MILITARY JUSTICE REVIEW PANEL (MJRP)

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OPEN SESSION

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WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25, 2023

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The Military Justice Review Panel met via Videoconference, at 11:00 a.m. EDT, Dr. Elizabeth Hillman, Chair, presiding.

PRESENT Dr. Elizabeth Hillman, Chair Judge Benes Z. Aldana Capt(R) Steven Barney Col(R) Kirsten Brunson MG(R) John Ewers Col(R) William A. Gunn MG(R) Robert Kenny Col(R) Lawrence Morris Col(R) Lawrence Morris Col(R) Tara Osborn Judge James Redford Capt(R) Bryan Schroder Judge Jeri K. Somers MJRP STAFF Mr. Pete Yob, Director Mr. Dale Trexler, Chief of Staff Ms. Stacy Boggess, Senior Paralegal Ms. Terry Gallagher, Staff Attorney Ms. Nalini Gupta, Staff Attorney Ms. Amanda Hagy, Senior Paralegal Mr. Michael Libretto, Staff Attorney Mr. Chuck Mason, Staff Attorney Mr. Marguerite McKinney, Management & Program Analyst Ms. Meghan Peters, Staff Attorney Ms. Stayce Rozell, Senior Paralegal Ms. Terri Saunders, Staff Attorney Ms. Kate Tagert, Staff Attorney Ms. Eleanor Magers Vuono, Staff Attorney PRESENTERS Lieutenant Colonel John Olson, U.S. Army Colonel Matt Talcott, U.S. Air Force Commander Bryan Davis, U.S. Navy Colonel Nicholas Gannon, U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant Commander Nicholas DeRenzo, U.S. Coast Guard Captain Anita Scott, U.S. Coast Guard Lieutenant Colonel Keaton Harrell, U.S. Marine Corps

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-T-N-G-S 2 (11:01 a.m.) 3 MR. YOB: Okay, well, I'll make a quick 4 comment first, and admin comment just for the 5 panel members. And that is just a reminder we didn't say yesterday, and should have, that 6 7 during the public session, the next two sessions, 8 please as an admin note, when you're going to 9 make a comment or ask a question, please just 10 when you come on screen and identify yourself by 11 name first, because we're transcribing these 12 parts, and that will help in the transcription to 13 have people identify what they're saying. 14 So, that's my one admin. Actually, a 15 great day yesterday, and I'm looking forward to a 16 great day today. 17 I'm going to throw it over to Dr. 18 Hillman, Chair, and she'll sort of initiate the 19 meeting, yeah. 20 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Pete. 21 Welcome to Day 2 of the 7th Meeting of 22 the Military Justice Review Panel. I want to

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1	thank our staff for pulling together a great
2	meeting yesterday. And thank you to you for
3	making the time from all the different places
4	that you're joining us from around the world.
5	Today we're going to start with two
б	public sessions. The first public session will
7	be the Trial Counsel, service representatives.
8	They're just coming in and joining us now. We'll
9	start that after these opening remarks.
10	And then, and then we're going to hear
11	from the JSC representatives on the recent
12	Executive Order, Military Justice Executive Order
13	that implements the Special Trial Counsel
14	Program, such big sea changes in military
15	justice.
16	So, that's what the morning is. I'll
17	just note in terms of the order of the day, after
18	the morning, those sessions will be an hour, and
19	then another 30 minutes. We'll take a break in
20	the middle of the day, a little shorter than
21	yesterday's break. We're going to take 30
22	minutes in the middle of the day.

1	Then we'll kick into an executive
2	session for deliberations and some breakout
3	groups at the end of the day.
4	So, I think that I just want to give
5	members a chance to, if you have any questions
6	about administrative pieces, or access, or
7	anything like that, in terms of any tech troubles
8	that you're having, we can answer those before we
9	start.
10	And then we may need to pause for a
11	couple minutes as our folks join us from the
12	services for the Service Trial Counsel session
13	that we're having first this morning.
14	Judge Redford.
15	JUDGE REDFORD: Thank you, Dr. Hillman.
16	I just, and I know it's been sent out
17	multiple times, but if someone could just either
18	share now or send an email when the, maybe the
19	first two or three scheduled meetings in 2024
20	are. I've had some, you know, phone issues and
21	some stuff's been deleted from my calendar.
22	So, I would appreciate that. Yes.

1	MR. YOB: Sir, I'll get on that. And
2	we'll make sure that goes out to you on the next
3	break.
4	JUDGE REDFORD: Thank you.
5	MR. TREXLER: Hey, Dr. Hillman, it's
6	Dale.
7	CHAIR HILLMAN: Hey, Dale.
8	MR. TREXLER: Maybe if there's no other
9	questions I can do a quick roll call for Terry
10	Gallagher for her panel on Trial Counsel experts,
11	just to make sure they're all online before we
12	start that session.
13	CHAIR HILLMAN: That sounds great.
14	And, Dale, do you have all the members
15	noted so we know that we have a quorum?
16	MR. TREXLER: Yes, ma'am. We're good.
17	The only member missing, I think,
18	right now is Judge Kasold.
19	CHAIR HILLMAN: Okay, got it. Thank
20	you.
21	MR. TREXLER: All right.
22	So, let me just do a quick roll call.
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1	Col. Talcott, Air Force?
2	(No response.)
3	MR. TREXLER: Col Olson, I see you.
4	LTC OLSON: Yes, sir.
5	MR. TREXLER: Commander Davis?
6	Commander Davis?
7	(No response.)
8	MR. TREXLER: Col. Gannon, Marine
9	Corps?
10	(No response.)
11	MR. TREXLER: Okay. So, we're missing
12	three out of the four right now. But, again, I
13	think Terry said that the session wasn't
14	scheduled till 11:15. So, I'd give them,
15	obviously, a few more minutes then.
16	CHAIR HILLMAN: Kudos to Colonel Olson
17	for knowing how being on time is being so darn
18	early for us. I appreciate that.
19	So, I'll just note, then, everybody
20	right now, panel members, as we wait for our
21	distinguished guests to join us, if you didn't
22	have a chance to look over the materials that

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were sent last night around the ongoing deliberations we're going to do later today, you can take a look at what our director sent out last night.

5 And I appreciate all the staff members 6 who helped us queue that up. It's hard to 7 summarize what a lot of different people are 8 saying during these meetings as we move towards 9 reaching some conclusions on some of the issues 10 ahead of us. So, I appreciate your attention to 11 that.

And if anybody's missing anything, Judge Redford asked about dates for the meetings coming up, if you're missing anything else, it's a good time to raise it with our team right now, too, as we look ahead.

I do hope we'll be back in person. I appreciate the convenience of the virtual meetings as everybody's working through the technology that we need and how you need to carve out time in your schedule. We moved virtual because of uncertainty about the travel and the

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1 funding issues as we approached this meeting. 2 We can, we can do that again as we 3 need to. We'll have to see how this plays out. But I do appreciate the value of being in person. 4 And if any of you, you know, need to 5 reach out and talk to our staff, or talk to me or 6 7 other members of the panel in between, we would 8 normally have a chance to do that during an in-9 person meeting. And we haven't had that chance 10 in these meetings. 11 I hope you'll, you know, pick up the 12 phone or drop an email. And I'm certainly 13 available to you, as are others, you know, if it 14 would help to clarify some of the issues as we 15 move ahead and look towards the comprehensive 16 report and all the work that's ahead of us. 17 MR. YOB: Dr. Hillman, I'll just point 18 out along those lines, going to the virtual 19 meeting it was, it was a product of two things: 20 one, having a meeting in October, which is in 21 normal circumstances difficult because your 22 funding is getting released; and on top of that,

1	the CR, in which case the funding being released
2	is even delayed more because they have to
3	calculate how much they can release.
4	So, we didn't have time to get the
5	funding done ahead of time.
б	I think we might want to think about
7	a year out not having meetings in October,
8	because it might make it a little bit easier for
9	us if we encounter any problem at all not to have
10	a hitch like this. We might push it to November,
11	which will give us a little bit of breathing room
12	to deal with any things like fiscal things like
13	this that are occurring.
14	So, just a suggestion to think about,
15	put away, and we'll consider that later.
16	CHAIR HILLMAN: So noted.
17	Judge Redford?
18	JUDGE REDFORD: Thanks, Director Yob.
19	I would suggest, respectfully, that as
20	opposed to a November meeting next year we
21	seriously think about a September meeting as
22	opposed. Because it's the end of the FY.

1	Normally that's when, oh my gosh, we've got to
2	spend the authorized funds, but more importantly,
3	when we're coming up on 31 December as a report
4	day, the ability to impact some change if we need
5	to, I would just suggest September.
б	MR. YOB: That makes tremendous sense.
7	And thank you for that comment.
8	CHAIR HILLMAN: We should take a look
9	at that schedule again, and also think about
10	whether if there's a day of the week that we know
11	is consistently not working for members of the
12	panel, that we shift away from that. Which I
13	appreciate everybody doing what they can to get
14	here. Not everybody is going to the great
15	lengths that Captain Aldana is to be with us,
16	from a different time zone over there.
17	But we should do what we can.
18	So, Pete, let's send out another
19	coordination with those meetings times and we'll
20	work out what might work for the panel as best as
21	we look ahead.
22	MS. GALLAGHER: And it appears that
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1 everybody's here. You're ready to start. 2 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Terry. 3 Colonel Brunson, did you have one more point? 4 5 MR. YOB: Kirsten, I think you're muted. 6 7 COL BRUNSON: Sorry about that. 8 If we could consider maybe more than 9 the one-and-a-half to two days every three I know we have the virtual sessions in 10 months. between, but it's so much easier to get things 11 done when we're in person. And if we're all 12 13 taking the time to travel there, my thought is 14 let's use more of that time when we're actually 15 together to get a lot of the work done. 16 Just a thought. 17 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel 18 Brunson. 19 We're going to keep pivoting Okay. 20 and overcoming the challenges ahead of us, just 21 like our staff has done, honestly, navigating the 22 challenges that they face. And we'll work out a

1	schedule that works for everybody so we can get
2	this important work done.
3	Okay. I'm going to turn it over to
4	the lead attorney on this session, Terry
5	Gallagher, to lead us as we get started here.
6	MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you, Dr. Hillman.
7	So, good morning, everybody. For this
8	panel we have invited Senior Trial Counsel from
9	each of the services to provide their
10	perspectives, opinions, and recommendations on
11	the same topics covered by the Senior Defense
12	Counsel yesterday, including pre-referral
13	proceedings, judge-alone special courts-martial,
14	plea agreements, sentencing procedures, and the
15	process in the retaliation, domestic violence,
16	and sexual harassment allegations.
17	You have each been provided a copy of
18	their biography.
19	And so, joining us from the Army is
20	Lieutenant Colonel John Olson.
21	From the Navy we have with us
22	Commander Bryan Davis.

1	Colonel Matt Talcott is representing
2	the Air Force.
3	The Marine Corps is represented by
4	Colonel Nicholas Gannon.
5	And Lieutenant Commander Nicholas
6	DeRenzo is with the Coast Guard.
7	Each of them will be given an
8	opportunity to state their current assignment and
9	how long they have been in it, followed by a
10	brief statement regarding their thoughts on how a
11	recent change to the military justice system has
12	positively or negatively impacted their ability
13	to assist the command in taking appropriate
14	disciplinary actions for criminal wrongdoing.
15	Following their individual statement
16	they are prepared to field your questions.
17	Please help the court reporter out by stating
18	your name prior to asking your question.
19	Given the virtual presence of everyone
20	in attendance and the challenges associated with
21	that, for general questions posed to the group as
22	a whole the presenters will each be given an

1 opportunity to respond in a predetermined order. 2 The order of response will be Army, 3 Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. We have a number of topics to get through, so we 4 may be required to move on to another topic 5 before all questions can be addressed. 6 Time 7 permitting, we'll circle back to some of those 8 questions. 9 With that, I'll turn it over to Lieutenant Colonel John Olson for his brief 10 11 statement. 12 LTC OLSON: Good morning. My name is 13 Lieutenant Colonel John Olson, Jr. And I am the 14 Chief Circuit STC for the United States Army in the 3rd Circuit, which we're calling the 15 16 Mississippi Valley. 17 So, I cover Fort Campbell, Kentucky; 18 Fort Knox, Kentucky; Fort Moore, Georgia; Fort 19 Johnson, Louisiana; Camp Shelby, Mississippi; as well as Fort Novosel in Alabama. 20 21 I've been doing this essentially since 22 this summer. Prior to that I was Chief of

1	Administrative Law at III Corps. And before that
2	I was a Special Victim Prosecutor for three
3	years, 7th Army Training Command out in Germany.
4	I'd say over the last several years
5	the change that I have found most effective that
б	has really empowered at least my, my role as a
7	prosecutor has been the addition of our ability
8	to use minimum sentences along with sentencing
9	caps.
10	And I know this is something that is
11	a topic du jour, so to speak, but it is something
12	that has allowed the Government a little better
13	footing when it comes to plea agreements, as well
14	as presentation of our sentencing cases in guilty
15	pleas.
16	I find that we're able to capture what
17	the Government at least perceives as the gravamen
18	of the offense, rather than sort of a more
19	sterilized version that ultimately goes in front
20	of the military judge.
21	I know with that
22	(Audio interference.)

CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Colonel Olson. 1 2 Who's up next then, Terry? 3 MS. GALLAGHER: Colonel Talcott. COL TALCOTT: Okay. Hi. Good 4 5 afternoon, everybody. I'm Colonel Matt Talcott. I'm the Air 6 7 Force Chief of Trial and Appellate Operations. 8 In this position I supervise a team of senior 9 attorneys that travel around and prosecute cases 10 that are non-covered offenses, so not OSTC cases. 11 I also supervise all of the Air Force 12 Government Appellate Counsel. 13 I've been in this position since the 14 And this used to be the position that summer. 15 supervised all of our Senior Traveling 16 Prosecutors. So, it's different in that respect 17 with OSTC, now LSB -- STCs. 18 The answer that Colonel Olson gave I 19 concur with. That was a, it's a good change. 20 So, I guess what I'd highlight is the -- I guess 21 I should have said prior to this position I 22 served, I've been a military judge. I've been a

1 military justice instructor. I was a senior 2 prosecutor, traveled around Asia. 3 And the addition of the pre, what are 4 called pre-referral authorities for communication 5 warrants I thought was badly needed and is 6 helpful. I think it's still being underused. Ι 7 think counsel and judges are still working 8 through how often, when, and how to do it. But 9 having been a judge who did these hearings and 10 been an attorney advising my counsel to seek 11 them, the ability to capture that evidence can be 12 critical in cases. 13 And I think it's a rare case nowadays 14 that doesn't have some form of digital evidence. 15 Sometimes we have to get it through the use of 16 those communication warrants. 17 I think that's all I have for 18 introductory comments. 19 MS. GALLAGHER: Commander Davis. 20 CDR DAVIS: Yes. Good morning, 21 everyone. 22 My name is Commander Bryan Davis. Ι

currently serve as the Deputy Director of the Criminal Law Division here at the United States Navy within the Office of the Judge Advocate General, essentially the criminal law policy wing of the Navy JAG Corps.

6 So, maybe you're wondering, that 7 doesn't sound like a trial, trial counsel 8 position. My involvement in this panel stems 9 from my most recent assignment until I 10 transferred to this position in the summer of 11 this year.

12 Most recently I served as the Senior 13 Trial Counsel at Region Legal Service Office 14 Southwest. Essentially had overall 15 responsibility for prosecutions in the Southwest 16 Region of the United States, going all the way, 17 essentially, from California and pretty much over 18 to Oklahoma.

So, I was in that position for about three years overseeing 12 to 15 prosecutors carrying out the day-to-day duties of prosecution in the Southwest Region.

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1 Prior to that I served primarily in 2 litigation billets, or really exclusively in 3 litigation billets throughout my career, dating back to 2007, both on the defense and the 4 5 prosecution side, including a tour with the Office of Military Commissions, also on the 6 7 prosecution side. 8 To answer the question, I know some of 9 the other panelists have focused on some of the 10 positive changes. So, I apologize, I take this a 11 little of a negative direction. 12 But I think probably the biggest 13 hangup for counsel that I was supervising over 14 the past couple of years have been changes to 15 M.R.E. 513 and its application. 16 As I'm sure panelists are aware, there 17 has been ongoing questions about M.R.E. 513 and the applicability or not of the constitutional 18 19 exception. That's an issue that's been around 20 for a long time. 21 But speaking more about, you know, 22 more pressing issues, I think the CAAF's decision

in United States vs. Mellette, which essentially held that, you know, prescriptions, other medical records, diagnoses, and treatment of victims or witnesses were not covered by M.R.E. 513.

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The challenges that that's created for 5 us in the Navy is, I think, in virtually every 6 7 case, regardless of whether, you know, it's a 8 sexual offense or any type of offense, as a 9 standard practice now we see discovery requests 10 in every single case for diagnoses, treatment, 11 prescriptions of witnesses. Which puts counsel in a difficult position because frequently 12 13 there's not an obvious factual nexus in that 14 particular case that mental health may be at 15 issue.

So, the counsel is put in a position to either affirmatively go out and attempt to seek the information, which sometimes puts them at odds with the victim's representation, or the Government can hold the defense to its burden to establish why that information is actually relevant to the preparation of the defense.

1	Should the counsel take that route,
2	and they're essentially waiting until a motions
3	session, you know, a month or two after
4	arraignment has taken place to resolve that
5	issue. In course, you know, understanding that
6	relevance to the preparation of the defense, you
7	know, a fairly low bar, had been pretty regularly
8	ordering the Government to go and seek these
9	records.
10	So, here you are already, you know, a
11	month or two down the line into your trial
12	management schedule going out to seek records.
13	That can be a long, torturous process, especially
14	if we're not just talking about military
15	treatment facilities, but civilian treatment
16	facilities as well. So, it can just really delay
17	the process significantly, leading to continuance
18	after continuance.
19	Then when the defense receives the
20	information ultimately, that can be followed by
21	expert requests, and litigation over that, which
22	just creates additional delay.

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1	There can also be litigation
2	surrounding that, you know, particularly when
3	we're talking about civilian providers who, you
4	know, have their own state law, licensing
5	requirements. They don't necessarily see the
б	privilege in the same way that military courts
7	have.
8	So, you can have motions to quash
9	subpoenas and things of the like. Again,
10	additional litigation and additional delay.
11	Taking that one step further, if the
12	records are ultimately obtained, then there's the
13	process of reviewing those records, which has
14	also been particularly problematic where you
15	have, you know, despite how specific a subpoena
16	may be drawn to only include non-privileged
17	information, treatment facilities regularly
18	provide the entire record of the individual,
19	which then includes privileged information.
20	So, you run into issues where, you
21	know, counsel if they review privileged
22	information could be disqualified. Judges are

not typically conducting in camera review on, on these records.

3	And so, many offices are seeing up-
4	chain teams in order to be able to review these
5	records, which in a larger office like the one
6	that I led, not as much of a problem. But
7	particularly in our smaller offices, if you have
8	to dedicate another attorney or even seek an
9	outside attorney, that can be a significant
10	undertaking for a particular office.
11	So, you know, essentially it's a kind
12	of significant delay in these cases, which isn't
13	good for the accused. It isn't good for the
14	other witnesses involved.
15	And so, I guess my, my suggestion
16	along those lines would be to take a look, a long
17	hard look at the standards, whether that be
18	including these type of records under 513 as
19	actually being covered, or to increase the burden
20	upon the defense to demonstrate the necessity for
21	those records at the outset, instead of just
22	relevance to the preparation of the defense.

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1	little bit what my Army colleague said.
2	Negotiating sentences certain or close to certain
3	is extraordinarily helpful to the commander.
4	That's a very positive development.
5	Thank you.
6	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel
7	Gannon.
8	MS. GALLAGHER: And Commander DeRenzo,
9	please.
10	LCDR DeRENZO: Good morning, everyone.
11	Thanks for the opportunity to speak with you all.
12	My name is Lieutenant Commander Nick
13	DeRenzo. My current day job is the Chief of the
14	Litigation Division of the Coast Guard's Office
15	of the Chief Prosecutor, which is our version of
16	the Office of the Special Trial Counsel in the
17	United States Navy.
18	Essentially, my day job is supervising
19	all of the Coast Guard's trial counsel and
20	prosecution of the Coast Guard courts-martial,
21	basically throughout the United States.
22	We made a tactical choice to sort of

split up the division of duties for the department head, for the pre-litigation investigations, disposition decision, and then litigation. So, I'm doing the latter, so, training, supervising all the Coast Guard's courts-martial.

I've been in this job since last 7 8 summer where I fleeted up to my previous position 9 where I was, essentially, what the Coast Guard's version of a senior trial counsel in Alameda, 10 11 California, where I supervised all of the Coast Guard's trial counsel in the Pacific area of 12 13 responsibility, basically from, right from report 14 of offense through the end of the case, however 15 that was disposed.

In terms of things that in my experience have been a positive impact on prosecution efforts since, well, in recent years, I would echo some of the sentiments of my colleagues.

In particular, the ability to getstored communications and electronic evidence

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before a charging decision is made, and before we're in a litigation posture, whether that be, you know, in my world there's pretty much an enormous amount of information, social media, stored communications, ring camera videos, I mean you name it. We do that in a surprising amount of our cases.

And I've found it incredibly useful, 8 9 both in deciding what is the right answer -- do 10 we charge, do we not charge? -- you know, the 11 overall search for truth. And then weed out what we believe is a solid case, getting a significant 12 13 amount of corroboration, sometimes through 14 witness testimony, which is, as everyone knows, crucial. 15

And then the ability to get prereferral subpoenas. And anybody who has practiced law for a time knows you have to wait for the referral to go get those documents that you think exist. And that can both create delays in the trial, or even potentially change the posture of the case from the evidentiary

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perspective.

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So, the ability to get that before we make decisions and move out in a prosecution effort has been enormous and I'm sure we'll talk more about that.

And then, lastly, the changes in plea 6 7 agreements, having practiced in the civilian 8 sector a little bit, you know, began my career as 9 an Assistant Public Defender in Florida, and then 10 spent two years as a Special Assistant United 11 States Attorney prosecuting basically Coast Guard federal drug cases in the Military District of 12 13 Florida, it was kind of surprising to see the old 14 way we did plea agreements where we had two parts, and the judge couldn't see the second 15 16 part. And it was sort of a beat-the-deal 17 concept. Created a lot of uncertainty, I think, 18 for everybody involved, whether you're accused, 19 witness, victim, command.

20 So, the change to have more certainty 21 -- and I think that's only going to expand, I 22 would assume, with the military judge sentencing

1	I think has been a positive for everybody
2	involved in terms of certainty of outcomes, you
3	know, slightly more efficient sentencing hearings
4	and the like.
5	Look forward to speaking to everyone
б	and answering your questions. Thank you.
7	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant
8	Commander DeRenzo.
9	So, I'm going to start. We're going
10	to hit on all these categories, too. And, you
11	know, I'll remind the panel members, if you have
12	particular questions just let me know, and you
13	can jump in at any time, too.
14	But we'll start with plea agreements,
15	which many of you already spoke about, including,
16	you know, you just now here, Lieutenant Commander
17	DeRenzo.
18	So, I just want to make sure that we
19	have a sense of how you see the new plea
20	agreements versus the old PTAs, for those of you
21	who didn't comment on it already.
22	And two other things:

1	How do you think they are affecting
2	judicial discretion and sentencing?
3	And do you think something, we have
4	the advantage hearing from you, we talked to
5	defense counsel, we heard from defense counsel
б	yesterday and asked them questions. They found
7	that the absence of what you just described as
8	the beat-the-deal phenomenon had reduced the
9	vigorous advocacy in some case of those hearings
10	because there wasn't as much there wasn't as
11	much to be gained.
12	And I wondered what you think about
13	the impact on advocacy skills of some of the
14	change in military justice in recent months and
15	years?
16	CHAIR HILLMAN: Lieutenant Colonel
17	Olson?
18	LTC OLSON: Absolutely. So, I'd like
19	to address a couple of those things. I
20	appreciate the question.
21	So, first, just sort of considering
22	the pre-change PTAs and that sort of process and

system if you will, both as a prosecutor and as a defense counsel I had a certain amount of angst about it.

First, I start from the baseline of 4 5 the accused should always have some sort of benefit for pleading quilty, otherwise why is he 6 7 or she doing it? And so, you know, wherever the 8 Government would value the case, I always 9 believed it was the right thing to do to, you 10 know, back that off at least a bit, obviously 11 circumstance depending.

The problem that I always found in the 12 13 previous system was that, you know, we may come 14 up, we may negotiate a maximum sort of a ceiling 15 if you will, a maximum sentence that the 16 convening authority would agree to, disapprove 17 anything above. And then the negotiations would 18 then turn to, okay, well, what exactly is the 19 accused going to plead to? 20 And some charges would fall off,

21 specifications would fall off. So that, 22 ultimately, what was presented to the military

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1 judge, you know, at the sentencing hearing was a 2 very watered-down, even sterile version of what 3 the Government truly believed the case was. And, you know, young Captain Olson 4 would always wonder, you know, why the heck am I, 5 am I getting my butt kicked every time I go into 6 7 these sentencing hearings? And later on it sort of occurred to 8 9 me, well, it's because the judge doesn't really 10 have any understanding of the case as I see it, 11 because it has evolved and changed so much in 12 those plea negotiations. 13 So, now as we have these, you know, 14 the ability to have both a maximum and minimum, 15 now as the Government counsel I have the ability 16 to essentially set the Government value on this 17 So, all right, you know, the standard case. 18 garden variety 120 hearing -- I know that's a, 19 you know, a little bit tongue-in-cheek -- but, 20 so, I value this as, you know, let's say 24 months for a simple matter. I'm not going to go 21 22 below that.

