

INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY (IS)
Child Institutional Investigation
(without Reporter Information)

Case Name VICTORY FORGE MILITARY DRILL C	Intake Number 2008-367874-01	Investigative Sub-Type Institutional	County St Lucie
Date/Time Intake Received 04/06/2008 4:45 PM		Protective Investigator Spletstoser, Kathryn	
Date/Time Investigation Closed 06/05/2008 3:17 PM		Protective Investigator Supervisor PORTO, CHRISTINA A	

I. Allegation Narrative(s)		
Sequence Type Initial	Date/Time Received 04/06/2008 4:45 PM	Response Priority Immediate

Narrative
 [REDACTED] ran away from the facility. When he was found [REDACTED] was in handcuffs and shackles. [REDACTED] has marks on his ankles and is mentally shaken up. The facility makes [REDACTED] drink vinegar, they drag him around in handcuffs, and they make him sleep in handcuffs and shackles. At night [REDACTED] has to sleep in handcuffs, and leg irons, in the morning the handcuffs are removed, and he has to walk around in leg irons. [REDACTED] has been at the facility for four weeks, and is suppose to be there for two years. There is concern that the facility is not certified to use handcuffs and shackles.

Field Narrative

ALLEGATIONS FROM DUPLICATE REPORT 2008-384482: [REDACTED] was a resident at the facility. During November 2007, [REDACTED] was pushed into a chair by Colonel Weirman so hard the the chair broke. [REDACTED] hurt his back. At another point in time in November 2007, Lt. Fernandez put a knee in [REDACTED] face and chest and choked him. **ALLEGATIONS FROM 2008-384482 (SEE REPORTER INFO):** It is alleged that [REDACTED] suffered a nose bleed while at Victory Forge

ALLEGATIONS FROM DUPLICATE REPORT 2008-384467: Over the past four months, [REDACTED] has had bruises on his throat and other parts of his body. These injuries were sustained at the hands of other students / residents at Valley Forge Military Academy & Boot Camp. Staff encourage students / residents to physically punish their peers if they violate rules. [REDACTED] has been choked and pushed to the ground by his peers and intimidated by the Commanding Officer, Colonel Alan L. Weirman. [REDACTED] and other students / residents who attend Victory Forge are afraid to answer questions honestly while at the Academy because they will be physically punished if they tell the truth.

II. Provider Information			
Name VICTORY FORGE MILITARY DRILL CAMP			
Street 606 SW BILTMORE ST		Unit Designator	Building
City Port St. Lucie	State FL	Zip Code	Phone Number

III. Victim(s)						
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 10/22/1991	Age 16	Gender Male	Race Black/African American	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment	Findings	Incident Date	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality		



Asphyxiation	Verified	04/06/2008	WEIERMAN, David		No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No		Judicial Action Required No		
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 10/22/1991	Age 16	Gender Male	Race Black/African American	Disabilities No
Maltreatment Bizarre Punishment	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN, ALAN		Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No		Judicial Action Required No		
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 10/22/1991	Age 16	Gender Male	Race Black/African American	Disabilities No
Maltreatment Mental Injury	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN, ALAN		Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No		Judicial Action Required No		
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 10/22/1991	Age 16	Gender Male	Race Black/African American	Disabilities No
Maltreatment Physical Injury	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible		Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No		Judicial Action Required No		
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 01/15/1993	Age 15	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No
Maltreatment Asphyxiation	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible		Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No		Judicial Action Required No		
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 01/15/1993	Age 15	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No
Maltreatment Physical Injury	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN JOHNATHAN		Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No		Judicial Action Required No		
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 05/17/1991	Age 17	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No
Maltreatment Bizarre Punishment	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN, ALAN		Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No		Judicial Action Required No		
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 03/01/1992	Age 16	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No
Maltreatment Bizarre Punishment	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible		Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No		Judicial Action Required No		
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Disabilities

	03/01/1992	16	Male	White	No	
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN, ALAN	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name	DOB 07/11/1990	Age 17	Gender Male	Race Unable to Determine	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Bizarre Punishment	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible REEVES, JUSTIN L	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name	DOB 07/11/1990	Age 17	Gender Male	Race Unable to Determine	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Mental Injury	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name	DOB 07/11/1990	Age 17	Gender Male	Race Unable to Determine	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Physical Injury	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible REEVES, JUSTIN L	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name	DOB 06/15/1993	Age 14	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Bizarre Punishment	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN, ALAN	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name	DOB 05/01/1990	Age 18	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Asphyxiation	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 12/01/2007	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name	DOB 05/01/1990	Age 18	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN, ALAN	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name	DOB 04/13/1993	Age 15	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Asphyxiation	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 12/01/2007	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Disabilities	

