

INTERVIEW WITH DEP. KITONG

Q=Sgt. Tarazi

Q1=Sgt. (Dennis Owens)

A=Dep. Kitong

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Q: September 8, 2015, 6:20 pm.

Man: (Unintelligible), and I'm gonna get him (unintelligible).

Q: Okay.

Man: (Unintelligible).

Q: Okay. Hello.

A: How you doin', sir?

Q: Hey, I'm Samy Tarazi.

A: Oh, Kitong, sir.

Q: What's your first name?

A: (Craig) Kitong.

Q: (Craig)?

A: Yes, sir.

Q: Come on in.

A: Thank you.

Q: Thank you for comin'.

43 A: Oh, no problem.
44
45 Q: I know you're probably, uh, wonderin' why you're here.
46
47 A: Yes, definitely.
48
49 Q: And we'll get into it upstairs real quick.
50
51 A: Okay, sounds good.
52
53 Q: After you. Did they, uh - did you take the pool car down or...
54
55 A: No, I took my own car.
56
57 Q: Oh, okay.
58
59 A: Yes sir.
60
61 Q: Have you been here before?
62
63 A: Uh, for interviews and HR, but...
64
65 Q: Just when you got hired?
66
67 A: Yeah, just when I got hired.
68
69 Q: How long have you been on?
70
71 A: Um, I'm goin' on...
72
73 Q: After you.
74
75 A: ...let's see, five - five months.
76
77 Q: Oh, five months. Wow.
78
79 A: Yeah.
80
81 Q: You just graduated then?
82
83 A: Yeah, very new.
84

85 Q: You workin' over at Elwood?
86
87 A: Yes.
88
89 Q: Cool. Where do they have you there?
90
91 A: Uh, I'm at (unintelligible) this week.
92
93 Q: Okay.
94
95 A: (Unintelligible).
96
97 Q: Are you off, uh, JTO or...
98
99 A: Not yet. Three more weeks.
100
101 Q: Three more weeks? Okay.
102
103 A: Yes sir.
104
105 Q: You want anything, glass of water, or anything like that?
106
107 A: Um, maybe some water, please.
108
109 Q: Okay. I'll grab you a water. Just so you know, you're not in any trouble, so
110 don't worry.
111
112 A: Okay.
113
114 Q: Don't worry. Don't stress out.
115
116 A: Yeah, (unintelligible).
117
118 Q: Yeah, I bet you don't have any idea. Just, uh, have a seat right there.
119
120 A: Okay.
121
122 Q: I'll go get you some water. I'll be right back.
123
124 A: Okay.
125
126 Q: He brought his own car.

127
128 Q1: Cool. (Unintelligible).
129
130 Q: All right, here you go.
131
132 A: Thank you, sir.
133
134 Q: This is, uh, Sergeant (Dennis Owens).
135
136 A: How's it goin', sir?
137
138 Q1: How you doin'? Nice to meet you.
139
140 A: Kitong. Nice to meet you.
141
142 Q1: (Unintelligible), I'll sit on this side.
143
144 Q: If you're okay, I like goin' first names.
145
146 A: Okay.
147
148 Q: Um...
149
150 A: Great.
151
152 Q: And I'm S- I'm Sammy. This is (Dennis). Uh, just a lot easier to have a
153 conversation this way.
154
155 A: Okay.
156
157 Q: Um, I want you to know, (Craig), you're not in any trouble at all.
158
159 A: Okay.
160
161 Q: Um, but I wanna let you know that, uh, me and Sergeant (Owens) are criminal
162 investigators. We're not Internal Affairs.
163
164 A: Okay.
165
166 Q: Which means, um, there's kind of a difference in the interviews that IA and
167 we have, and because you're pretty new, I wanna kind of explain that to you.
168

169 A: Okay.
170
171 Q: Uh, in a criminal investigation, you don't have to answer any of our questions.
172 Uh, you can leave whenever you want.
173
174 A: Okay.
175
176 Q: Um, you don't have to be here. Everything that you're tellin' me is, uh,
177 voluntary.
178
179 A: Okay.
180
181 Q: At the same time, if you do choose to answer a question, I, uh, very much urge
182 everyone to tell the truth.
183
184 A: Okay.
185
186 Q: Okay? Uh...
187
188 Q1: And just - and then just for security purposes for the sanctity of the
189 investigation, um, if you don't mind, we'll keep the door closed.
190
191 A: Okay.
192
193 Q1: Just so, uh, we don't want things to fall on other ears, just in case there's
194 something there that can - somebody knows somebody and recognizes a
195 name.
196
197 A: Okay.
198
199 Q1: Um, but you are still free to leave at any point in time if you don't wanna
200 answer a question.
201
202 A: Okay. Sounds good.
203
204 Q1: Okay.
205
206 A: Um, before we start, um, I was talkin' to one of my training officers, 'cause I
207 wasn't sure what - what I'm going through. I told - I wanted to give him the
208 heads up that I'm leaving the facility to come...
209
210 Q: Mm-hm.