1	You know, we can haggle over what the
2	maximum might be, but now even if, you know, a
3	couple specifications fall off, so on and so
4	forth, the value that I've put on, or and that
5	the Government has put on what we view as the
6	liability, criminal liability in this case is
7	still captured, is still there. I can still take
8	that back to the command. I can still take that
9	back to the victim.
10	And so, in my opinion, that's made it
11	far more equitable when we've actually gotten
12	into sentencing.
13	Now, the second question I believe was
14	on judicial discretion. So, I guess the larger
15	the window or the range, the more discretion the
16	military judge is going to have.
17	Just from my own personal anecdotal
18	experience, until very recently we've been pretty
19	reticent to do, you know, specified sentences or,
20	you know, say a minimum of, again for simple
21	math, 12 months and a maximum of, you know, 12
22	months and a day, so to speak, because there was

1 always that sense, you know, be it regulatory or 2 even cultural, that the accused has that, 3 essentially that right to that meaningful sentencing case, that advocacy that you spoke of. 4 5 Personally, and I look at this both, you know, from my experience as a trial counsel 6 7 as well as a defense counsel, I think that might be overstated, a little bit overblown. 8 I mean, 9 there were times, you know, consulting -- or, 10 excuse me, counseling, you know, my client as 11 defense counsel where, you know, I was asked, you 12 know, What am I looking at here? What am I going 13 to get? 14 Well, you know, the maximum is 35 You know, and then my client would freak 15 years. 16 out. 17 Don't worry, you're not going to get 18 anywhere near that. 19 Well, what am I going to get? 20 Well, this judge is, at sentence this 21 judge gives these sentences typically. You know, 22 we don't know what's going to happen if we have a

panel.

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2	So, it was sort of all over the map.
3	And it was actually very difficult to counsel a
4	client as to, you know, what may be the benefits
5	of a deal, what may not be the benefits of a
б	deal, so on and so forth.
7	So, in my opinion that, that
8	predictability, making the system a little bit
9	more certain, while that does rob a little bit of
10	that judicial discretion, especially, you know,
11	the smaller the range gets, to me, in my opinion,
12	it hasn't really reduced the meaningfulness of,
13	you know, what the accused is getting because of
14	that certainty, because of that predictability,
15	because of that ability to, you know, negotiate
16	to the with the Government and come to an
17	agreed-upon decision.
18	So, that particular piece doesn't
19	really, it doesn't really bother me personally.
20	I'm looking forward to the, you know, more
21	specified sentences. I'm really looking forward
22	to these parameters for all of these same

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reasons.

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2	And then, finally, you asked about
3	advocacy. I think there's plenty of opportunity
4	for advocacy when it comes to the merits. In my
5	personal opinion I think there might be a bit too
6	much advocacy when it comes to sentencing.
7	In preparation for this hearing I've
8	looked at a couple other jurisdictions just, you
9	know, across the country, you know, in areas or
10	locations similarly situated to Army
11	installations. And, you know, when I consider,
12	you know, pre-sentencing reports, when I've
13	looked at, you know, some of the federal
14	sentencing guidelines and how that works, it
15	actually is reducing sentencing quite a bit.
16	I see that as a positive. I would
17	like to see us go more in that direction where
18	we're considering, you know, the various sides,
19	and take some of the advocacy out of it.
20	We're considering everything from
21	victim impact to, you know, impact on good order
22	and discipline, as well as the ability of

1 potential, you know, potential recidivism risk, 2 all of these sort of things, where it's a little 3 more scientific and less, you know, just sort of knock-down, drag-out fight at the sentencing 4 hearing, the same way it would be at findings. 5 So, from my perspective, while, yes, 6 7 it does cut down on advocacy, I don't necessarily 8 think that's a bad thing. And as far as, you 9 know, the atrophy of those skills, well, we 10 certainly still have findings where advocacy is, 11 you know, at its height. So, that's, those are my thoughts on 12 13 that particular question. Thank you. 14 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel Olson. 15 16 Colonel Talcott, I think you're up 17 next. 18 COL TALCOTT: Yeah, I'm trying to think 19 of a clear way to say. I agree with Colonel 20 Olson's comments actually pretty uniformly. But 21 I have I think just a slightly different way of 22 thinking about it.

1	I suspect we're all going to say we
2	like the new plea agreements better than the old
3	PTAs. So, I can just, just move on past that.
4	The larger question about, you know,
5	if we have mins and maxes, or we agree on
6	something so to decrease the need for advocacy or
7	remove judicial discretion, well, I don't want to
8	over simplify this but, yeah, I think yes.
9	But I guess what I would say is, along
10	the lines of what Colonel Olson was saying, I
11	have two points here. And one is advocacy at
12	sentencing is not as valuable, and really
13	shouldn't be thought of as valuable to advocacy
14	at findings. You know, convincing someone the
15	facts prove the case, that, there's some real
16	value to that because there's some real nuance.
17	But sentencing, or looking at a trial
18	counsel and saying, What is this human worth?
19	You know, How much is this case really worth?
20	And what do the princ These are very high-
21	level things that, you know, the judge, or the
22	convening authority or, you know, people that

have been with this case for the year it took to get to trial have a much better perspective on, and the accused himself, too.

So, to the extent -- in some way this 4 5 is maybe a part of my second point which is, you know, when I was a trial judge, in some ways when 6 7 I was an SJA, I, I was always afraid that the 8 advocacy or the sentencing hearing -- and this 9 not, I don't mean this pejorative about defense 10 attorneys or trial counsel -- but the advocacy is 11 sort of an effort, and it's not exactly that, I'm 12 going to use the word "tool," but it's sort of to 13 convince the judge that this case is worth either 14 more than it is or less than it is.

(Audio interference.)

16 COL TALCOTT: (continuing) -- of that 17 happening, so that the accused has negotiated 18 for, I think on either side, and so has the 19 Government.

20 So, the judge is going to come in and 21 just kind of review this case through a 22 microscope, you know, on a single day on evidence

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1	that's been highly filtered through those, the
2	sentencing rules, and try to do his best.
3	But if he's got guideposts, it's much
4	easier for the judge to get it right.
5	So, overall I don't have any concerns
б	with the fact that maybe the judge's discretion
7	is limited. Maybe it's appropriate. Nor do I
8	have concerns advocacy limited, I've not while
9	I think advocacy is important, I just, I think
10	its value could be overstated if it's, if it's
11	acquitted somehow to advocacy at a findings
12	portion of a trial.
13	So, those are my comments.
14	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel
15	Talcott.
16	Commander Davis.
17	CDR DAVIS: Yes. So, I certainly
18	concur with my colleagues as far as the change to
19	the new plea agreements being overall a positive
20	one.
21	I think that that comes down to this
22	idea of predictability. But I think what I'd

1 like to focus on is really, you know, increasing 2 the faith in the process, that I think these new 3 agreements increases faith in the process. And what do I mean by that? 4 I think under the old system where, you know, we had a 5 feeling, though we certainly didn't know what the 6 7 floor was going to be, you know, from a convening 8 authority perspective, you know, they could end 9 up with what they viewed to be a particularly anomalous result. 10 11 They may have viewed it as being fairly significant misconduct. And then because 12 13 there's no floor, the military judge comes back 14 with a fairly low sentence, which I think does 15 kind of erode the confidence that commanders have 16 in the military justice process. 17 Along similar lines, I think, you 18 know, with respect to victim input as well, I 19 think the level of certainty that we're able to 20 provide victims of crime, and also, you know, not 21 having the anomalous results and the resulting

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erosion of faith in the process on the victims

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and as well.

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So, I look at it similarly but with 2 3 just a different slant to it. The only negative I think that I view 4 from the new plea agreement system is this idea 5 of a suspended sentence. So, under, under the 6 7 old system if the military judge sentenced the 8 individual over the ceiling allowed in a plea 9 agreement, typically the pre-trial agreement would have that additional amount over the 10 11 ceiling be suspended for a period of time. 12 And so, we just don't see that nearly 13 as much. And I think there's at least some 14 marginal value to those suspended sentences in 15 terms of maintaining good order and discipline, 16 keeping people on the right path, and reducing the likelihood of recidivism. 17 18 So, that's one, one negative aspect to 19 it. 20 I think it's clear that the new system 21 has reduced the amount of judicial discretion. 22 Yeah, I definitely saw a range as the Senior

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1 Trial Counsel, and we would have cases that had a 2 fairly large range that did allow for judicial 3 discretion. And then I certainly saw plenty of cases that gave no discretion whatsoever to the 4 military judge. 5 So, there does seem to be a range, 6 7 obviously, and there's cases where, where there's 8 no range, no discretion. 9 In terms of how that impacts advocacy, 10 I would, I would push back on that point. My 11 observations as a Senior Trial Counsel in San 12 Diego was that advocacy was as good as it had 13 ever been. And I did not see diminished 14 advocacy, regardless of the nature of what the 15 agreement set out. 16 So, regardless of whether the 17 Government had the potential to increase its 18 position, or advance its position, or whether the 19 defense did as well, even in those cases where 20 there was no range provided whatsoever, I still

22 positions.

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saw counsel vigorously advocating their

1 I saw defense counsel being well 2 I saw them calling witnesses, putting prepared. 3 together really effective unsworn statements. And I saw the Government operating in the same 4 5 fashion. I think that comes down to a couple of 6 7 things. I think that comes down to just pride in 8 doing one's job well. That, you know, regardless 9 of what the stakes in a particular proceeding 10 are, you understand that it's still the most 11 important proceeding that is happening in a 12 person's life, whether that be the accused or the 13 victim of a crime. 14 And I think counsel, and if, you know, 15 if their supervisors are paying attention, really 16 see it as a growing process, or a training 17 process. So, my junior counsel knew that they 18 would start out by doing guilty pleas. And if 19 they performed on those guilty pleas, then they 20 may get additional responsibilities and the 21 ability to appear on the record and contest their 22 cases.

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1 So, there was kind of 2 internal/external motivation to really present a 3 qood case. And then beyond that, I mean on the 4 5 defense perspective you still have your client sitting next to you. And I think you want to 6 7 enhance the faith that your client has in you. 8 You want to communicate to your client that, you 9 know, while they may have committed misconduct, 10 that there's still somebody that believes in 11 them. And I think that counsel have that 12 13 kind of mindset. I don't think you see a drop-14 off in that that you see whatsoever. 15 Same thing on the Government side. 16 And to the extent that the Government counsel, 17 you know, recognizes how important this process 18 is for a victim of the crime, you know, 19 frequently victims will be present in the 20 courtroom. So, you know, really speaking to what 21 they experienced so that at the end of the day 22 they feel like they were hurt in the process,

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regardless of whether -- or what the sentence may be, I think motivates counsel to really rise to the occasion, regardless of what the, you know, whether there's any discretion for the military judge or not.

And then I guess the only additional 6 7 piece I'll mention, you know, judges do still maintain a small fraction of discretion, and that 8 9 in terms of their recommendation for clemency. 10 So, I certainly saw defense counsel vigorously 11 advocating and putting on their best sentencing 12 case, yet encouraging the judge to make a 13 recommendation for clemency, which I did see 14 judges do on a fairly regular basis.

So, there is certainly diminished discretion, but at least in terms of that recommendation for clemency, I think that is still a motivator for putting on the best case that you can and continued high-level advocacy. Thank you. CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Commander

22 Davis.

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Colonel Gannon.

2	COL GANNON: Yes. So, I'm a big fan of
3	the current sentencing setup. I think that the
4	bottom line is that predictability is good for
5	everybody. Predictability or, you know, some
6	predictability in terms of sentence is good for
7	the defense, good for the accused, is good for
8	the command, it's good for the victim, current
9	victims of crime. It's good for the trial
10	counsel, the Government at large.
11	It's just I just don't see a lot of
12	downside to predictability in terms of not only
13	the true and actual fairness of the system, but
14	the perceived, whether that's important or not,
15	the perceived fairness of the system.
16	Everybody's going into these agreements with
17	relatively solid knowledge on what's going to
18	take place.
19	On the advocacy side, I'm mixed on
20	that. The term "advocacy" is kind of nebulous.
21	You know, there's a different set of advocacy for
22	a pre-sentencing hearing than there is for a

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trial in the merits phase.

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2	My concern in terms of, you know,
3	building and training trial counsel to be
4	effective in the well, at least at the beginning,
5	you know, the captain, the O-3 level, O-2/O-3
6	level, we're very focused on sort of what I
7	phrase, you know, you hear the phrase blocking
8	and tackle, brilliance in the basics. That's a
9	different set. You know, laying foundations,
10	understanding the parameters of cross-
11	examination.
12	Having a relatively good command of
13	the military rules of evidence. You know,
14	planning a case out.
15	I think Colonel, I think my Air Force
16	colleague kind of alluded to this. And I agree
17	that it's a very I'm not going to say it's all
18	advocacy, but I'd say all the capabilities that
19	trial counsel bring in the merits phase, but it's
20	just, it's just a different type of advocacy to
21	be effective in the findings phase versus pre-
22	sentencing.