	04/13/1993	15	Male	White	No	
Maltreatment Physical Injury	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible REEVES, JUSTIN L	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 05/23/1993	Age 15	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Asphyxiation	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 12/01/2007	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 05/23/1993	Age 15	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN ALAN	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 03/07/1993	Age 15	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Physical Injury	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 03/07/1993	Age 15	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN JOHNATHAN	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 10/03/1994	Age 13	Gender Male	Race Unable to Determine	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Bizarre Punishment	Findings Some Indicator	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 10/03/1994	Age 13	Gender Male	Race Unable to Determine	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Physical Injury	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN ALAN	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home is Required No	Judicial Action Required No				
Name [REDACTED]	DOB 01/22/1992	Age 16	Gender Male	Race White	Disabilities No	
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008	Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN ALAN	Fatality No		
Intervention Services are Needed	Placement Outside the Home is Required	Judicial Action Required				

No	No				No
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Disabilities
	06/09/1992	15	Male	White	No
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008		Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN , ALAN	Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No			Judicial Action Required No	
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Disabilities
	06/29/1993	14	Male	White	No
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008		Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN , ALAN	Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No			Judicial Action Required No	
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Disabilities
	12/18/1990	17	Male	White	No
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008		Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN , ALAN	Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No			Judicial Action Required No	
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Disabilities
	12/09/1990	17	Male	White	No
Maltreatment Threatened Harm	Findings Verified	Incident Date 04/06/2008		Caregiver Responsible WEIERMAN , ALAN	Fatality No
Intervention Services are Needed No	Placement Outside the Home Is Required No			Judicial Action Required No	

IV. Other Participant(s)						
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Role	
WEIERMAN, David	11/20/1981	26	Male	White	AP	
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Role	
WEIERMAN, ALAN	11/21/1961	46	Male	White	AP	
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Role	
WEIERMAN JOHNATHAN	07/26/1983	24	Male	White	AP	
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Role	
REEVES, JUSTIN L	07/17/1986	21	Male	White	AP	
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Role	
WOODCOM, JOHN	11/17/1984	23	Male	White	Parent/Caregiver	
Name	DOB	Age	Gender	Race	Role	
FERNANDEZ, MIGUEL	08/09/1975	32	Male	White	Parent/Caregiver	

V. Implications for Child Safety

A. Child Factors Implications

THE CHILD IS 16 AND VERBAL. THE CHILD DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN TARGETED BY OTHER CHILDREN IN THE FACILITY. THE CHILD DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITIONS. THE CHILD DID HAVE PROBLEMS ADJUSTING TO THE FACILITY. HE WAS NOT COMPLIANT. THE CHILD HAS NO APPARENT DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFICULTIES. THERE IS A PRIOR INVOLVING THE CHILD, WITH HIS PARENT AS THE AP. THE CHILD IS IN THE CUSTODY OF HIS MOTHER. THE PUNISHMENT IS BIZARRE, THE CHILD WAS SHACKLED FOR 2

WEEKS, WITH HANDCUFFS PUT ON AT NIGHT, LEG IRONS ON EXCEPT WHEN SHOWERING.

ALL THE CHILDREN ARE OVER 5 AND VERBAL. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT LT REEVES ENCOURAGED HIGHER RANKING RECRUITS TO ABUSE HIM. THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY [REDACTED] STD THAT [REDACTED] PICKED ON [REDACTED], CALLING HIM HIS BOY, THIS WAS CONFIRMED BY [REDACTED] STD THAT [REDACTED] WAS HIS ENEMY. THESE CHILDREN DID NOT DISCLOSE THAT THEY WERE DENIED MEDICAL TREATMENT. [REDACTED] INDICATED THAT WERE HAVING PROBLEMS ADJUSTING, THE OTHER RECRUITS HAD BEEN THERE LONG ENOUGH TO BECOME DE-SENSITIZED. THE RECRUITS EXPERIENCED SHACKLING FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME AND CHOKING TO UNCONSCIOUSNESS.

B. Facility Factors Implications

THE FACILITY STAFF ENGAGE IN PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE THAT IS HARMFUL TO CHILDREN, SUCH AS CHOKING TO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, PUNCHING, KICKING, BANGING HEADS INTO WALLS AND CABINETS. SOME OF THE RECRUITS REPORT ABUSE AND STAFF HAS ACCESS TO THEM. THE DISCIPLINE, AT TIMES, CROSSES THE LINE, AND POSES RISK TO THE CHILDREN. OTHER FACILITY PRACTICES DO NOT PRESENT RISK. THE FACILITY IS A CLOSE KNIT COMMUNITY WITH MOSTLY FAMILY MEMBERS HAVING CONTACT WITH THE CHILDREN. THERE ARE NUMEROUS REPORTS REGARDING THIS FACILITY WITH SIMILAR ALLEGATIONS. THERE IS NO DEATH REPORTED.

C. Criminal History Summary and Implications for Child Safety

THE APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED ON ALL STAFF LISTED IN THE REPORT. THE RESULTS IMPLY INTERMEDIATE RISK TO CHILD SAFETY. A PARTY HAS A HISTORY OF WITNESS TAMPERING AND FAILURE TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE.

