

Investigator(s) / Intelligence Analyst(s): Ellis D. Stafford	Date Initiated/Updated: 6/6/2018
Complainant(s): Jeff Rasawehr	Address: [REDACTED]
Phone Number: (419) [REDACTED]	County: Oakland

REFERENCE: ALLEGED CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT (SODOMY) AT FORT RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL (2008), AND SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP

INFORMATION:

The complainant (Rasawehr) was referred to the Detroit Crime Commission (DCC) by one of its supporters. The complainant detailed a hazing ritual that involved freshmen on the Fort Recovery High School Basketball team a decade ago and a possible cover up.

POSSIBLE Hazing INCIDENT TIME AND DATE:

June of 2008, time unknown

POSSIBLE HAZING INCIDENT VENUE(S):

[REDACTED] Findlay, OH 45840, or one of the hotels [REDACTED]

BACKDROP:


According to the complainant, Fort Recovery's Boys High School Basketball team annually attended [REDACTED] Boys' Basketball Camp" at the [REDACTED]. Billed as the largest college run basketball camp in Ohio, high school basketball teams from across the state attend the week-long camp.

In 2008, the camp/hotel may have also served as the venue for a hazing ritual called *Spirit Week* wherein freshmen players are hazed using an object called the "*Spirit Stick*"; aka., *Fort Recovery Shish-kebab*. Described as a wooden shaped [REDACTED]/penis, it is alleged that upper classmen would [REDACTED] freshmen players with the spirit stick while at the [REDACTED] Basketball Camp.

Again, according to the complainant, and supported - in part - by statements from witnesses, some level of hazing did occur. However, everyone interviewed by Bastian stopped short of saying they were abused or saw anyone abused by the spirit stick (see: *Interview Synopsis* below)

LEGEND:

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| Complainant | Jeff Rasawehr |
| Private Investigator hired by Rasawehr | Jack Bastian |
| Former School Superintendent | [REDACTED] |
| Former School Principal | [REDACTED] |
| Former Head Boys Basketball Coach | Coach |
| Victim #1* | Former basketball player |
| Victim #2* | Former basketball player |
| Victim #3* | Former basketball player |
| Victim #4* | Former basketball player |
| Former District Attorney | DA |
| Mercer County Sheriff | Sheriff |

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Investigating Officer
Witness #1
Witness #2
Fmr School Board Member
Fmr Deputy/School employee

Detective

Father

*All four alleged victims were underclassmen at Fort Recovery in 2008 and beyond

FORT RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL:

Fort Recovery is a D3 school located in Fort Recovery, Ohio. The physical address is; 400 Butler St, Fort Recovery, OH 45846. According to its website; http://www.fortrecoveryschools.org/high_home.aspx

The high school houses approximately 280 students in grades 9-12 on a yearly basis

INTERVIEW RASAEHR:

DCC Staff first met with Rasawehr on 6-6-18 at 10:45 AM at our offices in Detroit. As previously stated, Rasawehr was directed to the DCC by one of its supporters. He said he came to the DCC because his earlier attempts to alert/notify local authorities of another upcoming *Spirit Week* were either ignored or deliberately covered up. He alleged the Mercer County Sheriff was compromised and offered as proof that "no" reports were ever filed in 2008 regarding Spirit Week; even after being reported to the Sheriff in person by a former school board member. Rasawehr also said he tried to alert the FBI's Lima Ohio Office, but for reasons never disclosed, believed the RA (Resident Agent) was also compromised.

Using his own private investigator, Jack Bastian, Rasawehr claimed to have proof Spirit Week occurred in 2008 and resulted in at least one freshman, victim #1, being hospitalized [REDACTED]. He said the hospitalization was the result of [REDACTED] spirit week. Also, that another student was [REDACTED] he added.

It also should be noted, the complainant runs a website called; *County Cover Up*, see: <http://countycoverup.com/> that appears to be dedicated to uncovering public corruption in Mercer County.

