



INVESTIGATING SEXUAL ASSAULTS

SSA Chancellor provides instruction on staged crime scenes. (Photos by Investigator Lee Cable and article conducted by SA Adam Armstrong, Forensic Science Officer, 10th MP BN (CID), Fort Bragg, NC 28310)

Between 13 – 16, Nov 18, Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) Arthur “Steve” Chancellor, Assistant Operations Officer (AOPS), 10th Military Police Battalion (CID), Fort Bragg, NC, conducted personalized training identified as “Investigating Sexual Assaults.” Attendance to the course was offered throughout USACIDC and state, local and federal law enforcement entities within the Southern United States, wherein approximately 42 individuals attended daily.

The concept of the training was to delve into investigative training focused on the offender and provide instruction on various interview techniques, primarily the Behavior Orientated Interview Technique. This technique is designed to capture more information on the offender's behavior before, during, and after the crime. The purpose was to identify the offender type involved in the incident. There is a special interview approach which is beneficial for each offender type to get more information from the offender during their interrogation. Further, SSA Chancellor taught extensively on the importance of Victimology, which is an investigative technique focused on looking at the victim from the offender's perspective and determining the victim's risk factors for becoming a victim of a crime. Unfortunately, this is an investigative tool not used often enough; however, it plays a crucial role in better understanding the circumstances leading up to the criminal act. SA Aaron Barnes, NC State Bureau of Investigation, Greenville, NC, stated “I enjoyed the portion focused on using different techniques when interviewing offender's, and will incorporate more themes.” SSA Chancellor utilized real-life situations to greatly enhance the training. One of the methods consisted of providing the attendees three victim statements and they were detailed in analyzing them to strengthen the investigation from “he said vs. she said,” to “they said vs. he said.” This was a powerful exercise to many attendees. Detective Brad Byrd, Harnett County Sheriff's Office, Lillington, NC, stated “I will focus more

on reviewing the victim's statement multiple times to ensure all information is extracted and will incorporate more victim history to better develop victimology.” Further, within many sexual assault investigations, the offender will often argue whether consent was provided by the victim. SSA Chancellor provided insight into the “resistance” demonstrated by the victim to counter an offender's statement, which was emphasized on by conducting hands-on reviews of victim statements. SA Brian C. Russell, Fort Knox CID Office, Fort Knox, KY, stated “Understanding offender and victim typology will assist in conducting future interviews and I enjoyed the victim focused interviews as understanding their reaction to the sexual assault when they resist the offender was eye-opening.” Further, SSA Chancellor conducted analysis on reviewing multiple victim statements to identify one offender, which he subsequently emphasized by having attendees conduct their own reviews and provide their analysis. Many of the attendees appreciated the rawness of SSA Chancellor's instruction, as Officer Selina Lawless-Felarca, NC Department of Public Safety, Probation and Parole, Raleigh, NC, explained as “The bluntness of the course material and the lack of filters allowed for realistic training, which will prepare us for the field.”

According to SSA Chancellor, this course was designed to refocus our attention on the suspect and their actions before, during, and after the incident and identify general investigative leads which would assist in corroborating the victim's allegations. Further, to provide them other general information on offenders and their deviate sexual practices that most agents do not receive in other training.

SSA Chancellor retired from the US Army CID in 2001 as a CW4 and rejoined CID in 2008. He is currently the Assistant Operations Officer, 10th MP BN (CID). Chancellor has provided this same training across the US to various civilian police agencies as a paid instructor and is the author of *Investigating Sexual Assault Crimes*, Jones and Barlett Learning, Springfield MA, (2012).