D. Prior Reports and Service Records Implications for Child Safety

There are 35 priors on this facility. Risk to the children is High.

Issue Summary

Victory Forge Military Academy and Boot Camp, Victory Children's Home

2008-367874: (current open report, received on 4/6/2008): [REDACTED] ran away from the facility. When he was found [REDACTED] was in handcuffs and shackles. [REDACTED] has marks on his ankles and is mentally shaken up. The facility makes [REDACTED] drink vinegar, they drag him around in handcuffs, and they make him sleep in handcuffs and shackles. At night [REDACTED] has to sleep in handcuffs, and leg irons, in the morning the handcuffs are removed, and he has to walk around in leg irons. [REDACTED] has been at the facility for four weeks, and is suppose to be there for two years. There is concern that the facility is not certified to use handcuffs and shackles.

2008-331463: (report received on 2/14/2008): [REDACTED] was a resident at Victory Ford Military Academy and Boot Camp from 2/7/07 to 12/26/07. While at the facility, [REDACTED] had a severe foot wound due to his shoe being too tight. He sustained the wound approximately May or June of 2007 and he had it for two months. The wound abscessed and it was open. It was disgusting. The facility would not allow [REDACTED] caregiver to take him out of the facility to received medical attention. The wound became infected. The staff only placed a band aid on it and did nothing else. [REDACTED] now has a scar where the wound was on each foot due to the wound becoming infected. While [REDACTED] was at the facility the staff would have [REDACTED] and the other children go to properties and make repairs. The facility would get a donation for this but the [REDACTED] and the other children did not get paid. It is unknown how long the children would be working. At times, the facility would ration out the same type of meal for breakfast, lunch and dinner for days at a time. [REDACTED] was supposed to be receiving schooling while at the facility but no documentation has been provided that he received credits. This case was closed with no indicators of medical neglect on 4/4/2008.

2007-422646: (report received on 7/17/2007): Every night, the only African American child at the facility is beaten by staff and students. Staff members look away when other students beat this child. The African American student has not been injured from the beatings. Staff members at the facility degrade the children by the calling by calling them racial slurs like, "nigger." It is unknown if the children have been affected by this. This case was closed with no indicators of threatened harm on 8/17/2007.

2007-422663: (report received on 7/17/2007): 2-3 months ago, a staff member put a fish hook in [REDACTED] mouth. As a result, [REDACTED] received a cut in his mouth. The same staff member that put a fish hook in [REDACTED] mouth also took a key and stuck his neck with it. As a result, [REDACTED] has scarring. This case was closed with no indicators of physical injury on 7/26/2007.

2006-380888: (report received on 5/12/2006): [REDACTED] was at Victory Forge Drill Camp in 2000 and was beaten with a pole and stick. He suffered bruises to his arms, legs, chest, back and face. They also put dirt in his mouth. This case was closed with no indicators or beatings and no indicators of bruises/welts on 6/21/2006.

2006-420947: (report received on 7/25/2006): On 7/25/2006 it became known that while some of the children were outside doing pushups the staff punched 4 of the children square in the chest. Another child was slapped by the staff in the face. Another child was slapped on both sides of the face, grabbed by the ears and shaken. While all of the children were lined up doing pushups, a staff member kicked sand into the children's face. It appeared that all of the children were complying

with the exercises and did not disrespect the staff or try to run away. Law enforcement responded. This case was closed with verified findings of mental injury and physical injury on 8/24/2006.

2005-304175: (report received on 1/8/2005): On 1/2/2005, [redacted] said he was sleeping in the lower bunk bed and was awakened by [redacted] was standing by his bed with his penis hanging out. [redacted] did not know what to do so he began sucking [redacted] penis. [redacted] stopped him and went to the bathroom. [redacted] then returned to [redacted] bed and stuck his penis out again. [redacted] then climbed into [redacted] bed and pulled his pants down. [redacted] then felt [redacted] putting his penis into his anus. [redacted] then pushed [redacted] away. [redacted] got out of the bed and went to the bathroom. [redacted] then returned to [redacted] bed and [redacted] pushed him away again and [redacted] ran back to his own bed. [redacted] says that he was not forced to perform any of these sex acts. He says that he is unsure of his sexual preference. [redacted] says that he and his friend [redacted] think that [redacted] is "feminine" and possibly "gay." [redacted] bet [redacted] 500 pushups that [redacted] is gay and he could prove it. That is when [redacted] went to [redacted] bed. [redacted] states that he did not pull [redacted] pants down and have intercourse with him. [redacted] says that he did not forget to engage in the sexual acts. This case was closed with no indicators of inadequate supervision on 2/7/2005.