2008 SYNOPSIS:

Based on the 13 interviews conducted by Bastian (includes multiple interviews of the same person), all of which were recorded, transcribed, and forwarded to the DCC. DCC staff was able to piece together some of what may have happened during the summer of 2008 at basketball camp.

NOTE: Aside from meeting with Rasawehr, DCC staff did not interview any of the persons involved with this incident. All information regarding Spirit Week is via interviews conducted by Bastian.

During the summer of 2008, the Fort Recovery Boys Basketball team attended [REDACTED] Basketball Camp. Based on statements by alleged Victims #2 & #3 some level of hazing did occur.

In his recorded statement, Victim #3 reluctantly described a hazing incident that involved Victim #4. He remembered Victim #4 being in a bathtub and someone dumping ice on him but could not remember who did it. In addition, he was unsure if urine was in the bathtub while Victim #4 was in it, nor did he remember anyone urinating on Victim #4 or in the tub. He also stopped short of seeing the spirit stick while at camp that year; although he said he had heard of it. Fast forward to a school board member who stated they received a call from someone about the incident.

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COO

The school board member does not say who called them about the incident, only that they in turn notified the former superintendent. The school board member further stated instead of the superintendent re-contacting them, they received a call back from the former principal. According to the school board member, the former principal told them they had done an investigation and could not find anything and chalked it up to kids just talking. Undeterred and believing the stories to be true, the former school board member, another person and Fr. [REDACTED] who arranged a face-to-face meeting with the Sheriff.

Father [REDACTED] said in his statement that the Sheriff responded in person. He did not remember the exact date, but recalled the Sheriff coming at night, in plain clothes, a plain car, and meeting with two persons in the Rectory. Fr. [REDACTED] said he sat with the group while they told the Sheriff about what they had heard and done.

Based on additional statements, the Sheriff must have assigned the investigation to a detective who contacted the former school board member shortly after their meeting with him.

The former school board member goes on to later say they were contacted again by the detective and told they could not find any victims. This included some parents that refused to allow their kids to be interviewed. As such, the case was closed.

The former school board member said later they received a call from the Sheriff and the former DA. At the time of the call, the Sheriff was in the DA's office. The subject of the call was a failure to report by two former school administrators. As mandatory reporters, they had a duty to immediately report the incident to authorities. However, as described in their statement, the former school board member said the DA decided not to prosecute. The reason given was technical. He told the former school board member that as a member of the school board, their reporting of the incident to the sheriff constituted "notification/reporting".

At that point, the investigation was officially closed.

LIST OF WITNESSES/VICTIMS INTERVIEWED/SYNOPSIS:

Below is the list of interviews forwarded to the DCC and their scope of knowledge regarding the incident:

Another Person– Heard of the Spirit Stick/Spirit Week, but has no direct knowledge of the incident
Fr. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] – Unclear if he knew of the Spirit Stick prior to the former school board member contacting him. Regardless, has no direct knowledge of the incident


Former School Board Member – Heard of the Spirit Stick, but had no direct knowledge of the incident

Victim #2 – Has seen and heard of the Spirit Stick. Victim #2 also heard about Victim #4 getting dunked in cold water, but no knowledge of anyone being sodomized or urinated on.

Former Coach – Claimed to have no knowledge of Spirit Week, Spirit Stick, or any hazing at camp.

Victim #3 – Heard of the Spirit Stick, but never saw it. Remembered Victim #4 being in a bathtub with ice and possible urine.

Former School Employee – Heard of both the Spirit Stick and week, but had no direct knowledge of the incident.

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MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECORDS:

On June 19, 2018, a Freedom of Information Request was emailed to the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. The request described the incident 10 years earlier and described the Sheriff and detective as taking notes on a notepad (see: *Public Records Request* attached).

On June 22, 2018, an email response from the Sheriff's Office read; "We have no records responsive to your request."

