

THE TRANSFORMATION OF A MAJOR CASE INVESTIGATIONS COMMANDER

**WHAT CHANGED MY ATTITUDE TOWARD
GENDER BIAS AND HOW THIS CAN BE
APPLIED TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT?**



PRESENTER

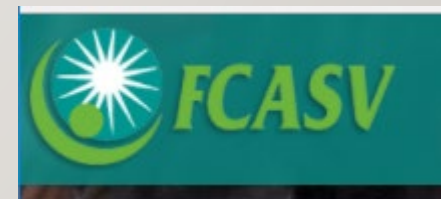
Captain Mike Schentrup

Gainesville Police Department

22 years – 12 years in Investigations

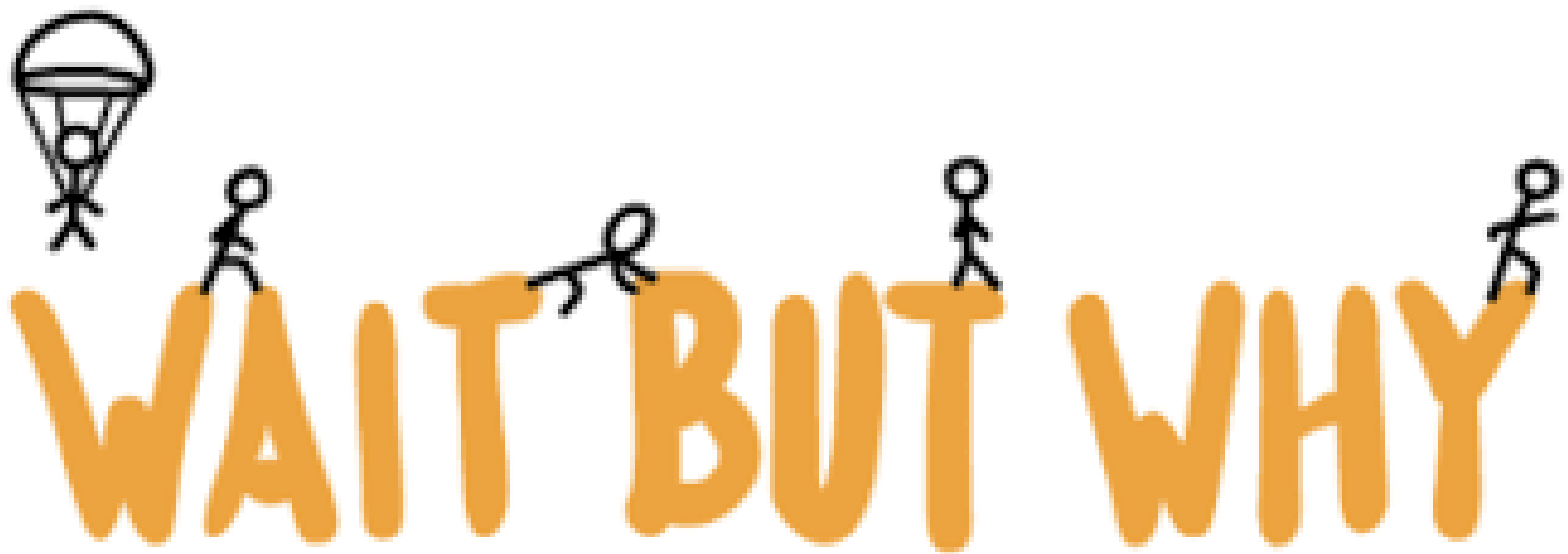


Instructor and Speaker



MAJOR CASE DETECTIVE 2003-2010



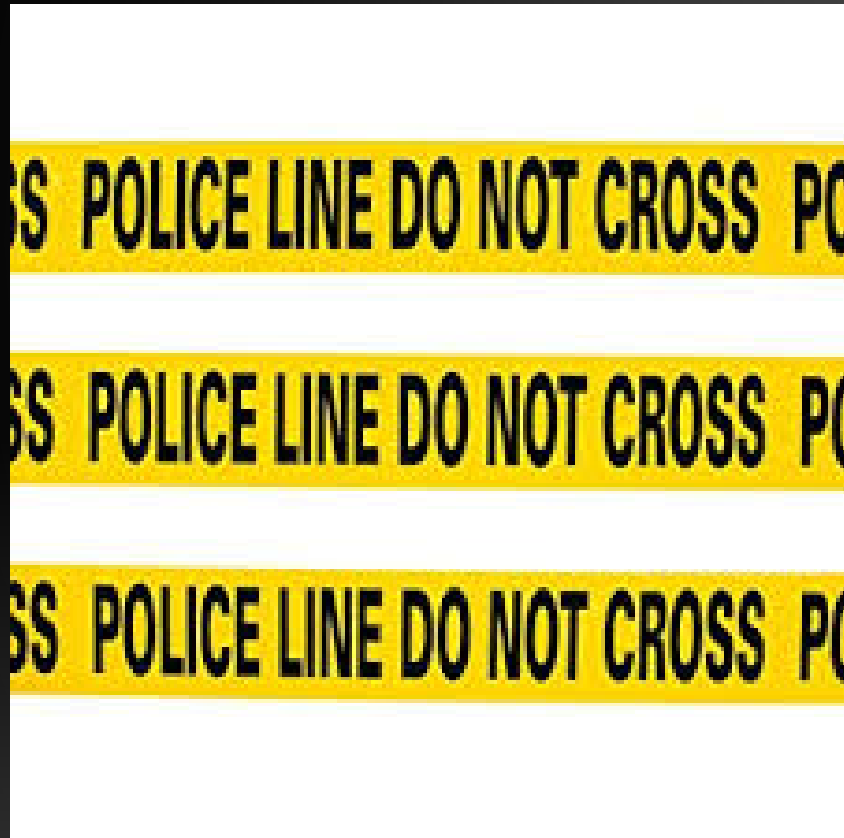


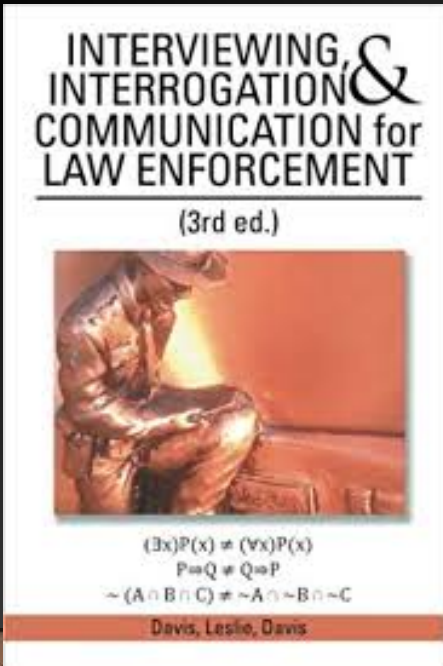
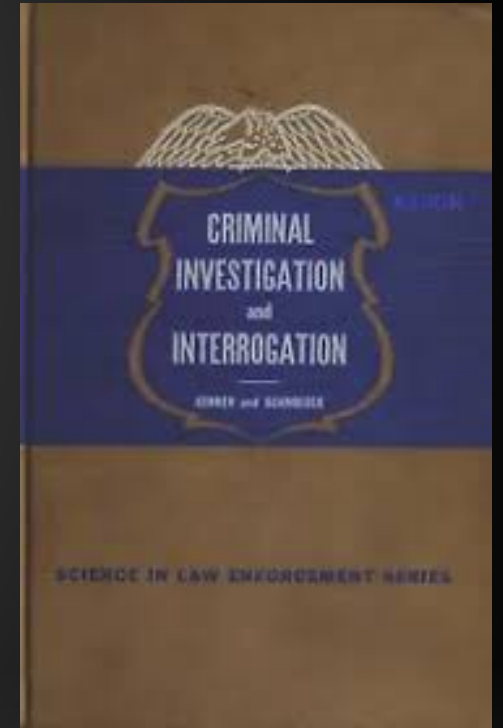
WAIT BUT WHY

Traditional long-held values on sex.



