

Good morning.

I am Senior Special Agent Guy Surian with the US Army Criminal Investigation Command, commonly known as CID. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today on this very important topic. I've been investigating felony-level crime and , reviewing, training, mentoring and supervising CID Special Agents for more than 30 years. CID takes sexual assaults extremely seriously and has addressed sexual assaults in a three pronged approach, training, investigating and assessing combined with our prevention efforts.

As background for those not familiar with CID, the command investigated more than 12,700 felony cases in Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13), with more than 2,500 of them being sexual assaults. Of those, 1,833 met the Department of Defense's definition needing to be reported to Congress. In FY13, the average length of time for a sexual assault investigation from initiation to completion was 109 days. The delay between an incident and when it is reported, as well as where the incident occurs and whether the suspect is a civilian or a military member, tends to affect how rapidly an investigation can be completed. In FY13, the average turnaround time for DNA examinations at the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory (USACIL) was 57 days, and the turnaround time for the processing of all sexual assault evidence at USACIL was 76 days.

To address the level of felony crime needing investigation, the command has 747 authorized agents in 71 field investigative units from Korea and Japan, throughout the United States, to Germany and Italy, as well as in Kuwait and Afghanistan. The field agents consist of 354 Warrant Officer agents, 371 Enlisted agents and 22 Civilian Sexual Assault Investigators. The average experience level of those agents is 9.8 years for the WOs, 3.9 years for the Enlisted and 18.1 years for the civilian agents.

In 2005, CID and the US Army Military Police School (USAMPS) established an even more robust and aggressive sexual assault related training across the command and in our basic agent training course. All CID agents attend a 15-week basic CID Special Agent Course focused on felony level investigations, including all violent crime. All CID agents receive 16 hours of classroom training specifically concerning sexual assaults; as well as practical exercises concerning sexual assault investigations (taught by same instructors as the Special Victim Unit

Investigator Course), 126 hours of crime scene processing, and 200 hours of criminalistics and death investigations, with the last two focused on evidence identification, crime scene processing, and interviews and interrogations. After they graduate from the basic course, all CID agents serve a 1-year probationary period during which their investigative abilities and skills are assessed on a monthly basis. Only agents that successfully complete this probationary period are finally accredited as CID agents. All CID agents also receive annual refresher training which incorporates lessons learned during the last year, with oversight by USAMPS and Highly Qualified Experts. We also enhance our training of our agents by providing a 40-hour Special Agent-in-Charge training course for all new Special Agents-in-Charge of our field offices. CID has incorporated all lessons learned; best practices and training in a command sponsored CID pamphlet for Special Agents only entitled the Sexual Assault Investigation Handbook.

In 2009, recognizing the need to provide advanced sexual assault investigation training, an 80-hour Special Victim Unit (SVU) Investigator Course was established at USAMPS. Both the basic agent training and the SVU course are fully accredited by the Federal Law Enforcement Training Accreditation Board. The SVU course has nationally identified expert instructors from around the United States (civilian detectives, lawyers (Civilian and Military) and psychologists and physicians), with the head instructor and proponent being Mr. Russell Strand. Russell Strand received the FY12 Visionary Award from the Ending Violence Against Women International and is also recognized by the National Association of Prosecutor Coordinators (NAPC) as one of their "Recommended Speakers." The SVU course has supported the training for sexual assault investigators and attorneys from all the Services and the Coast Guard, with over 900 attendees since FY10. All agents from the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoDIG) Violent Crime Division, who are involved in oversight and review of the military criminal investigation organizations' (MCIOs) sexual assault investigations, have attended the SVU course. Every three years at the USAMPS, each course has to be re-evaluated through a critical task selection board which develops the program of instructions. That re-evaluation occurred in December 2012, and resulted in expanding certain courses of the instruction to provide advanced training in child abuse and domestic violence as mandated by the FY13 National Defense Authorization Act. A Highly Qualified Expert, who is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, from the Department of Defense

(DoD) Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) was a critical member of the board, along with representatives from all the Services and the Coast Guard, and he assisted in validating the course curriculum. Some of the topics presented during the SVU course are outlined on Slide #5 in the presentation.