211
212 A: ...to an investigation, but, um, he told me to ask if I'm gonna be a subject or a
213 witness.
214
215 Q: You're a witness.
216
217 Q1: Just a witness.
218
219 Q: Yeah.
220
221 A: A witness?
222
223 Q1: (Unintelligible)...
224
225 Q: Can I ask...
226
227 Q1: ...(unintelligible).
228
229 Q: Can I ask you, uh, what - who's your training officer now?
230
231 A: Uh, my training officer now is, uh, (Morales).
232
233 Q: Is that who you talked to before you came or...
234
235 A: No, it was, uh, (Alvarez).
236
237 Q: (Alvarez)?
238
239 A: Yes.
240
241 Q: Okay. Um, so I do wanna talk to you. Um, I honestly don't think you know
242 very much, but I just wanna kind of get your perspective on something. Um,
243 so you've been in training for the last, what, 20 weeks or so?
244
245 A: Yes, sir. 20 (unintelligible).
246
247 Q: Can you, uh - did you ever work in the women's side, uh, 3 Max?
248
249 A: 33, (unintelligible). I worked in 34.
250
251 Q: 34?
252

253 Q1: (Unintelligible)?
254
255 A: 34, sir.
256
257 Q1: Okay.
258
259 Q: Uh, who is your, uh, JTO there?
260
261 A: Um, my JTO was (Simpson Hogan).
262
263 Q: Okay. So I wanna talk to you about that time when (Simpson Hogan) was
264 your TO. Um, when you were in that, uh, W4 Max pod, I guess you normally
265 stand in that center o- that center area?
266
267 A: Yes, sir.
268
269 Q: And all those other doors are locked...
270
271 A: Yes, sir.
272
273 Q: ...going inside? Um, at any point, do you remember in your training with her,
274 did she ever leave you alone in that pod area?
275
276 A: Um, tryin' to think. So I don't - tryin' to think. I don't wanna say anything to...
277
278 Q: I - before you enter, I - I kn- I can - I can see some hesitation. I just want you
279 to know that what you say may not get anyone in trouble. It may get someone
280 in trouble. I don't know, but the important thing is to get it all on, uh - just get
281 everything out that's truthful. Would you agree that's the important thing? Um,
282 I don't want you to think of whether or not you tell me the truth it might get
283 someone in trouble, it might not. I don't really care if she left you alone. I'm
284 not here as a policy violator of what it says. I just need to know the truth of
285 what happened from your perspective.
286
287 A: Okay. Um, do I need like a representative?
288
289 Q1: No.
290
291 Q: No, not at all. Again, you're just a witness. You're not - this isn't Internal
292 Affairs. It's a criminal investigation. Um, and that's all there is to it. That's, uh
293 - a- again, you don't have to answer our questions, but I'd request that you do,
294 but I can't order you to do so.

295
296 Q1: And let - let me put it this way. It's - we're gonna ask you questions that, um,
297 we may know the answer to already, okay? And this is kinda like a truth test,
298 all right? And so we're lookin' for some truthfulness from everybody and
299 cooperation in this investigation. However, um, some of the things that we
300 may ask you, like say, if sh- if you're JTO left you alone, that's not a- that's not
301 against policy. It happens. You have to get experience somehow, correct?
302
303 A: Yes, sir.
304
305 Q1: So, you know, and we gotta put some pressure on you to see how you're
306 gonna work under a high-pressure environment or to see how you're gonna
307 function alone because ultimately when you finish the JTO program, you will
308 be on your own.
309
310 A: Yes, sir.
311
312 Q1: So there will be test periods then as well, if we're gonna leave you alone, say
313 15, 20 minutes, half hour, to see how you function. You may not - you may be
314 alone, but the eyes are not off of you. You know, your JTO or somebody's
315 watching that's gonna report to your GTO to see how you function. All right?
316 So when we ask the question has she ever left you alone, that's the question.
317 We're not lookin' like we're gonna jam her up or anything for leaving you
318 alone. That's not against policy. I mean, we were both FTOs out on the street,
319 and you know what, you have to let that person - you gotta let 'em spread their
320 wings and fly. Otherwise...
321
322 Q: They're...
323
324 Q1: ...they're gonna be...
325
326 Q: And...
327
328 Q1: ...dependent on the bottle the whole time. So you gotta let 'em loose. So when
329 we ask you a question like that, we just want you to be honest. I mean, we're
330 not completely versed on the policies and procedures of the (unintelligible).
331 However, we're becoming more - more and more every day. Um, but if
332 there's, you know, something that there is a policy violation and you're gonna
333 tell us, I would hope that you would tell us that.
334
335 A: Yes, sir.
336

