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

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

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. Wittmann.

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

Within that county is a state correctional facility which we're also tasked to investigate crimes that occur at that facility. Within the facility, there are approximately 2,000 male
inmates. And the facility has only been open for
not even two years to date; therefore, my
experience is limited and the only experience I
have in investigations at that facility involving
sexual assaults are inmate on inmate assaults.

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

The crimes I have investigated to date have
occurred within the two man cells, which do not
have video surveillance at those locations. I
generally proceed to the prison to begin the
investigation, and assistance is always rendered by
the prison security department. Usually the victim
and the defendants are transported by the
Department of Corrections to area hospitals for the
purpose of obtaining what are called rape kits.
Rape kits are then taken into custody and held as
evidence by the Pennsylvania State Police and then
submitted for testing as necessary.

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

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

Victims are occasionally unable to activate a
panic alarm inside of these cells due to the
placement of the device. And physical menace by
the act of physical force or threats there often
preclude any shouts or requests for assistance from
the victim is what we have found.

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

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

Thank you.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.