

1 Each victim is different. Some are
2 emotionally shattered. Some are angry and exhibit
3 negative actions or behavior which will place them
4 in segregation or administrative lockup. And as
5 we've heard today over and over, some might quite
6 coolly deny that anything ever happened or took
7 place.

8 It is up to the investigator's instincts,
9 talent, training and commitment to secure the
10 truths and facts in these important investigations.

11 Thank you.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

13 Mr. Wittmann.

14 MR. WITTMANN: Thank you. My area of
15 responsibility as a criminal investigator is to
16 investigate crimes within a remote area in North
17 Western Pennsylvania. It's a small county that
18 consists of approximately 5,000 residents.

19 Within that county is a state correctional
20 facility which we're also tasked to investigate
21 crimes that occur at that facility. Within the
22 facility, there are approximately 2,000 male

1 inmates. And the facility has only been open for
2 not even two years to date; therefore, my
3 experience is limited and the only experience I
4 have in investigations at that facility involving
5 sexual assaults are inmate on inmate assaults.

6 We typically investigate serious crimes at the
7 state correctional facility, and often the crimes
8 are not reported to the Department of Corrections
9 staff until hours or days after the fact. The
10 victims in general do not report the crimes due to
11 the fear of the actor and wait to report until they
12 determine they are safe to do so.

13 The crimes I have investigated to date have
14 occurred within the two man cells, which do not
15 have video surveillance at those locations. I
16 generally proceed to the prison to begin the
17 investigation, and assistance is always rendered by
18 the prison security department. Usually the victim
19 and the defendants are transported by the
20 Department of Corrections to area hospitals for the
21 purpose of obtaining what are called rape kits.
22 Rape kits are then taken into custody and held as

1 evidence by the Pennsylvania State Police and then
2 submitted for testing as necessary.

3 I conduct my interviews as soon as possible
4 after receiving the report of the crime, even
5 though neither the victim nor the actor can be
6 forced to speak with me. A written statement is
7 generally obtained from the victim concerning the
8 events and from the actor if they are willing to do
9 so. A Department of Corrections counselor is often
10 available for the victim at that time. Often
11 uninvolved inmates have relevant information, but
12 obtaining cooperation from these inmates is
13 problematic.

14 The actors are usually placed in a restrictive
15 housing unit and often the victims or actors are
16 transferred to another facility following the
17 investigation, thus hindering my ability to conduct
18 a timely and thorough investigation.

19 Victims are occasionally unable to activate a
20 panic alarm inside of these cells due to the
21 placement of the device. And physical menace by
22 the act of physical force or threats there often

1 preclude any shouts or requests for assistance from
2 the victim is what we have found.

3 The Department of Corrections' security
4 officers are very helpful in obtaining the physical
5 evidence that does exist in coordinating the
6 interviews. In addition, they conduct
7 investigations and obtain information or
8 identification of other inmates that have knowledge
9 of the incident. Once the investigation is
10 conducted and it's determined that charges should
11 be filed in the investigation, we then coordinate
12 with the District attorney for the county that we
13 are in and file charges at that time.

14 One of the last things that I have is that
15 I've noticed everything is geared towards inmates
16 being sexual assault victims. And it's been my
17 experience that victims of sexual assault are
18 victims whether they're inside or outside of the
19 prison and obtaining cooperation from them is often
20 difficult.

21 Thank you.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.