

PREFACE

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Writing this text has been one of my major professional life goals, and I can trace its genesis back to one specific case in 1984 when I was assigned to investigate a reported rape. Upon receiving the initial complaint from a victim I was convinced it was a false complaint, and it was only because my agency protocol required a full investigation on every single complaint that I even went forward with a preliminary investigation. Needless to say, just a few minutes into the preliminary investigation, it became clear that the victim's report and complaint were accurate and truthful. This case was eventually solved, with the offender identified and later convicted of what turned out to be a very brutal rape. But, this one event showed me that I did not have a clear understanding of these crimes and it changed my whole perspective on the concepts of rape and sexual assault. I was determined never to make such a mistake again, so I began my own personal goal to learn everything possible about rape and sexual assault. I've had a rare opportunity to attend several training classes conducted by some of the original members of the FBI Behavioral Science Unit including Robert (Roy) Hazelwood, Ken Lanning, Robert Ressler, and Russ Vorpapel. Through these courses I began to understand the dynamics of these events, the importance of physical and forensic evidence, and the value of working together as a team with the police, the medical professionals, and the prosecutor. Most importantly, I learned about the offenders and the value of recognizing *offender behavior* through their interactions with the victim and their actions at the crime scene.

This book is written with the police detective in mind and intentionally concentrates on the *investigative aspects* of these crimes and how to resolve them, and not on some of the more technical areas such as forensic laboratory analysis. It is designed to acquaint a new detective or college student with the most important investigative concepts, and for more experienced detectives it provides a new perspective on how to look at the victims and offenders.

Chapter 1 presents the historical view of rape, and the origin of many of the rape myths and beliefs are discussed. It is interesting to see that throughout human civilization, rape has always been considered a criminal offense and eligible for the most severe and sometimes even bizarre punishments, but there has also always been a fear of males of being falsely

accused of rape. This fear has resulted in a mistrust of the victim and placing heavy requirements on the victim to produce evidence of his or her truthfulness. In many instances, this mistrust and uncertainty of victims exists today.

Chapter 2 is dedicated to victims and how the crime affects them before, during, and after the incident, including aspects of rape trauma syndrome (RTS) and counterintuitive behaviors—that is, when victims do something that does not seem to be consistent with the events they are reporting—that are the basis of so many misinterpretations by police and beliefs that the victim is lying. Chapter 3 follows up with identifying special victims, those persons who are generally not thought of when we think of rape and sexual assaults. These are males, the mentally handicapped, and the elderly, who are routinely sexually assaulted but are not always considered as potential victims by society or the police.

In Chapter 4, we focus on the importance of the victim interview. Specifically, we focus on how to best employ Hazelwood's *behavior-orientated interview technique* to gain necessary information, not just about the criminal offense, but also to look at the offender through his displayed behavior. Other important aspects about the victim are covered in Chapter 5, where we focus on the victim's background through a *victimology assessment*. This is our chance to evaluate the various risk factors of the victim to ever become a victim of a crime and a chance to look at the victim through the eyes of the offender. Although this topic is addressed briefly in many different texts, this valuable investigative concept is covered in great detail in this chapter.

In Chapter 6, the focus turns to the offender and understanding how great a role fantasy plays in the sexual offenders' actions and how their deviant sexual interests or behaviors are developed. Chapter 7 is devoted to identifying the various categories of sexual offenders, their individual characteristics, and physical, verbal, and sexual behaviors. Chapter 8 examines other offenders who do not match exactly with the more commonly established offenders previously discussed. This includes acquaintance rapists or those who are actually known to the victim, along with female sexual offenders, adolescent offenders, child molesters/pedophiles, and juveniles. Chapter 9 describes interview techniques to be used with the various offender types and tactics that can best be employed to obtain information about the incident.

Chapters 10 and 11 shift the focuses to the crime scene examination, the medical examination of the victim and offender, and the importance of working together with a SANE (sexual assault nurse examiner) professional. Other investigative tools included are investigative plans, use of timelines, use of various national databases, linking cases together, and coordinating with neighboring jurisdictions.

The last chapters cover such important special topics as: "Drug- and Alcohol-Facilitated Sexual Assaults," "False Rape Allegations," "Working with Prosecutors," and "Common Investigative Mistakes"—mistakes

frequently made during the course of an investigation that lead to unresolved cases or failure to proceed to prosecution and/or conviction.

I hope that this book will fill a void in the topic of rape and sex crime investigation by providing a fresh approach to the topic. Many previous writings, while informative, do not address all of the investigative processes necessary for an investigation to be thorough and complete. In fact, this book will go a long way toward augmenting those writings and will make the reader much more attuned to the needs of the victim, a much better team player, and a better detective. It is my wish that any detective who is ever asked to look at my loved one as a victim of rape or sexual assault will treat him or her the same way as I would treat his family member if I were called to investigate.

This text does not reflect the opinion or official policy of the U.S. Army or the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command.