1	I don't know if I've seen a
2	degradation. If we just focus on the advocacy
3	for a second, so I don't know if I've seen a
4	degradation of that or not.
5	I do think there's a de facto
6	lightening of the load, if you will, in terms of
7	the, you know, this notion of beating the deal,
8	since that's kind of not really our practice
9	anymore, for everybody to go in with a, you know,
10	I'm just going to be making a record, and they're
11	going to do what they're going to do. And I'm
12	not saying anybody's shortchanging the hearing,
13	but there is this de facto less advocacy for sure
14	when you have a sentence semi-certain that's been
15	negotiated.
16	I think that's a fair observation for
17	the pre-sentencing phase of the case.
18	But I don't see that as being
19	necessarily deleterious to the overall efficacy
20	of trial counsel when it comes to their
21	capabilities in the merits phase, which I am much
22	more focused on because that, that is obviously,

1 you know, we're not going to get to sentencing if 2 we're not successful in a merits phase. 3 So, yeah, I mean, finally, discretion, yeah, obviously there's going to be some 4 5 reduction there. We took an extraordinary risk in the form of mandamus writ about six, eight, 6 7 ten months ago. Military judges at Camp Lejeune 8 in our Eastern Region were pushing back on 9 discharges. They were not willing to be beholden 10 to that negotiated provision. 11 The defense actually joined us in 12 that. And we went to our first layer court of 13 appeals, the NMCCA, and we got some rudder on 14 that. 15 So, I think that some of our judges 16 are exploring that avenue of where is my left and 17 right outer limits? Am I bound by this? 18 Instead, I think the term that they're using in 19 the case law is this, is this agreement rendered 20 an empty vessel because there is limited discretion? 21 22 We've actually dealt with that in

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1 actual cases on the Marines side and got some 2 good rudder from our appellate court. 3 But, yeah, there's no doubt about it, there's certainly reduced judicial discretion in 4 terms of sentencing. And I certainly don't see 5 that as problematic in my current capacity. 6 7 Thank you. 8 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel 9 Gannon. 10 Lieutenant Commander DeRenzo. 11 LCDR DeRENZO: Yes, ma'am. 12 As you can probably tell from my 13 opening comments I'm in favor of the changes. 14 And I don't add much to what my colleagues have 15 said on those subjects in terms of efficiency, certainty, and the like. 16 17 I certainly concur that I think in a 18 positive way it streamlines the decisions that 19 need to be made in the sentencing hearing when we 20 have reduced range of sentence, or a certain 21 sentence. So, specifically, like, how much 22 evidence do we need to put in in aggravation? Do

1	we need to put in the entire report of
2	investigation or parts of it?
3	There again, take a lot of time by the
4	judge to consider how and whether or not a victim
5	chooses to make an impact statement, you know,
6	now they have that sort of standalone decision on
7	their own. But oftentimes we're engaged in
8	debate whether we call them as the Government.
9	And that discretion is, I think, simplified.
10	Obviously they can still provide a statement even
11	if there is a finite sentence in terms of their
12	right to be heard.
13	But I think that certainty certainly
14	helps to make those decisions more streamlined.
15	In terms of the advocacy piece, I
16	certainly think there is impact on it, but it's a
17	welcome impact in my view. One observation I
18	had, and just in comparing civilian practice to
19	military practice, was that there was, in my
20	view, over-advocacy in the sentencing hearing. I
21	certainly am in favor of the more sniper approach
22	as opposed to shotgun approach when you're

talking about sentencing, particularly if you
have a judge who's the one deciding these things.
I think particularly the Senior
Counsel, you know, they want to hit all of the
issues. And I've encouraged them to, you know,
really streamline their approach to sentencing.
Where are the inflection points in terms of what
is going to make a difference in this decider's
mind?
And I think that the change in how we
do sentencing requires them to think more
tactically about exactly what it is they want to
focus on, rather than every single theory of
punishment, or every single piece of evidence.
So, that is a welcome change in my
view. And I think we're able to, you know, more
efficiently get to these proceedings, which is
good for everybody. You know, maybe we can do
multiple sentencing hearings a day, as is common
in civilian practice, as opposed to what is
frequently the case, at least in Coast Guard
courts, it's an entire day affair.

1	Thank you.
2	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Lieutenant
3	Commander DeRenzo.
4	So, let me press on to sentencing a
5	little bit more.
6	Colonel Brunson, do you have a
7	question there? No, not yet.
8	So, okay, just on sentencing, you
9	know, you mentioned, actually Commander Davis and
10	then Colonel Gannon at least was nodding on this,
11	that being able to suspend portions of a sentence
12	was something you'd like judges to be able to do.
13	Are there other authorities you think
14	would be, would be helpful for a military judge
15	to have in sentencing? For instance,
16	restitution, compensation, reducing an officer,
17	you know, rehabilitative and diversionary
18	programs, do you think those would be, would be
19	welcome additions to the sentencing process?
20	And we'll go with the usual order
21	here. So, Colonel Olson, you're up first.
22	LTC OLSON: It's an interesting

1 question. And I'm trying to think it through. 2 I'm certainly not opposed to the idea. 3 I have a difficult time kind of seeing what the application would be, or I guess the mechanics of 4 5 it. But when I think about this, I tend to 6 7 think that that's more of a question of whether or not it's a further shift from what the command 8 9 does versus what, say, the judiciary is doing. 10 So, in other words, you know, transferring more 11 authority, more power from the command over to 12 the judiciary. 13 And just, again, my personal opinion 14 is that I don't know that that's the best idea. 15 Whether it's non-judicial punishment, Article 15, 16 whether it's, you know, administrative action, so 17 on and so forth, we have some of those things in 18 a manner of speaking. Right? You know, it's not 19 suspended sentences, it's not probation, you 20 know, that sort of thing. But in my opinion it 21 certainly acts in that same capacity. 22 Non-judicial punishment, as we're

1	taught, as we're trained, is in fact a training
2	tool. Now, obviously it often leads to
3	separation. Oftentimes it's the precursor to
4	separation, but it doesn't have to be.
5	So, whether it's retraining or sort of
6	rethinking that particular process, in my opinion
7	that works just fine.
8	If we transfer that over to the
9	judiciary, in my opinion we're taking more
10	discretion, you know, especially that good order
11	and discipline piece, away from the command.
12	To the extent that good order and
13	discipline is still a, you know, a driving force
14	in what we do, that's really where it should be
15	anchored with the command still. Otherwise, I
16	mean, they, they lose even more of a vote in
17	this.
18	So, I think it works as it is. Having those
19	other outlets and those other possible
20	dispositions in ways that our civilian
21	counterparts really don't have, I think it works
22	in the same ways.

1	And so, that would be my
2	recommendation is to, you know, keep that
3	authority with the command as is for that good
4	order and discipline purpose, that retraining
5	purpose, so on and so forth.
б	Thank you.
7	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Colonel Olson.
8	Colonel Talcott.
9	COL TALCOTT: Yeah. I'd like to add
10	something here valuable.
11	So, I always start with, you know, if
12	we're I don't think the Air Force is that
13	different from the other services. But if you've
14	been convicted at a court-martial, your likely
15	time in the Air Force is short. So, some of
16	these that seem to, seem to presume this member
17	will have an extended time in service I think are
18	going to be less practical.
19	And along the lines of what Colonel
20	Olson was saying, to the extent there is an
21	appetite for this member to continue to serve,
22	that I think is the kind of decisions that

1 commanders are in a better position to make than 2 military judges, at least to the extent he wasn't 3 punitively separated by the judge. The judge has sort of said, yeah, it's 4 5 back to the command now. So, I don't know if they have enormous 6 7 utility, at least on first blush, or 8 appropriateness with the judge. I say that. Ι 9 could see it, you know, in the right case, in the 10 right circumstance, you know, perhaps. 11 They might also perhaps be valuable tools in the plea agreement bag, that is, the 12 13 accused and the command could agree to some of 14 these under certain circumstances maybe. But a 15 judge just doing them on his own, I'm not sure of 16 value added. 17 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel 18 Talcott. 19 Commander Davis. 20 CDR DAVIS: Yes, thank you. 21 Yeah, I would tend to agree that those 22 authorities don't necessary need to be vested in

the military judge. I believe those are provisions that can be negotiated as part of a plea agreement.

I've certainly seen at least several 4 5 examples of things like restitution or compensation to the victim being a negotiated 6 7 provision on a plea agreement or as a precursor I think we're able to do that 8 to the pleas. 9 effectively without empowering the military 10 judges to exercise that authority.

11 You know, similar to my previous concern about somewhat anomalous results or 12 13 unexpected results have eroded faith in the 14 system, I think if we do empower military judges 15 to have these other remedies that are outside of 16 the plea agreement or the punishment that's 17 contemplated in the plea agreement, that we may 18 end up with more of these anomalous results.

19 So, I would not recommend vesting 20 military judges with those additional powers, 21 including the suspended sentence aspect. I do 22 believe that a suspended sentence could also be

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negotiated as part of a plea agreement.

2 Beyond that, I think one of the main 3 impediments, and this may go to a separate question, but when we are talking about 4 administrative consequences of convictions, I do 5 believe there is an impediment for reaching 6 7 resolutions in cases due to our inability to control kind of the administrative ramifications 8 9 of a particular, of a particular case. 10 So, what I mean by that is, you know, 11 frequently, particularly in officer cases, you know, there's this constant refrain of, well, you 12 13 know, we are not able to bind a separate 14 authority. So, we're not able to bind, for 15 example, the Secretary of the Navy or the Chief 16 of Naval Personnel to guarantee a particular characterization of discharge, or to guarantee a 17 18 particular grade at retirement. 19 So, particularly with officer clients, I think you'll see officer clients that are 20 21 willing, essentially, to roll the dice at a 22 court-martial, understanding that, you know, at

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some, some later action if they are found guilty could, you know, reduce them significantly in terms of their retirement, in terms of their pay grade.

So, I would, I think it would be beneficial if we were able to exercise additional authority to actually bind the Government, so big "G" Government, to certain outcomes in cases.

9 And I do wonder, and this is, it's a little bit of an academic conversation but it's 10 11 something I'm interested in, as to whether the 12 change to a Special Trial Counsel will, at least 13 in the Navy, reporting directly to the Secretary 14 of the Navy, whether they may be in a better 15 position to guarantee some of those 16 administrative outcomes, you know, to essentially 17 sign for the Secretary of the Navy, or whatever 18 the other authority may be that control these 19 administrative outcomes, to, to get greater 20 clarity and predictability within the, within the 21 sentencing process, and to avoid cases going to 22 trial that otherwise would not get to it.

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1	Thank you.
2	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Commander
3	Davis.
4	Before we go to you, Colonel Gannon,
5	we're going to get Judge Redford in with an
6	additional question.
7	JUDGE REDFORD: Thank you, Dr. Hillman.
8	Commander Davis, and anyone else who
9	wants to respond, why can't the Federal
10	Government be bound in a plea agreement to
11	subsequent administrative action?
12	If there's a paragraph that says
13	Secretary of the Navy has been consulted and
14	approved, or CNP, or, you know, whomever, why is
15	that is that somehow unlawful or is it just
16	too difficult to get done?
17	And I'm not, I'm not saying too
18	difficult in a pejorative way of, you know,
19	people aren't working hard enough, but just it
20	takes too long, it's not administratively
21	available.
22	CDR DAVIS: Yes, sir.
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1 So, I think it's, I think it's more 2 than just a cultural issue: this is the way that 3 we've always done things, or this is the way that we've always understood it. I think looking at 4 it from a perspective of who is entering into the 5 agreement, you know, that would be a convening 6 7 authority and the defense or the accused. 8 The convening authority is usually, 9 may be a command of a particular region, may be a 10 commander, you know, of a particular element. 11 That individual essentially doesn't, doesn't have the authority to, to dictate, for example, what 12 13 the Secretary of the Navy ultimately will do with 14 regard to a retirement grade determination. JUDGE REDFORD: I understand the flag 15 16 officer or the OSTC cannot -- doesn't have the 17 authority standing alone. But they -- I don't 18 understand why the Government, a Government 19 representative cannot bind the Secretary or 20 whomever, communicate that to the convening authority, and then have a provision in a plea 21 22 agreement that says if this is violated, you have

1	a right to withdraw and we start all over again.
2	I'm just conceptually having a little
3	difficulty understanding why they couldn't do it.
4	But thank you for your response.
5	CDR DAVIS: Yes, sir.
б	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Commander
7	Davis.
8	So, we're going to go to Colonel
9	Gannon to take on that question, and then the
10	others that are before us right now.
11	COL GANNON: So I'll hit first just
12	the overall that, you know, my position on
13	vesting additional authorities with Military
14	judges and maybe enhancing their discretion,
15	which I think is the call of your question.
16	As I sit here I guess I'm opposed to
17	anything that reduces or tricks the
18	predictability of the system. I found that the
19	predictability has absolutely been beneficial, as
20	I said earlier, for everyone. All of the parties
21	and non-parties involved. Predictability is key
22	to the just outcome of the case, and in

individual case in the system as a whole.

