



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

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces Publicly Releases Its Second Annual Report

Arlington, Virginia – The Defense Advisory Committee on Investigation, Prosecution, and Defense of Sexual Assault in the Armed Forces (DAC-IPAD) has submitted its second annual report to the Secretary of Defense and Committees on Armed Services of the 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>.

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.

This report provides a summary of the Committee's activities over the past year, focusing on three areas: the scope and methodology established by the Committee for its ongoing review of investigative case files closed in fiscal year 2017 involving penetrative sexual assault allegations; the Committee's collection and trend analysis of case adjudication documents and data for all sexual assault cases completed between fiscal years 2012 and 2016 in which charges were preferred; and the Committee's review and assessment of the Department of Defense's expedited transfer policy and sexual assault-related training of commanders.

Overall, the DAC-IPAD found that the expedited transfer policy is an important response made available to sexual assault victims by the military and strongly recommends that the initiative continue and be further improved. The Committee makes four specific recommendations regarding the DoD-level and Coast Guard expedited transfer policies.

Its recommendations are (1) that the Secretary of Defense (and the Secretary of Homeland Security, for the Coast Guard) and the Military Services take action to dispel the misperception of widespread abuse of the expedited transfer policy, including addressing the issue in the training of all military personnel; (2) that Secretary of Defense (and the Secretary of Homeland Security, for the Coast Guard) identify and track appropriate metrics to monitor the expedited transfer policy and any abuses of it; (3) that the policies of the DoD's Family Advocacy Program (FAP) and of the Coast Guard equivalent include provisions for the expedited transfer of active duty Service members who are victims of sexual assault that are similar to the expedited transfer provisions in the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) policy and consistent with 10 U.S.C. § 673; and (4) that the DoD-level policy on military personnel assignments (DoD Instruction 1315.18) and the Coast

Guard equivalent include a requirement that assignments personnel or commanders coordinate with and keep SAPR and FAP personnel informed throughout the assignment process for expedited transfers, safety transfers, and humanitarian/compassionate transfers when the transfer involves an allegation of sexual assault.

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