



Perspectives on Error Reporting in Forensic Casework and Testimony

Scott A. Shappell, Ph.D.

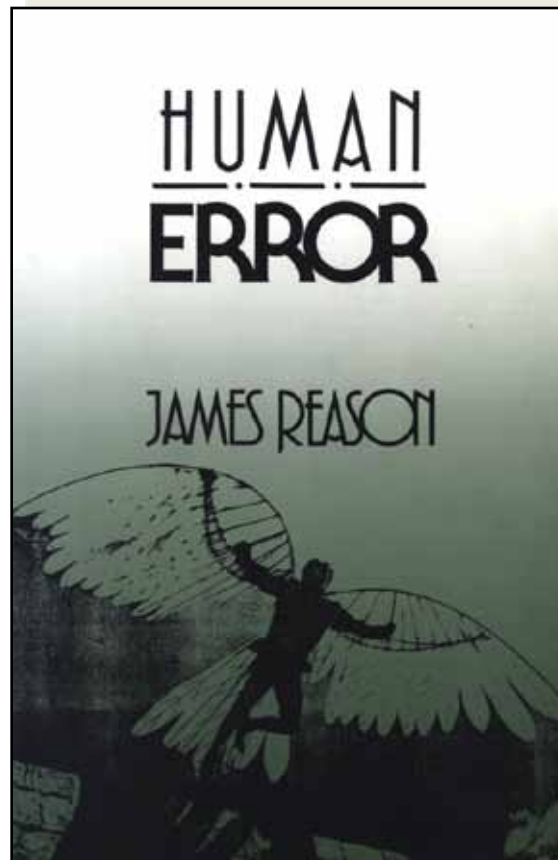
For What It's Worth ...

- My opinion – The issue of error rates is a legal question, not a scientific one.
 - Can someone please explain to me how identifying an error rate advances science.
- I agree with Joe Bono – Until we can clearly define and measure the numerator and denominator, we are simply arguing for arguments sake.
- I also agree with Jennifer Mnookin – The question of when and why errors occur is more important than error rates.

**Premise: Human Error is Human Error
regardless of the venue, occupation, or field -
only the consequences vary.**



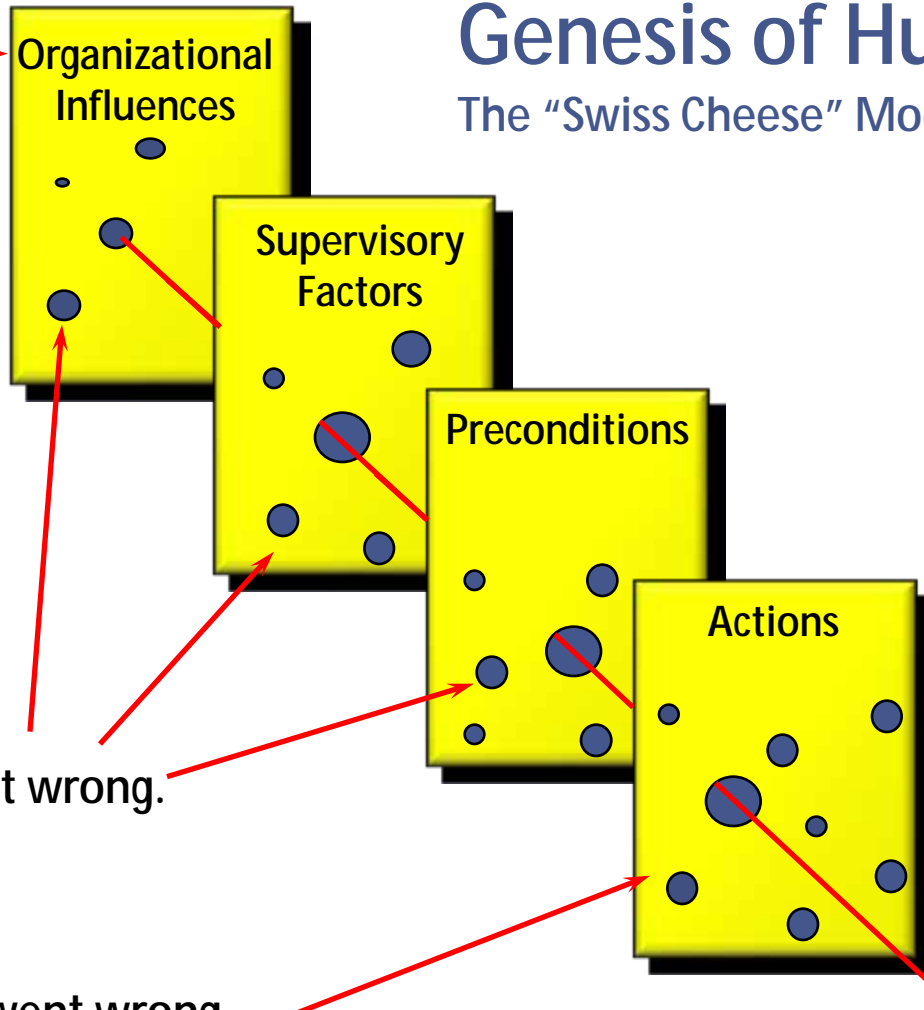
Reason (1990)



