CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you very much for your testimony.

Sir.

MR. MARK DECOTEAU: Members of the Commission, I'm Mark Decoteau, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services and Indian Police Academy Deputy Chief of Training.

Thank you for inviting me to speak with you today about the BIA Detention Center Program. I'm here today to discuss the training outlined in our curriculum for both the police officers training and the basic correctional officers training programs in reference to sexual assaults. I would like to discuss the courses offered and provide some information about the type and number of the credit hours provided for each class.

Our basic police officer training program is a 16-week program, consisting of 770 hours of classroom lecture and instructions. Our basic correctional officers training program is an eight-week training program, consisting 443 hours of training. Within those hours of training, our basic police officers receive four hours of sex crimes in Indian Country. This provides a discussion of special problems encountered during rape investigations.
Emphasis is placed on an officer's sensitivity to the victim's needs and the importance of a complete interview.

Our basic police officers receive two hours of intake procedures. Our basic correctional officers receive four hours of intake procedures. Through lecture and classroom discussion, the course examines the importance of the proper handling of the inmates during the booking and admissions process in detention facilities. Inmate security and control are critical during the booking and admission process. Both our basic corrections and basic police officers receive two hours of victim/witness training. In many criminal investigations, the single most important piece of evidence is the eyewitness's statement and key victims and witnesses.

Both our police and correctional officers receive two hours of crisis intervention training through lecture and classroom discussion. This course examines the roles of the law enforcement officer when dealing with crisis victims, illuminates the various levels of crisis, and identified, along with the common emotional and behavioral responses of victims. Both receive four hours of -- six hours of training through the lectures in communications and
interviewing. This is followed by a four-hour lab exercise, using well-trained role players in a safe, controlled environment. An officer learns to identify the significant elements of verbal and nonverbal communications as they are related to the human interactions. Both receive eight hours of training through lectures and verbal judo, followed by a four-hour laboratory exercise with well-trained role players in a safe and controlled environment.

Verbal judo is a tactic verbal -- tactical verbal communication process that an officer can employ to generate voluntary compliance on the part of uncooperative individuals.

Our basic police officers receive four hours of training through lecture in crime scene preservation, followed by a two-hour laboratory exercise. The crime scene preservation course introduces the field of forensic science with emphasis on the criminalistics of this field. The course exposes the students to such fundamentals of criminalistics as the chain of command, elements of crimes -- elements of crimes, the classes, and individual identifying characteristics functions of a crime laboratory.

Our basic police receive two hours of
training through lecture in how the crime laboratory can assist the officers in their investigation, to include a laboratory exercise. The crime lab course presents ways the crime lab can assist the investigators. The course instructs demonstrates -- instructor demonstrates the materials that the officers may use to reduce -- to reduce the crime. The following subject areas are covered: The use of casting and moldings to reproduce impressions; the use of invisible chemical substances to assist in the identification of persons, money, and other objects that may be involved in the criminal activities.

Our officers receive two hours of lecture in basic photography, which includes a two-hour laboratory exercise following. The photography course examines the proper techniques for photographing crime scenes and individuals for identification purposes.

Our basic police officers receive six hours of courtroom evidence training. Through lecture and classroom discussions, the course in courtroom evidence examines the principles of evidence as set forth in the Federal Rules of Evidence. Emphasis is placed on the admissibility, classification, and method of presentation and weight of evidence in the
Federal system. Both receive two hours of lecture on courtroom testimony, followed by a two-hour laboratory exercise using Federal Law Enforcement Training Center staff. The courtroom testimony course introduces officers to the proper methods of testifying in courtroom situations.

The courtroom testimony practical exercise, this course is designed to assist the officers in becoming efficient and convincing courtroom witnesses. This course will also prepare the officers for common cross examination scenarios and the truthful and proper way to handle them.

The BIA Office of Justice Services Indian Police Academy is devoted to providing top quality training for BIA and tribal law enforcement and correctional officers. Through effective training programs, the Indian Police Academy prepares our officers to competently and professionally investigate sexual assaults that occur within Indian Country, including those committed in detention facilities.

We look forward to working with the national rape -- the National Prison Rape Elimination Commission to ensure that such incidents are investigated in a thorough and effective manner.

Thank you for inviting me to present