Your task is to interview an individual of your choice involved in the criminal justice system: a police officer, attorney, judge, probation officer, researcher, current or former inmate, etc. (Note: Military personnel have the option of interviewing an equivalent person in the military.) Should your "expert" not be listed here, contact your instructor.

2) Record the person's views on the criminal justice system—whether the criminal justice system works, in what ways it doesn't work, and the future of the criminal justice system.

3) Write the paper in a narrative format, detailing what you learned as the result of speaking with this person. Do not submit a "question-answer" paper.

4) Compare and contrast what your expert practitioner had to say with relevant instructional material from this course.  Additionally, include one outside source that either supports or challenges what your expert practitioner said.

5) When using the instructional material or other sources, properly document and reference them, and cite all web sources.  You must include the name your practitioner.

Name of Individual: Juan Carlos, 39 years old, Located in North Carolina, has been in and out of the system several times starting when he was just 16 years old.

Interview Questions:

1. **How old were you when you first got in trouble and was placed into the criminal justice system**?

16 years old … 1998, Parris Island, SC

1. **When were you placed into the criminal justice system and for what offenses/charges**?

At 16 he took a large quantity of weapons from a person’s home while they were on vacation back in 1998 while living in South Carolina. The guns did get returned to the people from the CID-criminal Investigation Division-Felony charge- possession of illegal firearm of a minor, possession of the intent to sell, use of underage firearms., breaking and entering.- pistols, AR’s, rifles--

1. **Do you feel that your case had a fair trial at 16?**

( Record sealed and then opened) Yes, because his father vouched for his son, ROTC instructor provided letters for character reference, he was a straight A student, Letters from all teachers at school for character reference. The defense wanted to lock him up for 26 years, and fought to have him tried as an adult. When everything shook out, the Judge gave him 5K hours of community service, and demanded that he must go straight into the military and serve at least 3 years.. he was assigned a Probation officer for 1 year and 10 months. Probation officer assisted with setting up community service requirements at after school assistance, cleaning the school, cleaning the cafeteria at White Oak HS., cleaning up the grave yard and mowing the graveyard… assisted at the Volunteer Fire station in Jacksonville, NC.

--- Originally tried to go into the Marine Corp but they wouldn’t take him because he had still had a probation officer and had a record. Ended up going into the Army in 1999 straight out of high school as directed by the judge. Juvenile record was sealed, however, it somehow got unsealed…ended up getting flagged for a Security Clearance. Was on hold over at Basic Military Training due to this hold up.

Money confiscated from lock up was mailed to company battalion from the CID which caused a commotion and a lot of questions raised.

**Do you think you had a fair trial in 2007?**  Yes and No, He thinks Law enforcement was trying to slam him at first until the video surveillance was produced to clear that his actions were in self-defense.

Additional Offenses/charges between 2001- 2016:

Several times for aggravated assault.. caught with a blade over the legal limit at a random cop stop. Blade was 14 inches long, assault at a Food Lion due to an altercation and hit the guy with brass knuckles, bystander recorded his Tags and police tracked him down and spent 2 days in jail. Speeding Tickets… did a driving record every year signed by a paper for DMV to show no new charges.. overall 171 speeding tickets, traffic school in Kentucky-2 times, 7 times in Raleigh, NC. Hired a lawyer to get his record cleaned up- “Prayer for Judgement” you have 2 that reset every 2-3 years.. for serious violations… Illegal tags, No insurance

1. Altercation while home from Deployment?

Just came home for R& R from a deployment in 2007 and a car was trying to race him and his wife. He Pulled over to a gas station off of an exit, and the car followed them to their gas pump, circled around them 3 times then proceeded ( 3 men) with night sticks and came up and hit him.. grabbed him and punched him and then the other two came over and his wife handed him his gun and he put the gun up to the man’s face and asked him if he wanted to die. The gas station employee called the cops. Cops came and arrested him because his hand gun permit was not valid in TN, and they refused to look at the footage. Charged with brutality, possession of an illegal handgun, assaulting a minor.. One of the guys was actually underage. Police would not release him to the ARMY.. stayed in lockup in TN for 24 days until arraignment and was facing 16 years… went to court… his lawyer contested for the footage at the gas station be reviewed. The footage showed it was in self defense, after the two adults ( third person chose not to testify because he was underage) took the stand and lied, the footage was showed and showed proof of his self defense. He got justice finally but almost lost his career because law enforcement wouldn’t review footage and people lied.

1. What are your views on the criminal justice system?

Doesn’t think the system works. Feels like the system is broken, if somebody in the law enforcement is not happy they will try to break you. So many criminals are locked up for petty crimes, in which the govt is paying food, lodging, etc for what?

He said “Where is the fairness when drug users get more prison time that murders or child abusers”. The System has failed so many people and needs to change.

1. Are Body Cams on the police force beneficial?

Yes… Cops are now being accountable for their actions.. Law enforcement officers are no longer able to get away with anything they want and do whatever just because they wear a badge.

1. Have you learned your lesson?

Feels that he’s learned his lesson but is still angry at the system.

1. What would you say the future of the criminal justice system looks like?

He said Its 2019, why is the criminal justice system not changing with society. it’s a different world now.. why are we still using the old system when the world around us is changing everyday.

1. What does Life today look like:

Career-20 years in the US ARMY, 6 deployments, married and has 3 kids, Lives in North Carolina

If he had not of been in the military.. he feels he would have been in the system. He feels the military has saved him.

Last remarks:

People are not perfect but the system is not perfect either. Old systems are no longer working and the system needs to start changing with the world we live in.