337 Q1: So...
338
339 Q: And I - I don't care about policy violations. Those are not - I'm a criminal
340 investigator. If it's not a crime, I don't care.
341
342 Q1: Exactly.
343
344 A: All right.
345
346 Q: Right?
347
348 Q1: And that's the difference between, like he was saying, between us and Internal
349 Affairs. If you didn't tie your shoes to the left and put your zipper on the right,
350 you know, and that's a violation of poli- we don't care.
351
352 A: Okay.
353
354 Q1: We're not here to jam anybody up on policies.
355
356 Q: And, (Craig), this isn't your mess.
357
358 Q1: Yes.
359
360 Q: W- what we're investigating has nothing to do with you. You just happen to be
361 in a room at some point, and you may have heard something, all right? Um,
362 please, please, please, uh, don't lie or, uh, hold back because I don't - I don't
363 want that - th- you don't need that. You - this is just, you're a witness.
364
365 A: Okay.
366
367 Q: Um, and it's too early in your career to try to protect other people. Um, you
368 owe them - you owe no one loyalty other than to yourself. Would you agree?
369
370 A: Definitely.
371
372 Q: Okay. So...
373
374 Q1: We'd like to keep you as a witness and not have to turn the tables.
375
376 Q: Um...
377
378 Q1: Okay?

379

380 Q: ...so again, you're free to answer anything. If you don't wanna answer, just tell
381 me, "I don't wanna answer that."

382

383 A: Okay.

384

385 Q: "It makes me uncomfortable." That's fine. I can't force your hand, but I'm
386 gonna ask the question.

387

388 A: Okay.

389

390 Q: Um, did (Hogan Simpson) or (Simpson Hogan)?

391

392 Q1: (Simpson Hogan).

393

394 Q: (Simpson Hogan), uh, ever leave you alone in that pod? NW4?

395

396 A: Yes.

397

398 Q: Okay. And was it common?

399

400 A: No.

401

402 Q: How many times did it happen?

403

404 A: Um, I'm tryin' to think. Well, when we do, uh - when we left for, um, what
405 was it? Dinner, dinner relief, so we would relieve each other, and she would
406 go, and then, um, I would stay, and then I would go, and then she would stay.

407

408 Q: Okay.

409

410 A: So...

411

412 Q: Um, and that would be pretty routinely?

413

414 A: Um, yeah, for - for the week, the week that I was there.

415

416 Q: Okay. What time - was it the same time every day?

417

418 A: No, it was different depending on, um, what we had goin' on or the routine of
419 the - the dorm.

420

421 Q: Okay.
422
423 Q1: What - what week were you on W4...
424
425 A: Uh, I'd...
426
427 Q1: ...in your training?
428
429 A: ...have to look at my notes. I don't - or my binder.
430
431 Q1: 'Bout how long ago was it when you were there?
432
433 A: Maybe three or four weeks ago.
434
435 Q: Are you sayin' like August 9?
436
437 A: I would know if I looked at my, uh - I would know exactly if I looked at my
438 binder 'cause I have a schedule.
439
440 Q: Okay.
441
442 A: Mm-hm.
443
444 Q: Um, I'll give you my number, and then you can hit me up later with that.
445
446 Q1: But basically sometime in August. I mean, if we're at September 9, three to
447 four weeks ago would put you in August.
448
449 Q: So what...
450
451 A: Possibly.
452
453 Q1: Okay.
454
455 Q: ...who would go to dinner first?
456
457 A: Um, it depends. Um, it was different whenever we had - depending on how
458 the dorm was running.
459
460 Q: Okay. And you only worked with her for one week?
461
462 A: Yes, sir.

463

464 Q: So that would be four shifts or three shifts?

465

466 A: Um, I'd have to check my schedule. I don't know if it was my long week. My
467 long week is four days.

468

469 Q: Okay.

470

471 A: And then my short week's three days, so...

472

473 Q: Okay. So either three or four days?

474

475 A: Yes, sir.

476

477 Q: Um, did you get to know her well?

478

479 A: Um, not too well.

480

481 Q: Okay.

482

483 A: Just training, small talk.

484

485 Q: Do you hit her up at all for advice or anything like that?

486

487 A: No.

488

489 Q: Okay. So it was just that week and you haven't talked to her since?

490

491 A: Uh, I say hi to her...

492

493 Q: Okay.

494

495 A: ...just passing by, but...

496

497 Q: Nothing of any substance?

498

499 A: No, sir.

500

501 Q: Okay.

502

503 Q1: In general, what was your opinion of her?

504

505 A: Um, I know the inmates listen to her well. Like, it seemed like she w- had her
506 dorm under control. Everybody - the noise level was down and speaking to
507 other officers, they would say, "So how'd you like, uh, 34C?" and I was like,
508 "It actually wasn't that bad, you know? It's running pretty smooth with the TO.
509 They all pretty much respect her. A lot of 'em know her already." So, um,
510 they're like, "Really? How about, uh..." You know, I guess one of the sides
511 that's usually loud, "How are they?" and I was like, "They're - they're pretty
512 good. They all respect her." Yes, ma'am. Even with me as a trainee, they're all
513 pretty...
514