MERCER COUNTY SHERIFF OFFICE:

4835 State Route 29, Celina, Ohio, 45822, TX: 419-586-7724

FORT RECOVERY:

Fort Recovery is located in Mercer County at the confluence of a number of major area roads, including State Route 119, State Route 49, Sharpsburg Road, Union City Road, Wabash Road, and Fort Recovery-Minster Road.




Fort Recovery Demographics:

As of the 2010 census, there were 1,430 people, 555 households, and 391 families residing in the village with a racial makeup of:

- 97.7% White
- 1.1% Hispanic/Latino of any race
- 0.1% African American
- 0.1% Native American
- 0.1% Asian
- 0.7% from other races, and
- 1.3% from two or more races.

OTHER LE AGENCIES IN THE AREA:

Fort Recovery Police Department. According to its website, the department consists of the Chief of Police, one (1) full-time and a part-time patrol officer. The Mercer County Sheriff's Department provides dispatch services for Fort Recovery and sheriffs deputies augment police services. With the help of Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Fort Recovery is protected 24 hr/day.

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ADDITIONAL:

As stated in the subject line, Rasawehr believes the incident was covered up possibly due to one or more of the reasons listed below:

- The investigation would adversely affect republican party candidates
- Possible to a gubernatorial appointee
- A person, or persons, getting promoted as a reward for covering up the incident

STATUS:

Open, pending additional documents/information from Rasawehr.

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Investigator(s) / Intelligence Analyst(s): Ellis Stafford	Date Initiated/Updated: 6/6/2018 / 10-15-18
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Phone Number: 419 [REDACTED]	County: Oakland

REFERENCE: ALLEGED CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT (SODOMY) AT FORT RECOVERY HIGH SCHOOL (2008), AND SUBSEQUENT COVER-UP

SUMMARY: On or about 9-4-18, the complainant gave me a CD and copies of two (2) signed affidavits from Jack Bastian. He claimed the disc contained the interview of an actual victim of the Spirit Stick; i.e., a freshman member of the Fort Recovery High School Basketball Team, class of 2010.

The affidavits from Jack Bastian only attest to the fact he interviewed two witnesses; neither of which claimed to a victim.

SYNOPSIS: In late September, the disk and affidavits were copied and filed with this report. Titled [REDACTED] Interview, the hour and thirteen-minute interview has been synthesized below.

INTERVIEWED: [REDACTED] w/m, [REDACTED], of Fort Recovery.

INTERVIEW: Some of the allegations made by other witnesses; [REDACTED] in particular, were confirmed by [REDACTED]. He confirmed the rumors regarding the Spirit Stick and seeing it when he was in high school. He also confirmed a level a hazing at the Findlay basketball camp.

Note: [REDACTED] was joined by his parents during the interview whose comments stretched the interview.

Specifically, [REDACTED] detailed an incident he had witnessed at basketball camp in 2010. He explained that some of the upperclassmen had tried to throw urine on him, but it ended up on his bed. [REDACTED] said he reported the incident to Coach [REDACTED] and the assistant coach [REDACTED] who both laughed and said, "It's only hazing, and I guess you'll have to sleep on the floor". [REDACTED] said he slept on the floor during the week. When asked about other victims, [REDACTED] mentioned [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but admitted he never actually saw anyone – himself included – abused. In addition, [REDACTED] gave Bastian the names of other people he believed he should talk to.

However, and as of this writing, no actual Spirit Stick victims have been identified; a statement made by Bastian during the interview. Also, and throughout the interview, [REDACTED] and his parents allege many people in Fort Recovery knew about the ritual/hazing.

ACTIONS: Following a call from a Captain at the Fort Recovery Police Department (OH) on or about 9-28-18, I received a follow-up call from Detective Ed Von Stein (FRPD). I told Det. Von Stein about the recording and caused a copy of the recording to have sent him on 10-9-18.

ATTACHMENTS: In electronic file.

STATUS: Open, pending additional information or requests from FRPD.

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