2004-309768: (report received on 1/25/2004): On 1/23/2004, a staff member punched [redacted] in the mouth and kneed him in the chest. As a result, his mouth was bleeding. [redacted] later ran away from the facility. It is unknown why the staff did this. This case was closed with some indicators of beatings.

2004-333137: (report received on 3/16/2004): The children in the facility are required to do pushups in the sand. When they pass out, staff slam their face down with their boots smothering the children until they wake up. [redacted] nose was broken recently when Travis Plummer slammed his face into the sand. [redacted] was removed from the facility by his parents after the incident. A couple of days ago, [redacted] fell during an exercise and hurt his back. Staff is aware of his injury but have not taken him to see a medical professional. Staff have all the children run into one child as a form of hazing and discipline. The children are afraid of retaliation. They have been told by staff that there are people in DCF who tell them who made the reports. The food in the kitchen is outdated and a dog sleeps in the kitchen with the food.

On 4/13/2004, additional information was received. [redacted] was admitted to the facility on 2/28/2004, since that time staff and other clients have been ciling racial slurs to [redacted]. [redacted] is allowed two visits per month. The staff continue to call [redacted] "nigger." As a result, [redacted] cries and wishes to be removed from the facility. On 4/11/2004, as a means of punishment, [redacted] was shot with an unknown type of gun by staff. He has two marks on the left arm. [redacted] was involved in an altercation in the kitchen area with another client because [redacted] was referred to as a "nigger" and a slave. As a result of the incident, [redacted] sprang his fist. Staff was not present in the kitchen area when the altercation began. Staff later intervened in the altercation. [redacted] has been threatened by staff saying, "The next time you complain to your mother, I'll smoke you." At an unknown time, an unknown individual at the facility urinated in the cup [redacted] drinks out of. This case was closed with no indicators of asphyxiation, bone fracture, physical injury and bruises/welts on 4/30/2004.

2004-341733: (report received on 4/5/2004): When [redacted] entered Victory Children's Home, he was to get a uniform. He was given boots too large for his feet that badly blistered them. [redacted] has scratches on his forearms where he was shoved from behind by staff down onto the ground. Hot sauce was put on the food, whether you wanted it or not. [redacted] lost six pounds in one week. There is concern for the children left in the home. The children in the facility are required to do pushups in the sand. When they pass out, staff slam their face down with their boots smothering the children until they wake up. [redacted] nose was broken recently when Travis Plummer slammed his face into the sand. [redacted] was removed from the facility by his parents after the incident. A couple of days ago, [redacted] fell during an exercise and hurt his back. Staff is aware of his injury but have not taken him to see a medical professional. Staff have all the children run into one child as a form of hazing and discipline. The children are afraid of retaliation. They have been told by staff that there are people in DCF who tell them who made the reports. The food in the kitchen is outdated and a dog sleeps in the kitchen with the food. This case was closed with no indicators of asphyxiation, bone fracture, medical neglect, physical injury and bruises/welts on 4/5/2004.

2004-358249: (report received on 5/10/2004): A staff member put his hands down the front of [redacted] pants in a sexual way. Last week, the same staff member had [redacted] and other boys come to his home and had them tie him up. The staff member was sexually aroused by this. It is believed that he had only shorts on. The staff member also has had children "whip cream" him in the past. The staff member still works at the facility and has access to the children. This case was closed with no indicators of sexual exploitation and no indicators of sexual molestation on 7/6/2004.

2004-368530: (report received on 6/2/2004): This report was closed as a duplicate on 8/3/2004 because all of the allegations were previously investigated in the following reports: 2004-341733, 2004-358249, 2004-331137 and 2003-379193. No new allegations were reported.

2004-381334: (report received on 7/6/2004): Since 7/1/2004, the staff have been physically and emotionally abusive to [redacted]. The staff members kicked, choked and applied pressure points to [redacted] and called him names. The staff told [redacted] that is why his father is dead. [redacted] has lumps, bruises and abrasions on his head and he is missing his left toenail. [redacted] told a staff member that his feet hurt so the staff member stepped on his feet and grinded it into the dirt. The staff member made [redacted] take off his shoes and walk around barefoot with his nail in the dirt. [redacted] has bruises on his thighs and abrasions and scratches on his forearms. Both of [redacted] knees have scabs and abrasions on them and his left clavicle is bruised from the staff members squeezing his pressure points. [redacted] pelvis area has bruises and his armpits are red from the staff members squeezing or raising him up by them. [redacted] back has bruises from the staff members kicking him and his neck is red from them choking him. When [redacted] did not do what staff members instructed him to do he was dragged on the concrete and tortured. [redacted] was dehydrated for 3 days and the staff members did not

seek medical attention for him. [REDACTED] is weak and he can hardly walk. This case was closed with some indicators of physical injury on the following clients:

- 1) [REDACTED]
- 2) [REDACTED]
- 3) [REDACTED]
- 4) [REDACTED]
- 5) [REDACTED]
- 6) [REDACTED]
- 7) [REDACTED]
- 8) [REDACTED]
- 9) [REDACTED]
- 10) [REDACTED]
- 11) [REDACTED]
- 12) [REDACTED]
- 13) [REDACTED]
- 14) [REDACTED]
- 15) [REDACTED]
- 16) [REDACTED]
- 17) [REDACTED]
- 18) [REDACTED]

This case was also closed with verified findings of medical neglect, some indicators of bruises/welts, beatings and physical injury for [REDACTED] on 8/27/2004.