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2 With respect to binding the convening 3 authority ultimately, I just, I don't, I understand the thought that certainly a 4 government actor could theoretically bind the 5 United States. As the Commander was saying, it's 6 7 just, and it's not just because it's not 8 something we do, it's because we have to have, 9 the Military judge is going to have to make a 10 finding in fact or in actuality that there is a 11 meeting of the minds on the agreement between the 12 parties.

13 And if there is not a meeting of the 14 minds, in that the Secretary, at least in the 15 Secretary of the Navy is not, I would not permit 16 a trial counsel to negotiate a provision that 17 binds the Secretary because I don't believe 18 that's within our authority to do that. And so 19 it would be very difficult for us to come to a 20 meeting of the minds between the parties.

As I just think about it, you know, as I go through it, because it's not something that

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I believe a trial counsel has the authority to do, from the statutory perspective, it just isn't something that we would negotiate with the defense because we're not going to take a step to bind a higher authority on these, particularly on the administrative outcome.

So again, I absolutely agree, 7 8 theoretically a government actor can bind, and if 9 there is not a meeting of the minds we start 10 over, but, you know, when it comes to 11 predictability and efficiencies of the system, it 12 just doesn't, from my perspective, it doesn't 13 make any sense to start negotiating provisions 14 that you at least, arguably, statutorily, don't 15 have authority to do it. 16 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel 17 Gannon. Lieutenant Commander DeRenzo. 18 LCDR DERENZO: Yes, ma'am. To answer

19 the recent question, I think it's legally 20 possible, but extremely unlikely given some of 21 the reasons that have already been discussed. 22 Having gone through some of the situations in the

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1 past, where we're talking about characterizations 2 of service, gotten a lot of push back from our 3 personnel command in terms of both their lack of desire for plea agreements to reflect those 4 5 things and general hesitancy to enforce them. And so from a government perspective, 6 7 obviously a big benefit of the plea agreement is 8 certainty so that we don't have to unwind this 9 plea agreement and start all over. And so, you 10 know, from my perspective it's an undesirable 11 term of a plea agreement given those potential 12 deltas. 13 As far as the additional authorities 14 for military judges, I certainly would welcome 15 additional authorities for the judges in certain 16 For instance, restitution. areas. 17 I agree with Commander Davis, I 18 believe it was, who said we can do that in the 19 plea agreements and sometimes do. But it would 20 be, I think, a welcomed authority of the military 21 judge. 22 Sometimes enforcement can be an issue,

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you know, if the member is separated shortly after the quilty plea and sentencing hearing, but that's certainly something I think that is a good tool to have in our repertoire of options and plea agreements.

I generally though about the criminal 6 7 justice system that sometimes is a very blunt 8 instrument for changing human behavior and for 9 solving very complex frequently human problems. 10 And the more tools we have available to us, the 11 more likely we're going to get, potentially at 12 least, to a good overall solution in terms of 13 society. Obvious the Military society being a 14 very specific subset to overall society.

So to that end, you know, often times 15 16 I think it's a shame. Understanding, I think, some of the comments of my colleagues that the 17 likelihood of this person staying in the service 18 19 is low if history will continue to repeat itself. 20 But I often times think, think

sometimes we're throwing the baby out with the 22 bath water, to use a, perhaps an imprecise

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1	metaphor here. And if we had more tools, like
2	diversionary programs. Probation being a really
3	important tool that our colleagues in the
4	civilian system use.
5	You know, virtually all of our
б	Military accused are first time offenders. Never
7	committed a crime. I've had cases with
8	Reservists who do have some criminal history, but
9	for the most part this is a one-on-one.
10	So crimes I think are more amenable to
11	rehabilitation and learning and growing.
12	Particularly with our younger population in the
13	Military service. And we probably have, among
14	defendants, our population is skewed heavily in
15	terms of young people.
16	I would certainly welcome the ability
17	for these people to potentially grow and
18	rehabilitate themselves in continuing service. I
19	just think we're at a point so far, in my
20	experience in the Military, that it's just
21	unlikely the services are going to hold onto
22	these people.

1	And decades past in the Vietnam era,
2	you know I wasn't around for that, but I hear
3	anecdotes that that was frequently the case. You
4	could be court-martialed and essentially your de
5	facto punishment was to go down range.
б	So perhaps with recruiting retention
7	issues in the Military maybe that will be a tool
8	that will be more effectively utilized, but I
9	certainly welcome the opportunity for judges to
10	have those tools if the situation is correct.
11	Thank you.
12	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Lieutenant
13	Commander DeRenzo. General Ewers.
14	MG EWERS: That might have been too
15	much for me to think about at the moment. I want
16	to go back to, I want to go back to what we were
17	talking about before in terms of sentencing.
18	And you guys have been talking a lot
19	about predictability. So you're predictable as
20	prosecutors. You know, that case was really good
21	when it left my office, but you just get these
22	military judges and these defense counsel to

1 leave it alone and get it to where it needs to 2 get everything is going to be just fine. So I'm less concerned, I mean, clearly 3 there is an interest that we have in advocacy 4 skills and the opportunities for our advocates to 5 advocate, but I'm much more concerned about 6 7 transparency. We've been taken rounds for years 8 from both sides of the aisle about one, you know, 9 from victim advocates, from accused advocates 10 suggesting that all we do is cook this whole 11 thing, and we do it all behind closed doors and 12 nobody gets to see it and at the end of the day 13 we ask the public to accept the outcome. 14 So my concern about sentencing is 15 that, especially if you've got, what did you call 16 it, a specified sentence, I mean, what's the 17 incentive? You know, believe me, socialists 18 thought that good faith was going to cause people 19 to act in certain ways, but the truth is, is at

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the end of the day if I've got no, if the judge

has no discretion to go one day up or one day

down and I'm hoping for a recommendation for

clemency, I'm not putting the work in. I'm going to tell my client, hey partner, I already did my deal. I just got you the best possible deal that I could get, we're finished.

5 So what's the incentive? I'm just, I'm concerned about that. I think that part of 6 7 the reason that we want to have sentencing cases, 8 especially in guilty pleas, is because that's the 9 only time that the facts are going to, I guess 10 you have a providence inquiry, but other facts 11 that will have some impact on the judge's 12 sentence, that's the only time the public is 13 going to get to hear about it. So your thoughts 14 on that please. 15 (Off microphone comment.) 16 MG EWERS: In whatever order you want. 17 You can mix it up if you want. LTC OLSON: This is Lieutenant Colonel 18 19 I believe I'm up, so I'll field the Olson. 20 question unless I'm stopped. 21 So, sir, I certainly take your point.

I recognize your concern. I guess I would

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1	address it in a couple of different ways.
2	In some ways I certainly share your
3	concerns with respect to, say transparency.
4	Often, I wouldn't quite say universally but
5	close, just, again, anecdotally my experience.
6	The experience that I've had, on both
7	sides of the aisle in court is, you know, okay,
8	well what did that sentence mean. I mean, even
9	after a robust sentencing case when I have spoken
10	with victims afterwards, when I used to speak
11	with my clients, well, okay, why did we get two
12	years instead of the 36 that the government asked
13	for or the 12 that the defense recommended or,
14	you know, whatever it may have been. There is
15	not a lot of transparency coming from the bench
16	in those situations.
17	There was a recent article written by
18	two individuals. One of one is the former Chief
19	Judge of the United States Army, Colonel Tim
20	Hayes, talking about the benefit of explanations
21	following the announcement of sentence.
22	Not deliberative process, but

actually, here is the facts. You know, really going into the various sentencing principals that we all use, that we all adhere to in our arguments, in consideration, so on and so forth. So it ended up being an awful lot of benefit with that.

7 So as a prosecutor I can go back to a 8 victim and say, okay, look, here's what the judge 9 had to say, here is why this is probably going 10 the way it's going. And while there may be 11 disagreement there or angst or disappointment, at 12 least there is understanding. At least there is 13 transparency. So I would certainly advocate for 14 that and recommend more transparency, more of an 15 explanation coming from the bench after 16 sentencing.

Now, specific to the PTA question, I
think that's more difficult. So does the defense
counsel just, all right, I'm done, I'm good, I
did my job for you? I don't know. I mean, there
is an awful lot to be said for the efforts put in
by defense counsel in the negotiation itself.

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1	You know, and I can only speak for
2	myself, but I was certainly always open to what
3	defense counsel would bring to my attention as we
4	would discuss sentencing, so on and so forth.
5	Now what does the public get to know about that,
6	I don't know.
7	And I think the stip of facts may be
8	a place where we can get after that. Certainly
9	when we're talking about guilty pleas it doesn't
10	necessarily only have to be about the crime
11	itself. We could expand that. We could open up
12	the aperture and the parameters there to discuss
13	things like mitigation and extenuation. Things
14	along those lines that make it more transparent
15	as that becomes part of the record.
16	So I guess the way I would sum it up
17	is, I'm certainly in favor of more transparency.
18	Exactly what that looks like, I think it can come
19	in a couple of different ways. But ultimately I
20	agree with you, sir.
21	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Colonel Olson.
22	Other comments? We'll go down the order.

Colonel Talcott.

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2	COL TALCOTT: Yes. Yes, I don't
3	exactly share the same concerns. I know we get
4	criticism from both sides, and some of those
5	criticisms are fair and some are not. And to the
6	extent we're talking about a plea agreement where
7	the accused really wanted a specified sentence,
8	it's just not a fair attack to say that's not a
9	fair sentence.
10	I am nervous about trying to craft
11	(audio interference) rules that shield us from
12	unfair attacks. I think we should be, we're
13	making an effort to target our rules towards the
14	attacks that seem like they're fair. And it's
15	not to undercut your comments, but I generally
16	agree with transparency.
17	Uh-huh, my internet says I'm unstable
18	so I hope you guys can still hear me.
19	But I think to the extent to the
20	specified sentence empowers defense attorneys and
21	the accused to have more control over getting a
22	fair sentence, dis-empowering that, as I think

Colonel Gannon talked about, you know, when the judges warner approving those specified sentences, the defense joined them in going on that extraordinary rank because the defense wanted those.

My only, I guess caution, because when 6 7 I was thinking about your comments are, although 8 the rules anticipate this to some extent, I think 9 already and it seems like they're going to more in the future, but victim's counsel or those 10 11 victim advocates could be cut out of the process. 12 The rules say that they're not. They definitely 13 need to be consulted and have their views made.

14 It seems like the current rules are 15 going to empower them more on their unsworns to 16 have more voice in this. And they have to 17 consult with the OSTC and the conveying 18 authorities as well. So that is all very 19 important.

20 And I think if there was any one 21 concern about it being cooked up and have fair 22 criticism, perhaps it would be victims. But

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1 we've already changed several rules to undercut 2 those attacks as well. So I quess I don't share 3 the temperature of concern that you've raised. Thank you, Colonel 4 CHAIR HILLMAN: 5 Talcott. Before we get more comments I'm just going to get Judge Redford in on this. Judge 6 7 Redford. 8 JUDGE REDFORD: Thank you, Dr. 9 I just wonder, what is the percentage Hillman. 10 of guilty plea cases, just ballpark, not at 17.2

11 percent but just ballpark, where there is an 12 agreement on confinement that it's either A, a 13 specific, this is what the confinement is going 14 to be, or B, the range is less than six months 15 between high and low. Is it 50 percent of the 16 cases, is it one percent of the cases? Just, I 17 have absolutely no idea. And if anybody has a 18 swag on it I'd be curious to know what it is. 19 CHAIR HILLMAN: Colonel Gannon?

20 COL GANNON: So, sir -- yes. Sir, 21 good morning, this is Colonel Gannon. I can 22 speak for the Marine Corps. An extraordinarily

1 rough, extraordinarily rough numbers. But a six
2 month delta in terms of the six months
3 discretionary period for a military judge is not
4 uncommon, is not uncommon. In other words, it's
5 a significant percentage of our cases.
6 Our trial counsel in negotiating that,
7 those types of, you know, a lot of times, I'm

8 sure I'm not telling anyone on the call something 9 they already don't know, the government typically 10 is a lot more concerned about the discharge. The 11 certainty of the discharge as opposed to the 12 confinement exposure.

