

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC PROTECTION
INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Nina Hunter, Subject Interview
IA 2012-11-312**

December 6, 2012

Present:

Nina Hunter, Corrections Captain

Jason Johnson, Corrections Sergeant

David Vanis, Captain

Bonita McClough, Transcribing Secretary

Vanis: All right today's date is December 6th, 2012. This is Captain Vanis with the Volusia County Department of Public Protection Internal Affairs Unit. Today I'm at the ah Internal Affairs office at the Volusia County Branch Jail conducting an interview with Captain Nina Hunter. Ma'am, could you state your name and your rank?

Hunter: Nina Hunter, Captain.

Vanis: And contact information phone number, home address

Hunter: [REDACTED]

Vanis: All right Ma'am I see you brought a representative today with you. Sir, could you please state your name for the record?

Johnson: Yes, Sir. Sgt. Jason Johnson

Vanis: Ok. With the Volusia County Department of Corrections, correct?

Johnson: Yes, Sir.

Vanis: Ok. Capt. Hunter how long how long have you been employed with the Department of Corrections?

Hunter: I'm in my 20th year.

Vanis: Ok. All right Ma'am you are hereby advised that you're being interviewed as part of an official administrative investigation being conducted by the Volusia County Department of Public Protection

Internal Affairs Unit. You will be asked questions specifically directed and narrowly related to the performance of your official duties and or fitness for continued employment. You are entitled to all the rights and privileges guaranteed by the laws of the Constitution of this State and the Constitution of the United States including the right not to be compelled to incriminate yourself. I am further advising you that if you refuse to testify or to answer questions relating to the performance of your official duties or the fitness for continued employment, it will be considered an act of insubordination and a violation of a direct order given by a superior or competent authority. If you do answer, neither your statements nor any information or evidence that is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceeding. These statements may be used against you in relation to Divisional disciplinary action. Be advised this is an active and open Internal Affairs investigation. I'm directing you not to discuss any part of this investigation with anyone other than your representative ah other than your representative until this case comes to a closure. Do you understand that you will be providing a sworn statement today?

Hunter: Yes

Vanis: Ok will you raise your right hand Ma'am? Do you solemnly swear or affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Hunter: Yes

Vanis: Ok. All right Ma'am and I know I gave you these things to you when I served you notice last week but this is your Advisement of Rights form and I'm gonna need you to review that and sign and if you would witness it, Sir. Ok? It's the 6th, 12/6.

Hunter: M hm

Johnson: And you said for me to witness, Sir?

Vanis: Yes, Sir. And do you understand your rights there pretty much what I just read to you also

Hunter: I understand Sir. Yes.

Vanis: Ok did you review your ah the Law Enforcement Officers and Corrections Officers' Rights?

Hunter: Yes.

Vanis: Chapter 112. You have any questions about that?

Hunter: No

Vanis: Is everything clear? Ok...all right Ma'am last week I delivered several documents to you including the report filed by Ofc. Cella Ofc. Cella's interview transcript, Sgt. Lowenstein's interview transcript, Ofc. Plotz' interview transcript, 2 interview transcripts from Ofc. Schneider, Sgt. West's transcript and Lt. McBride's transcript. Did you re - have a chance to review all that?

Hunter: Yes

Vanis: Ok. Is there anything in any of those documents you'd like to clarify Ma'am?

Hunter: (Exhales) Wow. Ahm...no.

Vanis: Ok is there - do you find any of those statements to be lies, untruths?

Hunter: Yes

Vanis: Then let's let's get to clarifying em

Hunter: Ok. Can can he help me out cause we went over this and this is his handwriting here

Vanis: Ok and the question's directed at you so I need you to answer it but if you all want to

Johnson: Ok this was the form where we started out these are mostly general questions go from there and I'll let you know if there's something else we need to go over.

Vanis: And please just let me know when you're starting so I can get to the ah section

Hunter: We're gonna start with Cella's 401. On the back on the the back of his on the 2nd page there it's it's not the official form he's like messed up the bottom part where it doesn't tell me what time he actually wrote that report cause that might take a might be a concern later see on the bottom of this this

Vanis: I I'm not in possession of the original

Hunter: Oh ok cause they normally it has the signature, date

Vanis: Understood

Hunter: and what time did you actually fill that report out there ahm what were the circumstances of the exchange conversation between Warden Pronovost and Cella I don't I'm kinda concerned that he it shows he came in at 6 o'clock in the morning you know 6 o'clock in the morning

Johnson: It was received by Warden Pronovost.

Hunter: Yeah he yeah it shows at one point that he wrote the report at 6 o'clock in the morning he came in but the Warden didn't receive it till 0914 hours?

Vanis: That's my understanding it's just delivered to Warden to the Warden.

Hunter: (Unintelligible) with it but I don't care about that

Vanis: And and Ma'am let's be clear.

Hunter: I'm sorry. Yeah

Vanis: This this complaint is about the actions that he's alleging

Hunter: Oh ok, ok.

Vanis: that that you did and those are the those are the allegations we want to address

Hunter: Ok I see.

