



Bulletin for NMP contacts

News from the Network for Military Prosecutors October 2019

Report on the Special Interest Group Meetings at the
24th IAP Annual Conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina
15 – 19 September 2019

Dear Colleagues,

The 24th Annual Conference of the International Association of Prosecutors was the venue for the 4th Special Interest Group Meetings for Military Prosecutors that has now been established as a firm framework for the exchange of experience between military prosecutors and civilian prosecutors dealing with military criminal cases. We have taken advantage of our well-established format with two items on the agenda for our group comprising The Special Interest Group Meeting (SIGM) of the Network of Military Prosecutors and a Round Table Discussion for NMP Contacts.

We were very pleased with the outcome of these events and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the participants in the sessions and to give a brief overview of the NMP programme for those colleagues that were unable to attend the Conference.

1. The Special Interest Group Meeting (SIGM) of the Network of Military Prosecutors (NMP)

The SIGM took place on Tuesday 17 September with the overarching theme, “*International cooperation across different legal systems*” with reference to the theme of the 24th IAP Conference, focusing in particular on cooperation regarding international investigations and prosecutions and in particular the need for cooperation with partners in the theatre of operations.

We had four excellent speakers from our midst: Director of Military Prosecutions, Brigadier **Lisa Ferris** (New Zealand), Chief Prosecutor, U.S. Army, Colonel **Sara M. Root** (United States of America), Mr. **Michel Guedes**, Vice-procureur près le Tribunal de Grande Instance de Paris, Chef de Section Affaires pénales militaires (C3) (France) and Colonel **Bruce MacGregor**, Director of



Military Prosecutions (Canada) with an introduction to the theme by the facilitator, Military Prosecutor General **Lars Stevnsborg** (Denmark).



The SIGM panel, Lars Stevnsborg, Bruce MacGregor, Lisa Ferris, Sara M. Root and Michel Guedes.

The point of departure was international investigations and prosecutions – in the military context with the emphasis being on the need for cooperation with partners as well as an update on Recent Developments in the Prosecution of Hate Crimes within Military Forces of Canada and the need for International Cooperation.

The interventions focused on various challenges and avenues to mitigate these challenges. Further details on the session are available in the report of the SIGM rapporteur, Lieutenant Colonel **Dominic Martin**, Deputy Director of Military Prosecutions (Canada). The report and other material will be updated on our website:

<http://www.iap-association.org/NMP/Publications/Publications/Presentations-outlines>.

2. Network of Military Prosecutors (NMP) Roundtable Discussion

The Roundtable for specially designated NMP contacts was held on Wednesday 18 September 2019 with a view to discuss recent developments in Military Criminal Justice and landmark case



law as well as issues pertaining to the development of the NMP and its instruments in a cooperative atmosphere between prosecutors in this highly specialized area.

Seven jurisdictions participated and took part in the interesting exchange of views and experiences during in the Round Table – including Canada, New Zealand, Australia, the Netherlands, the United States, the Peoples Republic of China and Denmark. The Roundtable concluded to continue with the format of the NMP activities in the next Conference in Athens 2020.



Representatives from seven jurisdictions participated in the NMP Round discussion.

3. Status of the network

The Network is in continuing its development process, and since the previous meeting in Johannesburg several new members have joined the Network.

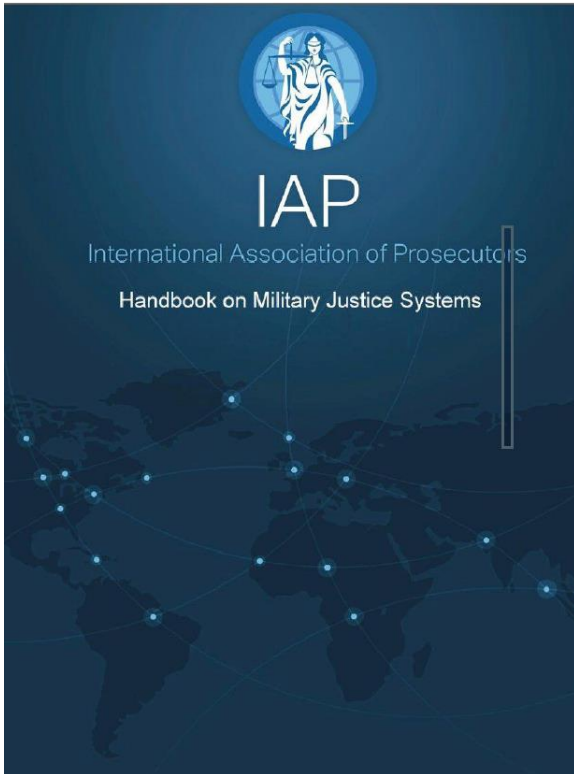
4. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Society of Military Law and the Law of War (ISMLLW)

In June 2019 a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Society of Military



Law and the Law of War (ISMLLW) was signed at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. For further information, see the IAP 2018 – 2019 ANNUAL REPORT and the IAP July 2019 Newsletter which are available at the IAP website <https://www.iap-association.org>

5. NMP Factsheets – IAP Handbook on Military Justice Systems



The NMP (Network for Military Prosecutors) together with the IAP Secretariat published a Handbook on Military Justice Systems (120 pp.), which contains entries from 23 countries in Europe, Asia/Pacific and the Americas (September 2019) - an increase of five since the Conference last year.

The content is based on the outcome of a questionnaire distributed in 2015 which was intended to gain a better understanding of the respective jurisdictions criminal justice systems in relation to criminal cases involving military personnel, i.e. “military criminal cases”.

The NMP aim to include further jurisdictions in the Handbook in the time to come.

Access to the Handbook on Military Justice Systems (password protected): <https://www.iap-association.org/NMP/Publications/Publications>

6. The NMP website and library

The NMP website is currently updated with new information and the library has most recently been updated with the Geneva Academy’s Guidelines in Investigating of Violations of International Humanitarian Law: Law, Policy and Good Practice. The guidelines are available here:

<https://www.iap-association.org/NMP/News/New-guidelines-on-investigation-violations-of-inte>

We look forward to seeing you next year in Athens, Greece.

Bruce MacGregor

Colonel Bruce MacGregor
Director of Military Prosecutions, Canada

Lars Stevnsborg

Military Prosecutor General Lars Stevnsborg,
Denmark