

Intelligence

state of the art threat assessment

Volume 1 Issue 5 Winter 2011

WELCOME

Welcome to the fifth issue of *Intelligence*.

Intelligence will keep you up to date with the recent advances in threat assessment from around the globe.

World-leading threat assessment figures have agreed to share their knowledge and experiences and serve on the *Intelligence* [editorial board](#).

We also encourage you to [contribute](#) and [provide feedback](#).

Our Latest Research summary, [Mobile Crisis Services: An Important Collaboration Between Police and Mental Health Services](#), can be found in this issue, along with other research news and views.

We hope *Intelligence* will continue to provide a forum for you to share and develop your expertise in threat assessment.

Sincerely,

Stephen D. Hart, PhD

Professor, Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University
Director, Proactive ReSolutions Inc.



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Latest Research

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Mobile Crisis Services: An Important Collaboration Between Police and Mental Health Services

Kisely, S., Campbell, L., Peddle, S., Hare, S., Pyche, M., Spicer, D., & Moore, B. (2010). A controlled before-and-after evaluation of a mobile crisis partnership between mental health and police services in Nova Scotia. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 55, 662-668.

A high proportion of calls police respond to involve people with mental health problems in North America. Research based in Vancouver, Canada, suggests that about 1/3 of all police incidents involve people with mental health problems. Increased attention to this issue has led to collaborations between police and mental health services when responding to mental health crisis. Although many different models have been developed to increase collaboration, they share similar goals of improving services for people with mental health problems and being tailored to the needs of individual communities.

Stephen Kisely and his colleagues completed one of the first formal evaluations of an integrated mental health crisis service involving a collaboration between

police and mental health services. Specifically, they used mixed methods to

police and mental health services. Specifically, they used mixed methods to evaluate the changes in availability, accessibility, and efficiency of services, as well as service recipient and staff member satisfaction, following the introduction of an integrated mobile crisis service in Nova Scotia. They found that the introduction of the integrated mobile crisis service resulted in: (1) increased use of the service; (2) improved response times to incidents; (3) reduced time spent at the scene; (4) greater engagement of service recipients in subsequent treatment; and, (5) improved collaboration between staff members. These findings support increased availability, accessibility, efficiency of services and improved satisfaction with services by service recipients and staff members following the implementation of an integrated mobile crisis service.

The authors emphasized that regardless of the model used to increase collaboration between police and mental health services, it is critical to include police training, collaboration between police and mental health services, and an expanded role for law enforcement officers. Most importantly, for success to occur mental health services must have a “no refusal” policy for police referrals, and police services must accept that responding to mental health problems is a core element of policing.

The [full text version of the article](#) is available for free at the website of the *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*.

Glenn Snel
Ontario Provincial Police

Lorraine Sheridan
Heriot Watt University

Rachel Solov
San Diego County / President, ATAP

Bram van der Meer
Black Swan Forensics / President,
AETAP

Stephen D. Hart
ProActive ReSolutions Inc.

Kelly A. Watt
ProActive ReSolutions Inc.

Practice Update

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A Guideline for Police and Protection Officers for Approachers of Public Figures

Calis, A. (2011). *'What are you doing here?' A checklist/guideline for police and protection officers in their first contact with approachers of public figures* (Master's thesis). Retrieved from

http://forensiseuropa.files.wordpress.com/2011/11/2011_watdoetuhiereren.pdf

>

Since the tragedy in Norway last July, increased attention has been paid to the risks associated with approachers of public figures. Approachers of public figures are people who physically approach a protected person or location and are perceived as deviating, threatening or potentially dangerous. When an individual comes in close physical proximity with a protected person or location, security or police are often the first to have direct contact with them. Although security or police have a tendency to simply dismiss approachers as a means of protection, they are in an ideal position to obtain critical information from approachers. Anne-Lucia Calis and Bram Van der Meer of the Netherlands Police Academy have developed a checklist/guideline in the Netherlands for collecting information from approachers of public figures for the purpose of informing threat assessment and management.

The checklist consists of ten themes that should be considered and suggested questions that officers could use to ask approachers. The themes are: (1) the individual's motivation to approach; (2) the amount of time and effort the approacher took in order to make the approach possible; (3) background information on the approacher; (4) problems, grievances, or recent significant life events; (5) frequency of visiting the public figure or location associated with the public figure; (6) previous attempts to have contact with public figures; (7) presence or symptoms of psychiatric disorder; (8) access to weapons; (9) substance use; and (10) any other topics raised by the approacher. A supplementary checklist was also developed concerning the appearance and behaviour of the approacher as well as the approach situation.



The full report is available on www.forensiseuropa.org (only in the Dutch language). But feel free to contact Anna-Lucia Calis (anne-lucia.calis@limburg-noord.politie.nl) or Bram Van der Meer (Bram.van.der.meer@aetap.eu) directly about the checklist.