HOW DOES THE JOB AFFECT US?



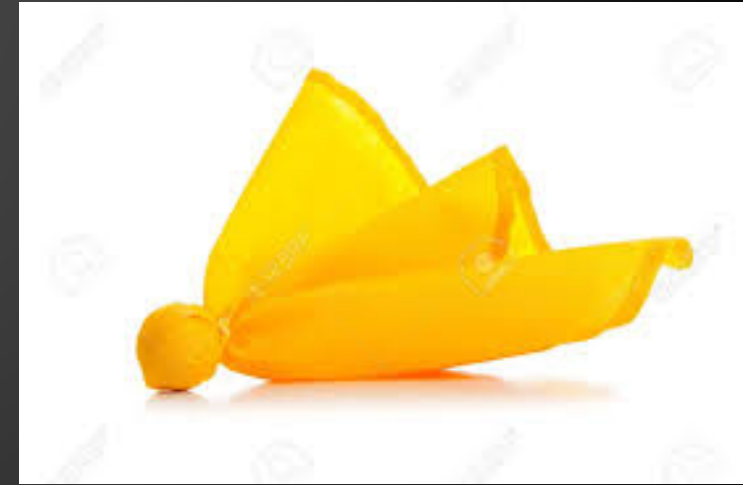


TRAINING



INSTITUTIONAL BIAS

“Just because a girl wakes up with her underwear on backwards and a little sore, but can’t remember anything, doesn’t mean she was raped”

