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***Dangerous Liaisons***  
***Recognizing and Responding to Non-Stranger Sexual Assault***

While officers have taken problem-solving approaches to issues such as burglary, auto theft, robbery and drug dealing, the police have not generally viewed the crime of sexual assault through a problem-solving lens. Since 1993, the San Diego Police Department has used analytic strategies to investigate reported sexual assault. The results of this investigation have consistently revealed that the majority of sexual assaults reported to law enforcement involve non-strangers. This presentation will provide an overview of non-stranger sexual assault and how the dynamics of this crime and its investigation and prosecution differ significantly from stranger sexual assault.

Upon completion of this presentation, participants will understand:

- Research in the area of sexual assault must be collaborative and solicit the input of many different professionals including those from the fields of law enforcement, public health, physical health, mental health, victim advocacy, and education.
- The victim's age group (adolescent vs. adult) and the victim's relationship to the suspect (stranger, brief encounter, non-stranger) have important implications for the study of sexual assault. There are significant differences in the character and context of the sexual assaults, and the law enforcement outcomes of cases based on these two factors.
- 70-75% or more of sexual assaults reported to law enforcement involve non-strangers (two people who know one another). The majority of non-stranger sexual assault is NOT date rape.
- The average age difference between an adolescent sexual assault victim and her assailant is 10 years. These are predatory, not peer relationships.