

Chairman Wanzek

Joe Charvat

Thank you for allowing me to address the committee today.

My name is Joe Charvat COS

We appreciate the opportunity to have you here today so we can showcase the great things we are doing here to help make our residents better. We know that over 97% of these people will be eventually released and we want to do what we can to try to help them improve their lives. While we really only like to show off the good things we are doing, the stark reality is that this is still a prison and bad things do.

Over the years we have seen the threats to our prisons change. We have new and more potent drugs being smuggled into our facilities and people coming in to the facilities under the influence of those drugs.

We need tools to help combat these threats utilizing staff training and technology. We have many tools at our disposal such as our electronic mail screening, or the Tru-Narc handheld narcotics analyzer. We utilize our Tek-84 X-ray body scanner to prevent contraband coming in the facility. This type of body scanner uses ultra-low dose x-ray technology to detect items inside or on the human body. This is used only for screening residents. This is different than the millimeter wave system that uses radio waves to detect contraband beneath the clothing. This is a technology that we would eventually like to implement so we can scan everyone coming in to the facilities to help reduce the introduction of contraband in the facility.

Our staff have to respond to some serious events and be able to maintain control in the facility. Resident fights and assaults, suicides, self-harming, mental health incidents, persons with weapons, and staff assaults are all things our staff respond to when called. Having a safe and secure facility to include static security measures such as gates, fences, razor wire, and good policies all help our staff respond to the bad things that happen as well as the good things. By having doors that lock properly and a secure perimeter allows staff to do all the other things we need to do to ensure a safe environment.

The threats we face come from many different angles. We try to combat this by using nearly 500 cameras in and around the facilities to provide real time monitoring and for investigative purposes. Even with all these tools at our disposal bad things sometimes still happen. We have teams in place to deal with extraordinary circumstances. We have several response teams in place to deal with these situations. Our SORT or Special Operations and Response Team is a specialized tactical team to respond when all other options have failed. Obviously, the best type of force to use is No Force. We utilize our

Crisis Negotiations team to try and avoid using force if at all possible. Our crisis negotiations team is comprised of staff from many different departments. DON Morgan Bosch is a member of this highly trained group of staff. She is going to talk a little bit about what they do:

DON Morgan Bosch

Unfortunately, this team is not always able to successfully resolve every situation. That is when our SORT team responds to deal with the incident. Once those incidents are resolved we provide follow up with staff to ensure we provide support and additional training in the form of Tactics reviews that take a critical look at the incident and review both the positives and the negatives of the incident identifying any areas where we need additional training.

Our staff see some pretty horrific things working in a prison. As we saw in the videos during the tour, our staff respond to everything from fights to assaults and even suicides. All of these can be a very traumatizing experience. Sgt. Travis Krein is going to share about his experience in BIU responding to a resident suicide.

Sgt. Travis Krein

Fortunately, we have a Critical Incident Response Team that is a volunteer lead employee organization focusing on health and wellness. They are available to help staff process the feelings in a group setting limited to those that experienced that particular incident through lived experience.

Sgt. Mitch Seibel is a big part of this team and can talk to the purpose and benefits of this team.