Genesis of Human Error

The "Swiss Cheese" Model of Human Error

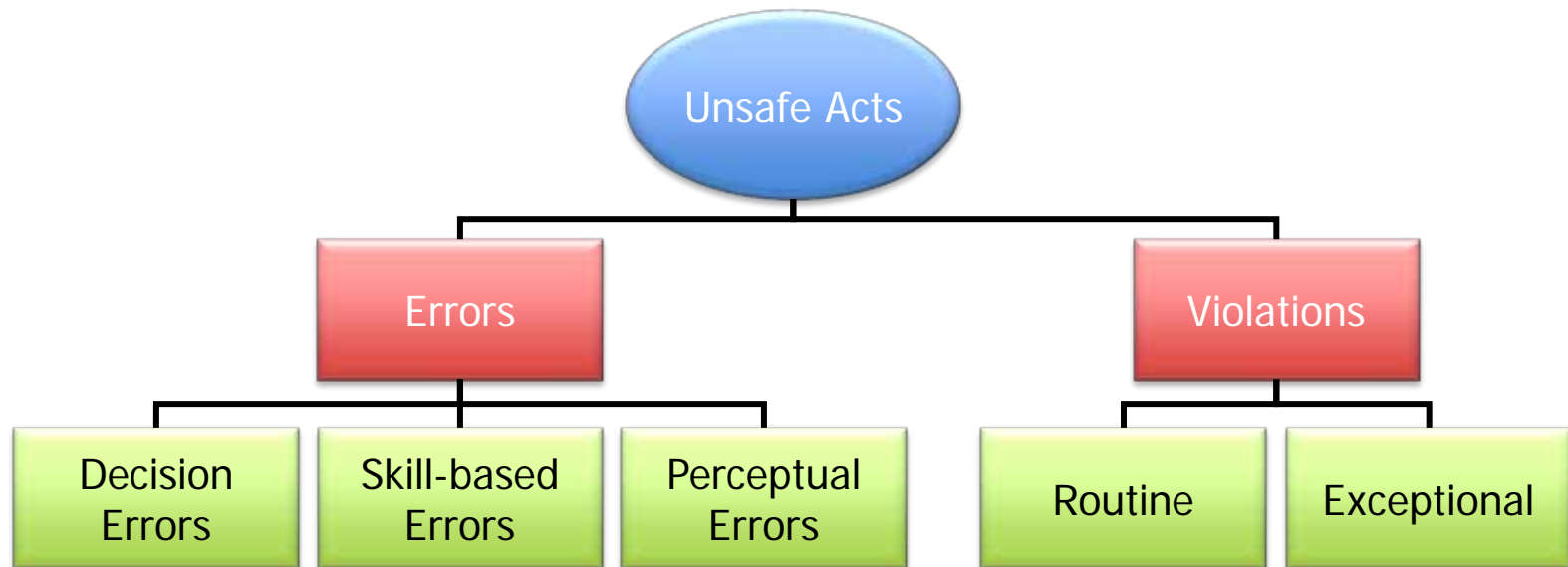