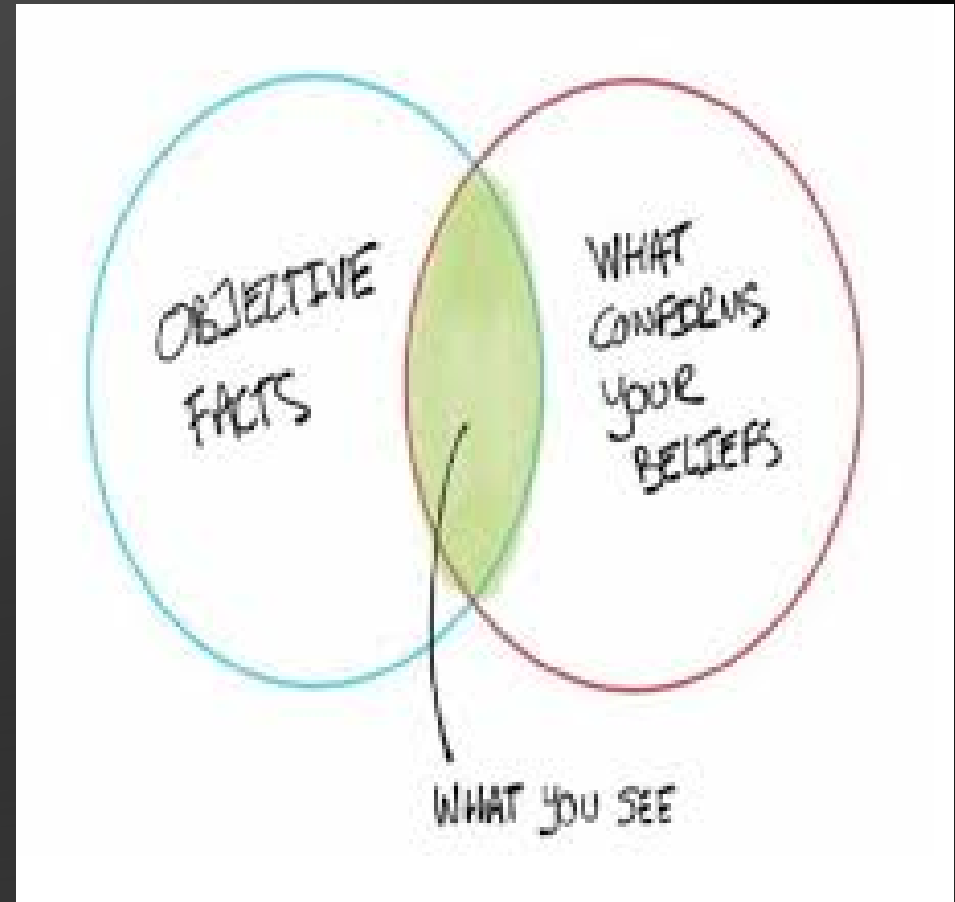


Suspicious
Incidents

EXPERIENCE

CONFIRMATION BIAS

Here we go again...



SO HOW MANY MISTAKES DID I MAKE?

- Start each investigation with a skeptical attitude – YES
- Focused on victim's behavior - YES
- Ask a lot of WHY questions – YES
- Just some of the things I did!

SO WHAT CHANGED?



HOW MY CHANGE BEGAN

- 2014 named Lieutenant over criminal investigations
- Worked with passionate, competent SVU sergeant
- She convinced me to take some training on Trauma Informed Response

THE FIRST AHA MOMENT

Summer 2016, attended Russell Strand training hosted by FCASV

AND he really hit me with the research and logic

This was my first “AHA” moment.



AHA: TRAUMA LOOKS LIKE LYING



LIAR, LIAR....

Most people have been trained that LIARS:

- Avert their gaze, act fidgety, look nervous
- Are inconsistent, appear more tense
- Have physiological reactions such as high blood pressure, increased heart rate, increased respiration (lie detector signs)
- May demonstrate emotional arousal or non-emotional flat affect
- Appear to be disorganized

(Adapted from Russell Strand)

AHA: MOST REPORTS ARE DELAYED REPORTS.

BELIEF: “If she was really raped, she would have called the police almost immediately“ like all other crime victims do.”

DELAYED REPORTING RATES

The National Women's Study Replication, funded by the National Institute of Justice, in 2005:

- 18% of forcible rapes are reported to law enforcement
- **One-quarter of victims reported within 24 hours**
- 10% of drug and alcohol facilitated rapes are reported.

For this survey, rape is defined as completed forced penetration, attempted forced penetration, or alcohol/drug facilitated forced penetration. "Sexual violence other than rape" means unwanted sexual contact short of penetration, and unwanted, coerced penetration.



