

1 CHAIRMAN WALTON: Thank you very much
2 for your testimony.

3 Sir.

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

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

17 Our basic police officer training
18 program is a 16-week program, consisting of 770 hours
19 of classroom lecture and instructions. Our basic
20 correctional officers training program is an
21 eight-week training program, consisting 443 hours of
22 training. Within those hours of training, our basic
23 police officers receive four hours of sex crimes in
24 Indian Country. This provides a discussion of special
25 problems encountered during rape investigations.

1 Emphasis is placed on an officer's sensitivity to the
2 victim's needs and the importance of a complete
3 interview.

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

17 Both our police and correctional
18 officers receive two hours of crisis intervention
19 training through lecture and classroom discussion.
20 This course examines the roles of the law enforcement
21 officer when dealing with crisis victims, illuminates
22 the various levels of crisis, and identified, along
23 with the common emotional and behavioral responses of
24 victims. Both receive four hours of -- six hours of
25 training through the lectures in communications and

1 interviewing. This is followed by a four-hour lab
2 exercise, using well-trained role players in a safe,
3 controlled environment. An officer learns to identify
4 the significant elements of verbal and nonverbal
5 communications as they are related to the human
6 interactions. Both receive eight hours of training
7 through lectures and verbal judo, followed by a
8 four-hour laboratory exercise with well-trained role
9 players in a safe and controlled environment.

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

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

25 Our basic police receive two hours of

1 training through lecture in how the crime laboratory
2 can assist the officers in their investigation, to
3 include a laboratory exercise. The crime lab course
4 presents ways the crime lab can assist the
5 investigators. The course instructs demonstrates --
6 instructor demonstrates the materials that the
7 officers may use to reduce -- to reduce the crime.
8 The following subject areas are covered: The use of
9 casting and moldings to reproduce impressions; the use
10 of invisible chemical substances to assist in the
11 identification of persons, money, and other objects
12 that may be involved in the criminal activities.

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

19 Our basic police officers receive six
20 hours of courtroom evidence training. Through lecture
21 and classroom discussions, the course in courtroom
22 evidence examines the principles of evidence as set
23 forth in the Federal Rules of Evidence. Emphasis is
24 placed on the admissibility, classification, and
25 method of presentation and weight of evidence in the

1 Federal system. Both receive two hours of lecture on
2 courtroom testimony, followed by a two-hour laboratory
3 exercise using Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
4 staff. The courtroom testimony course introduces
5 officers to the proper methods of testifying in
6 courtroom situations.

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

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

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

25 Thank you for inviting me to present