515 Q1: She kinda rule with a heavy hand? I mean, did you get to witness, um, how
516 she runs the dorm and how she gained that respect of the people or the g- the
517 compliance of them, I should say?
518

519 A: Uh, no. She just said that she seen a lot of 'em from different, um, dorms, all
520 move around and they all pretty much know her from, uh - 'cause she works
521 everywhere, all the women's sides. So they all pretty much know her.
522

523 Q: S-...

524

525 Q1: How did - how did she talk to the inmates?
526

527 A: Um, she was - she was stern and then, uh, you know, some of the - some of
528 them that kinda had a - a rapport with her, she kind of was - like, she couldn't
529 joke with them, but they were pretty much, uh, all respect - respectable. She
530 was respectable towards the inmates too.
531

532 Q1: Did she ever like talk down to any of 'em or belittle 'em or...
533

534 A: Um, no, not...
535

536 Q1: She's not that way?
537

538 A: Not that I've seen.
539

540 Q1: Okay.
541

542 A: Yeah.
543

544 Q: Uh, let me ask you this. Do you know, um, where would you go to lu- where
545 would she go to lunch when she l- or dinner?
546

547 A: Um, she would bring food, and I wasn't sure if she would go to the chow hall
548 or if she would go and maybe, um, to another unit and talk to one of her
549 officer friends or somethin'.
550
551 Q: Do you know who her officer friends are?
552
553 A: Um, no, I'm not sure. She talks to a lot of the veteran female officers.
554
555 Q: Okay. Um, did she ever mention to you like, "Hey, I'm leaving," but not for
556 mealtime?
557
558 A: No, she would, um - no. Most of the time it was for meals or if she was
559 escorting an inmate somewhere.
560
561 Q: Would it - if another deputy called her personally and said, "Hey, I need your
562 help with something," do you ever remember that happening?
563
564 A: Um, I remember some - uh, I'm tryin' to think if they - I don't think it was for
565 help, but maybe just for, um, for count if I needed help, uh, doing count.
566
567 Q: Well, I guess my question is if, uh - did anyone ever call her away? Like,
568 "Hey, I need your help, (Simpson Hogan). Can you come help me?" and then
569 she just left you there to go do something else. Do you ever remember that
570 happening?
571
572 Q1: And then maybe later had to come back and write an ER?
573
574 A: I think she did. Um, I think she needed help in processing.
575
576 Q: Do you remember that day?
577
578 A: I remember a little bit. She said that she had to go in there and, uh, help with a
579 new - new hire, and then she came back, and I mean, not a new hire, a new
580 (housal)...
581
582 Q: Okay.
583
584 A: ...a new arrival.
585
586 Q: Okay.
587

588 A: Um, and I don't know exactly what it was, but she said that she had to help
589 out, and then all the sudden she got stuck with the report.
590
591 Q: Did she tell you this before she left?
592
593 A: Um, tryin' to think. I don't remember.
594
595 Q: Okay. Um, there's a camera in your pod area. Um, I have the video of that. I'm
596 gonna show it to you. I honestly didn't expect you to remember.
597
598 Q1: 10 second...
599
600 Q: I...
601
602 Q1: I mean, I - I wouldn't remember either.
603
604 Q: It's a ten-second conversation. Um...
605
606 Q1: I forget half the things we talk about.
607
608 A: Yeah.
609
610 Q1: It's just insignificant.
611
612 Q: Let me see if I can pull it up here.
613
614 Q1: That's why I mentioned havin' to come back and write an ER, 'cause that's a
615 little bit more significant...
616
617 A: Yeah.
618
619 Q1: ...you know, especially you're on training because that's you wanna learn how
620 to do...
621
622 A: Yeah.
623
624 Q1: ...report writing and the documentation.
625
626 A: Exactly.
627
628 Q1: You know. Did, uh - did you write that, ER, or did you sit over her shoulder
629 and kind of surf it while she was writing it or...

630

631 Q: Oh, come on.

632

633 A: I don't remember. I didn't um - I didn't write the ER though.

634

635 Q1: No, I - I...

636

637 A: Yeah.

638

639 Q1: ...I know you didn't, she did.

640

641 A: Yeah.

642

643 Q1: Um, but I - I meant like shoulder surfed it while she wrote it, did she kinda
644 give like - you know, did she use it for a training opportunity with you or did
645 she lock herself (unintelligible)?