Vanis: administrative formalities are not

Hunter: Ok I I know

Vanis: are not going to be my concern in this.

Hunter: Ok (unintelligible) I'm sorry ok...oh ok he made a comment in there that he had oh it's the allegations not about the injury either. My my concern is - I have a lot I'm sorry it's just it's it's a lot to take in when it's a he said she said thing...ok I wanna know who he was directing

when he made the comment that “I know you know she has had some affairs with some of the guys in here.” That’s a character assassination to me and I don’t know who he was directing that to was he directing that to you? I

Vanis: Where where are you at on cause you’re not on

Hunter: I’m on page 5

Vanis: you’re not on the 402

Hunter: page 5 of Cella’s ahm when you were questioning Cella on page 5...he says “I know you know she has had some af some affairs with some of the guys in here.” (radio chatter) I don’t know who he’s directing that to cause I

Vanis: Cause I don’t know you.

Hunter: Right exactly so I...(unintelligible)

Vanis: Where are you on here?

Johnson: (unintelligible)

Vanis: Page 5?

Hunter: Page 5 yeah

Johnson: At the bottom, Sir.

Hunter: The very bottom. In that paragraph.

Vanis: Where he’s talking about inappropriate contact? (Pause) Please show me cause I don’t think we’re looking at the same thing.

Johnson: She’s looking at the bottom of page 5.

Vanis: Cella’s quote is “they had filed a complaint because they were punched in their private area.”

Hunter: M hm

Vanis: “I don’t know if it’s true if there’s documentation, it’s just something I heard and I know that you know she has had some affairs-“

Hunter: Yeah I mean he is

Vanis: He is he isn't he has to be referring to me but it's

Hunter: and you don't know that because I mean

Vanis: I I don't know anything but that's...ok

Hunter: Ok

Vanis: There's I don't think there's anything to clarify there there's not he...I can't say what he's saying. That's - it's his statement.

Hunter: All right I'll just go on

Vanis: Here do you want me to just get into asking questions?

Hunter: Yeah that's good yeah

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: I'm sorry I'm sorry

Johnson: (unintelligible)

Hunter: Yeah I did I didn't know how the process went cause I've never been involved in this

Johnson: She was gonna be answering questions and then after you

Vanis: Well I want I want to address things that that are

Hunter: Incorrect

Vanis: that you don't find to be true.

Hunter: Right ahm

Vanis: Ok. What was your position in May through August of this past year?

Hunter: I was the Shift Commander of Bravo Shift.

Vanis: Bravo Shift and what are the hours of that? What were your working hours?

Hunter: 20 it's ahm 1930 to to ahm...0730.

Vanis: Ok.

Hunter: Can I paint a picture for you too as far as our positions do

Vanis: Absolutely

Hunter: because ah it's it's supposed to be in their chain of command. We have ah the Shift Commander that's supposed to be the Capt., we have a Relief Lt., we have an Operations Lt. and we have a Lt. at the Facility so if all of them were there I would step aside and let the Relief Lt. run the building so sh Lt. McBride ultimately made the the decisions and ran the process of the building where

Vanis: You oversaw this

Hunter: Right correct and that's the way it's supposed to be. But if the other white shirts aren't here then we have to bump one and then I do run the shift.

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: So if I say I was in charge of the building then that means every you know we were missing people and Lt. McBride was you know if we then we were all there Lt. McBride was running the building...and making the decisions.

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: And I entrusted her to do that. That's what

Vanis: That was my next question your

Hunter: Correct

Vanis: responsibilities with

Hunter: Correct

Vanis: within that position. Are you familiar with Ofc. Cella?

Hunter: Yes.

Vanis: Would Ofc. Cella have any reason for retaliation against you? Does he have any reason to to want to get you into trouble?

Hunter: The only thing I can think of is I I addressed his his use of force situation. I addressed the...he we had a ahm we had a use of force on an inmate on ahm 7/8 or ahm...

Johnson: I've got dates here it was

Hunter: It was an Inmate Hickman who was involved in

Johnson: July 4th

Hunter: They referred him and Sgt. West referred to this incident as "The Bloodbath" and and when the - I went

Johnson: I'm sure it was 7/8 it was

Hunter: I went outside

Johnson: the 8th

Hunter: I stepped outside to have a break

Johnson: 8th of July

Hunter: when this Code Blue was called cause I stepped outside to take a little quick break by the time I ran in from the parking lot, got into the building, got to Unit 3 Ofc. Cella was just getting out of the situation. So that it was like a a brawl. I mean this inmate came out with a hole in the back of his head, broken ribs, it just looked like a crime scene and I said if everybody anybody who hears his name hears use of force, aggressor and I just tried to talk to him as you know as a good captain that I try to be I said you know you might want to tone it down a little bit because anytime you're involved in something somebody's seriously hurt usually or you're hurt and it just doesn't look good. I gave examples of stuff and I feel like he just turned everything I did to help him out against me. Ahm Sgt. West at one point eliminated Plotz off of Unit 3 after Cella left he sent him next door and I said why did you do that? He said well he's a snake in the grass. I don't trust him. I said but he's been up there 2 months he was with Cella before Cella left he said well Cella he's scared of Cella. I don't understand that. I mean if you got nothing to hide, why do you need to eliminate a threat?

