

1 responsible for the overall monitoring of the  
2 Safe Prisons Program at the facility and works  
3 directly for the facility administrator responsible  
4 for the safety and security of the facility.

5                   Specific initiatives were identified  
6 and implemented that impact the issue of prison rape  
7 through the efforts of the Safe Prisons Program  
8 Management Office and the Safe Prisons Council. The  
9 initiative centered on education, training,  
10 prevention, reporting, investigation, prosecution, and  
11 data analysis.

12                   Effective June 1, 2006, TDC was awarded  
13 a subsequent one million dollar Federal grant on  
14 protecting inmates and safeguarding communities  
15 through the Office of Justice Programs, to enhance the  
16 existing initiatives and initiate a comprehensive  
17 intake orientation process.

18                   While this opening statement is meant  
19 to be a brief overview, I would like to re-emphasize  
20 that TDC's mission has been and will continue to be  
21 one of zero tolerance of sexual assaults. Thank you.

22                   CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you.

23                   Mr. Bales.

24                   MR. RALPH BALES: Thank you.

25                   What I would like to do is begin with

1 going to talk about some of those initiatives today.

2                   You know, a significant key to ending  
3 sexual assaults in prisons is to concentrate on  
4 prevention through offender education and awareness  
5 initiatives, staff training, the use of technology,  
6 and establishing comprehensive policies and  
7 procedures. You know, a key component to increasing  
8 offenders' awareness on preventing sexual assaults is  
9 to provide information to offenders upon their  
10 processing into the criminal justice system.

11                   In 2005, the Safe Prisons Program  
12 Management Office initiated procedures to provide  
13 sexual assault awareness information and brochures to  
14 offenders every time they participated in the intake  
15 process, to ensure that newly-received offenders are  
16 educated on the risk of sexual assault and the ensuing  
17 prosecution process. In addition, the offender  
18 orientation handbook, which is provided to offenders  
19 during the intake process was modified to address the  
20 issue of offender sexual assaults. Consequently, all  
21 offenders participating in the initial intake process  
22 or participating in an intake process in a new unit of  
23 assignment receives information pertaining to sexual  
24 assault prevention and the steps to report allegations  
25 of sexual assaults.



1 curriculum to the offender population in September of  
2 2006, which has resulted in over 1,000 classes being  
3 conducted with approximately 20,000 participants in  
4 attendance.

5                   In January of 2007, TDCJ initiated an  
6 enhanced intake orientation process, which includes a  
7 five-hour video on issues related to incarceration, a  
8 two-hour peer education presentation on health issues,  
9 and that three-hour sexual assault awareness peer  
10 education curriculum.

11                   Lastly, offenders in Texas published a  
12 newspaper called The Echo, which serves as another  
13 vehicle to inform the offender population about sexual  
14 assaults, prevention strategies, processes for  
15 reporting, and the agency's philosophy on the subject.  
16 The Safe Prisons Program Management Office submits  
17 annual articles to The Echo to assist in the  
18 educational process.

19                   Integral to the success of the Safe  
20 Prisons Program is training opportunities for staff  
21 that provide direct supervision of offenders. The  
22 Safe Prisons Program Management Office, the Department  
23 of Correctional Training and Staff Development have  
24 implemented a comprehensive training program designed  
25 to educate employees on the Safe Prisons Plan.

1                   Currently, TDCJ is experiencing a staff  
2 shortage in correctional officer positions. However,  
3 in order to minimize the impact of staff shortages on  
4 offender safety, the CTSD is providing the current  
5 employees with extensive training on the Safe Prisons  
6 Programs, both to heighten awareness of in-prison  
7 sexual violence in general and improve our ability to  
8 identify and respond to these incidents that occur on  
9 our facilities.

10                   CTSD provides initial training  
11 regarding Safe Prisons Program in the preservice  
12 training academy. This training includes instruction  
13 on three primary areas: Offender sexual assault,  
14 offender protection and investigations, and extortion  
15 issues. Trainees are introduced to PREA and are given  
16 detailed knowledge on the identification and staff  
17 intervention practices. In FY '06 alone, 23,184  
18 training hours were presented to 5,796 cadets during  
19 the academy. To further reinforce the academy  
20 instruction, a one-hour block of Safe Prisons Program  
21 was added to on-the-job training program. This is  
22 conducted by the Unit Safe Prisons Program  
23 Coordination in coordination with the Field Training  
24 Officer, and covers unit-specific procedures and  
25 points of contact.

1                   In FY '06, a total of 84,549 hours of  
2 recurrent training on the Safe Prisons Program was  
3 presented 28,183 employees in both supervisory and  
4 line staff positions through the in-service training  
5 program. Refresher training covers signs and  
6 characteristics of victims and perpetrators, reporting  
7 procedures, and prevention techniques. CTSD provides  
8 training on Safe Prison topics to supervisory staff  
9 with the implementation of Sergeants Academy and The  
10 Retreat and the Lieutenant Command School. A total  
11 3,571 hours of training on the sergeant's role in the  
12 Safe Prisons Program and how to conduct a thorough  
13 investigation have been provided to employees in the  
14 position of Sergeant of Correctional Officers, both  
15 veteran and newly promoted. An additional 211 hours  
16 of position-specific Safe Prisons instruction has been  
17 presented to staff in the position of Lieutenant of  
18 Correctional Officers. An annual training program for  
19 Majors and assistant wardens also includes a two-hour  
20 block covering the administration of the Safe Prisons  
21 Program. This training is provided to approximately  
22 100 assistant wardens and 120 majors each year.

