Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program

Jane Lux
Program Coordinator
NGB-J1
703-601-0577
Jane.Lux@us.army.mil
CTR – Alutiiq International Solutions, LLC

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Offenders

Block 10
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator Training
The Relationship between Abuse and Offending
Cycle of Violence

Grandfather → Domestic violence → Grandmother → Domestic violence and rape → Grandfather

Physical and Sexual Abuse → Father → Physical and sexual abuse → Mother → Physical and Sexual Abuse

Grandfather → Incest → Son → Multiple Sexual Assault Victims

Other Sexual Assault Victims
Stereotypes About Offenders

Non-Stranger Offender:
• “Nice Guy”
• Drank too Much
• Miscommunication
• Unpremeditated
• Won’t Happen Again

Stranger Offender:
• Ski Mask
• Knife
• Blitz Attack
• Brutal Injuries
• Strangers
Relationship to Victim

- **83.3% Non-strangers:**
  - 57.7% Intimate partner
  - 9.9% Relative
  - 12.7% Acquaintance
- **16.7% Strangers**

2000 National Violence Against Women Survey
• Victims often do worse psychologically because they knew the offender.

• Recovery is complicated by the nature of the harm; it’s from an unexpected source.
Implications of Research on Undetected Rapists

- The Typical Rapist:
  - Plans & premeditates his attacks
  - Uses multiple strategies to make victim vulnerable
  - Uses alcohol deliberately
  - Increases violence as needed
Implications of Research on Undetected Rapists

- Does not use a weapon
- Uses instrumental, not gratuitous violence
- Has access to consensual sex
- Comes from all racial & ethnic groups
- Is not mentally ill
Video:
Frank
(by the National Judicial Education Program)
Characteristics of a Sex Offender

- Hostility toward women
- Casual attitudes about sex
- Frequent sexual encounters
Characteristics of a Sex Offender

• Impulsivity (not as to offenses)
  – Immaturity, irresponsibility, lack of social conscience

• Careful planning associated with multiple offenses in undetected and convicted offender sample
Characteristics of a Sex Offender

- Deviant aggressive sexual fantasy for a subgroup of offenders
- Adversarial beliefs about relationships between men and women
- Endorse rape myths
- Hyper-masculinity
• Socialization rejecting:
  - Weakness
  - Vulnerability
  - Emotion
  - Acknowledgement of pain

• Glorification of:
  - Dominance over women
  - Physical power and size
  - Violence as legitimate tool of authority
Empathy

Normal:

• Someone else’s emotions are noted
• Someone else’s emotions are identified
• There is a resonance with the emotions of the other person
Empathy Deficit:

• Lack of resonance
• Other person’s emotions just information to be used
Offense Dynamics

• Premeditated attacks
• Isolation of the victim
  – Use of social context to assess target
• Overcome resistance
  – Physical presence as a threat
  – Physical restraint, threats
  – Use of alcohol and/or drugs

• Sexual contact regardless of consent
• Minimal use of force
  - Instrumental violence
    • Sufficient to gain victim compliance
    • Victim’s level of resistance determines level of force
    • Little anger except in response to victim resistance
    • Infliction of pain not the usual motivation
    • Source of arousal may dictate use of force
      - Sadists aroused by victim’s pain
  - In a study of convicted rapists 75%-84% used minimal or no force
  - The majority use just physical presence as threat
Non-stranger assailant uses the “everyday” social situation to assess targets

Mere presence is used to threaten

Alcohol and drugs are used as weapons to incapacitate victims

As a result:

- Victims are not believed, or are blamed for the assault
- Victims blame themselves and complicate healing
Evidence of M.O.

- Focus is on the offender: his past, his behavior, his credibility
- Leads to 3rd party sources critically important
- Micro-corroboration of victim’s statements important to credibility
Recidivism

• By self report:
  - Abel- 129 convicted offenders reported 907 offenses against 882 victims
  - Weinrott- 37 convicted offenders reported 433 total offenses perpetrated against a mean of 11.7 victims each
  - Lisak- 76 undetected offenders reported 439 rapes
• With long term follow-up:
  - Prentky- 39% overall criminal re-offending (all types of crimes)
  - Quinsey- 20% sexual assault re-offending
Cross Over Offending

• Lisak: (2002)
  - 76 undetected serial rapists reported
  - 1045 violent offenses
  - Sexual assaults other than rape = 49
  - Battery of an adult = 214
  - Child physical abuse = 66
  - Child sexual abuse = 277
Heil: (1999)

- Using the polygraph...
- 82% of child offenders admitted to assaulting adults
- 50% of adult offenders admitted to assaulting children
Gidycz: (2001)

- 298 men assessed twice, 9 weeks apart at initial assessment 11 reported perpetrating prior rape
- 9 weeks later, 3 had raped again and 1 had committed a sexual assault
Key Topics

- A small percentage of victims become offenders.
- Most offenders are known to the victim.
- Non-stranger offenses are extremely psychologically harmful to the victim.
- Non-stranger assailants are usually serial offenders who commit a variety of different kinds of offenses.

References

• Lisak, D. and Miller, P. “Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists” Violence and Victims Vol. 17, No. 1, 2002.

- NGB Site: http://www.ngb.army.mil/staff/j1/sapr/
- DoD Site: www.saprmil
- Army Site: www.sexualassault.army.mil
- DOJ Site: www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/
- JAG Sites – Check with your JAG about any resources on JAGCNET or FLITE