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: And now I'm you know now it's woof it's been turned all the way around on me. Ahm I think the final straw I mean if Cella didn't want to work with me

Vanis: So as far as this use of force goes ahm did you find any anything wrong with the use of force? I mean

Hunter: Well

Vanis: there was no discipline action taken

Hunter: Correct

Vanis: by you or

Hunter: Right cause I I didn't get to observe anything that happened but my sergeant's up there and if you got - I felt like Sgt. West I had tried to talk to him many times - I felt like he was shady. I felt like he at times he wouldn't tell me stuff but I mean I hear stuff. I can't go off of I hear stuff I have to go off of facts. You know that's not how we work around here so I've talked to Sgt. West on many occasions like you know we have to...(sighs) go over ahm yeah that's over our use of force policy our use of our use of force policy changed so they they have different standards of ahm you know justifying things now you know

Vanis: Different responsibilities

Hunter: Right right correct and I don't I don't I'm not that captain. I'm sorry if I'm not the good guy that's gonna be your buddy and want to go take care of inmates whenever you feel the need that you have a problem with one I go by the rules and that I feel like that and he was holding that against me. They can't do what they...I

Vanis: So then you can't

Hunter: I think Sgt. West felt like I was a threat and he was buddies with him. And I didn't know that in the beginning that they were that close. And I

Vanis: In the beginning of what?

Hunter: In the beginning of the shift cause I I didn't know that they were tight like that. If Ofc. Cella didn't want to work with me or he was so victimized by me during that time he - this was turned in on ahm 9/6. This is his this is his dream sheet what they call dream sheet

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: and at the top he said Alpha/Bravo rotation please cause he didn't know whether he was going days or nights. At that point I was still gonna be the Bravo Shift Commander and when that was turned in to me by Sgt. West he told me don't forget Cella's getting ready to come back, he wants to go back on Unit 3. I said you know I said whatever I don't I'm not gonna communicate with Sgt. West about Ofc. Cella's situation

Vanis: Ok so just so I'm clear on this form I've never seen one of these and I'll I'll ok it's the date on it

Hunter: That

Vanis: it's dated 9/6/2012

Hunter: And that's after (unintelligible)

Vanis: and this is Ofc. Cella's request to come back to either Alpha or Bravo Shift

Hunter: Correct.

Vanis: and you were still the supervisor on Bravo Shift.

Hunter: Right and that was turned in I mean he had the time to to to work that you know complete that figure it out and turn it in but he says he didn't have the time to to file anything against me as far as sexual harassment?

Vanis: If this is all right with you

Hunter: Yeah

Vanis: I'm just gonna put this to the side I'm gonna make a copy before we leave

Johnson: And that's versus him stating that back then he wasn't concerned about these issues. Now all of a sudden

Hunter: Yeah

Johnson: when he's perceived as well

Hunter: I'm sorry if if somebody's victimized you don't wait 3 months. That's a little ridiculous in my book if but he's clearly signed this paper that's why I asked you if I could pull that paper.

Johnson: He's still on.

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: That says that he knows the process on how to file it.

Vanis: Ok I'm gonna we're gonna move on.

Hunter: Ok go ahead I'm sorry.

Vanis: Ofc. Plotz any reason

Hunter: He he felt like I lied to him about the move when he was moved to the dorm he asked me how come I'm being moved? I said Sir I didn't make that decision. He said Sgt. West told me you did and I said I'll get back with you Sir. So I go to speak to Sgt. West he says well I just figured it'd be better that way it's easier that you made the decision.

Johnson: You were gone when this happened you weren't at work.

Hunter: Ah no I was on vacation but either way the bottom line is the sergeant lied to the officer now the officer thinks I'm lying to him and he went to the Facility and he was very upset about it so that's the one thing I can think of with him.

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: But they do tend to stick together.

Vanis: Ofc. Schneider?

Hunter: Schneider Schneider shoulda seen everything if that's the case. Schneider claims he didn't see nothin originally his butt is backed up to that counter everyday I've said numerous times to go find something to do. It's always backed up against where the coffeepot is. There's no way that he did not have a view if I did all that stuff.

Vanis: Is there any reason is there any reason he would want to retaliate against you? Is what

Hunter: No I'm just concerned about how he he answered what I would think is a normal answer is no absolutely not I wouldn't have forgot that oh I remember everything he said ahm

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: and then

Vanis: We're gonna get we're gonna we're gonna get

Hunter: Right I wanna know where he went and who he talked to to come back and change his story like that.

Vanis: All right. Sgt. West obviously you you just kinda pointed out

Hunter: He's got a lot of issues

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: a lotta issues...and obviously I've seen he eliminates threats so I I'm ahm I can't believe he would come after me like that.

Vanis: All right between ahm May and August did you ever have any conversation with Ofc. Cella or Ofc. Plotz on Unit 3?

Hunter: Yes

Vanis: When was this?