2003-014940: (report received on 1/31/2003): In the past, the caretaker, Travis Plummer, presumably sexually abused another child but that can't be verified at this time. [REDACTED] has been residing in Travis's home since 9/2002. Presumably, [REDACTED] has been sexually abused in the past; however, [REDACTED] denies any past sexual abuse. [REDACTED] has an adjustment disorder, conduct disorder and a borderline intellectual functioning disorder. This case was closed with no indicators of threatened harm on 2/17/2003.

2003-043562: (report received on 3/26/2003): One of the staff members, (Mr. Plummer) has been sexually abusing the residents of the facility. It is reported that this staff member grabs the residents by their "privates" and buttocks. This is a constant and ongoing problem. When he does this, he asks them if they like it. He also makes statements regarding the residents being homosexuals. He calls them "faggots" and asks them if they are, "faggots." He also talks about "homosexual things." It is believed that he is sexually inappropriate with the residents. This staff member is physically abusive toward the residents. This staff member has kicked the resident's genitals. Many of the children have current bruises or have had bruises in the past due to abuse by this staff member. This case was closed with some indicators of bruises/welts and no indicators of beatings, sexual molestation and mental injury on 5/23/2003.

2003-379193: (report received on 11/13/2003): On 11/12/2003, Alan Weleman grabbed a child by the neck and slammed him against the wall with force. The child was described as joking around prior to the incident taking place. This is not the first time David has been physical with the boys. An unknown staff member was seen standing on a child's ankle. It was clear the child was in pain; the incident took place in the yard. The boys are quiet because David Weleman is intimidating. This case was closed with some indicators of physical injury and excessive corporal punishment as well as no indicators of bizarre punishment, inadequate supervision, medical neglect, bruises/welts, beatings and inadequate food on 1/13/2004.

2002-101222: (report received on 6/20/2002): Abuse for the past couple of months; the facility has been locking kids up in chains to keep them from running. They use chains at night and during the day. The kids in the facility are ages 12 - 17. This case was closed with verified indicators of inappropriate/excessive restraints and failure to protect as well as some indicators of physical injury, failure to protect and beatings. The case was also closed with no indicators of inadequate supervision on 10/16/2002.

2002-200546: (report received on 12/12/2002): On 12/11/2002, a major at the boot camp hit [REDACTED] across the chest with the back of his hand and pushed him because [REDACTED] was not standing at attention. [REDACTED] did not sustain any injuries. [REDACTED] ran away from the boot camp but has been found. This case was closed with no indicators of beatings on 2/17/2003.

2001-104832: (report received on 6/27/2001): The caller is concerned with abuse/threatened harm. There is concern that [REDACTED] is being excessively restrained and is in lockdown. For at least the last week, he has not been allowed a visit from his parents or authorities. [REDACTED] was voluntarily enrolled in the school. This case was closed with no indicators of inappropriate/excessive restraints and mental injury on 8/2/2001.

2000-008006: (report received on 1/7/2000): There are 25 children at the home. According to one of them, there has been ongoing child on child sexual activity. The children have been left unattended and they have been playing truth or dare. The consequence has involved forced sexual activity involving children ages 8-12 or 13. This case was closed with no indicators of inadequate supervision and some indicators of asphyxiation on 7/8/2000.

2000-131762: (report received on 8/22/2000): Staff members punish the children by hitting them on the backside with a belt.

Staff has grabbed [redacted] by the collar and "slammed him around." [redacted] had no marks. This has occurred at the Victoria Children's Home. The staff is believed to be engaging in homosexual relations with the clients. The staff member walks around without a shirt. One week ago, one client ran away. It was a long time before the staff brought the client back to the facility. The staff was thought to have engaged in intercourse with the boy. This case was closed with some indicators of beatings on 11/17/2000.

2000-163410: (report received on 9/28/2000): Last week, [redacted] was kneed in the butt by Travis. Travis, who is the program director, became upset with victim, he grabbed him by the arm, turned victim around and kneed him. The incident happened around 10 or 11 in the morning. This case was closed with no indicators of beatings, physical injury and inadequate supervision on 1/29/2001.

