



National Coalition For Men (NCFM)

Since 1977

932 C Street, Suite B, San Diego, CA 92101 / 619-231-1909 / ncfm.org / 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation

DIRECTORS

President & Board

Chairman
Harry Crouch
California
Vice President
Marc Angelucci, Esq.
California
In Memoriam
Vice President
Spokesman
Tim Goldich
Illinois
Treasurer
Angela Daley
California
Secretary
Katrina Overfield
Illinois

BOARD MEMBERS

Ray Blumhorst
California
Fred Sottile
California
Gregory J.
North Carolina
Lea Perritt, Ph. D
Kentucky
Mark Bates
Minnesota
Will Hageman
Minnesota
Carl Augustsson, Ph. D,
Republic of Georgia

ADVISORS

Warren Farrell, Ph. D
Author
California
Robert Kenedy, Ph. D
York University
Canada
Charles Corey, Ph. D
Colorado
Robert R. Parker, Jr., LL. B
Government Affairs
Georgia
Bill Ronan, LCSW
Clinical Social Worker
Minnesota
Tom Golden, LCSW
Commission
On Men's Health
Maryland
Thomas James, Esq.
Author/Family Law
Minnesota
Missouri

6 October 2025

Sent Via U.S. Mail

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
United States Secretary of War
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Re: Recent Changes to the Investigation Policy

The Honorable Pete Hegseth, U.S. Secretary of War,

This organization, the National Coalition for Men is supportive and welcomes long needed changes to the investigation policy that includes a credibility assessment and for accountability and sanctions for those who file false or frivolous allegations.

The National Coalition For Men

The National Coalition For Men (NCFM) is a 501(c)(3) educational nonprofit corporation established in 1977 and the nation's oldest men's human rights organization. Our members are men *and* women from a wide variety of professions across the globe, including, educators, medical professionals, attorneys, and retired law enforcement officers.

NCFM is committed to the removal of gender-based stereotypes, especially as they adversely impact boys, men, their families, and the women who love them, including, issues involving the criminal justice, and family court systems.

You can learn more about NCFM, our interests, activities, and numerous accomplishments by visiting our website, www.ncfm.org.

Julie Brand, M.S.
Author/Counselor
Nevada
David Heleniak, Esq.
Civil Rights/Appellate
New Jersey
Edward Stephens, M.D.
Psychiatry
New York
Diane A. Sears, Editor
Pennsylvania
Richard Driscoll, Ph. D
Psychologist/Author
Tennessee
R.K. Hendrick, Esq.
Oregon
Phillip Cook
Journalist/Author
Washington

LIAISONS

Attila Vinczer
Toronto, Canada
Charles Oholendt,
Arkansas
Greg Andresen,
Sydney, Australia
Chris Langan-Fox,
Tasmania, Australia
Earl Silverman,
In Memoriam
Calgary, Canada
Ray Blumhorst,
Los Angeles, CA
Steve Van Valkenburg,
Colorado
Kenedy Owino
Nairobi, Kenya
Carl Augustsson, Ph. D,
Republic of Georgia
Tatyana Roberts,
Georgia
Tom Dougherty, M.D.
Illinois
Michael Rother, MCSE,
MCDBA, CNE
Germany
(Past Pres. NCFM)
Eyal Avidan (Attorney),
Israel
Robert Yourell, LMFT,
Mexico (Baja)
Nevada Thompson,
Pres. NCFM-MSU
Montana
Darrin Albert,
North Dakota
William Gavitz,
Pennsylvania
Jason Leatherman,
Massachusetts
Paul Clements,
South Carolina
Eric Wedin
Sweden

Abstract

NCFM has been in existence since 1977 and one of many issues that this organization has been involved in, is the epidemic of false allegations of domestic violence, sexual harassment and sexual assault in the Armed Forces.

While NCFM is fully aware that domestic violence and sexual misconduct cases occur, when legitimate, we believe that those victims should and must be fully supported and the perpetrators be punished in accordance with the UCMJ, however that is not always the case.

NCFM estimates that with the past 12-15 years, approximately 400-600 servicemembers have been wrongfully convicted of these types of violations and thousands more have been administratively discharged, despite being cleared in formal investigations. Many more still languish in detention facilities. The lifetime negative consequences that service members face are extensive and have resulted in family breakdown, personal and financial ruin, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and sadly, some have taken their own lives.