Inputs →

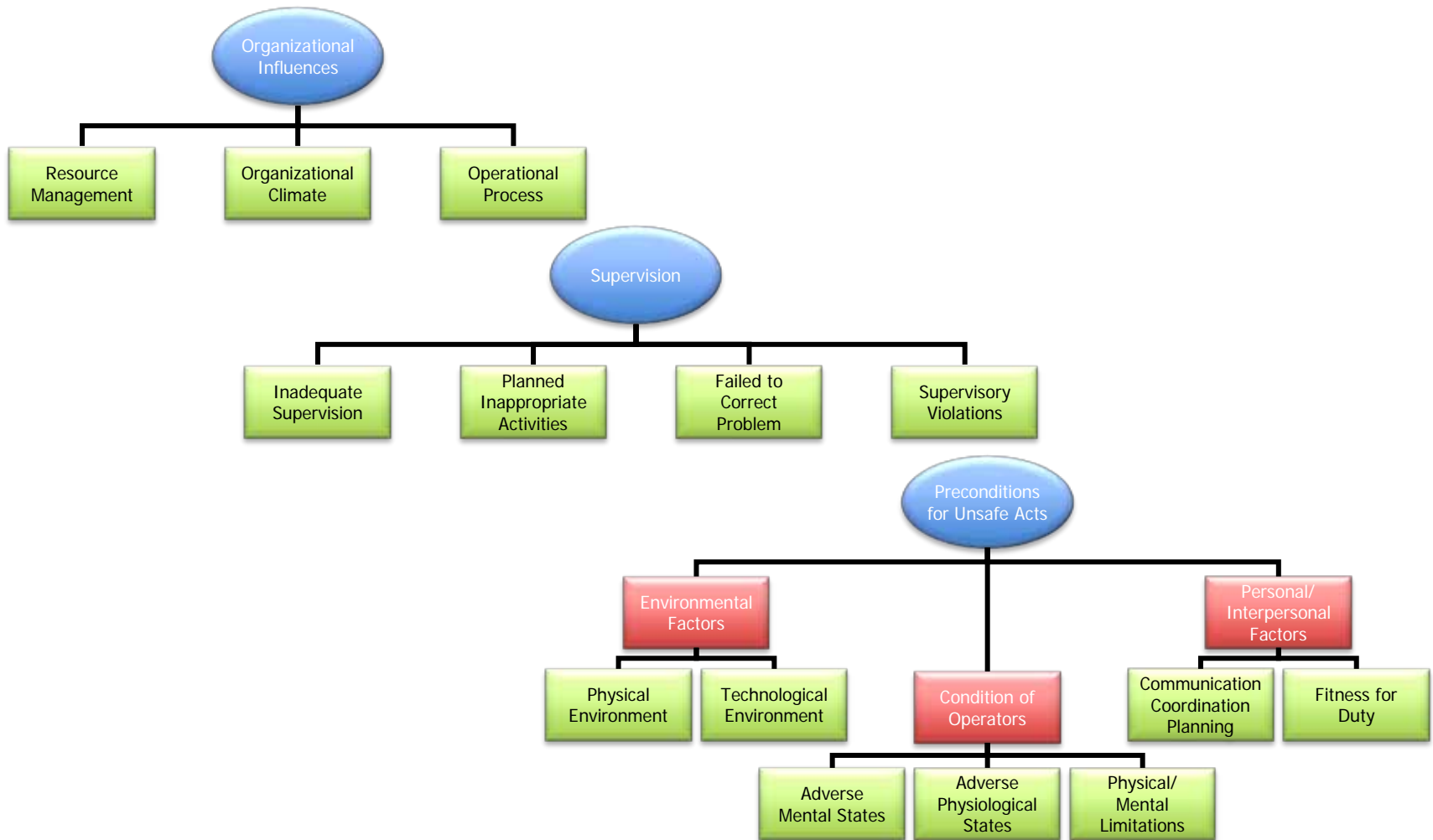


WHY it went wrong.