Book Review

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The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right

Gawande, A. (2010). *The checklist manifesto: How to get things right*. London: Profile Books. [ISBN: 978 1 84668 314 5]

Atul Gawande is a Boston-based surgeon who has worked hard to help fellow professionals around the world to do the best job possible for the benefit of their patients. How does he do this—improvements in instrumentation, training via computer simulation, robotic surgery? No. He developed a checklist.

The Checklist Manifesto is both highly entertaining and extremely educational. Using a mixture of personal anecdote and research, Atul Gawande explains the problems faced by surgeons and how he came to realize these problems were not unique—and in fact that the solution to them might lie in simple checklists. Like surgery, flying an aircraft and building a skyscraper are complex activities that involve coordination of activities by groups of people with specialized knowledge and skills. But for many years pilots and builders have relied heavily on checklists to make sure their jobs are done properly; they view the use of such checklists not as a sign of weakness, but as a sign of discipline and professionalism.

Gawande describes the history of such checklists, principles for developing them, and explanations for why they work so well. He also summarizes some of the research on their efficacy. For example, one of the basic surgical checklists that he helped develop on behalf of the World Health Organization is used internationally, and controlled trials at hospitals in various countries demonstrate impressive impact: surgical teams in those hospitals liked the checklist and used it frequently and consistently, leading to substantial declines in the rate of post-operative complications and better outcomes for patients. Put simply, the checklist saved lives. Lots of them.

Gawande's story is also inspiring. I doubt threat assessment professionals will be able to read this book without thinking of ways to incorporate checklists into their own practice. In an era where people are prone to sit back and wait for problems to be solved by cutting-edge technology and brute-force computing, Gawande reminds us that sometimes the best solution is to do the things we already know are effective, but to make sure we do them all, in the correct sequence, and properly. If a checklist is good enough for a surgeon, pilot, or contractor, shouldn't it be good enough for you?

For more information about the book, or to read the [excellent article in the New Yorker, "The Checklist,"](#) which grew into the book, visit [Gawande's website](#).

Industry Association News

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Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals

Message from President Bram Van der Meer

AETAP has started another new year with enthusiasm and motivation to further develop threat assessment and management on the European continent. The board would like to use this opportunity to wish their befriended associations in Canada, United States, and Australia/Asia, as well as all other threat assessment professionals a safe and secure 2012.

AETAP looks back on a successful year in which we saw the numbers of members grow, a well attended conference in Tallinn, Estonia, with renewing contributions and further development of fundamental topics like the European (and international) accreditation of threat assessment professionals. The Review Committee consists of members from the European board, as well as experts from the United States (Dr. White), Canada (Dr. Hart) and Australia (Dr. Warren).

AETAP is delighted to see well-established relations develop with our sister organizations in Canada and the United States, which was noticeable during a meeting between the international boards in Banff in September. We are excited about the international plans aiming at co-operation and support, sharing knowledge and information, and creating a global interactive forum of specialists. AETAP is also delighted to see the Australia/Asia association entering the international field. One of our board members had the honor to speak at their first conference that was held in Australia.

AETAP stands for the practical application of scientific knowledge and stimulation of communication between threat assessment experts from different fields (e.g., mental health, victim services, academics, law enforcement, military, intelligence, and corporate business). This has been the philosophy of our conferences, and will again be at our next conference in Krakow, Poland. We look forward to an event that will reflect our enthusiasm in pulling threat assessment professionals to a higher level of expertise. Therefore we have approached renowned experts in the field who will bring their new findings, recent case studies, and practical solutions to modern threat assessment issues.

What makes our association incredibly unique and creates exciting challenges is the diversity in Europe due to 50 different countries, many different cultures, and more than 20 main languages. Major cases happening in Europe in recent years show the need to build strong bonds across Europe. Consider the attempt to attack members of the royal family in the Netherlands in 2009, the murder of politician Anna Lindh in Sweden in 2003, the terrorist attacks in Madrid in 2004 and London in 2005, the mass murders in Norway and Belgium in 2011, and several school shootings in Germany and Finland. These incidents are signs of growing areas of specific risk that need to be managed in diverse settings and by multiple professionals. AETAP experiences this as a challenge and responsibility to make bridges between organizations and countries and work together to address these problems in Europe.

The board of AETAP is looking forward to welcome you to the historical Polish city of Krakow for the 2012 conference. Please visit our website for more information and registration. The conference program will be available by the end of January.

Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals

Conference Recap by Membership Coordinator Detective Elisabeth Willcox

2011 marked CATAP's 3rd annual conference that was a great success with over 100 delegates! The conference was held at the historical Banff Springs Hotel in

Banff, Alberta between September 19 and 23. Canadian, American, and European attendees and presenters from as far away as Sweden, Finland, and

European attendees and presenters from as far away as Sweden, Finland, and the Netherlands enjoyed a week of beautiful weather and incredible scenery. Despite a looming airline strike, our American delegates travelled from New York, Virginia, Washington, Georgia, and California. This was a wonderful turnout for us, and solidified our pride in attracting the best in Threat Assessment from around the world. As well as being a geographically diversified group, we also had a varied professional group that included law enforcement, private sector, health professionals, legal and justice sector, teachers, government employees, and academia.

