Dear Colleague

Having served the Pittston City Police Department these past 18 years, it is with great enthusiasm that I share what I believe to be the best police investigative tool available today.

First some quick background. I have known Mr. Wil Toole, President of Pennsylvania Adjusters Inc. (a PA licensed private detective agency) for as long as I have been with the Department. Late last year, Wil asked our Mayor to have two of our officers trained in Voice Stress Analysis (VSA). This was done and Wil has been gracious enough to allow us to use his personal VSA equipment till we purchase our own system next month.

That's the background and now I have to tell you how helpful that one week training has become. Having the system available has allowed us to save more investigative hours than I can count. We use it internally for pre employment background checks of all new officers but more importantly, we use it for criminal investigations. Rather than spend hundreds of hours investigating a suspect and then determining innocence and non-involvement, we can now conduct a two-hour interview and allow the results to determine if investigative pursuit is required.

Recently a local P.D. had a child molesting case with the subject denying any involvement. When asked to undergo a VSA he agreed but when told the examiner was on the way, he broke down and confessed. In Early September, the Pittston City Treasurer had the City's bank deposit ($50,000) bag stolen from his car. Witnesses gave a vehicle description and several suspects were cleared using the VSA. The final suspect confessed when faced with the VSA.

A local child advocacy agency asked that we help with a situation where two divorced parents were each accused of child abuse. Both parents were tested with one being cleared of any wrongdoing and being awarded full custody.

In another situation, our officers tested a victim who stated his car was stolen. Because of the circumstances, insurance officials alerted police that this was a case of possible insurance fraud. After the interview, police were completely convinced the vehicle was legitimately stolen and lead to the arrest of a suspect in the case.

We also voice stressed an employee of a local store who was suspected of having knowledge of the crime and it's perpetrators. Investigators quickly refocused the scope of the investigation when examiners were convinced that the employee had no knowledge about the crime.

I have no doubt that we would have investigated these cases to a successful conclusion, but having the VSA system on hand allowed us to save very costly investigative hours. Like every other community, Pittston City is experiencing a very tight budget and having the ability to save the cost of man-hours through the use of VSA has been a very important tool in departmental cost cutting measures.

I extend my personal thanks to Wil Toole and I offer the endorsement of my department to the Voice Stress Analysis System. The most interesting effect of having this system available is how often a confession is brought forth before the exam interview is conducted.

We have two VSA certified examiners on our Force and both will be attending the scheduled class planned for November 2003 in the Scranton area. This class will qualify us to use the state of the art computer software system known as Lantern Pro by the Diogenes Company. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Paul Porfirio,
Chief of Police