The course has integrated the Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview, known as FETI. The FETI technique draws on best practices of child forensic interviews, trauma interviews, critical incident stress management and motivational interview techniques that combine them into a simple approach that unlocks the trauma experience for the victim. Instead of just obtaining the facts associated with testimonial and physical evidence, the FETI interviews have obtained the forensic psychophysiological evidence associated with the trauma the victim experienced, while limiting further traumatizing the victim. The FETI technique has been shown to reduce victim recantation, increase victim cooperation and participation, and to support prosecution efforts. This has been very effective for our agents in the field, as it continues to generate better testimonial evidence that ultimately helps us bring those responsible to justice. FETI has been featured as a best practice by numerous national organizations including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Ending Violence Against Women International, Battered Women's Justice Project and the New York State Police Academy. It is also being used by Department of Homeland Security criminal investigative agencies.

In the beginning, the 80-hour SVU course was focused on the newly hired Civilian SAIs and those more senior CID agents who were the supervisors of agents. Since then, the SVU course has focused on the case agent. The SVU course was identified by the CID Commanding General as a core competency course for all agents, with the goal to have 100% of our CID agents trained and to maintain a 50% trained level of the agents at each office. Completion of the SVU course results in the awarding of an Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) at the basic level for the CID agents, so that the force can be managed to meet the Commanding General's mandate. Only agents in good standing and with at least 3 years of experience can attend the SVU. In order to obtain a Senior SVU ASI, we provide an 80-hour Advanced Crime Scene course at USAMPS, a DoD sponsored 64-hour Child Abuse and Prevention Training course, and a DoD sponsored 40-hour Domestic Violence and Intervention Training course.

In order to enhance our investigative efforts in 2009, CID hired 28 civilian Sexual Assault Investigators (SAIs) who are at 22 major Army installations. Since then, due to budget constraints, the number dropped to 22 SAIs, but in FY13, the number of SAIs should be increased to 30. The SAIs are stationed at the largest Army installations, where they run sexual assault teams and have the ability to provide guidance, training and mentorship to all the agents in that office as well as to other CID offices in their areas of responsibility. We also have surge capabilities to any CID office or any Army installation of any size or location that may require assistance. CID also has Forensic Science Officers who have Masters of Forensic Science degrees at all CID battalions, who provide forensic guidance to their subordinate agents. These same capabilities are also utilized in Afghanistan and Kuwait (and Iraq while the Army still had a presence there). As previously mentioned, to augment the civilian SAIs, CID has adopted training and certification process to identify basic and senior SVU skill level military agents to ensure that at least a basic SVU agent is assigned to all CID offices worldwide. CID has always worked all sexual assaults ever since it became a separate command reporting to the Secretary of the Army in 1972, and we have determined one of the valuable efforts to assure some transparency in the investigative process was to ensure the victim was briefed on the investigation every 30 days.

In order to assess and prevent, CID has incorporated the GAO recommendation for early CID and prosecutor coordination. CID participates in monthly meetings with the other parties involved in sexual assault prevention and response to identify best practices and efficiencies. CID conducts frequent sexual assault awareness briefings to commanders with trends in order for them to assess their units. We also provide the briefings to unit members to assist in the identification of the possible signs of a potential sexual assault and how to assist their "battle buddy" to be aware. CID has intensive case review and quality assurance procedures enacted through an extensive Organizational Inspection Program. Quarterly staff assistance visits by the battalions are conducted, as well as initial command inspections for all new commanders and special agents-in-charge at all levels. The Command IG teams inspect each battalion on a bi-yearly schedule. The inspections are based on the thoroughness (90%), timeliness (85%) and timely reporting (90%) standards for investigations. The IG is also evaluating the effectiveness of the special victim teams. They assess the standing in the community, working with special victim prosecutors and coordination with commanders. The deficiencies and

systemic issues are documented and incorporated into the training schedules.

Some of the challenges we face in successfully completing sexual assault investigations in a timely and thorough manner are internal (as with the approval authority for consensual intercept operations residing at the Army General Counsel level, where a pre-text call could be made before any overt investigative activity (such as crime scene processing) is undertaken), to military legal issues (as with the need to advise victims' of their rights for collateral misconduct issues) to the relatively immediate (within 72 hours of a victim's request) movement of a victim to a new location. We continue to address our concerns at the appropriate level in hopes of improving the investigation of sexual assaults.

Some promising initiatives that we have developed in the past year include co-locating both the Special Victim Prosecutors and the CID SVU Team in the same building, fostering even closer working relationships and coordination to ensure that investigations are conducted, and evidence collected, to facilitate the possible prosecution of offenders, the development of a multi-discipline team consisting of prosecutors, legal assistance, medical care, victim advocates and investigators at a single location where victims can walk or call in and receive help for a sexual assault, and a training program focused on making medical personnel more aware of the special needs and forensic evidence possibilities in sexual assault examinations.

Thank you so much for your time.