



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The DAC-IPAD Releases Its Report on Racial and Ethnic Data Relating to Disparities in the Investigation, Prosecution, and Conviction of Sexual Offenses in the Military

Arlington, Virginia - The Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DAC-IPAD) today submitted its *Report on Racial and Ethnic Data Relating to Disparities in the Investigation, Prosecution, and Conviction of Sexual Offenses in the Military* to the Secretary of Defense and the Committees on Armed Services of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives in accordance with section 546 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 (Pub. L. 113-291), as amended. The report is now publicly available on the DAC-IPAD website at <http://dacipad.whs.mil>.

This report responds to Section 540I of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, which directed an “assessment of racial, ethnic, and gender disparities in the military justice system.” The DAC-IPAD was requested to review and assess racial and ethnic data for service members *accused* of a penetrative or contact sexual offense, against whom charges were *preferred*, and for service members *convicted* of a penetrative sexual offense. The DAC-IPAD reviewed such data for cases closed in Fiscal Year 2019.

Inconsistencies in terminology and data collection practices across the Services limited the Committee’s ability to adequately assess any racial, ethnic, or gender disparities in the fiscal year 2019 data reviewed. The Committee does make several recommendations to improve data collection, recognizing that the Department of Defense and the Services are currently implementing a number of changes in collection and management of data as required by Section 140a of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Committee’s recommendations would complement those efforts.

The Committee also notes the importance of studying disparities in sexual offense cases independently from other studies involving military justice offenses because of the intimate nature of these types of crimes. Analysis of sexual offenses may reveal unique racial and ethnic disparities that either are not present or that present differently in other crimes.

The DAC-IPAD was established by the Secretary of Defense in February 2016, in accordance with section 546 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, as amended. The Committee is tasked to advise the Secretary of Defense 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 review of such cases on an ongoing basis.
Please address any questions or comments to the DAC-IPAD mailbox at
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