But in the Marine Corps if you put a gun to my head I would say, a significant percentage of cases give the military judge five, six months of discretion in terms of confinement exposure. And when I say significant I'd say 40ish, 50-ish percent. They are not uncommon, no. CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel

Gannon. Any other responses directly to Judge
Redford's query? Okay, we're getting ducks.
Other than that, then back to General

1 Ewers question. Commander Davis, Colonel Gannon, 2 Lieutenant Colonel DeRenzo, do you have things 3 you want to add? Colonel Davis. Sorry, Commander Davis? 4 So I think I just 5 CDR DAVIS: Sure. echo my previous comments. You know, with 6 7 respect to transparency, my observations are that 8 these proceedings continue to be robust 9 proceedings with both senses and aggravation 10 being put on by the government, in cases in 11 mitigation extenuation put on by the defense. So I think the information is still 12 13 being transmitted, much in the same way that it 14 was under our previous system. So from a 15 transparency perspective I think we're kind of level set with the previous system. 16 Thank you. CHAIR HILLMAN: Colonel Gannon? 17 Thanks, Commander Davis. 18 19 COL GANNON: General Ewers, good morning, sir. 20 In response to your question, I 21 really firmly believe that predictability is 22 maybe not synonymous with transparency but it's

1 transparent adjacent. I mean, it fosters, the 2 predictability fosters an overall belief in the 3 system insofar as everybody is going in with eyes wide open as to what the general outcome of the 4 5 case, the sentencing situation will be. So if anything, sir, I really do 6 7 believe that the certainty issue enhances the 8 transparency and buttresses the public's faith in 9 the system. I think it's extraordinarily 10 helpful. 11 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Colonel Lieutenant Commander DeRenzo? 12 Gannon. 13 LCDR DERENZO: Yes, ma'am. I terms of 14 the transparency issue, you know, my belief is 15 that there is always going to be some opacity 16 when it comes to somebody else making the 17 Whether it's the judge and members. decision. 18 We don't know exactly why they make the decisions 19 they make them unless they articulate, unless the 20 judge articulates it on the record, which I've 21 seen sparingly. 22 The definite sentence is a tool. I've

1	seen it. I think it will be used at times, but
2	not always. I think there is certainly times
3	when a range will be more appropriate. And
4	frankly, we won't be able to get a deal done
5	unless there is a range in there. I think it's a
6	case-by-case determination. And having more
7	tools I would respectfully submit is always a
8	good thing.
9	I think there is some transparency,
10	well a lot of it, transparency in terms of how we
11	can province inquiries, which are extremely
12	robust, in my experience, in terms of comparison
13	to our civilian counterparts. And then of course
14	stipulations of fact provide a lot of
15	transparency in terms of what is the factual
16	basis, not only for the pleas but for the
17	sentence itself.
18	I guess I don't share the same
19	concerns that certainty incentives will somehow
20	render the defense counsel useless in the
21	process. Ultimately they have a client, they
22	have lawyers, they have ethical duties to their

clients to explain their options.

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And in my experience, the defense
lawyer, your biggest weapon is the threat of a
trial. And so if that, you know, definite
sentence deal that's being offered by the
prosecutor is unsat to you or your client, you go
to trial and roll the dice if that's what you
think is in the best interest of your client.
And, you know, based on your experience and
knowledge of potential outcomes and the judge.
And I think the, potentially the
sentencing parameters and having judge alone
sentences is going to only improve the
information that defense counsel have to advise
their clients. Over.
MG EWERS: Thanks to all of you. You
haven't allayed my concerns but you dropped the
temperature of them in Colonel Talcott's words,
so thank you.
JUDGE REDFORD: Thank you for the
response to mine as well.
CHAIR HILLMAN: So we just have a few

1 more minutes here. We have a couple more topics 2 I wanted to hit on, but let me just canvas Our 3 Panel Members and see if there is anything that 4 the Panel Members wanted to follow-up on. We 5 have Captain Schroder. CAPT SCHRODER: Yes, I don't know that 6 7 it's follow-up, Dr. Hillman, but I do have a 8 separate question. So at some point when that's 9 appropriate. 10 CHAIR HILLMAN: It's appropriate now. 11 We have not too much time left so let's take it, Captain Schroder. 12 Thank you. 13 CAPT SCHRODER: Okay. And I'll try to 14 make this quick, although it's hard for me to 15 make it quick. 16 I want to talk about Article 32s. 17 That's an issue that we, and it was a question 18 frankly I had hoped to ask STC representatives, 19 but that, with the exception of Commander DeRenzo 20 we really don't have that here, but I'm going to 21 ask it anyway. 22 It's a significant issue we've been

1	dealing with. We have not, we made kind of an
2	initial decision or finding, for lack of a better
3	word, that we find it, Article 32s aren't very
4	useful right now in their current form. When
5	they're done, especially done on paper.
б	The DAC-IPAD has made a recommendation
7	that they be binding. That the hearing officer's
8	decision in Article 32s be binding. We have not
9	taken that position, at least we have not taken
10	it yet. We're still considering that.
11	So my question to you all is, from the
12	trial counsel side do you recognize the issue and
13	what are you doing about it?
14	I mean, I did go through the special
15	trial counsel policies that we were provided. I
16	didn't have a lot of time with it. And I noticed
17	that, at least from the Navy's perspective
18	they're addressing that and making some
19	recommendations on how their counsel treat
20	Article 32s and what evidence is taken on. But I
21	didn't see it in the other services. So anyway,
22	I'm just interested, from the trial counsel

1	perspective, do you see the issue and what's
2	happening on your side of the courtroom?
3	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Captain
4	Schroder. So we have about five minutes or so
5	left so we'll give everybody a chance to respond,
б	but I'll ask you just to limit your time. So
7	let's start with Colonel Olson.
8	LTC OLSON: So, sir, I am a Special
9	Trial Counsel with the OSTC United States Army.
10	I would say my perspective is, you know, I'm
11	putting on, and am instructing my counsel to put
12	on a case that the rules require. So given that
13	it's a preliminary probable cause hearing, we're
14	putting on the evidence that we need to overcome
15	that hurdle. We're not ignoring the fact that
16	it's, well let me put it a different way.
17	We're not blowing it off simply
18	because we know it's not binding. It's, we do
19	take it seriously, we do want to put on a case.
20	On occasion we go a little bit more
21	robust if we want feedback from the preliminary
22	hearing officer. There are other circumstances

in which putting on a more robust case at the 32
makes sense.
However, generally speaking, what I'm
driven by and what I am driving my counsel by is
just simply what the rules are requiring. So I
hope that's responsive to you, sir, but that's my

8 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Colonel Olson.9 Colonel Talcott?

10 COL TALCOTT: Yes, I thought about the 11 32 issue many times before. I feel like I even, 12 I think I might have even testified about it 13 before, either at the DAC-IPAD or an earlier 14 iteration so I know it's been looked at a number 15 of times.

And I typically come back to some version of, you know, there are no real solutions, there's only trade offs. And so I think it's really important to identify, if we're going to change it, what are we getting after. Because if you make it more robust then you run and you create all these other problems. And if

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perspective.

1	you make it binding, that solves some problems
2	but creates other problems.
3	So I guess, I know that's not helpful
4	to you, I just, I'm aware of the struggle you're
5	going through trying to figure out how to make it
6	better.
7	I would challenge the presumption or
8	the assumption or the conclusion that they're not
9	valuable. At least in my experience in the Air
10	Force, the 32 reports are taken very seriously.
11	That is not to say that when they recommend not
12	going forward we always abide. But they are
13	carefully reviewed.
14	The PHOs often times do find,
15	especially if we have a military judge acting as
16	the PHO, make observations or legal
17	recommendations that are helpful in the
18	development of the case. Yes. I guess that's
19	what I have.
20	I don't have solutions on the 32
21	issues because every solution, I think, seems to
22	just create a different problem. And so I think

1	you have to tell me what problem you're getting
2	after then I'll give you a recommendation.
3	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel
4	Talcott. Commander Davis?
5	CDR DAVIS: So, I mean, I think the
6	main question often times is, I mean, is this
7	just an empty ritual. Particularly with respect
8	to the non-binding aspects on the convening
9	authority.
10	I guess I would caution in terms of
11	making kind of, drawing grand conclusions on this
12	particular issue because I think it is a, it's a
13	relatively minor number of cases that this
14	actually affects. I mean, if the concern is the
15	preliminary hearing officer has found that there
16	is no probably cause but the convening authority,
17	nonetheless, has decided to move forward, my
18	experience that is one to five percent of the
19	cases. I think it's a very, very small number of
20	those cases.
21	So I don't want to necessarily make a
22	lot of changes. We had a lot of changes in our

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military justice system. We continue to make changes. So I don't necessarily want to fix a problem that doesn't necessarily exist.

I would also say that with the standup 4 5 of the STC, I know particularly in the Navy, I think where lack of probable cause has been found 6 7 by a preliminary hearing officer, I know there is 8 significant approval authority in order to move 9 forward on a case like that, all the way up to 10 the, I believe the O7 level. And I think it would be very, even more rare, that STC or OSTC 11 12 would move forward on a case. Whether it's been 13 a no probable cause finding.

14 Beyond that, whether the finding 15 should still be binding, I think we just need to 16 take a look at who our preliminary hearing 17 officers are. You know, if those are highly 18 qualified individuals, potentially military 19 judges in some situations then I think that puts 20 me more at ease in terms of having their 21 decisions be binding. Over.

CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Commander

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Davis. Colonel Gannon?

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2	COL GANNON: Yes. So I kind of see
3	this as, I'm trying to break this down into three
4	parts to try to be at least moderately responsive
5	to the question. So one is their utility, two,
6	should they be binding or not, and three, what
7	are we doing.
8	One, is their utility. In some cases
9	it is of limited utility, I'll be candid. You
10	know, if we're just favoring a 32, it's just not
11	a great, you know, it depends on the case. If
12	the case, if the evidence in the case is, you
13	know, a statement of a wrongdoing and the United
14	States puts that statement in, and that statement
15	is sufficient to get probable cause and we just
16	put the paper or the recorded statement in, you
17	know, the hearing has limited utility, by
18	definition, because we're not, the hearing is not
19	designed to test that statement necessarily. At
20	least that's not what I believe the hearing is
21	for, is to assess probable cause.
22	And so the trial on the merits will

assess that through the crucible of cross examination and other evidence that comes in and things like that. So in some cases it has extraordinarily limited utility. In other cases it has a lot of limited utility. In other cases it has utility.

We just did one down at Cherry Point where we put on probably 15 witnesses in a case. And that, I believe that evolution was extraordinarily helpful, both to, all of the parties.

The PHO obviously took the evidence and is going to give us a, gave us a robust, very informed report. And was extraordinarily helpful to the convening authority. So I'm sorry to give you the lawyer answer on question number one, the utility, it just depends.

Should they be binding or not, absolutely not, in Nick Gannon's opinion. I don't speak on anybody's behalf but myself. Absolutely not.

We have to have a system that

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anticipates the potential for a war of national survival. We have to have a military justice system where the commander can make very difficult decisions and have a lot of discretion in doing so.

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In a situation maybe forward or in an 6 7 austere environments where perhaps it's not 8 possible to get the 32 perfected to, you know, 9 not perfect, but to go to the point where I would 10 be comfortable, again, in Nick Gannon's capacity, 11 where I would be comfortable with binding a 12 convening authority's discretion in a military 13 justice system where the convening authority has 14 the ultimate statutory requirement to maintain 15 good order and discipline in his or her unit. Ι 16 just feel pretty passionate about the, on the 17 binding issue, the answer, again, in Nick 18 Gannon's brain is no.

And then finally, what are we doing? What is the Marine Corps doing? I think I alluded to this in point number one on the utility. It just depends on the case. And

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sometimes we are doing a paper 32 and sometimes we're not.

But we do try to not default to sort of the path of least resistance. We are trying not to do that. We are trying to get a hearing together where we can based on the nature of the evidence in the case, the nature of the offenses associated with that particular case.

9 You know, are we going to put, I'll 10 just cut to the chase, are we going to put a 11 victim, an alleged victim of a 120 on, absolutely 12 not. We're just not doing that at a 32. At 13 least in 99.9 percent of the cases. I'm sure we 14 can construct a scenario where maybe we would, 15 but generally speaking, at least in the trial 16 services organization in the Marine Corps we're 17 not doing that.

Expert witnesses that may help inform a decision, we would do that. We would put that evidence on. Other types of victims of other types of offenses, we would probably consider doing that.

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1	So it's really, it's a very, Captain
2	Schroder, sir, it's a very difficult question to
3	answer on what we're doing because it just
4	depends. Thank you.
5	CHAIR HILLMAN: Thank you, Colonel
6	Gannon. Last word, and relatively brief there,
7	Lieutenant Commander DeRenzo, please.
8	LCDR DERENZO: Yes, ma'am. In terms
9	of utility I agree with Colonel Gannon. It
10	really does depends on the case and its utility.
11	But I would respectfully suggest that, that's not
12	at all, it's not really a big difference between
13	our system and the civilian system. People waive
14	preliminary hearings on a very, very routine
15	basis. At least in my experience in both state
16	and federal court because the evidence is well
17	over the bar of probable cause.
18	In terms of its finding, maybe I'll be
19	the dissenting voice here. I would certainly
20	welcome, me personally, I'm not saying my views
21	for the U.S. Coast Guard, but me personally, I
22	would welcome a change where the probable cause

determination is binding.

