

# Representing Military Survivors of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence

TIME'S UP Legal Defense Fund/Legal Network for Gender Equity Webinar

February 25, 2021

## Speaker List and Biographies



Col. Don Christensen,  
*U.S. Air Force (Ret.); President, Protect Our Defenders*

In his role as President, Col. Christensen has appeared regularly in broadcast and print media to advocate for rights of crime victims, including appearances on CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, MSNBC, Fox News, and the BBC, in addition to the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*. He also serves as a *pro bono* attorney for victims of military sexual assault in EEO complaints, law suits under the Federal Tort Claims Act, and as a special victims counsel.

He served as chief prosecutor for the United States Air Force between 2010 and 2014. Before that he served alternatively as trial counsel, defense counsel, and as a military judge for every year of his 23-year career in the United States Air Force.

Christensen has served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, Area Defense Counsel, Circuit Defense Counsel, Deputy Chief Circuit Defense Counsel, and Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, as a deployed Staff Judge Advocate, Chief Circuit Trial Counsel, and Staff Judge Advocate and as a Military Judge. He has tried over 150 courts-martial as a trial and defense counsel and has presided over 100 trials as a military judge.

He was born in Sturgis, South Dakota and received his law degree from Marquette University Law School. A third generation Air Force officer, he received his commission as a second lieutenant through ROTC and entered active service on 15 July 1991. Christensen is licensed to practice law before the Supreme Court of Wisconsin.



Adelaide Kahn  
*Director of Programs and Policy, Protect Our Defenders*

Adelaide Kahn received her Master's degree in Criminology from George Washington University and has been with Protect Our Defenders since 2016. Prior to joining the team, Adelaide developed a passion for advocacy while working for a number of nonprofits in Madison, WI, Los Angeles, CA, and Washington, DC, focusing on different sectors and topics. Since 2019, Adelaide has served as the Secretary-elect of the Military Women's Coalition, a nationwide coalition focusing on issues affecting service women past, present, and future. Although hailing from Los Angeles, CA, Adelaide received her Bachelor of Arts degree in International Relations with a focus on global security from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2012. She currently resides in Washington, DC.



Adrian Perry

*Co-Founder, Survivors United*

Adrian Perry is an advocate, mother, and spouse of an active duty Marine. After completing her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from Radford University, she married her husband Breck Perry and moved to Quantico, Virginia in 2002. When the Perry's moved to Oahu, Hawaii in 2003, Adrian discovered her passion for early childhood development. She attended Honolulu Community College where she took several Early Childhood courses while serving as the Director of a Preschool in Honolulu.

In 2005, their first child was born and Adrian became a dedicated mother of three girls over the last thirteen years and eight duty-stations across the United States and Japan. Throughout that time, Adrian has served as a substitute teacher, volunteer reading instructor, volunteer for multiple infantry battalions, and volunteer children's ministry teacher.

In 2016, the Perry Family personally experienced the hurt and pain that comes with sexual assault and also endured the exhaustion that comes with pursuing justice in the Military Justice System. Since this heartbreaking event, Adrian and her family have built resilience and become stronger than ever as a family. Adrian has put her recent experiences and energy into assisting sexual assault survivors and their families find the resources they need to know their rights, better understand military law, and seek the assistance they need to navigate the challenging and often emotionally frustrating legal system in the pursuit of justice.

From 2017 to 2018, Adrian has testified to the [Senate Armed Services Committee on Child Sexual Assault in the military](#) and has [spoken on Capitol Hill](#) in support of the [Military Justice Improvement Act](#). Adrian has spoken to several Senators, Representatives and their staff in an effort to shine light on current legislative inadequacies for sexual assault survivors in the United States Military, while recommending the necessary changes to ensure justice is served for sexual assault survivors and their families. She offered suggestions for the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. Adrian is a Co-Founder of Survivors United, an organization that is dedicated to providing peer-to-peer support and resources for individuals who have been sexually assaulted by U.S. Service members.

Adrian is currently living overseas in Okinawa, Japan with her family, and completing her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice with an Emphasis in Legal Studies (Pre-Law).



Lt. Col. Breck Perry, U.S. Marine Corps

Lieutenant Colonel Perry enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve in 2000 as a 1371 Combat Engineer where he was stationed in Roanoke, Virginia with Company B, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion. In 2001, Lieutenant Colonel Perry completed Officer Candidate School and graduated from Radford University with a Bachelor's Degree in International Economics. Following The Basic School and Infantry Officer's Course, Lieutenant Colonel Perry was assigned to 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines. From August 2003 to June 2006, Lieutenant Colonel Perry served as a Rifle Platoon Commander, Anti-Armor Platoon Commander, and Heavy Weapons Platoon Commander. During this time, he deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, and to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM 6.

In June 2006 to 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Perry was assigned to Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry (East) where he served as a Company Commander for Company C and the Headquarters and Instructor Company. In early 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Perry earned a Master's Degree in Homeland Security from American Military University. From May 2009 to August 2010, Lieutenant Colonel Perry attended the Expeditionary Warfare School as a resident student, and served as an instructor at Officer Candidate School during the summer cycle.

From August 2010 to December 2011, Lieutenant Colonel Perry served as the commander of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines where he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM 11. Shortly upon re-deployment, Lieutenant Colonel Perry reported to 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines where he served as the Advisor Team Leader for the 1st Kandak, 1st Brigade, 215th Afghan National Army Corps from January to November 2012. During this time, Lieutenant Colonel Perry deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM 12.

On March 2013, Lieutenant Colonel Perry reported for duty at III Expeditionary Operations Training Group (EOTG) in Okinawa, Japan. He served for two years as the Expeditionary Warfare Branch Officer in Charge from 2013 to 2015, and the Operations Officer from 2015 to 2016.

From May 2016 to September 2018, Lieutenant Colonel Perry served in 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines as the Battalion Executive Officer, and deployed in support of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Europe, Africa, and the Middle East. In October 2018, Lieutenant Colonel Perry served as the Force Marine Officer on the Combined Task Force- 76 staff in White Beach, Okinawa in support of crisis response and amphibious operations across the Pacific Command Area of Operations.

Lieutenant Colonel Perry has taught Expeditionary Warfare School and Command and Staff College to officers and senior enlisted Marines since 2013. Additionally, Lieutenant Colonel Perry was the 2015, 2016, and 2020 Major General Thomas Jones Award recipient as Non-Resident Instructor of the Year for the Okinawa Region.

Currently, Lieutenant Colonel Perry is serving at Training and Education Command in Quantico, Virginia. He serves as a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Victim Advocate (SAPR-VA), and is in the process of completing a doctorate in Educational Leadership. Lieutenant Colonel Perry is married to the former Adrian Lewis of Richmond, Virginia, and together they have three daughters.