Hunter: I swing by periodically talk at one point one day he asked me why I looked so down I just said got a lot on my mind a lotta issues I was moving and then we talked from there I just said I was looking for a house by my parents which he was correct in all that stuff but at no time was I talking explicit to him ever.

Vanis: So typical subject matter

Hunter: Typical.

Vanis: What what would that be just

Hunter: Ahm

Vanis: casual conversation?

Hunter: Yeah

Vanis: Like - examples...

Hunter: Ahm...it started off small like I said I don't I don't stay up there very often very long. It started off small just ah you know looking for the house. Next time I'd go up there I'd found a house. Next time I went up there did you move yet? Ahm offered to help me move if I'm coming after you, if I want you so bad and I've tried so many times to get you, why would you put yourself in the position to come to my house and want to help me move? I don't understand why somebody would offer to be over there if I'm coming after him.

Johnson: That was him and Plotz.

Hunter: Ahm...I we talked a little about the kid situation talked a little bit about my kid situation...ahm...this stuff this sexual stuff where I'm I want him to fuck me in the ass I don't even say the word clit I don't even say that that's not he quoted all that in his in his 401 he quoted it so when he quoted it he stated that's exactly what I said. I don't talk like that. I don't go to you - no I don't even know him! I'm not gonna say you know

Vanis: Ok ok that's

Hunter: snatch my hair and fuck me in the ass? Come on man that's ridiculous

Vanis: So you at no time said any part of that quote

Hunter: No! I read that paperwork and I'm like I was flustered. First of all when I found out it was him we never had an issue with each other other than the fact that me and Sgt. West are going back and forth about this use of force situation and Cella was part of it too cause I wanted him to tone him down...I never had no clue that's what bugged me so much.

Vanis: So

Hunter: He

Vanis: did you ever discuss your your sex life with Ofc. Cella?

Hunter: No.

Vanis: Ofc. Plotz?

Hunter: No.

Vanis: Did you ever discuss your relationship with Sgt. Johnson?

Hunter: No...not to any sexual you know not sexually

Vanis: Ok. So discussions - just so I understand correctly - what what you're saying is as you as you would do your I don't know if it would be called a patrol but you walk around in the different units within the within the jail and you stop and check on your guys.

Hunter: (unintelligible)

Vanis: and you talk about...casual conversation

Hunter: 99% of the time I didn't even talk about nothing I mean not 99 I'm sorry maybe on 4 different occasions I might've stayed there longer than a couple minutes...correct right yeah. Looking in the logbook we've had this issue in the past where females have been attracted to a man and you look in their their thing and you see they've been up there multiple times I go to the unit once a day. Once a day. The longest I stayed up there was when I relieved to help relieve. I used myself because Lt. McBride was here so I used myself to assist relieving. But the longest I...I have to go through every unit I lost train I'm sorry I thought lost my train...of thought

Johnson: You was discussing the the logbook and how often - your frequency

Hunter: Oh I know that's what I was going to say you can you can pull up the Unit 3 logbook and see

Vanis: So you have to sign in every time you go in the unit

Hunter: Correct

Vanis: or somebody signs you in

Hunter: Correct

Vanis: in the unit

Hunter: and you can go there and you can see you know every day that I went, how long I stayed...

Johnson: They didn't document it well those two they did document well.

Hunter: That's what another of my concerns they they documented so well on all that whoever came up whoever did what

Vanis: Time in, time out that stuff yeah

Hunter: Correct but on the day of his injury the day that he alleged that I licked his neck gave him wet willies and flatu whatever on his back they documented well except for that day they don't say who came up there on the unit to relieve em, they don't say why he was off the unit at 0500 nothing's it's all shady. So when he - first thing when he came in the office Sgt. West said he was injured and that he just took him to the clinic he needs to go to HMC I said I said what? I said what'd we have a use of force or something? It came to my mind cause that's what you would assume after dealing with these two.

Vanis: M hm

Hunter: and ahm and he says ah I need the the paper to fill out he's filled out this paper multiple times so I told him to get it off the ENN and that make sure he used the updated one. So I was I just was bothered by that you know I wasn't even in a playful mood I was bothered by what's he doing off ah off of Unit 3 at 0500 hours in the morning? And when I went to look nothing was notated in the JMS book. So to me Sgt. West had lost his FTO posi his training position because he he failed to report an incident that happened. So come on you couldn't you're gonna you have to do it multiple times before you get busted doin it so they thought I was like questioning them trying to get somebody in trouble and that's all I can think about.

Johnson: He was trying to go to Ops he mentioned goin to Ops before warning you about the injury

Hunter: Oh yeah it it yeah but that doesn't

Vanis: Ok so so you're saying that no time did you have any sexual conversation with Ofc. Cella or Ofc. Plotz

Hunter: No. Now they could be confusing my training stuff with my Pro Straint chair issues...where new people come off the come out of school they go through my train our training which they put me in the chair and they put another elderly sergeant in the chair. They get explicit you know talk the way a female in the back door would come in and then people have talked about that and they where'd you come up with some of this stuff I don't I don't know if they're

trying to twist this around on me cause everybody'll tell you yeah she's man I've heard some crap come out of her mouth but that's from my training issues it has nothing to do with talking to anybody directly.