This year's conference began with a focus on two workshop days outlining Extremism and Honour Based Violence, topics which attendees felt were extremely relevant to Threat Assessment in the twenty first century. Our keynote speaker this year was a courageous young woman who had survived a relationship filled with domestic violence and stalking with a man who the courts referred to as a "predator of women for over twenty years." Alberta's ITRAC Unit then presented on the related police investigation and risk assessment of the case. Attendees described the victim as "brave, insightful and moving" and stated that presentations "don't get any more real than that."

Other presentations included Julie Clegg's intriguing look at the technology behind computer stalking and Dr. Rob Leonard's enlightening look at the fascinating world of Forensic Linguistics. We also listened intently to Drs. Stephen Hart and Kelly Watt as they educated us about Workplace Violence. Additional topics included Elder Abuse, Threat Management in the Corporate World, Typology of Warning Behaviours, and an Expert Evidence Panel consisting of lawyers, psychologists and police officers who demonstrated the need for collaboration in Threat Assessment when presenting our cases to the judicial system.

Not to be outdone by the educational aspect of the conference, our social committee ensured attendees also enjoyed the beauty of Banff with a scenic cruise on Lake Minnewanka and a gondola ride to the top of Sulphur Mountain, while the more hedonistic among us enjoyed soaking away our cares in the Upper Hot Springs on the mountain. And of course no conference would be complete without the socializing and networking we enjoyed in our impressive (albeit haunted) Hospitality Suite.

Thank you to all who played a role in the success of this year's conference, including our sponsors, Proactive Resolutions and Crisis & Trauma Resource Institute (CTRI). We can't wait to see everyone next year!

Training Opportunity for Sex Offender Specialists

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Catherine M. Wilson, a PhD student in the Department of Psychology at Simon Fraser University, is conducting a research study examining the reliability of structured professional judgments made using the Risk for Sexual Violence Protocol (RSVP).

The study involves learning how to use the RSVP and completing a series of 6 risk assessments of actual clinical cases--the same on-line RSVP training program available through CONCEPT, an accredited CE provider. You may sign up for the RSVP training program through the [CONCEPT website](#).

Those who complete the training will receive:

- a. A copy of the RSVP manual.

- b. Personalized feedback on each of the 6 risk assessments.
- c. A certification confirming completion of the program and demonstration of competence in the use of the RSVP.
- d. 20 hours of CE credits.

The usual cost of the on-line RSVP training program is USD \$500. But if you consent to allow Cathy to use your ratings in her research, she will refund 100% of your tuition fees. That means you will receive 20 hours of CE credit at no charge!

For more information about the RSVP training program, visit the CONCEPT website at secure.concept-ce.com or contact Cathy at cwilson2@sfu.ca. If you don't want or need CE credits—for example, if you are a doctoral-level student who wants to complete the training for course credit or you can't afford to pay the tuition fees—please contact Cathy directly at cwilson2@sfu.ca.

Upcoming Events

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Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Conference

September 24-28, 2012
Banff, Alberta

[Learn more](#)

Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Threat Management Conference

August 14-17, 2012
Anaheim, California

[Learn more](#)

ProActive ReSolutions Inc. Basic Violence Threat Assessment and Risk Management Course

June 4-8, 2012
Ottawa, Ontario

(Information coming soon)

Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Conference

April 24-26, 2012
Krakow, Poland

[Learn more](#)

Program note: Dr. Reid Meloy will be giving a 1-day post-conference workshop on April 27.

ProActive ReSolutions Inc. Advanced Violence Threat Assessment and Risk Management Course

April 2-5, 2012
Vancouver, British Columbia

[Learn more](#)

Northern Networking Events Ltd. Violence Risk Training Workshops

March 27-30, 2012
Edinburgh, Scotland

[Learn more](#)

Contribute

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We welcome ideas for contributions from all readers.

E-mail your suggestions to the editor (shart@proactive-resolutions.com) or
associate editor (kwatt@proactive-resolutions.com)

Provide Feedback

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Let us know what you like, what you want to read more about, or what you hope
to see in the future.

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associate editor (kwatt@proactive-resolutions.com).

Visit us at www.proactive-resolutions.com

Follow us on [twitter@buildingrespect](https://twitter.com/buildingrespect)

Canada:
Ph +1 604 482 1750
142 – 1020 Mainland St.
Vancouver BC V6B 2T4

Australia:
Ph + 61 2 9221 0446
Level 4
389 George St
Sydney NSW 2000

USA:
Ph +1 877 585 9933
4152 Meridian St
Suite 105, PMB 305
Bellingham, WA
98226-6475 USA