2000-168099-01: (report received on 10/25/2000): [redacted] is in need of placement. [redacted] was kicked out of his foster home because he was not doing as he was told. [redacted] belongings were moved when he arrived home after school. [redacted] was asked to go into his room by Mr. Wieman; [redacted] told Mr. Wieman that he could not go into the room alone with Mr. Wieman. While in the room, [redacted] picked up some stencils and Mr. Wieman asked [redacted] to hand over the stencils. [redacted] put the stencils down his pants. Mr. Wieman pulled the stencils from out of [redacted] pants. After this incident occurred, [redacted] was taken to the Children's Home society at Wavecrest. The child will be residing there tonight. [redacted] is in need of placement into another home. This case was closed with verified findings of Foster Care Referral/Special Conditions on 12/4/2000.

2000-168390-01: (report received on 10/26/2000): Abuse/Neglect on 10/25 staff members "physically abused/assaulted?" [redacted] had a pen and was drawing on the wall when a staff member approached him and asked for the pen. [redacted] refused to give him the pen so the staff started to assault him. Staff member was Al, Al's son, and Fred. After the assault, staff took [redacted] to New Horizons for an evaluation, but they would not do it so staff took [redacted] to Wave Crest and "physically" put him out of the car and left him in the parking lot while driving away. [redacted] is currently at Wave Crest. This case was closed some indicators of Inadequate Supervision on 11/29/2000.

2000-186513: (report received on 11/30/2000): Abuse/Neglect/Threatened harm about two months ago, the entire staff structure (all listed persons responsible) made fun of [redacted] during a board meeting. They had forgotten that [redacted] was in the facility in his bedroom, ill. He heard what they said. Last month, staff members said [redacted] broke windows in the facility. He didn't. The owner, Alan Weierman, pushed [redacted] into his room at that time. He was trying to make [redacted] stay. [redacted] was acting up because of the tension built up from the board meeting incident. Last month, another child called [redacted] "nigger". Staff member, Travis, heard this and did nothing. [redacted] is no longer at the facility. His whereabouts are unknown. Last month, staff member, Frank, abused [redacted] a 10 year old resident (first unknown child), and Frank's wife, Beverly, failed to protect [redacted]. Because [redacted] was upset, Frank threw [redacted] onto a tin chair upside down. He restrained [redacted] suffered bruises around his neck and arms from the restraint. Beverly did nothing. Last month, Frank and Beverly neglected [redacted]. At the dining table, [redacted] was upset. He sometimes "gets an attitude". Another child, [redacted] dragged [redacted] outside and beat him. Frank and Beverly saw this and did nothing. [redacted] suffered a cut to his forehead, which caused blood all over his face. Neither Frank nor Beverly provided medical care for him. When [redacted] came back inside, Frank said [redacted] would get "something extra coming for Christmas" because he beat [redacted]. Staff members are upset with [redacted] because he reported the windows were nailed shut, which is a fire code violation. Ongoing, staff member, Fred, has grabbed [redacted] and [redacted] by the arms and pushed them into a corner. Injuries are unknown. The children are made to stand in a corner. Ongoing, there is an overall lack of supervision by staff members. The children are allowed to use chain saws and table saws. Recently, [redacted] age 17, was cut when using a chain saw. Alan was with him at the facility, along with other children. Ongoing, staff has confined the children. The windows were nailed shut until it was reported. This case was closed with some indicators of Cuts/Punctures/Bites on [redacted]. This case was also closed with verified findings of Cuts/Punctures/Bites and medical neglect on 8/16/2001.

1998-010013-01: (report received on 01/27/1998): The children in the home are being beaten with a paddle. They have bruises on their backs and legs. Some of the children have bruises on them now. They are hit because they wear their shoes in the home or because they went out the wrong door. This case was closed with no indicators of bruises/welts and beatings on 2/9/1998.

1996-119505-01: (report received on 10/31/1996): Yesterday, the director of the facility, Alan Weierman, paddled [redacted] for having 7 demerits in school. The children named the paddle "Mr. Cooper" and it is a fraternity wooden paddle, like a 2 by 4 with a handle. [redacted] now has bruises from his left hip down past his knee. This case was closed with some indicators of Bruises/Welts and Excessive Corporal Punishment on 12/18/1996.

1995-102201-01: (report received on 10/12/1995): Unknown children at Treasure Coast Victory Children's Home were observed being spanked by staff persons. It is unknown if any of the children have injuries. This case was closed with no indicators as a special conditions report on 11/7/1995.

1994-113140-01: (report received on 12/04/1994): COC This case was closed with some indicators of Child-on-Child sexual abuse on 12/4/1994.