Vanis: Well I mean you read the interviews. No one said that was part of your training

Hunter: Yeah they're shady! They're all oh I think I ah I'm not sure I - either you saw me or you didn't see me that's the bottom line you don't say ah you would know if I licked the back of somebody's head.

Vanis: Did Ofc. Cella ever express that he didn't you know any kind of dissatisfaction with what you were discussing with him any kind of

Hunter: Never!

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: Never! As a matter of fact I mean he would open the door sometimes and try to and and try to talk to me about things. One day he even asked me well I thought you got a house, why ain't you moved out yet? That you know I didn't have to get deep with him it's none of his business why I I hope you're not still sleeping with him you know how men are. I well why would you bring that up? I'm I'm sorry but I can't

Johnson: Cella stated it was like a counseling session

Hunter: It was. To a degree you know you have to ask questions I'm not gonna just sit there and talk to you you know off the wall come on now. I'm not gonna sit here and say all say anything just out of the blue you have to ask questions about things. He that's why I did not understand why what I honestly was I when when I heard it was Cella I was like oh my God what'd I do to offend him? You know I really liked the guy. I didn't think there was a problem other than his uses of force and if if they perceive me as a threat for that I'm sorry but I don't understand it cause there's nothing between him and I that's bad blood. There's nothing...he's always been cordial and pleasant and I've always been decent with him. He woulda been the last person on my list to think that any that he would do anything like this to me.

Vanis: Did any of his supervisors your subordinates ever relay any of this to you that he was offended by any kind of conversation

Hunter: No! No and he when he turned in this thing if if you're such good buddies with him and you're turning in this sheet for him, Sgt. West and you think he has a problem because I know you've talked to him, why wouldn't you have addressed it? Is it just something at the last minute that you're not getting your way about something? Why would want to if you're coming back to my shift at the end I I don't know I guess he got delayed on coming back from his injury but he he Sgt. West came to me at least 3 times and said he's coming back. He wants to be back on Unit 3. Never did he relay oh something he was mad about anything. Nothing. It sounds like he wants to get a paycheck in that dang thing. Don't use me as a scapegoat to get that. (Exhales)

Vanis: Do you recall the morning Ofc. Cella injured his knee?

Hunter: Yes.

Vanis: What do you remember about that incident?

Hunter: That they walked in the door and ah Sgt. West said Cella hurt himself slipping in the kitchen. Well no wait they walked in the door and said Cella hurt himself. And I said Oh my God we had did we have a use of force? He said no he slipped in the kitchen. I said ah I looked at him and I was like it's 5 o'clock you know it was a delayed reaction and then I said and I said all right well make sure you use the updated form. It's on ENN.

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: They wrote in there like I didn't care about it I had no concern about it I walked in I walked out I did this I did that - no. If I did all that and it was back to back to back how can you see one thing and not the rest

Vanis: I don't want to talk right now right now let's

Hunter: I'm sorry

Vanis: I don't want to talk

Hunter: I'm frustrated

Vanis: the interviews I want to talk about what you recall about the whole thing. This is this is

Hunter: What thing?

Vanis: your you answer and not not

Hunter: That's it

Vanis: going through their interviews.

Hunter: Yeah only thing I was wondering what - it seemed shady it just seemed shady. They're all jittering around looking for a paper that they've done multiple times. It I don't I just

Vanis: I mean other than that what did he say to you?

Hunter: I was I was mad at West - why didn't you contact me right away? If if you were in the dining hall he reports this to you I didn't even know he had him sit down and and gather himself. What did you have to gather? I mean take - call somebody right away, get a wheelchair, do whatever. What did you have to sit down and gather? Then you take him to the clinic you still don't call me. Then you go from the clinic to my office and tell me and then get mad you know cause I'm writing a report that I I act like I didn't care I didn't get the paperwork you could've called me from the clinic I woulda brought it right to you then. He wouldn't a had to walk to the office. There was just something shady about that to me. And I'm sorry. Most people call their supervisor and let em know I got an injured officer I'm in the clinic with them. They don't have em sit down gathering themselves

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: and I heard it was a pretty good injury so I'm just concerned he was off the unit at 5 o'clock what could've happened

Vanis: Ok so...Sgt. West brought Ofc. Cella to your office

Hunter: M hm

Vanis: to look for the paperwork.

Hunter: M hm

Vanis: Then then what happened?

Hunter: He didn't even have to bring him to my office. He he just had to call make the call.

Vanis: Ok well he did he didn't here's what I'm asking you.

Hunter: Ok so I

Vanis: Did did Sgt. West bring Ofc. Cella?

Hunter: Yes, he did

Vanis: Ok what happened from there?

Hunter: Cella sat down in the chair, I questioned about the use of force issue and then I left to go I don't know what he did

Vanis: Why did you ask him about a use of force issue

Hunter: When he came in I said did we have a use of force?