646

647 Q: Why isn't this working?

648

649 A: I don't remember goin' over detail with me about, uh, writing. We didn't -
650 'cause I didn't do much re- I don't remember doin' much reports with her when
651 she was my TO.

652

653 Q1: Did you write reports with her?

654

655 A: Um, I think I did s- um, my scenario report, but not that many reports for...

656

657 Q1: Not for something that (unintelligible) happened...

658

659 A: Yeah.

660

661 Q1: ...in the dorm while you're workin'? Okay.

662

663 Q: Let me see if I can...

664

665 Q1: Now did you guys talk about what happened in, uh, processing when she
666 came back?

667

668 A: Um, I'm tryin' to remember. I know she mentioned something, but I don't
669 know full detail.

670

671 Q1: What d- what did she mention that you remember?

672

673 A: That she had to assist, um, one of the processing officers with a female
674 inmate, but really it was kind of (unintelligible)...

675

676 Q1: Did she say that she had to go hands-on or anything or...

677

678 A: (Unintelligible).

679

680 Q: (Unintelligible), I'm gonna go get my laptop, the - the Internet's not working
681 in here.

682

683 Q1: (Unintelligible).

684

685 Q1: (Unintelligible).

686

687 A: You control the inmate. Um...

688

689 Q1: After that, once it's (unintelligible).

690

691 A: Uh, before you, uh, write an ER, contact medical, contact the sergeant, make
692 sure medical comes and checks the - that inmate.

693

694 Q1: (Unintelligible) as to use of force documentation?

695

696 A: Uh, it was one incident where it was in my dorm. I think it was M4D, there
697 was a inmate that, um, kinda like rushed out of his cell toward me and charged
698 me. So like I didn't know what to do, so I - I pushed him on his shoulder
699 (unintelligible) and then, um, told him to stop, you know, turn around and -
700 and cuff up for the way he was actin'. So he turned around and complied,
701 cuffed up, put him in a holdin' cell. So I, uh, wrote a ER, contacted medical,
702 let - and notified the sarge. So that's, uh...

703

704 Q1: And how did you report - your ER sound when you wrote that?

705

706 A: Uh, sounded like, um, on this day, at this time when I was workin' as a
707 uniform sheriff's correctional deputy assigned to M4D, um, and then while I
708 was, I forgot if it was a welfare check, but I noticed, um, he had a towel
709 hangin' out at his cell, which was, um - which is against pol- which is
710 against...

711

712 Q1: (Unintelligible) violation.

713

714 A: Yes. So, um, I walked over there, I looked inside the cell and then he, uh - he
715 appeared to be layin' down, and then, um - so I knew it was - I thought it was
716 safe to open the door. So I opened the door and then the towel dropped, and
717 then he jumped and rushed me, and he's like, "Hey, what the, uh - what the F,"
718 and called me the N-word. He's all, "Pick up my towel, I use that for my face."
719 And I said, "What did you just say?" He was like, "Pick up my towel. I use
720 that for my face." I said, "No, I already warned you about this. This is against
721 policy. You can, uh, you know, get written up for this." So I kicked it inwards,
722 and then he like clenched and went near me. So like, I didn't know - I was - he
723 was in between the doorway and the door, so I just pushed his, uh, his
724 shoulder back, and then he like looked at me. He was still like in his stance,
725 and I said, "Turn - turn around, cuff up." So...
726
727 Q1: And he did?
728
729 A: Yeah, he complied. He - he was still, he was...
730
731 Q1: (Unintelligible).
732
733 A: He was still pretty strong. I mean, uh, still flexing still.
734
735 Q1: Mm-hm.
736
737 A: But...
738
739 Q1: He was testin' you.
740
741 A: Yeah, definitely.
742
743 Q1: Yeah. They watch too much TV. Now, did he take a swing when he came at
744 you, or did he just clench up?
745
746 A: Um, (unintelligible)...
747
748 Q1: (Unintelligible) elements of 240 or no?
749
750 A: 240, um, the elements? Uh, I don't know how to tell if somebody...
751
752 Q1: Assault?
753
754 A: Yes.
755

756 Q1: Not battery? Yeah, with the attempt, coupled ability. The - coupled with the
757 ability.

758
759 A: Yes.

760
761 Q1: So he can take the swing and miss, that's a 240. You know, it's still a crime
762 against you. I mean he doesn't have to really hit you but makes the attempt
763 that - that you are nimble enough and skilled enough to dodge that - that
764 punch, he's still good to go, you know? But I don't - I don't know how often
765 you guys do that in there.

766
767 A: That was my first time ever havin' anything like that.