VI. Overall Safety Assessment

RISK TO [REDACTED] IS LOW AS HE HAS RETURNED HOME. OVERALL RISK TO THE REMAINING CHILDREN IS HIGH. SEVERAL OF THE RECRUITS CONFIRMED THE ALLEGATIONS OF CHOKING TO UNCONSCIOUSNESS, KICKING, PUNCHING, RACIAL SLURS, PHYSICAL AND VERBAL ABUSE. THE MAJORITY OF RECRUITS WERE FEARFUL OF REPERCUSSIONS IF THEIR DISCLOSURES WERE TOLD TO STAFF. OTHERS STD THAT THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS AND THEY ARE TREATED WELL. TWO RECRUITS PRESENTED WITH MINOR ABRASIONS, THE REST WERE FREE OF VISIBLE MARKS AND BRUISES. ALAN WEIERMAN DENIED PHYSICAL ABUSE, STD THEY USE PASSIVE RESTRAINT. HE ADMITTED TO SCHACKLES TO DETER RUNAWAYS. HE ADMITTED TO "STUFF" AND STD IT WAS HEALTHY FOOD THAT JUST TASTED BAD. THERE ARE NUMEROUS PRIORS ON THIS FACILITY, MOST OF THIS NATURE. THIS FACILITY IS NOT LICENSED BY ANY AGENCY, THE OWNER STD THAT AS A PRIVATE SCHOOL THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED TO BE LICENSED BY THE STATE. A. WEIERMAN STD THAT THEY ARE ACCREDITED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CRISTIAN EDUCATION, BUT COULD NOT PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION. THE ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE INVESTIGATION. THE STAFF IN THIS FACILITY ARE USING EXTREME FORMS OF PHYSICAL DISCIPLINE AND VERBAL ABUSE THAT WOULD POSE RISK TO CHILDREN. DETECTIVE GHOBRIAL IS ASSIGNED TO THE CASE AND WILL COORDINATE WITH PI ON INTERVIEWS OF STAFF. CPT HAS BEEN NOTIFIED.

AT CLOSING, RISK TO CHILDREN IS LOW, AS THEIR PARENTS HAVE REMOVED THEM FROM THE FACILITY. THERE ARE NUMEROUS PRIORS ALLEGING THE SAME ABUSE. THERE IS A PATTERN OF NON-FAMILY STAFF LEAVING THE FACILITY DURING AN INVESTIGATION. LT REAVES LEFT DURING THIS ONE. PI LOCATED REAVES THROUGH AN ACCURINT SEARCH, HE STD THAT OUR INVESTIGATION WAS PART OF THE REASON HE LEFT, HE STD HE FELT ABUSE WAS OCCURRING, BUT DENIED ALL THE ALLGATIONS MADE AGAINST HIM AND WOULD NOT SPECIFY ANY RESPONSIBLE PARTY. PI HAS HAD CONTACT FROM 3 PREVIOUS RECRUITS WHO HAVE CONFIRMED THE ALLEGATIONS. THE STAFF AT THIS FACILITY CONTINUE TO CROSS THE LINE BETWEEN ACCEPTABLE DISCIPLINE AND ABUSE. MANY OF THE PARENTS HAVE EXPRESSED THAT ALAN WEIERMAN MIS-REPRESENTED THE PRACTICES OF HIS FACILITY. CPT HAS INDICATED THAT RISK IS HIGH TO ANY CHILD ENROLLED AT VICTORY FORGE.

VII. Summary/Findings Implications

FINDINGS FOR LOCHANE SMITH:

Verified for asphyxiation, with persons responsible as David Weierman and Justin Reaves, [REDACTED] reports to being choked out twice, once by D Weierman, which was corroborated by [REDACTED] and once by Reaves. Verified findings of Bizarre Punishment and Mental Injury for [REDACTED] with Alan Weierman as the person responsible. [REDACTED] was kept in leg shackles for 12 days, they were only removed for him to shower, handcuffs were applied at night. This was admitted to by Alan Weierman and corroborated by Reaves. [REDACTED] was also subjected to racial slurs ("nigger", "black monkey") as well as racist jokes from the staff, This was corroborated by [REDACTED] Reaves, [REDACTED]. Some indicators of Physical Injury, [REDACTED] reports being punched, kicked, dragged down stairs, this was corroborated by [REDACTED]. CPT conducted a specialized interview with [REDACTED] and had overall findings for mental injury.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified for Threatened Harm, w A Weierman as the person responsible. [REDACTED] stated that he was one of the kids who saw what happened to the others. Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in the facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge. Some Indicators for asphyxiation with Miguel Fernandez as the alleged caretaker responsible. This allegation was investigated in 12-2007, case # 2007-518094. That case was closed with no indicators, because [REDACTED] denied the abuse at that time. PI Spletstoser interviewed [REDACTED] after his father removed him from the facility, where he disclosed

that the choking did occur, feeling free to talk in the safe environment of his home.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Physical Injury, with J. Weierman as the person responsible. [REDACTED] was retaliated against because he was suspected of knowing of Smith's plan to escape. [REDACTED] was pushed, slapped, slid across a table and slammed into a wall, he received a bloody nose and lip. This was witnessed by: [REDACTED]

Some Indicators of Asphyxiation. [REDACTED] reports to have witnessed [REDACTED] being choked out.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of threatened harm. Alan Weierman as the caretaker responsible. Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge..