Vanis: Oh ok

Hunter: And they said no he slipped in the kitchen but they were scrambling around to get the paperwork do whatever Sgt. Lowenstein went in my office to go get it he always does he he's a he takes care of all that when somebody else has problems. So I seen they were doin that I went to finish whatever I was doing.

Vanis: Ok. And what were you doing at the time, do you remember?

Hunter: At 0500 hours it's right before they get their chow carts. I have to get any paperwork back before then. If I turn paperwork back in and said you got revisions to make I need it back to me because if I wait till after they get their they they won't have it done once they get their trays. Once they get their their breakfast on the unit they gotta feed that, pick it up, do cell inspection so I need it all back before then that's what I do normally do around 5 o'clock.

Vanis: Ok while Sgt. Lowenstein and West were looking for this paperwork did you interact with Ofc. Cella at all?

Hunter: M mm. No.

Vanis: No interaction?

Hunter: No

Vanis: Didn't speak to him?

Hunter: M mm

Vanis: Didn't

Hunter: I know he looked disgusted when I asked if it was a use of force that was it so I didn't even entertain it. I just I just did what I had to do and I figured I'd go look it up and find out why he was off the unit, who relieved him and didn't I didn't even know what early feed we have early feeds that come in early guys that come in to do court or whatever. Nobody was (unintelligible)

Vanis: That's kind of like Schneider's shift

Hunter: Yeah

Vanis: he does like a swing shift

Hunter: Right

Vanis: always comes in at 5

Hunter: and Schneider would sit and Schneider would back his butt up on the counter everyday all day in the morning time at that time. There's no way he could've not seen anything.

Vanis: Well he as you saw what happened was he did the interview didn't recall anything

Hunter: Yeah

Vanis: then called me back after I left and then said that he

Hunter: Come on

Vanis: he did see it but listen. Why - three of these people are are driving the same story. Why I mean do you think it just doesn't seem like it's that big a deal it's a huge retaliation for...

Hunter: It is a huge retaliation, that's why I don't understand it

Vanis: for something that doesn't seem like that big a deal.

Hunter: That would be a big deal if I put my tongue on your neck that

Vanis: No no no no no

Hunter: Oh

Vanis: I'm saying what for their end you know

Hunter: I I have no understanding I I promise you I do not understand why they would do that. I like I said I never had a clue never had a problem with Cella I've had issues with Sgt. West but I never had a problem with Cella; Cella's never really direct you know...ahm from day one with Cella he he wouldn't even let me in his block without making sure he was with me to walk around like he was my bodyguard. I told him I said I don't need you in here he said well I wouldn't feel good if you you got injured and I'm out there and I could've been in here with you. I don't know what he could why he would come after me.

Vanis: Ok. Did you lick your finger and place it in his ear?

Hunter: No, I did not -

Vanis: All right

Hunter: and that's another thing. If I stuck my finger in my mouth and I'm coming to you to put it in he said he seen it all I stuck my finger in my mouth, I came to him, I put it in? Come on, now you're gonna let me get that far? If I stick my finger in my mouth and I'm comin after you - please. No.

Vanis: Did you flatulate on him?

Hunter: No, I did not. I'm not saying I'm not gonna deny having done it in the past not on him I'm just saying in general

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: We we're a big family you know we've been this like they said this is a different environment. It's not the normal environment. I

Vanis: Did you lick his head and/or neck?

Hunter: Oh no. No I did not lick his head or neck. That's disgusting.

Vanis: Did you make any any comment

Hunter: No

Vanis: saying it tasted salty?

Hunter: No

Vanis: Ok...has

Hunter: I feel like him and Sgt. West conjured up a good one. Sgt. West plays games like that. He's...(exhales) I've walked in on Sgt. West on a different captain's shift when I wasn't I had to make up some hours and saw him in the process of something but his captain was there so that was up to him, so. You wouldn't believe the stuff I see and and I try to do the right thing and I'm the one attacked and retaliated against...(blows loudly) The man's trying to leave and make all these demands...how could (sighs) ah how could Sgt. West see licking and and nothing else combined with him not hearing conversation West alleges reporting the incident to Lt. McBride and Lt. McBride - see there's another lie right there. He tells you he told Lt. McBride. Lt. McBride said she didn't get nothin from him. Never once has he come to me and said any that this man had any issues against me but he'll dang sure go to him and tell him I got issues with them and that's where where's your loyalty at as far as that goes. You don't go running to that officer and tell him what I've discussed with you that's between the a sup two supervisors. I've had a lot of issues on that and I I that would be petty for them to come after me for something like that, but that's the only thing I can think about. I I'm not perfect and you know I'm human I live in the real world but that's ridiculous even on my worst day outside of this place that this is what he wrote is ridiculous. I I I stuck my tongue, I licked him, I farted on him...come on now...and then it makes all that sexual ah stuff stuff towards him? I have never please put me on a lie detector and say have I ever even looked at the man and thought anything sexually about him there's no way shape or form...(sighs) it has nothing to do with him, either so...

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: I

Vanis: All right Sgt. West and Sgt. er sorry Ofc. Cella both state in there that Sgt. West at one point said leave the guy alone to you?