768
769 Q1: Oh, there'll be more. Just give it time. Just give it time. Hopefully...

770
771 Q: All right, this computer's a little slow.

772
773 Q1: ...end up safe through all of 'em, but they will test you, no doubt. Even as an
774 investigator, we walk in with a suit like that, I've had guys just stand up and
775 square off, like, "Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa. Back down," you know?

776
777 A: Yeah.

778
779 Q1: Kinda like you guys, you know, like, "I don't talk to IA." Well, fuck, good.
780 Me neither 'cause I'm not them, you know? I don't talk to 'em either. "Oh,
781 alright," you know, but they - they all come up like that, you know? And I
782 used to have to go in and, ah, take - you can take their hands for, you know,
783 these guys are really cool, you know? The first c- couple came up like that,
784 you know what, (unintelligible), you know?

785
786 A: Definitely.

787
788 Q1: I don't wanna give 'em the ability now, 'cause I don't like fightin' in a suit, too
789 expensive to get fixed. (Unintelligible). How you doin' on the FTO, in that
790 JTO program so far?

791
792 A: Pretty good. Uh, three weeks left. Evals are gettin' better, feeling more
793 comfortable, and starting to create my own style. That was one thing I was
794 worried about at the beginning. Just nervous about what kind of style am I
795 gonna have, you know? But I feel like it's comin' together.

796
797 Q1: That's good. Now do you guys have a seven-point system there too?

798

799 A: Yes, sir.

800

801 Q1: (Unintelligible) gettin' like fives and sixes now and a couple sevens here and
802 there?

803

804 A: Yeah. Definitely.

805

806 Q1: Good.

807

808 A: Comin' around.

809

810 Q1: Very good.

811

812 Q: All right. So here is August 9. Can you see that?

813

814 A: Yes sir.

815

816 Q: So I'm just gonna skip ahead here. I know it's kinda blurry here. Is this kinda
817 typical stuff? You just guys were hangin' out when you're not inside the...

818

819 A: Yeah. There's not much goin' on in those dorms if we're not (unintelligible).

820

821 Q: So she left already. Let me know if you remember this happening at all. Do
822 you remember...

823

824 A: I - that looks like what we would be doing.

825

826 Q: (Unintelligible). Let's see here. All right. So right here she picks up a phone
827 and you're walkin' around here. Do you remember what she says to you right
828 here?

829

830 A: Um, no, I do not.

831

832 Q1: Can you hold the fort down?

833

834 Q: Honestly here, this is w- what I'm lookin' for you, (Craig) i- is, uh, just to
835 kinda shed a s- shed some light on that conversation of where - where she's
836 going at this point.

837

838 A: I - I really don't remember her saying where she was going, but I remember,
839 um, when she came back, she said she had to do paperwork for somethin' that
840 happened at processing.
841

842 Q: Okay. Did she tell you what happened at processing?
843

844 A: Um, she did mention it, but I don't know, I don't remember the details. I think
845 she said they had, I don't know if it was a strip search or someone, um - I
846 think it was, um, another officer that she was helping out, but I don't know if it
847 was a strip search or something happened, and I don't know if the, uh, inmate
848 became combative or not, so...
849

850 Q: Okay.
851

852 A: ...I don't really know. I don't remember.
853

854 Q: It didn't make a - much of an impression on ya, that conversation, it was like...
855

856 A: No.
857

858 Q: ...whatever?
859

860 A: Yeah.
861

862 Q: Okay. Um, that's pretty much it. Um, that's the only thing I wanted to talk to
863 you about is if you remember that conversation and, uh, sounds like you don't,
864 so we're gonna - we're gonna conclude this interview...
865

866 Q1: Actually Samy...
867

868 Q: Unless you have a question?
869

870 Q1: ...I have a question. Um, that night, like after that happened, I'm sure you
871 talked with the other officers and stuff like that, uh, about what goes on and
872 stuff like that, and I know you - did you hear anything about what might have
873 happened?
874

875 A: No. I didn't hear anything. Uh, just from what she told me.
876

877 Q1: All right, but nothin' from any of the officers, anything, you know, about a use
878 of force (unintelligible) processing?
879

