**Initial Conversation with Attorney Tara Gaston, 20 Oct 17 @ 0900-0913**

Available by email anytime at tngaston@tngastonlaw.com

Overall Goal: allow service members to find info to advocate for themselves or realize when to seek counsel

* Partner was medically discharged from Navy, but confused about their rights and next steps in the process at each stage
  + Can result in rework, having to go back through the process to secure a different result, or even unintentional waiver of certain rights
* Understanding what comes next can allay fears
* Junior enlisted in particular may have difficulty speaking up for themselves to their superiors
* Medical discharge
  + Each service has its own processes and procedures
  + Forms are fairly routine
  + Can fight a discharge
    - What evidence is allowed?
  + Is access to counsel allowed?
  + Need to retain access to as many rights as possible
    - Respite care (key)
    - Family benefits
    - Transition benefits
    - Education benefits
    - Retraining rights
  + Many of the rules are statutory
    - Medical ratings
    - Cutoff for medical discharge v medical retirement (30%?)

Next steps:

* Jeff to research statutes/rules and set up a flowchart for Attorney Gaston to review
* Attorney Gaston to reach out to Military Spouse Attorneys group to put Jeff in touch with Air Force-specific guidance