DELAYED REPORTING RATES

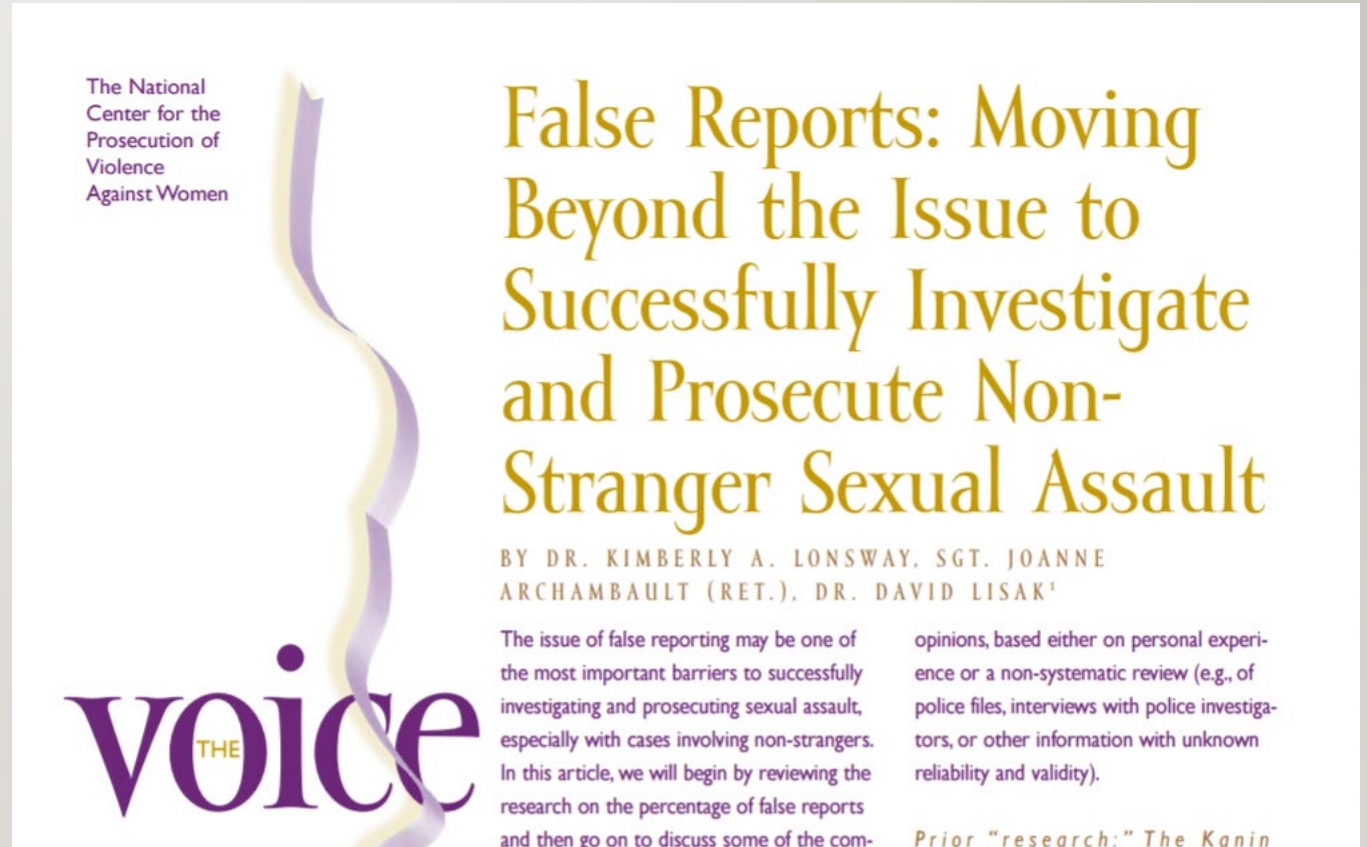
I asked myself honestly:

“what if I was raped?”

**AHA: BECAUSE A SURVIVOR LIES
ABOUT ONE THING, DOESN'T
MEAN THE RAPE DIDN'T HAPPEN**

**CONFIRMATION BIAS: “I knew it all along, she was
lying.”**

“Even if aspects of the victim’s account of the incident are missing, exaggerated, or false, this does not necessarily mean that the sexual assault did not happen.”



The National Center for the Prosecution of Violence Against Women

False Reports: Moving Beyond the Issue to Successfully Investigate and Prosecute Non-Stranger Sexual Assault

BY DR. KIMBERLY A. LONSWAY, SGT. JOANNE ARCHAMBAULT (RET.), DR. DAVID LISAK¹

The issue of false reporting may be one of the most important barriers to successfully investigating and prosecuting sexual assault, especially with cases involving non-strangers. In this article, we will begin by reviewing the research on the percentage of false reports and then go on to discuss some of the com-

opinions, based either on personal experience or a non-systematic review (e.g., of police files, interviews with police investigators, or other information with unknown reliability and validity).

Prior "research:" The Kanin

THE voice

**AHA: THESE ARE VERY DIFFICULT
CASES.**

BELIEF: “These cases are a ton of work for nothing.”



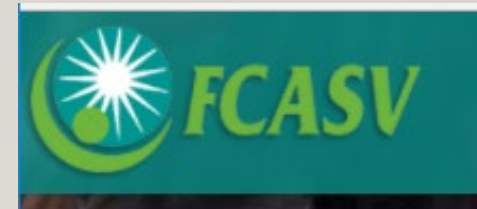
ASK THIS QUESTION:

How would you want your sister or daughter treated if she was sexually assaulted?