Some Indicators of Physical Injury. [REDACTED] witnessed [REDACTED] being slammed against a wall and then the floor, receiving a bloody nose. [REDACTED] witnessed J Weierman slam [REDACTED] head into the wall, slapping and kicking him.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of threatened harm. Alan Weierman as the caretaker responsible. Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in the facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Physical Injury. A Weierman is the person responsible. [REDACTED] reports to have been slapped and slammed on the ground on multiple occasions, and at least once, kicked in the head. This was corroborated by Officer Quick of the Winter Springs PD, who took the report and observed multiple bruises on [REDACTED] back and arms sustained from these incidents.. Photos were taken are part of the record.

Some indicators of Bizarre Punishment. [REDACTED] was forced to clean the bathroom with his toothbrush and then use it to brush his teeth. [REDACTED] was forced to eat "STUFF" which he described as expired food that made you sick. All recruits corroborated that the stuff is unappetizing, and likely to make you gag.. This is the only food received if a recruit does not run the 2 mile fast enough, except at dinner a regular meal is offered, but only if one finishes the "STUFF" first.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Bizarre Punishment, with A Weierman as the caretaker responsible. [REDACTED] reports to have been shackled for about a week. Handcuffs and shackles were worn at night, shackles worn 24 hrs a day, except to shower. Shackling is Victory Forge's method of deterring runaways. This practice was put in place by A Weierman.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Threatened Harm with A Weierman as the caretaker responsible.

Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in the facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge..

Some Indicators of Bizarre Punishment. [REDACTED] was forced to eat the "Stuff" which he could not swallow and spit back in to his bowl, he was then forced to eat what he had spit back and then given a fresh bowl of "STUFF". This was corroborated by [REDACTED]

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified for Bizarre Punishment with Justin Reaves as the caretaker responsible. [REDACTED] stated that his mouth was held open and he was force fed the "STUFF" by Justin Reaves.

Verified findings of Physical Injury with Justin Reaves as the person responsible. Reaves allowed two higher-ranking recruits to drag [REDACTED] because he could no longer exercise. He sustained abrasions on both knees that were still visible two weeks after the incident. This dragging was corroborated by: [REDACTED] reported that J Weierman busted his head against the house and told him to say the injury had happened while playing basketball. [REDACTED] witnessed [REDACTED] being kicked in the stomach by J Weierman..

Some Indicators of Mental Injury. [REDACTED] stated he suffered humiliation and racism while at the facility, mostly from Reaves. He said he was called "Iraqi", "Raghead", and "Carpet Rider". That his personal letters home were read out loud to the other recruits to humiliate him. That he was called "A WASTE OF SPERM"

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified for Bizarre Punishment with A Weierman as the caretaker responsible. [REDACTED] was shackled for 3 days, also wearing handcuffs at night. The shackles were only removed while he showered. Shackling is Victory Forge's method of deterring runaways. This practice was put in place by A Weierman.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Threatened Harm with A Weierman as the caretaker responsible.

Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in the facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge.

Some Indicators of Asphyxiation, [REDACTED] stated that Fernandez choked him out

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Physical Injury, w Justin Reaves as the person responsible. [REDACTED] stated that Reaves kicked him in the stomach and he could not breathe for about a minute. This was corroborated by [REDACTED]

Some Indicators of asphyxiation. [REDACTED] stated that he was choked out by Fernandez, he stated he lost consciousness.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Threatened Harm with A Weierman as the caretaker responsible.

Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in the facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Threatened Harm with A Weierman as the caretaker responsible.

Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in the facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge.

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Threatened Harm with A Weierman as the caretaker responsible.

Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in the facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge..

FINDINGS FOR [REDACTED]

Verified findings of Threatened Harm with A Weierman as the caretaker responsible.

Victory Forge was practicing cruel and unusual punishment as a means to control the children in their care. By doing so, Victory Forge was placing [REDACTED] and any other youth in the facility in threat of direct harm. This was corroborated by CPT, who classified risk as high to any youth enrolled at Victory forge.

VIII. Recommended Disposition

THIS CASE WILL BE CLOSED WITH VERIFIED FINDINGS OF THREATENED HARM, MENTAL INJURY, PHYSICAL INJURY, BIZARRE PUNISHMENT, AND APHYXIATION. ALL THE PARENTS INVOLVED HAVE ACTED APPROPRIATLEY AND REMOVED THEIR CHILDREN FROM THE FACILITY. THIS FACILITY IS NOT LICENSED BY DCF. THE FACILITY IS REGISTERED WITH THE DEPT OF EDUCATION, BUT IS PRIVATELY RUN. THERE IS NO AGENCY WITH OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY OF THIS FACILITY.

IX. Signatures

SIGNATURE - Protective Investigator

Date Signed

SIGNATURE - Protective Investigator Supervisor

Date Signed