to appear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much, Mr. Secretary. We appreciate your testimony. Okay. We will now hear the testimony of Sheriff Oxley.

MR. OXLEY: Mr. Chairman, members of the commission, my distinguished colleagues, I too am honored and humbled to be here offering some thoughts on where we are and where we need to head. Initially, as you did, I would like to give you a little bit about my background and get a perspective from where I'm coming from.

I served as a former assistant county prosecutor and currently president elect for the American Jail Association. I'm a certified jail manager. Our correctional facility is nationally accredited by the American Correction Association and the Maximum Commission on Correctional Health Care. And yearly we have inspections from both our state Department of Corrections and also the federal office because we do house federal detainees. It's a 1,328 bed facility and roughly
12 to 14,000 folks come to our facility throughout the course of the year.

I say this because I think it's important and I appreciate the acknowledgment that you gave. I think throughout the United States as you do your good work, you're going to see that our facilities are staffed by competent and qualified professionals. I think you're going to see that you'll have universal acceptance of both the mission and the things that we need to do to address this issue. There's good folks out there, and I don't believe there's a competent correctional professional that does not support the things that you are trying to do.

My testimony here today is as the chairman of the National Sheriffs' Association Accreditation Detention and Corrections Committee. I am here representing that organization of 3100 elected sheriffs and over 20,000 deputies and other professionals. We are an organization that does an awful lot of training. And certainly our organization and the training that we do, we will
be happy to assist the commission that you have
been given by both the President and Congress.

The Accreditation Detention and Corrections
Committee has discussed the Prison Rape Elimination
Act since its inception. We continue to seek
information and solutions to this issue facing
local corrections community. Our association
endorses a two-step approach to address the issue.
First, we would like to see the development of
solid policies and procedures, a template coupled
with specific training and protocols covering all
aspects of sexual misconduct within our jail
facility.

I just want to echo my other colleague. I
think you need to do whatever our best practices
are going to be, you need to do and work with those
organizations. The American Correctional
Association has been accrediting facilities for
years and years and years. They've got good
policies, good procedures. So I think we need to
have those types of partnerships so that the
policies that we're going to develop and the best
practices that will come from your hard work will
be things that certainly can be readily implemented
and easily implemented throughout the facilities in
the United States.

Secondly, as a profession, I think we also
need greater access to proven inmate classification
models and well-managed incident reporting systems
that provide correctional administrators with
additional tools to better monitor the status of
their facilities.

In all this, very, very important, which are
performed, as I said, by the American Correction
Association and the National Commission on
Correctional Health Care provide administrators
with an outside objectively view of their operation
and safety of their jails.

Traditionally, our jails throughout the United
States release inmates directly back into the
community, inmates that certainly may have had the
additional trauma, the additional stigmatation of
sexual assault are going to come back into our
communities, perhaps more violent, perhaps more
unstable, and perhaps less likely and less able to integrate within our communities. So this clearly is an issue that needs to be addressed, but I think as you saw, a lot of the members reported on the subject.

And I was pleased Mr. Ryan indicated the media. The media sometimes portrays our facilities in the worst possible light. I think the statistics, and I agree that even one is too many, but the statistics show that hundreds of thousands of people that come through our facility, the numbers are small. And that is not what is pertained sometimes in the print and the broadcast media. So I think it's important that we know as professionals, I think it's important that you as a commissioner realize the professionals within our correctional profession know that we are responsible for getting these people back into the community, to making sure that they're reintegrated in the community, and to make sure as we can to reduce the numbers of people that are serving in our correctional facilities.
I believe sheriffs and all their entities that are responsible for operating the nation's jails are doing an excellent job in addressing the issues of sexual misconduct and violence, the profession that continues to strive for the total elimination of inmate rape and all the forms of sexual misconduct in the facilities. The National Sheriffs' Association staff is fully prepared to assist the commission and the Bureau of Justice with their respective missions. We're eager to assist the National Institute of Corrections in its mission after developing and providing training, model policies and procedures and follow persistence with the nation's sheriffs and jail administration to eliminate the detrimental behavior. I thank you very much for your time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for your testimony.

At this time, he will open up the floor for questions from our fellow commissioners. I was asked not to just identify anyone, but as long as we don't have disorder.