880 A: No.
881
882 Q1: Okay.
883
884 Q: Are you surprised we're talkin' to you about this?
885
886 A: I'm surprised I'm here. I - I'm (unintelligible), yeah. I didn't think I'd be talkin'
887 to any, uh, investigators for - maybe way later in my career. Definitely.
888
889 Q1: That's not necessarily bad thing, as long as you're a witness.
890
891 Q: Do you have work email at the - where you work at right now?
892
893 A: Yes, sir.
894
895 Q: When you get back to the office, look at your notes.
896
897 A: For - oh my dates, when I was there?
898
899 Q: Yeah.
900
901 A: Yes, sir.
902
903 Q: And, uh, it's the same ending as your sheriff.sccgov.org. That's my, uh, name,
904 that's my phone number, and if the email doesn't work, just call me, leave me
905 a message.
906
907 A: Okay.
908
909 Q: And just say, "Hey, I was," uh, whatever week you were with her.
910
911 A: Can I ask what - what i- what happened or what's...
912
913 Q: I - you can ask, unfortunately, I can't tell you.
914
915 A: Okay.
916
917 Q: Uh, so that's just how a criminal investigation works, I know you guys don't
918 really cover this in your academy. So we get an allegation. Sometimes we get
919 'em from inmates. Sometimes we get 'em from staff, right, that something out
920 of the ordinary occurred. Maybe it's criminal. Maybe it's just a policy

921 violation and the administrators, the sheriff, and the undersheriff and them,
922 they ask our division, Investigation Division to look into it.
923
924 A: Okay.
925
926 Q: Um, that's - uncover all the facts. That way we can determine whether or not
927 something was a crime, if it was just a policy violation or if nothing - you
928 know, if it was completely okay.
929
930 A: Okay.
931
932 Q: Right? Those are the three possibilities on anything, right? Not a crime, not a -
933 you know, just a policy violation or a crime. Um, if it's a crime, then it moves
934 forward in the criminal realm with the District Attorney's Office.
935
936 A: Okay.
937
938 Q: If it's administrative, I don't do anything. I close the case and, um.
939
940 Q1: (Unintelligible)...
941
942 Q: ...uh, someone else reads it in Administration and they decide administratively
943 what happens.
944
945 A: Okay.
946
947 Q: If it's nothing, then I just write a quick ER, saying, "Hey, I - I interviewed all
948 these people."
949
950 A: Totally.
951
952 Q: I determined it was completely unfounded.
953
954 A: Okay.
955
956 Q: Okay? A lot of the time that's the case.
957
958 A: Okay.
959
960 Q: Um, but we always do a thorough investigation and interview anyone who
961 may know anything about it.
962

963 A: Okay.

964

965 Q: That being said, it's critical for a criminal investigation that the people we
966 interview don't talk about what we asked with anyone else. So I'm gonna ask
967 you when you leave here, I know it's gonna be, people are gonna be like,
968 "Hey, what'd they talk about?" Um, just say, "Hey, I can't talk about it. It's
969 confidential." Um...

970

971 A: Um, would it be okay to tell my - one of my training officers since he's our
972 union rep?

973

974 Q: Um, I can't order you not to talk to anyone, but to preserve, the one thing I
975 don't want to happen is that you tell him, he tells everyone else, and then now
976 everyone knows about my investigation and the integrity's compromised. I
977 will tell you this. I'm gonna talk to four more people today. Um, once you
978 leave, they're gonna come. Same thing. They're all witnesses.

979

980 A: Okay.

981

982 Q: And it's just - it's better. Um, again, you're not in any trouble. You were
983 completely honest with me and this will probably be the last you hear of - of
984 us.

985

986 A: So that's what I was gonna ask. Am I - am I in the - am I clear?

987

988 Q: Again, so obvi- I think...

989

990 Q1: You were never on the radar.

991

992 Q: All I was...

993

994 Q1: So you were always in the clear. So...

995

996 Q: All I wanted to know is what she said to you.

997

998 A: Okay.

999

1000 Q: And, uh, you - you may have heard it, you may have not, and then that's it.

1001

1002 A: Okay.

1003

1004 Q: So you're not in any trouble, I promise you that.

1005
1006 A: Okay.
1007
1008 Q: So just continue doin' what you're doin' and pass JTO and get off probation,
1009 and you'll be all good.
1010
1011 A: Yes, sir. Thank you.
1012
1013 Q1: Yeah. Yeah. So yeah, definitely, if you can refrain from telling anybody,
1014 that'd be great. Um, but if you are so inclined that you have to - you feel that
1015 you have to tell somebody, please give us 48 hours.
1016
1017 A: Okay.
1018
1019 Q1: Okay?
1020
1021 A: Yes, sir.
1022
1023 Q1: Just, uh, like he said, that would definitely hinder our investigation...
1024
1025 A: Okay.
1026
1027 Q1: ...right now, and we need independent, kinda like how we pulled you.
1028
1029 A: Straightforward.
1030
1031 Q1: Not knowing, we want everybody else to have that...
1032
1033 Q: Now...
1034
1035 Q1: ...same, um, advantage of not knowing that we're coming to them with
1036 questions to allow them to answer honestly.
1037
1038 A: Okay.
1039
1040 Q1: Okay. 'Cause remember I said earlier, we're gonna ask you some questions we
1041 already know the answers to, and this is the truth test? We want that to be the
1042 same for everybody else. So if you go out, and you say, "Oh, this is what we
1043 talked about," blah, blah, blah, and that gets to that person, now that person,
1044 it's unfair to them, 'cause now if they had any thought of, "Hmm, I don't
1045 wanna tell 'em that," but we know that, now they're lying to us, you know? So
1046 that changes the whole game.