The time is long overdue to bring a semblance of common sense back into the decision-making process when allegations of these types have been levied.

Additionally, the investigation and decision-making process along with a plethora of individuals and committees who take part in these types can sometimes be extensive. The time and labor hours expended on false allegation cases have wasted millions of dollars; dollars better spent on training and equipping service members.

Therefore, the recent policy changes are a refreshing start, and NCFM would respectfully recommend some additional areas for further review.

- The formation of a Conviction Integrity and Accountability Unit¹. The formation of such a unit must not only concern itself with those who make false or frivolous allegations, but also those in the chain of command, and JAG prosecutors and military law enforcement agents who have conducted themselves in a less than honorable manner or who have demonstrated a level of indifference, incompetence, or Unlawful Command Influence².

¹ https://dacipad.whs.mil/sites/default/files/Public/06-Public_Comment/SaveOurHeroes_Written-Materials_DACIPAD-Meeting_20230314.pdf

² https://www.abajournal.com/news/article/military_high_court_finds_that_top_navy_lawyer_engaged_in_unlawful_command



- A re-focus on military prosecutor integrity and military law enforcement agent competence. In too many cases involving allegations of DV or sexual assault, there has been a presumption of guilt, and as such, exculpatory evidence is not sought out, ignored, or when found, is not provided to the accused pursuant to lawful discovery obligations.
- A re-focus on the Professional Responsibility Branch of the Judge Advocate General Corps, who, in theory is tasked with monitoring the conduct of military attorneys, and enforcing sanctions when ethical and legal violations are committed, but in reality, it seems as though their primary focus is to ‘cover up’ or excuse professional misconduct³.
- While the legislature and oversight committees have the responsibility to monitor military objectives, operations, and budgets, in some instances, a few members of the legislature have meddled into cases that have crossed the line into criminal conduct.
- An audit of claims of PTSD due to Military Sexual Trauma (MST) to determine the legitimacy of claims as this program, historically, has been rife with abuse and fraud.
- A change in policy within the Senate Armed Services Committee which has the ability to deny promotions. Currently, all that is needed is for one SASC member to down vote a person on a promotional list, and they can do it anonymously and do not have to provide a reason. This policy has contributed to a climate of fear amongst commanders and convening authorities who may lose a promotion or be forced out of the service if they do not prefer criminal charges in questionable cases. Any down vote should require no less than three SASC members who have to identify themselves and provide a reason.
- The elimination of collateral charges⁴. Adding spurious or questionable additional charges simply to elevate the chances of a conviction ‘for something,’ is an unethical prosecutorial tactic and must be eliminated.

³ <https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/judge-removes-prosecutor-in-seal-chief-gallaghers-murder-trial/146720/>

⁴ <https://dailycaller.com/2016/06/28/a-travesty-of-justice-collateral-charges-in-military-sexual-assault-cases/>

Conclusion

In recent years, there has been a focus on the problem of sexual assault in the armed forces. While there are certainly legitimate cases, the problem has been falsely categorized as an ‘epidemic.’ Whenever a perceived problem is classified as an ‘epidemic,’ it usually comes with draconian measures that erode or eliminate constitutional protections.

Up to the point prior to the issuance of this memo, allegations of domestic violence and sexual assault were presumed to be true and thus, the investigative and prosecutorial direction of these cases were for the sole purpose of ensuring a conviction, rather than seeking out the truth.

The formation of a Conviction Integrity **AND** Accountability Unit is desperately needed to review the hundreds, if not thousands of cases of false allegations that have resulted in vast negative consequences such as administrative actions, and wrongful convictions and incarcerations. The formation of this unit must also address the epidemic of military judicial and prosecutorial misconduct and the severe lack of competence in the military investigative ranks.

On 1 April 1940, then Attorney General Robert H. Jackson, in a speech at the Second Annual Conference of United States Attorneys⁵ stated in part,

“... while the prosecutor at his best is one of the most beneficent forces in our society, when he acts from malice or other base motives, he is one of the worst.”

The Office of the Secretary of War is welcome to reach out to NCFM at any time in order to assist or make recommendations in the effort for significant reform.

Respectfully,


President

HC/MC/mc

⁵ <https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/ag/legacy/2011/09/16/04-01-1940.pdf>

