a positive
19 note, I want to again thank the staff who put in
20 a tremendous amount of work on this.

21 I want to, specifically, thank Dale
22 Trexler, Amanda, Stacy, Stacey, Blake, and

1 Janelle now. I hope we're not leaving anybody
2 out.

3 But because of them -- these materials
4 don't produce themselves; your travel doesn't do
5 itself. They put in a ton of work in getting the
6 location, the contract. So, thanks to them for
7 doing that.

8 Along those lines, I want to thank the
9 entire staff; Marguerite for doing a lot of the
10 public commenters, and also, producing a lot of
11 the materials that have gone in today; the staff
12 attorneys, who, obviously, take a lot of time to
13 do the great work that supports your work.

14 So, everybody, it was just a really
15 tremendous joint effort.

16 And finally, I again want to thank
17 Meghan for stepping up and taking on the role of
18 the deputy. Without her, none of this would have
19 come together so well.

20 So, thanks to everybody. I think the
21 whole staff deserves a round of applause for
22 today.

1 (Applause.)

2 Thanks to the Service reps for being
3 here. We try to work well with you. We try to
4 be super responsive to anything that you need,
5 and it's reciprocal, I know. So, welcome, and we
6 look forward to continue working with you.

7 And with that said, I'm going to open
8 it up to any other comments. And then, if not,
9 we will conclude the meeting.

10 (No response.)

11 MR. SULLIVAN: The public meeting of
12 the DAC-IPAD is closed.

13 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
14 went off the record at 1:51 p.m.)

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: 32nd Public Meeting

Before: DAC-IPAD

Date: 12-06-23

Place: Arlington, Virginia

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