

Good Morning Chairman Wanzek and Members of the Committee, my name is Sgt Krein, I have been employed as a correctional officer for 15 years. In these years I have responded to a lot of emergency situations, from staff assaults, to resident assaults, to a gym full of residents fighting with each other. But I would like to tell you about one of the more difficult days in my career. I was the Sgt of one of the busiest and difficult units. BIU which stands for Behavioral intervention unit.

In this unit we work directly with the residents that needed some extra help, the ones that don't always get along with others. We conduct skills that you and I might take for granted, skills like "How to walk away from for difficult situations, or to how to say "No"

This day, I want to talk about was typical Thursday in September, my staff and I arrived at work, we get ready for the day. This was the last day of the week for us. We already have had a difficult week. We dealt with one guy taking the tier hostage, one breaking a sprinkler head and refusing our directive to move.

But today is our "Friday" we were looking forward to the weekend. I came in thinking last day, lets feed these guys do our skills and get the RRI workers to work get the job done and go home. I was getting ready to finalize count of the unit and that call came across my radio. The calls you don't want to here. This call made me question why I am working here. I responded to that call, when I arrived, I saw a resident who decided to take his life. We did what our training taught us. We preformed lifesaving measures that we have been training for. But in the end, it wasn't enough. This was the first successful suicide that the prison has encountered in many years. I went home that day feeling defeated, how am I going to go to work and walk by this cell and do my job without thinking of that Thursday. To this day when I walk past that cell in BIU I am reminded of that September day. I almost quit this job; I don't need to go through that again. What is the point of it? That day, that Thursday changed why I come to work. I don't come here just for that paycheck but to help change lives, to help my fellow officers get through the tough times. Times like we went through on that Thursday. This wouldn't be the last time we went through a situation like this but this was my first.