23                   CTSD is in the earliest stages of  
24 development of a training course for agency Captains  
25 that will include instructions on advanced Safe

1 Prisons Program topics and, upon completion, training  
2 of the Safe Prisons Program will be provided to  
3 institutional staff at all levels.

4                   Additional training -- staff training  
5 is provided on a daily and monthly or quarterly basis  
6 by the Unit Safe Prisons Program Coordinator or Shift  
7 Supervisors. Issues concerning the Safe Prisons  
8 Program are addressed with staff in turn on a  
9 quarterly basis, and Shift Supervisors provide  
10 remedial training monthly regarding the Safe Prisons  
11 Plan.

12                   TDCJ is committed to providing enhanced  
13 sexual awareness training for medical personnel as  
14 well, and to improved medical examination services  
15 provided to offender sexual victims. Currently, all  
16 medical services provided to offenders are through the  
17 University Medical School healthcare providers under  
18 the contract with the Correctional Managed Healthcare  
19 Committee.

20                   When there is an allegation of sexual  
21 assault, medical services personnel oversee the  
22 medical examination and administration of a forensic  
23 collection kit. Information obtained from the  
24 offender during the medial interview, evaluation, and  
25 examination are shared with the Office of the

1 Inspector General investigators. In order to improve  
2 these services and training, TDCJ employed a sexual  
3 assault examination coordination, who is a licensed  
4 register nurse and a certified sexual assault nurse  
5 examiner. The Office of the Texas Attorney General's  
6 Sexual Assault Prevention and Crisis Service  
7 coordinates that certification and training.

8                   The coordinator is responsible for  
9 planning and implementing training for unit level  
10 nurses, mid-level practitioners, and physicians. The  
11 training for clinical staff includes the proper  
12 techniques for performing the examinations, collecting  
13 samples, chain of custody procedures, and testifying  
14 in the court. The coordinator is also responsible for  
15 providing liaison functions with the nonhealth care  
16 departments in the TDCJ. Funding from the Federal  
17 grant enabled TDCJ to pilot initiatives that assist in  
18 the prevention sexual assaults. Specifically, TDCJ  
19 modified existing cell doors to provide enhanced  
20 visibility and installed digital surveillance cameras  
21 in high-impact areas. Okay.

22                   TDC officials utilized data obtained  
23 from reported incidents to determine the most  
24 appropriate location to place digital video  
25 surveillance cameras. So video surveillance cameras

1 are on of those. In addition, we were -- placed  
2 visually-enhanced cell doors and 260 doors were  
3 replaced in 200 -- I'm sorry. In ten of the  
4 facilities. In addition to cell door modifications  
5 and surveillance equipment, the Safe Prisons Program  
6 Management Office implemented various database  
7 components to assist in the collection and analysis of  
8 sexual assault data. A sexual assault predator  
9 database was developed in order to help in the process  
10 of identifying potential predators and victims on the  
11 facilities. The database is a collaborative effort  
12 between the Safe Prisons Program Management Office,  
13 the Classification and Records Department, and the  
14 OIG. The Safe Prisons Program Management Office  
15 documents offenders identified as potential predators  
16 by the OIG on the TDCJ mainframe system. This  
17 identification aids the facilities when considering  
18 housing, job assignments, or programs for offenders.

19                   A Safe Prisons Automated Management  
20 System was designed to assist in collecting the number  
21 of allegations of sexual assaults, offender  
22 protection, investigations completed, and cell  
23 searches completed due to extortion reports.

24                   Lastly, an integrated database was  
25 developed that maintains relevant data pertinent to

1 the allegations of sexual assaults reported to the  
2 agency.

3                   In January of 2005, TDCJ implemented  
4 the Safe Prisons Plan, just as you -- Mr. Stacks  
5 discussed. Okay. It was a comprehensive plan,  
6 identifying specific policies and procedures for the  
7 prevention and intervention of sexual assaults. The  
8 Plan was revised in September 2005. It is in the  
9 process of undergoing its second revision.

10                   In closing, I would like to quote from  
11 one of the opening paragraphs in the Safe Prisons  
12 Plan. I believe that it epitomizes the very heart of  
13 the Safe Prisons Program and the goal TDCJ hopes to  
14 achieve through its implementation.

15                   That each offender deserves to complete  
16 their incarceration in safety. An offender does not  
17 have to prove his life is in danger to obtain  
18 protective custody, safekeeping status, or one of the  
19 other options available for protecting offenders. An  
20 offender does not have to go and undergo an assault  
21 before receiving protection, and an offender does not  
22 have to fight his predator in order to receive  
23 protection. Sexual abuse should not be a way of life  
24 in prison.

25                   I would like to thank you for allowing