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2 Frankly if we're charging the case and 3 we can't get over the probable cause hump, I would submit that we are doing our jobs very 4 poorly. And I certainly am encouraging my trial 5 counsel to, you know, to make prosecution 6 recommendations where the evidence is far over 7 the probable cause line. 8 9 In terms of how we're currently in 10 practice, I think like some of my counterparts, 11 where we've adopted practices that are in line 12 with the current rule. So we don't routinely 13 call witnesses, but that, the change in the 32 is 14 to align with the federal version of a 15 preliminary hearing where I have yet to see a 16 federal magistrate judge allow an AUSA to proceed 17 on a preliminary hearing with just an affidavit 18 from a criminal complaint they would have to at 19 least call a summary witness, a case agent and 20 the like.

21 We thought internally about doing that 22 more. Not necessarily because it will help us

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get over the line in terms of probably cause, but I think our agents frankly need a little more time in the box and practice testifying. So I certainly wouldn't be opposed to changes like that. Thank you. CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks, Lieutenant Commander DeRenzo. So we're over our time. I

9 Yes, it's an extraordinary panel of 10 five advocates. The folks that you're training 11 out there and the quality of insight and breadth 12 and thoughtfulness you bring to this isn't lost 13 on this panel, and we really appreciate the work 14 you're doing every day and we want to make, we 15 want to help make the system better.

want to thank each of you.

And for all of our service members, I'm grateful they have folks like you who are representing the United States and representing the people who are accused at courts-martial, and in other proceedings that your teams are working in. So thank you. And you can all go now. So we're going to move right into the

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1	next panel. Unless you want to stay for the next
2	public session, which we'd be happy to have you.
3	So we're going to turn to the second
4	public session for today. This is the JSC
5	Briefing on the Executive Order Implementing the
6	Special Trial Counsels. So let me turn to our
7	lead attorneys who are going to manage this one
8	for us, Meghan Peters and Eleanor Vuono.
9	MS. PETERS: Good afternoon. Joining
10	us now are Captain Anita Scott and Lieutenant
11	Colonel Keaton Harrell from the Joint Service
12	Committee on Military Justice. Captain Scott is
13	the chair of the JSC. And Lieutenant Colonel
14	Harrell is the voting group member for the United
15	States marine Corps. And bear with us as the
16	staff is going to pull up a presentation they
17	have prepared for this session.
18	And I want to thank both Captain Scott
19	and Lieutenant Colonel Harrell for joining us.
20	Your professional biographies have been provided
21	to the members in advance of the session.
22	Panel Members, please reference to tab

two of your read ahead materials for this session. That begins on Page 8 of the combined materials.

This will provide you with a summary of the 2023 executive order that gave rise to the changes to the manual for courts-martial that we're going to discuss today. Please also note that this reference has been posted to the MJRP website, the projects tab.

And there we will include the most up to date link for the 2023 manual of courtsmartial that was just updated in September of this year. Those updates don't affect any changes to the rules we're doing to discuss today is my understanding.

And we also thank Colonel Brunson for putting out helpful references to the most recent changes to the manual, and the cumulative articles. I think that went out to you all yesterday. So those are all the ways you can reference the substantive material for discussion.

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1	I see the presentation up on the
2	screen. With that I'm going to turn it over to
3	our presenters. Thank you.
4	CAPT SCOTT: Good afternoon. Madam
5	Chair, esteemed Panel Members, I am Captain Anita
6	Scott, Chair of the Joint Service Committee. As
7	mentioned, with me here today is Lieutenant
8	Colonel Keaton Harrell of the United States
9	Marine Corps voting group member on the Joint
10	Service Committee.
11	Please pardon the uniform option as I
12	am currently on emergency leave on the West
13	Coast.
14	But turning to Slide 2 we can get
15	right into it. So while you are all certainly
16	familiar with the Joint Service Committee, by way
17	of a refresher we're going to cover just a little
18	bit on the Committee's job and role, which is to
19	aid the DoD Secretary in advising the President
20	as to appropriate updates to the UCMJ and the
21	procedural rules in the Manual for Courts-
22	martial. Our role fulfills the function required

1 by a 1984 executive order, and is governed by a 2 DODT. 3 Next slide please. As just mentioned 4 (audio interference) --5 We can actually jump to the next slide since we just covered our function. Thank you. 6 7 This slide brings us to how we got to 8 the current executive order. Starting with a 9 NDAA study by the Internal Review Commission on 10 sexual assault in the Military that some perceive 11 the Internal Review Commission report as similar 12 to a legislative history for the FY22 NDAA 13 because of the role it played in informing 14 Congress. 15 A central theme was to enhance trust 16 and confidence in the Military's approach to 17 special victim's cases, especially those 18 involving sexual assault and harassment amidst 19 dispersions of systemic mishandling. In response 20 the FY22 NDAA instituted the requirement for 21 special trial counsel to have exclusive authority 22 over defined covered offenses.

The NDAA also mandated sentencing by military judge for non-capital, general and special courts-martial, we'll discuss a bit more later.

The legislative journey found further expression in NDAA (audio interference) for FY2023 which notably introduced appellate reforms and amplified the randomization authority for court-martial panels.

10 Next slide please. So the EO itself is 11 broken down into the three annexes. The first annex in the EO covers the amendments from 2019 12 13 to 2022, along with a small number of statutory 14 changes from the FY23 NDAA. Specifically changes 15 to eligibility for direct appeal for summary court-martial. Annex 1 became effective on 28 16 17 July 2023 and will apply based on the content of 18 each specific rule it amends.

19 The second annex covers amendments 20 related to the Office of the Special Trial 21 Counsel, as well as most of the recent round of 22 amendments submitted to the President's Office in

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1	January of 2023. Annex 2 becomes effective 27
2	December of this year and will apply to offenses
3	occurring on or after 28 December of this year.
4	The third annex covers amendments
5	related to court-martial sentencing. Annex 3
6	will be effective 27 December of this year and
7	will only apply to cases where all findings of
8	guilty are for offenses occurring on or after 28
9	December of this year as well.
10	The document, so there is effective
11	dates language for Annex 1. And a document
12	containing a summary of those changes to the
13	manual for court-martial contained in the EO
14	establishes a couple of key principals.
15	The Annex 1 changes do not make acts
16	or omissions punishable that were committed prior
17	to 28 July of 2023. First.
18	Second, they do not invalidate any NJP
19	proceeding, restraint, preliminary hearing,
20	referral of charges or trial in which arraignment
21	has started. Or other action occurring prior to
22	28 July of this year.

1 And third, they apply for any 2 subsequent NJP proceeding, restraint, preliminary 3 hearing, referral of charges or trial in which arraignment has started. Or other action 4 5 occurring on or after the 28 July date of this 6 year. 7 So next slide please. At this point I will turn it over to Colonel Harrell to talk 8 9 about the exclusive authority of STCs. 10 LTCOL HARRELL: Good afternoon, ladies 11 and gentlemen. I'm Lieutenant Colonel Keaton 12 Harrell. I'm the Military Justice Branch Head at 13 Marine Corps Judge Advocate Division, and the 14 Marine Corps Voting Group Member on the Joint 15 Service Committee. 16 So now we're going to get into some of 17 the substance of the Military Justice reform from 18 the FY22 NDAA. Which has been implemented by the 19 President Executive Order. So the main thrust of the reform is 20 21 the creation of special trial counsel. So the 22 FY22 NDAA established a new UCMJ article.

Specifically Article 24a, which directs the detailing of qualifying judge advocates to serve as special trial counsel. And we're going to talk about the authorities of special trial counsel in the next few slides.

6 So importantly, the special trial 7 counsel have exclusive authority to determine if 8 a reported offense is a covered offense. And one 9 of the subsequent slides is going to discuss, or 10 layout what those covered offenses are.

So reports of covered, of offenses go to special trial counsel. And the STC exercises exclusive authority to determine if in fact it is a covered offense. And if so, the STC shall, by statute, exercise authority over that covered offense.

Now, the next bullet talks about other
authority of the STC. Why STC must exercise
authority over covered offenses. If so, if an
STC exercises authority of a covered offense, the
STC may also exercise authority over known or
related offenses. And we'll talk more about that

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later, what those offenses are.

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2 So a key distinction, STC shall 3 exercise authority over covered offenses and may 4 exercise authority over known or related 5 offenses.

6 So when we're talking about exclusive 7 authority a reasonable question is, what does 8 that term mean? That's not a defined term in 9 Article 24a, but it's now defined in R.C.M. 103. 10 Specifically R.C.M. 103(12).

Which will define it as when an STC acts on a covered, related or known offense in furtherance of an STC statutory duties or authorities under Article 24a(c).

So in my mind, an easy way to think about that is an STC taking, well affirmatively, assuming disposition authority over an alleged offense. And importantly to the exclusion of others.

20 So what that means is when an STC 21 exercises authority over an offense. Whether it 22 be a covered offense, a known offense or a

	-
1	related offense, that precludes the commander
2	from acting upon it from disposing that offense.
3	At least unless or until the STC defers that.
4	And we'll talk about that later.
5	So Article 24a is further implemented
6	in the rules for courts-martial. Specifically
7	R.C.M. 301(a) which requires all reports of
8	covered offenses to be promptly forwarded to a
9	special trial counsel. And then the STC first of
10	all determines if there is a covered offense.
11	And upon making those determinations
12	that it is a covered offense, and exercising
13	authority over that covered offense, and deciding
14	if there are related or known offenses and the
15	STC is exercising authority over those offenses,
16	the rules further require the STC to promptly
17	notify the officer exercising special court-
18	martial conveying authority over that suspect.
19	And again, that notification requirement applies,
20	not only with the covered offenses but for known
21	and related offenses as well.
22	Next slide please. So again, if an

1 STC exercises authority over a covered offense, 2 the STC may also determine if there are other 3 offenses that the STC is going to exercise 4 discretion to exercise authority over as well. 5 And those two types of offenses with 6 discretionary authority is, those are related 7 offenses and known offenses.

8 So these are further explained in 9 R.C.M. 303(a). A related offense is any reported 10 offense or charge related to a covered offense, 11 whether alleged to have been committed by the suspect of the covered offense, or by anyone 12 13 else, subject to the UCMJ. So importantly, it 14 need not be the same person that's accused of 15 committing the covered offense. An example there 16 is a person who stole a weapon later used in a 17 covered offense.

I think perhaps a more insightful example of a related offense that an STC may exercise authority over is victim collateral misconduct. For example, underaged drinking leading up to an alleged sexual assault or

fraternization with the alleged offender. So those offenses themselves aren't covered offenses, but within the STC's discretion, the STC may determine that those are related to the covered offense over which the STC is exercising authority, so the STC may also exercise authority over those related offenses.

8 And the other category of offenses are 9 referred to as known offenses. Now the 10 distinction here is that these other offenses are 11 other offenses committed by the same person 12 accused of the covered offense.

So an example here would be somebody suspected of sexual assault, weeks earlier tested positive on a urinalysis. Now that positive urinalysis may be unrelated to the alleged sexual assault, but nevertheless the STC may, within his or her discretion, exercise authority over that other known offense.

And the practical implication with that being is, upon exercising authority the commander or convening authority, is then

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precluded from taken action upon that alleged offense. Unless and until the STC defers that offense.

Next slide please. So now we're
laying out exactly what an STC may do. Now first
of all, and the STC may prefer charges. Now that
first point being, the STC may prefer charges
without being disqualified.

Now this is implemented in a couple of
rules in the MCM, but the key takeaway is that an
STC may prefer charges without being disqualified
from, number one, being the referral authority.
So subsequently referring charges to a courtmartial. And two, from actually serving as trial
counsel at the court-martial.

And once an STC exercises authority over an offense, the STC then has exclusive authority with respect to a number of matters, which are laid out there withdrawing or dismissing those charges. Referring those charges to a special or general court-martial entering into a plea agreement with the accused

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1 with respect to those offenses. Following 2 appellate review if a re-hearing is authorized. 3 The STC has the exclusive authority to determine if a re-hearing is impractical. 4 5 And also, it's important to note in that last bullet that after an STC exercises 6 7 authority, that does not necessarily mean that 8 the STC will ultimately refer charges to a court-9 The STC may later defer that offense. martial. 10 And that's laid out there, the STC may defer the 11 offense to the commander or conveying authority 12 by electing not to prefer or refer charges. 13 Next slide please. Now here's the 14 list of covered offenses. So again, these are 15 the offenses over which the STC must exercise 16 authority if the STC in fact determines that a reported offense is a covered offense. 17 18 Now as you can see, reading those 19 articles these are essentially the victim-centric 20 offenses in the UCMJ. And the majority of these 21 came from the FY22 NDAA, however, the FY23 NDAA 22 added three additional covered offenses. Article

119a, death or injury of an unborn child.
 Article 120a, depositing obscene materials in the
 mail.