Hunter: No

Vanis: Never?

Hunter: He don't recall anything else but him and Cella both got that statement correct in both their reports that's that's a little convenient...he can't remember anything else but yeah I told her to leave the guy alone and he says the same thing that's pretty convenient in my book. (Exhales) Yeah we we kinda had our nooks differently sorry.

Vanis: Ok anything else you want to add? This is your your opportunity just

Hunter: Yeah like I said I'm gonna walk out the door and I could be dismissed cause again they're not gonna...they ain't gonna get rid of the person that is making the complaint if I aint got no evidence. I just base it all - is it possible you could go and get Sgt. West's jump drive? I I mean this this would kinda confirm what I'm trying to say about the uses of force. That you we have a right as a supervisor to get their jump drive and review it. On his jump drive I can't remember what he labeled it but he has an actual trophy file of all the uses of forces he's done. And and please if you send the wrong person there, it's gonna be eliminated I promise you. It will be missing. But on it it pops up the person's picture, their name, booking number and a video of each use of force he's involved in cause I saw him having it open I can't remember who he was showing it to but I said that's not funny, man that's you think that's funny? It's not funny. I'm not saying you know I don't get no you know this one I had a bad day this day. Oh this is a good one here look at this one. I actually have one in my pocket on mine where I told him I put it up and I said this is not gonna happen on my shift where he punches a guy in the face like 5 times right on video with 2 others holding him he had no business goin to this guy in the first place. That's the only thing I can think of why these these people would be coming after me cause that is a serious issue that's a criminal offense if you're excessively using force here I told him you can get arrested for it.

Johnson: How much am I allowed to point out the notes that she had taken? Cause she

Hunter: we we had a lot of other stuff that you know you said is not

Johnson: Their

Hunter: is not needed here.

Johnson: Some of their statements that are are you're sayin are consistent there's also a lot of inconsistencies in in a lot of them too.

Vanis: Absolutely. I mean if you if you want to point things out, go ahead. This is your opportunity.

Johnson: As far as you had Schneider that was pointed out lookin in. Lowenstein and West were essentially doing similar tasks in the office. Lowenstein didn't see he says in his report he he maybe there was some conversation goin on but he didn't see any acts goin on. West was essentially performing the same task looking for this paper, doin this doin that Cella says the series of events happened one after the other the flatulating, the lick, the wet willie and the licking on the back of the head. West only saw...West in the middle of all this ahm...

Hunter: West said he saw me lick him

Johnson: he said he said he saw the licking but he didn't ah see the wet willie if he's seeing that and it's all happened simultaneously he's gonna see everything. Schneider now although he did come back to recant his statement. When he on his transcripts when he when he was first there he stated that something like that would've been like wow! I would've known that...and after you asked the question he goes no.

Hunter: Yeah, I read that and

Johnson: According to the transcript there was an exclamation point so I'm guessing that that was a quick no...

Vanis: M hm

Johnson: going on I don't know how long we don't know I'm sorry when when he left how quickly he contacted you whether it was within 5 minutes whether it was in an hour I'm not accusing him of anything but him and if you look at Plotz's as some of these officers as they respond to the questions they weren't able to give direct answers until well how about this does this sound something familiar does this sound something familiar well yeah there are some that does sound like something someone would say. But like in the situation with Plotz's he his initial response to hey what kind of conversation went on his initial conversation was responding yeah it was like she was comin by checking on us and then there was conversation about normal life weekends this and that. If someone was so harsh

Hunter: He don't forget it.

Johnson: most officers you would imagine that that would stick out and they both indicated Cella and Plotz both indicated that before this so called licking incident happened they both felt that there was nothing that happened that was worth reporting. So 3, 4 months down the line and then the initial questioning how much is they all of a sudden well maybe she did maybe she didn't there there's even indications from all of the officers interviewed that well there is a general sense of ah their terminology was a camaraderie but this the environment you know it is normal to hear things. So if they're saying that and nothing's worth reporting, what are they w what really are they reporting because they can't answer directly they they

Hunter: Yeah

Johnson: it took a little bit of a jump start. Now maybe that's maybe that's normal but if something is a shock value especially when most of these officers are saying Lowenstein Sgt. Lowenstein ahm Schneider definitely definitely would've definitely would've ah

Hunter: Let me

Johnson: popped

Hunter: Well let me add a little bit in about Plotz and and the shadiness there is he clearly tells you that he associates with 2 people outside of here a sergeant and a lieutenant right in his thing. He then decides to make his lieutenant friend Hughes look good by using that as an example you wouldn't hear her say that if she came up here. Ok? Lt. Hughes bein a female first of all why he got to compare me just to a female second of all how come he didn't compare me to another captain that comes up there? Because there's not another captain that he could probably use that hasn't been hasn't talked crazy or or been outta line or did whatever so he doesn't compare me to a captain he compares me to a female. I don't that's the way it I that's what I got to deal with all the time. Just cause I'm a female I and I never used that as an excuse before but it seems to fall in place with Cella and them.