1047
1048 A: Okay.
1049
1050 Q1: So if they come in with their own independent evaluation of our questions and
1051 how they wanna answer without any knowledge, we would greatly appreciate
1052 that. And that would benefit everybody.
1053
1054 A: (Unintelligible) investigation (unintelligible).
1055
1056 Q1: Yes.
1057
1058 A: Okay.
1059
1060 Q: That's just if it ever goes to court and they say, "Hey, how did they know this
1061 before you asked them it," we don't want it to like, "Oh, (Craig) told
1062 someone," and it...
1063
1064 A: Okay.
1065
1066 Q: ...it leaked out.
1067
1068 A: Okay.
1069
1070 Q: Right? So, um, and obviously there's - there's an atmosphere right now, right,
1071 of - in - of ser- very serious allegations, right?
1072
1073 A: Yeah (unintelligible).
1074
1075 Q: And the very important thing for - if you don't - if you've n- haven't done
1076 anything wrong, and you know you haven't done anything wrong, always tell
1077 the truth.
1078
1079 A: Yes, sir.
1080
1081 Q: Right? Don't - don't protect anyone. And that's not just this going forward.
1082
1083 Q1: In your future.
1084
1085 Q: Um, if you see something you don't agree with that doesn't coincide with your
1086 ethics, your morals, you should say something.
1087
1088 A: Okay.

1089

1090 Q: And I know it's - it's hard. Th- there's that - you know, there's a, don't be a rat.
1091 There's not be a snitch, you know, protect the blue line. There's all that stuff,
1092 and you're gonna deal with different personalities and different perspectives
1093 where you work, and people that have 20 years on, 30 years, on 10 years on,
1094 they may have a different perspective than me or him, um, on how the jails are
1095 supposed to be run. But I'll just tell you this, this, if someone comes and asks
1096 you, a criminal investigator or IA comes, just tell the truth.

1097

1098 A: Okay.

1099

1100 Q: Um, because even if you didn't do anything wrong and you lie to IA, then you
1101 can get in trouble just for lying, and they can, you know - it's - it's...

1102

1103 Q1: I can tell you I've been here 21 years, and the only time I've ever seen
1104 anybody fired from this department is for lying.

1105

1106 A: That's what I hear. Okay.

1107

1108 Q1: I mean, you can kill somebody, you'd still have a job. You can, you know -
1109 you can smack somebody and they didn't deserve it, you still have a job, but if
1110 you lie about it, they fire you on the spot.

1111

1112 A: Yes sir.

1113

1114 Q: That's...

1115

1116 Q1: In 21 years, that is the only time I've ever seen anyone fired. Ever.

1117

1118 A: Yes, sir.

1119

1120 Q: So...

1121

1122 Q1: So...

1123

1124 Q: ...that's it. Um, I'll walk you out unless you've got anything else.

1125

1126 Q1: No, I'm good.

1127

1128 Q: You got my card?

1129

1130 A: Yes, sir.

1131
1132 Q: Okay. I appreciate it. If you have any questions, honestly, if you w- just
1133 wanna talk about it, uh, in 48 hours, you have any questions about like, "Hey,
1134 what's goin' on," hit me up. I'll tell you what I can.
1135
1136 A: Okay.
1137
1138 Q: Um, I'll never lie to you, but I'll tell you, "Hey, I can't tell you...
1139
1140 A: Okay.
1141
1142 Q: ...certain parts of it."
1143
1144 A: Okay.
1145
1146 Q: All right? That's really, you won't wanna know.
1147
1148 A: All right.
1149
1150 Q: We realize a lot of the times we're super curious, and then the more we know,
1151 the - the more a headache it is.
1152
1153 Q1: We got a saying here, ignorance is bliss.
1154
1155 Q: It is.
1156
1157 Q1: (Unintelligible).
1158
1159 A: Thank you, sir.
1160
1161 Q1: We didn't mean to scare you, but (unintelligible)...
1162
1163 A: I was scared. I was like, what...
1164
1165 Q: It's...
1166
1167 Q1: You have nothin' to be afraid of.
1168
1169 A: Okay.
1170
1171 Q1: You're just a witness and (unintelligible) ask you a bunch of questions, but
1172 that's just the way (unintelligible).

1173

1174 A: Okay.

1175

1176 Q1: (Unintelligible).

1177

1178

1179 This transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate
1180 transcription.

1181 Signed _____