WHAT went wrong.

Adverse Outcome

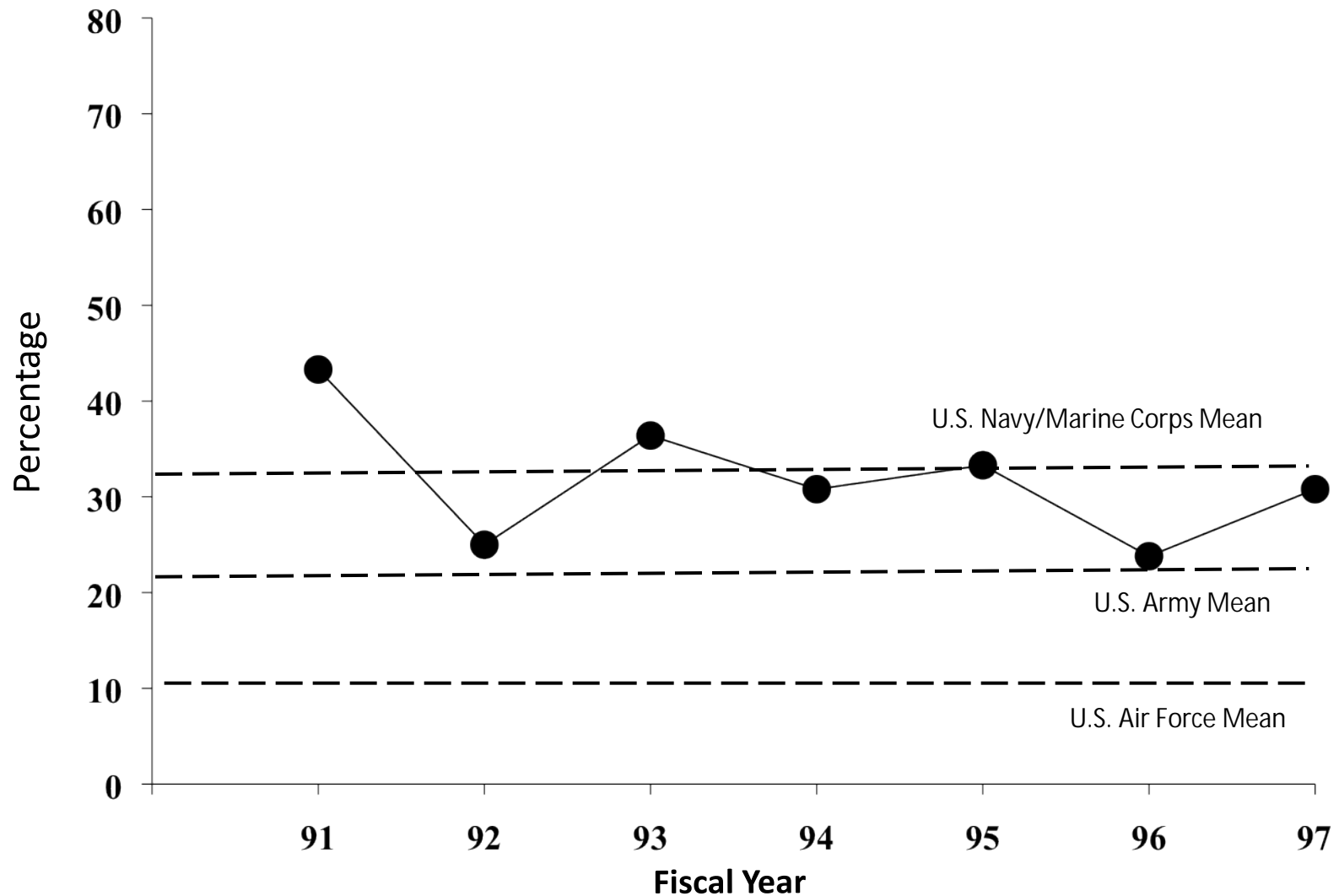




Violations and Accidents: Nashville, TN



Percentage of Human Error Mishaps Associated with Violations



A Culture of Tolerance

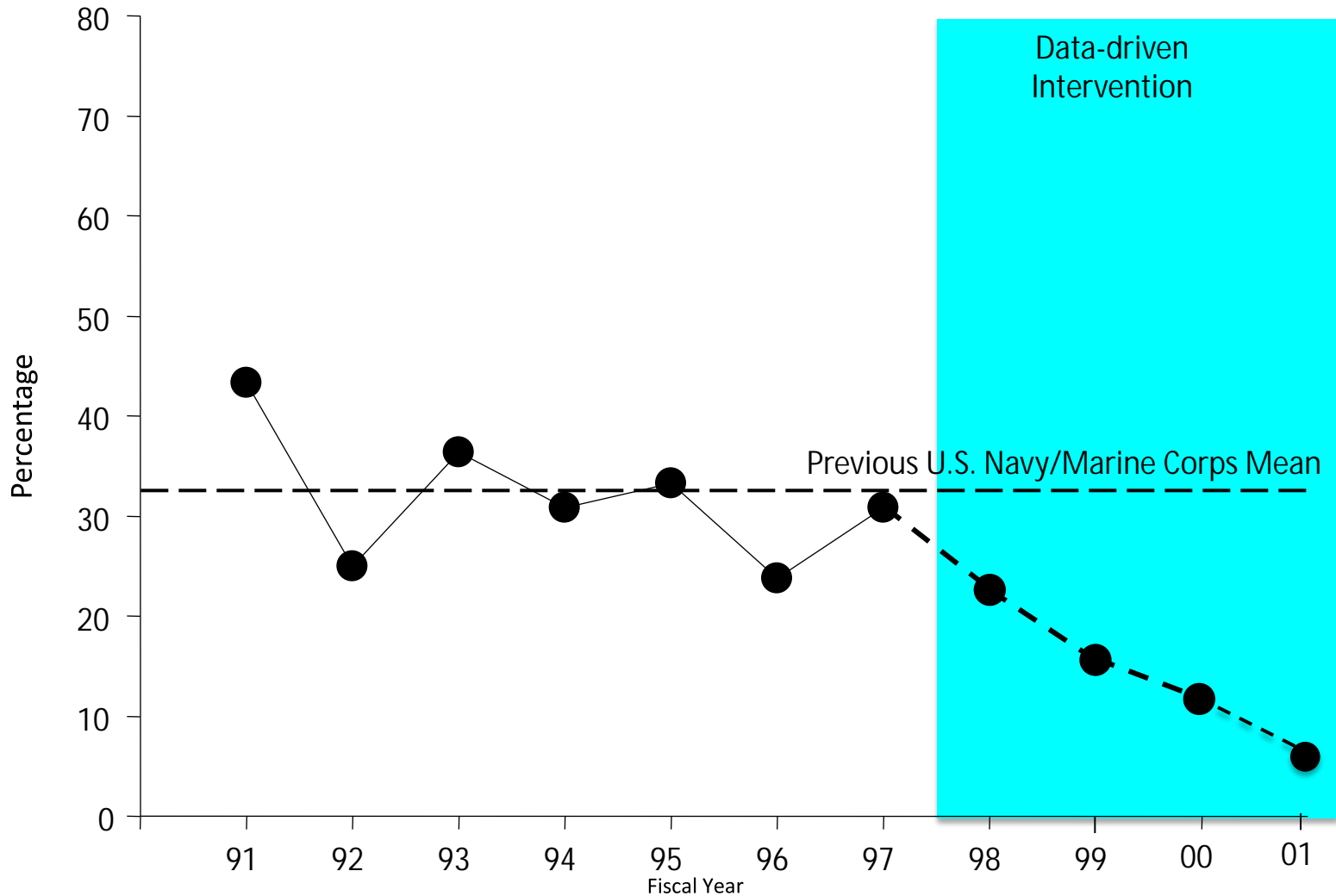


Intervention Strategy



- Ø Professionalism
- Ø Enforce the Rules
- Ø Establish Accountability

Did the Intervention Work?



I Agree

“... why errors occur is more important than error rates...”
- Jennifer Mnookin

