4. Motivations for Intentional False Reporting

Research shows that intentional false accusations can reflect a variety of motives.

- Kanin's (1994) highly respected study categorized false accusations into three motivations:
  - Alibis (50%)
  - Revenge (30%)
  - Attention-seeking (20%).

- The *Bavarian Police Study of False Rape Allegations* (2000) identified motivations related to:
  - Conflicts/problems in family or partnerships (20.7%)
  - Hiding sexual relationships (12.9%)
  - Puberty crisis cover / first sexual experience (10.7%)
  - Attracting compassion and attention (11.4%)
  - Justification for misconduct (10%)
  - Shame / embarrassment (3.6%)
  - Fear of pregnancy (1.4%)
  - Countersuing / revenge (7.5%)
  - Cerebral organic disturbance / alcoholism / drug dependency / psych disease (22.1%)
  - Motive not discernible (2.1%)

- The *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin* (2012) identifies motivations that include:
  - Mental illness / depression
  - Attention / Sympathy
  - Financial / profit
  - Alibi
  - Revenge

- Zutter did a recent review on this issue (*Motives for filing a false allegation of rape*, 2018). Motivations included:
  - Material gain
  - Alibi
  - Revenge
  - Sympathy
  - Attention
  - Disturbed mental state
  - Relabeling
  - Regret
  - 20% of complainants didn't know why they filed false allegations.

Bottom Line:

See if you can get any of these motivations in through your expert or theirs. Remember that the military has a couple unique motivators – 1) Expedited transfer, and 2) PTSD due to sexual assault trauma (VA benefits). Tie specific motivations to your theory of the case. You want to ask the CIB expert what they know about motives to fabricate false allegations. How has the expert accounted for those motivations in this case? Aren't the CIB behaviors in this case consistent with someone who has a motive to lie?