And also, one worth discussing a bit 4 more in-depth, Article 134, sexual harassment. 5 Now, Article 134, sexual harassment, is unique as 6 7 a covered offense in a few respects. First of all, it has a different effective date than the 8 other covered offenses. All of the covered 9 offenses but sexual harassment become effective 10 11 27 December of this year, but sexual harassment, 12 under Article 134, doesn't become a covered 13 offense until 1 January 2025.

And it's also unique among the other covered offenses in another respect. The statute says it's only formal complaints that are substantiated. Only in instances in which a formal complaint is made and is substantiated in accordance with regulations prescribed by the secretary of concern.

21 So unlike other covered offenses, like 22 we talked about earlier in your report of a

covered offense, promptly is forwarded to the STC. So it's not all of the reports of Article 134, sexual harassment, that go to the STC to exercise authority over, it's only those in which there is a formal complaint, and that formal complaint is substantiated. So this requires further implementation by the Departmental Secretaries.

9 Next slide please. Now another 10 provision from the FY22 NDAA was establishing 10 11 U.S.C. 1044f, policies with respect to special 12 trial counsel. Now this provision directs the, 13 well, directed the Secretary of Defense to 14 establish policies with respect to the procedures 15 that the secretaries of the military departments 16 must establish relating to the activities of 17 special trial counsel. And there are certain 18 provisions that must be included.

19 The special trial counsel and the 20 offices, within which they operate, the offices 21 of special trial counsel, and they must be 22 independent, they must be free from unlawful or

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authorized influence or coercion, and they're comprised of STCs that are well trained, experienced, highly skilled and competent in the handling of covered offenses pursuant to criteria established by the cognizant Judge Advocate General or the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps.

8 And organizationally, the OSTCs, as 9 you all know, are led by 07s who report directly 10 to the Secretary concerned without intervening 11 authority. Now again, this provision directed 12 the Secretary of Defense to establish these 13 policies, and the Secretary of Defense did so in 14 11 March of last year. And the Department has 15 followed suit.

Quick note on the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard opted to create the Office of the Chief Prosecutor, also led by an 07 but comprised not only with special trial counsel, but with regular trial counsel as well. Next slide please.

CHAIR HILLMAN: Sorry, Lieutenant

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1 Colonel Harrell, this is the Chair. I just, I 2 want to thank you for the presentation. And, 3 Captain Scott, I especially want to thank you for joining us. To continue to advise us on this, 4 5 especially when you're attending to other matters at the same time you're taking care of us and 6 7 your other duties here. How many more slides do 8 you have, Colonel Harrell?

9 CAPT SCOTT: There is four substantive10 slides additional.

11 CHAIR HILLMAN: I'm going to ask, actually, if you could pause on this. Let me 12 13 just see if we, I know there is more to tell, 14 we'll share all these slides with our Panel 15 Members. We started a little bit late, and my 16 apologies for that. I want to make sure the 17 Panel Members have a chance to ask you any 18 questions they may have.

So could you take another minute and
just flip through the rest of those slides?
Anything you want to make sure that we know. And
then I want to give the Panel Members a chance to

1 ask questions while we have you with us. 2 CAPT SCOTT: Absolutely. So I think 3 the Commander and SJA rules are laid out pretty 4 well in the slides. If there is questions I'm 5 happy to answer them. And the pre-referral authority --6 7 And, Captain Scott, CHAIR HILLMAN: 8 could you just flip through the slides so that we could see them? I have faith in our Panelists 9 10 being able to read quickly through the slides. 11 Can we just click through them so we can see them now? And then we'll look at them later too. 12 13 CAPT SCOTT: Yes, ma'am. I believe 14 your Staff has control of my slides. 15 CHAIR HILLMAN: Okay. Okay, Meghan, 16 whoever is advancing them, next. MS. PETERS: Please, thank you. 17 Ιf 18 that's Stayce or Dale. 19 CHAIR HILLMAN: Got it. Go team. 20 This is perfect, thank you. 21 (Pause.) 22 CHAIR HILLMAN: Okay. And then if you

could, Dale and company, put us all back up on the screen there, and get Captain Scott and Lieutenant Colonel Harrell before us? Thank you so much.

5 I'm sorry to interrupt your presentation. I just wanted to give us a couple 6 7 of minutes for questions here in case there are 8 questions from our crew around this massive 9 change. Massive set of changes that you're 10 communicating the upshot up to us. Any questions 11 from the Panel for Captain Scott and Lieutenant 12 Colonel Harrell?

13 COL MORRIS: This is Larry Morris. 14 Question on that last slide that just flipped 15 past. What is the discussion about counsel at 16 summary courts?

17 CAPT SCOTT: So there, thank you for 18 the question. There are proposed amendments 19 posted currently in the federal register which 20 are certainly available to you. And will be, 21 there is a public comment notice.

But in sum and substance, there was a

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1 right to, it proposes a right to counsel at a 2 summary court-martial. And I would draw your 3 attention specifically to the, and it is publicly available, the internal review team on racial 4 5 disparities in investigative and military justice systems. And the report you'll find online 6 7 should inform the, your questions I'm sure you 8 may have surrounding that issue. Thank you, Captain 9 CHAIR HILLMAN: 10 Scott. Other questions? 11 CAPT BARNEY: Would you entertain a question from a motorist on the New Jersey 12 13 Turnpike? 14 CHAIR HILLMAN: Go ahead, Captain 15 Barney. 16 CAPT BARNEY: Thank you, Dr. Hillman. 17 My question has to do with the deferment decision 18 by the special trial counsel. What is the 19 evidentiary impact of the, if a charge is for a 20 known offense and the example was give of a 21 unrelated drug offense that is unrelated to the 22 priority offense, if that goes back to the

original commander for disposition, could that, the fact of that disposition be used as a matter in aggravation against the accused at trial? Thank you.

5 CAPT SCOTT: So I guess you're asking, I want to make sure I understand 6 I'm not sure. 7 the question before I attempt to answer it. 8 You're just asking then, if something is deferred 9 back to a traditional convening authority and 10 it's a known, but not related offense, can, what 11 exactly would be used as a matter in aggravation? 12 CHAIR HILLMAN: Captain Barney, did 13 that capture your question? 14 CAPT BARNEY: I believe so. Yes. 15 CAPT SCOTT: Well I'm not sure I, 16 Keaton, are you understanding the, where I'm lost 17 is, where exactly the, is the charge then is 18 opened to being referred by the traditional 19 conveying authority, but I'm not connecting it to 20 a matter in aggravation. What specifically would 21 be the matter in aggravation that you're 22 concerned about?

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1 CAPT BARNEY: So for example, if the 2 charge is referred back to the original convening 3 authority, he takes action on it, for example, refers it and disposes of it with a guilty 4 5 finding as non-judicial punishment, could the fact of that non-judicial punishment then be used 6 7 a matter in aggravation? Because it seems to me 8 it gives the government two bites of the apple. 9 So, okay, now I think I'm CAPT SCOTT: 10 tracking. You're suggesting that an STC has gone 11 forward with some form of a covered offense, 12 notwithstanding deferred the non-covered back, 13 and that got disposed of by a traditional 14 convening authority and then could that be a 15 matter in aggravation at the later time for the 16 covered offense? Is that the hypo you're 17 proposing? 18 CAPT BARNEY: Yes it is. And I 19 apologize because I have to drive and I'm trying 20 to avoid running into other motor vehicles. 21 CAPT SCOTT: Yes, I'm sure they'd 22 appreciate that. Yes, it could potentially be

1	if, you know, I think as a practical matter		
2	though, deferring back, a non-covered offense		
3	that was known, while certainly possible, if it		
4	was a court-martialable offense to begin with and		
5	worthy of pushing forward I would, you know, from		
6	a judicial efficiency standpoint, see it being		
7	part of the larger case put forward by the United		
8	States. Obviously it doesn't have to be, but		
9	that would be how I would anticipate it moving.		
10	If it heads back for NJP, then yes. Keaton, do		
11	you want to add anything?		
12	LTCOL HARRELL: I agree with that,		
13	ma'am. I'm so certain that in that situation		
14	that you laid out the STC presumably going		
15	forward on a covered offense but defers a related		
16	offense, such as a unrelated positive urinalysis.		
17	Depending on the timing in which those		
18	two events occur, I'm assuming the commander		
19	disposes of that, of that 112a offense before the		
20	court-martial for the article, well, whatever the		
21	covered offense is, we would just default back to		
22	R.C.M. 1001. And pursuant to regulations		

1 prescribed by the Secretary of concern, there is 2 regulations for the using Article 15 records. 3 But to your point, sir, there is nothing that precludes, in that situation as you 4 5 rephrased it, two bites at the apple. Obviously it's going to depend on the timing in which the 6 7 two events occurred, so we would just default back to the standard rules under R.C.M. 1001 and 8 9 the government being able to offer records from 10 Article 15 in aggravation. 11 CAPT BARNEY: Thanks for your It seems that this is perhaps a 12 response. 13 constant lens of having a bifurcated disposition 14 authority for offenses. And it seems to result 15 in a different outcome than when under the prior, 16 or maybe the existing situation, you had the 17 ability to dispose of the government was obliged 18 to dispose of all known offenses at the same 19 So thank you very much. time.

20 CHAIR HILLMAN: Thanks. Thanks,
21 Captain Barney. Barring any last questions? Any
22 questions?

Thank you so much, Captain Scott, Lieutenant Colonel Harrell, for joining us. We appreciate the expertise you bring to this and the ongoing process of helping us understand and interpret with what's happening with respect to these big changes.

So with that we're going to close the
public session. I'll defer to our Director about
when we're coming back here. Over to you, Pete.

MR. YOB: Thank you, Dr. Hillman.
We're scheduled to come back together, take a
break, come back together at 1:30.

13 We will have Ms. Ruth Vetter, DoD 14 Deputy General Counsel, speak with us in the 15 executive session. We'll have several other matters to cover in the executive session. 16 Most 17 likely the Article 32 continued discussion, 18 additional discussion on the RFI that we had 19 yesterday, and then other matters that the Panel 20 Members want to take up.

I believe that that will take some considerable time. I would suggest that if we

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1 start at 1:30 we reconvene with the Staff at And then we'll use that 2:45 to 3 o'clock 2 2:45. 3 to conclude the session. And then we'll move over to the separate working group sessions, if 4 5 that makes sense. The bottom line is, we can break now 6 and reconvene at 1:30 in the executive session 7 8 with Ms. Vetter to start off. 9 MG EWERS: Pete, may I ask a quick 10 question please? 11 MR. YOB: Yes, sir. 12 MG EWERS: This is just for future. 13 So one of the first panelists talked about 513 14 CAAF decision. 15 MR. YOB: Yes, sir. 16 MG EWERS: Can you just get us, I asked the staff attorney that had that crowd to 17 18 get that cite. I'm interested in reading that. 19 MR. YOB: We will. That's U.S. v. I'm very -- and there is also, right 20 Mellette. 21 now there is a case involving the Mellette 22 decision, 513, that's been certified by the Navy

1 JAG that's going up to CAAF. We'll keep you 2 posted on that as well. But we can certainly share the Mellette decision. It's a very 3 4 interesting decision to read on 513, on 5 psychotherapist patient privilege matters. 6 MG EWERS: Okay. 7 MR. YOB: We'll share that immediately. Yes. 8 9 CHAIR HILLMAN: Okay. Just one slight amendment, let's take an actual 30 minute break 10 11 for lunch. So you have 30 minutes. We'll come 12 back at 1335. So thank you everybody, we'll see 13 you then. 14 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter 15 went off the record at 1:05 p.m.) 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Α a.m 1:9 3:2 abide 89:12 ability 11:4 14:12 16:7 18:11 27:21 28:16 29:2 33:14.15 36:15 37:22 45:21 70:16 123:17 able 16:16 24:4 42:19 54:16 55:11,12 60:8 61:13,14 62:6 83:4 117:10 123:9 above-entitled 126:14 absence 31:7 absolutely 31:18 65:19 67:7 79:17 93:19,21 95:11 117:2 academic 62:10 accept 72:13 access 5:6 accused 24:13 29:18 32:5,19 35:2 36:13 40:3,17 45:12 48:7 59:13 64:7 70:6 72:9 77:7.21 98:19 109:14 110:12 111:22 120:3 acquitted 41:11 act 72:19 acting 89:15 108:2 action 56:16 62:1 63:11 104:21 105:4 111:1 121:3 actions 14:14 activities 114:16 actor 66:5 67:8 acts 56:21 104:15 107:12 actual 48:13 52:1 126:10 actuality 66:10 add 52:14 58:9 81:3 122:11 added 59:16 112:22 addition 16:7 18:3 additional 22:22 23:10 23:10 43:10 45:20 47:6 60:20 62:6 63:6 65:13 68:13.15 112:22 116:10 124:18 additions 55:19 address 31:19 74:1 addressed 15:6 addressing 86:18 adhere 75:3 adjacent 82:1 admin 3:4.8.14 administrative 5:6 16:1 56:16 61:5,8 62:16,19

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Before: US DOC DAC IPAD

Date: 10-25-23

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