



E16 Multidisciplinary Approach to a Staged Sexual Assault

*Steven Geniuk, MS**, 91-1043 Hookaahea Street, Ewa Beach, HI 96706; and *Arthur S. Chancellor, MA**, 131 Wed Denning Road, Angier, NC 27501

After attending this presentation, attendees will better appreciate the value of a multidisciplinary approach to investigations, including various principles of sex assault crime scene investigation, identification of key evidence, a diverse spectrum of laboratory examinations, and expert analysis of staging elements.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by demonstrating how positive results were achieved through cooperation and teamwork among the entire forensic family involved in the case. No matter how far-flung the incidents, how remote the crime scenes, or how complex the scenario, investigators should coordinate efforts and approach the case from several angles for the highest chance of success.

This a case study demonstrates how an interdisciplinary approach to the investigation resolved a unique example of a complex staged sexual assault. Proper crime scene processing and collection of evidence allowed investigators, laboratory technicians, crime analysts, and subject matter experts to properly evaluate what happened, recognize how the subject of the investigation went about staging multiple scenes, and ultimately secure a confession and subsequent conviction of the perpetrator.

In this case, the victim, a soldier deployed to Afghanistan, reported she was assaulted by two men intent on raping her; however, she was able to fight them off. The victim was eventually returned from the combat zone to Georgia, where she then reported receiving two threatening notes, apparently from the suspects involved in the initial assault in Afghanistan. The victim was then transferred to Hawaii for her safety, but within two weeks of her arrival, she reported a blitz assault in her barracks room, where she was assaulted, tied up, and raped with a knife handle. In the last instance, the victim also claimed that the offender had written threatening comments on her body. Complicating the issue was the fact the victim positively identified a suspect during a lineup based on information from the initial incident. Investigation combined with several forensic examinations established all the reports were false. Once confronted with overwhelming forensic evidence, the victim confessed to falsifying each incident to facilitate a final transfer to a military base near her family.

This case study illustrates how a multidisciplinary approach provided investigators with the tools they needed to successfully resolve the case through proper application of sex assault crime scene investigation, analysis of the key pieces of evidence, appropriate use of a wide variety of laboratory disciplines, and incorporation of expert analysis.

Crime Scene, Sex Assault, Investigation