THE SECOND AHA MOMENT

- Fall 2016, GPD went through trauma informed response training.
- Fall 2016, a routine sexual battery case fortified this new way of thinking...

**This was my second “AHA” moment
which led to....**



AMERICAN POLICE BEAT APRIL 2017

Later shared by:

- FCASV newsletter
- EVAWI blog – May 2017
- Gainesville Sun – September 2017

What I thought I knew about Investigating sexual assaults

Major case
detective spells
out why some
officers and
agencies struggle
with these
challenging cases

by Mike Schentrup

I currently serve as the
Commander of the
Criminal Investiga-

terview) process and speaks
widely on the neurobiology
of trauma.

This was quite an “Aha”
moment for me. It became
clear that all the classic signs
of deception I had learned
throughout my career was
completely normal for a
victim of trauma.

The inconsistent state-
ments and lack of core de-
tails should be expected.

None of these were signs
of deception. On top of
that, the suspects are usually
much more believable since

HOW DO WE OVERCOMETHIS?

Can what changed me be used on other law enforcement officers to help change their beliefs and perceptions?



“It’s not that easy”

HOW DO WE OVERCOMETHIS?



Just give the cops the
FACTS about trauma
and they will change.
Right?

WE HAVE TO CHANGE “BELIEFS”

Traumatic Events Influence Memory

- Comparison of officer-involved-shootings to traumatic events like sexual assault.



WE HAVE TO CHANGE “BELIEFS”

Traumatic Events Influence Memory

- Compare what cops consider routine events to the traumatic events of rape survivors.
 - Deer in the headlights
 - Loss of exact chain of events during a foot pursuit

WE HAVE TO CHANGE “BELIEFS”

The difference is
only a Law
Enforcement
officer can make
these comparisons
and be credible.



WE HAVE TO CHANGE “BELIEFS”

Change the way
officers define
“traumatic events.”

What does this mean?

- Date Rape
- Intimate Partner
Violence
- Marriage Rape
- Acquaintance Rape

WE HAVE TO CHANGE “BELIEFS”

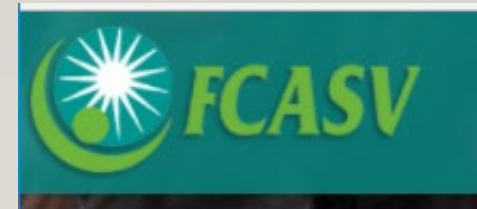
URGENCY – Wolf vs Sheepdog

- Only about 20% of survivors report(Gelb study)
- We only have a 1 in 5 chance of catching the Wolf (Rapist)
- **MYTH:** the suspect in this case is really a good kid, he may have gone a little to far. Most rapists are predators.
- **MYTH:** rapists stick to a single category of victim. This has been disproven.

HOW CAN THIS AFFECT AN ENTIRE ORGANIZATION

How can one changed LT change an entire law enforcement organization?

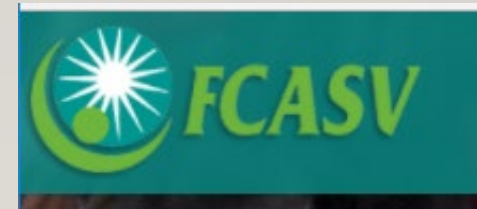
1. Criminal investigations commander – staffing, time, OT, accountable
2. Training – why it's important
3. Command staff meetings – staffing, OT, accountability
4. Agency accountability - language



WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO SUSTAIN THE CHANGES?

MIDDLE MANAGEMENT

- Usually chief/sheriff is onboard and SVU detectives.
- Constantly changing in law enforcement organizations.
- Consistency in middle management is key, from the SVU squad sergeant all the way to bureau commanders



HOW LEADERS CAN SUSTAIN CHANGES TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE INVESTIGATIONS

Posted by Law Officer | Aug 16, 2017 | Exclusive, Investigations | 0 ●

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Grace Frances is the Director of Certification and Special Projects for the Florida Council Against Sexual Violence.

