



THE DEFENSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
INVESTIGATION, PROSECUTION, AND DEFENSE OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE ARMED FORCES

September 13, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces Submits its Recommendations to the Secretary of Defense Regarding Implementation of Article 140a, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Arlington, Virginia - The Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DAC-IPAD) today submitted its recommendations to the Secretary of Defense regarding the implementation of Article 140a, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). The letter and recommendations are publicly available on the DAC-IPAD website at <http://dacipad.whs.mil>.

Article 140a, UCMJ, enacted as part of the Military Justice Act of 2016, requires the Secretary of Defense to set uniform standards and criteria by January 1, 2019 for the collection, management, and accessibility of records and data related to criminal cases across all of the Military Services. The DAC-IPAD offered five recommendations to the Secretary of Defense based on the extensive experience of its members as practitioners and experts in the fields of civilian and military criminal justice, the Committee's review of best practices regarding criminal data collection and case management, and the Committee's ongoing collection and annual review of the sexual assault court-martial case documents from each of the Military Services, dating back to 2012.

Some of the key recommendations of the Committee are that DoD collect military justice case data only from standardized source documents produced in the normal course of the military justice process; that it centralize document collection in one organization within the Department of Defense; and that an independent team of full-time professionals analyze the case documents. The Committee also recommends that document collection for both adult and child-victim sexual assault offenses begin with the initial complaint and that specifically identified data elements are collected for all such allegations. The Committee's final recommendation is that the Military Services continue to operate their separate electronic case management systems for purposes of managing their military justice organizations now, but that they develop a plan to transition toward operating one uniform case management system similar to the federal judiciary's system.

In February 2016 the 16-member DAC-IPAD was established for a five-year term by the Secretary of Defense and was tasked by Congress to advise the Secretary on the investigation, prosecution, and defense of allegations of rape, forcible sodomy, sexual assault, and other sexual misconduct involving members of the Armed Forces based on its ongoing review of such cases.

More information about the DAC-IPAD, including previous reports, meeting agendas, and other materials, is available on the Committee's website.