Vanis: All right

Johnson: And with Plotz on those he alleged that he only associates with those 2 but then he later states that he sent

Hunter: Him texts text messages yeah

Johnson: If so that's just a work partner outside of work he sent multiple text and multiple

Hunter: to check on him but anyway that's yeah that's yeah here and there but that female he knows damn well that female he compared me to she talks all kinds of crap so he can't compare me to her.

Johnson: With just as much as that's on the line and this is a 20 year career

Hunter: Right

Johnson: you know every little inconsistency is worth looking at as far as bringing up because that's that's a lot on the like you said you know why are why is these just this worth retaliation

Hunter: Put it this way our office is kinda the congregatin section when they're getting their trays and doin whatever. Our office has always been the ventin area also. You can hear all kinds of stuff in that office. I try to close my door sometimes because I can't get work done when I'm hearin all that's goin on out there. So you there's not much that you haven't heard in that office to include his friend that he tried to use as an example. It it like I said it's the environment. You can't sit on the unit and talk about yourselves and what kind what's goin on how bad your day was cause most of the time the inmates are up there so you bring it to the office. I'm sorry it's just

Johnson: I the one thing

Hunter: too much

Johnson: with everything I don't think you was told after one of these discussions you and and your discussions were always constructed because there wasn't a direct violation of policy but you were concerned

Hunter: ah that's

Johnson: as far as how the use of forces were going there was a response that you got I don't know (unintelligible)

Hunter: I I feel like doin the right thing has just got me nothin but

Johnson: Listen you you got

Hunter: No I ain't

Johnson: the response that you got once you once you gave this verbal "hey you know you guys gotta really be careful you can get arrested" you got a response from Sgt. West.

Hunter: Yeah team I'm not a team player. I'm not a team player.

Vanis: Ok. So when you're discussing Ofc. Cella's and

Hunter: Anything about uses of force

Vanis: Sgt. West's uses of force

Hunter: correct I'm not a team player

Vanis: When did Ofc. ah when did Sgt. West say that to you?

Hunter: On multiple occasions. I'm not a team player when I discussed the issue about the bloodbath, when I discussed ah him moving Plotz because he he was a snake in the grass and he didn't trust him there's no reason a sergeant needs to move an officer off his unit because he's a snake in the grass and he doesn't trust him unless you're doing something wrong. I'm sorry and that's what I said that's why I'm so worried about this cause if he said she said thing and I've done nothing but try to do right by them I could've wrote them up on speculation but I how far would it get on that? So I I need concrete evidence you know?

Johnson: And they got justified through Staff Development

Hunter: And and it seems like any time you ever brought up that I thought was an issue there's always a way that it's been justified so I'm wrong you know and that makes makes me look bad.

Vanis: Ok let's ah just gonna finish things up here. Have you ever had a sexually explicit conversation with any employees here?

Hunter: I've never had

Vanis: In the workplace

Hunter: not explicit and like directed to you. I've never had no just beside besides my training plat my training and I could show you the videos

Vanis: Outside outside of training. I understand

Hunter: I mean

Vanis: I understand training that you're gonna have to say things

Hunter: for instance if I was in the office if I was in the office and I was maybe complaining because I can't keep a relationship or something like that I might say I come with a paycheck you know I don't get headaches if I you know if I had a headache you wouldn't get hors d'oeuvres or appetizers that's in the office not directed at Cella or Plotz or anything so this is where people would say it's not out of line for her to say somem funky like that or or ah keep it spicy in your relationship blah blah blah that type of thing never would I go with the extreme that he went to in that report unless it was in that ProStraint chair thing and I didn't even do that extreme. I can give you we could pull up probably 8 videos if I can get em. I got at least 2 in my pocket

Vanis: No I understand. Training's training.

Hunter: Training.

Vanis: All right. So

Hunter: I mean my language in the past my language in the past wasn't so good but it was never explicit sexual stuff.

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: It was just like F this or F you know and I had to tone it down.

Vanis: All right so you never had any kind of sexually explicit conversations with Ofc. Cella or Plotz

Hunter: No

Vanis: You never licked your finger and stuck it in Ofc. Cella's ear

Hunter: No

Vanis: You never flatulated on him

Hunter: No

Vanis: And you never licked his head or neck

Hunter: No

Vanis: Ok

Hunter: Can I ask one more thing? I found out he was a germaphobic by goin up to his unit one day and seein the sergeant put something in his hand where he didn't have a glove on it and and he found out that that was in the guy's pants that the contraband was taken from his pants you I'm so disgusting if where he's alleging this but you don't have a problem with a sergeant playing games with you and putting that in your hand after it came out of a man's genital area or whatever? I mean this is just a comparison of why are directing this at me? You have multiple things that you have issues with but you're directing everything to me.

Vanis: Ok.

Hunter: I would love to find out what what turned the tables with him and I...and for some reason I feel like the the middleman is West.

Vanis: Ok I have no further questions unless you have anything else you want to

Hunter: No

Vanis: you want to add

Hunter: No

Vanis: All right. The time is now 0945 hours and we're gonna be off the record.

(Recording devices off)