



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 2005

I2 Stalking as a Risk Factor in Domestic Violence Finale

Russell E. Palarea, PhD*, U.S. Naval and Criminal Investigative Service, 716 Sicard Street, SE, Suite 2000, Code 02D, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20388; and Mario J. Scalora, PhD, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 238 Burnett Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588

The goal of this presentation is to present a typology for assessing domestic violence stalking and risk factors for assessing violence within domestic violence stalking campaigns.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing understanding of the prevalence, purpose, and implications of stalking behaviors in domestically violent relationships, as well as methods for assessing violence risk within this population.

This paper is a follow-up to the presentations from AAFS 2001 (Stalking as a Risk Factor in Domestic Violence) and AAFS 2003 (Stalking as a Risk Factor in Domestic Violence Revisited). This presentation will cover the final results of a several-year study on stalking behaviors perpetrated by domestic violence offenders. Eighty-five participants who were referred to a community domestic violence/anger control treatment program were assessed for stalking and abuse within their intimate relationships. Their reported motives for conducting the stalking behaviors varied from apologizing, to showing their love, to intimidating their partner, and to gaining access to property and children. A factor analysis of the stalking behaviors, motives, and associated characteristics revealed a three-factor typology: *Apologetic & Hostile*, *Malicious*, and *Business-like*. A second factor analysis on the stalking and partner abuse behaviors also revealed a three-factor typology: *Assaulters*, *Pursuers*, and *Coercers*. Path analysis between the participant historical variables, partner violence, and stalking behaviors revealed that sexual coercion, psychological aggression, and negotiation tactics were more indicative of the perpetration of stalking behaviors than physical violence against the partner. The findings suggest that rather than considering stalking and domestic violence as different constructs, stalking behaviors may be better conceptualized as an extension of the physical and psychological abuse against the partner, with more severe forms of stalking being used by more severe domestic violence perpetrators. The implications for assessment of violence risk, law enforcement intervention, and legal/policy issues will be discussed.

Stalking, Domestic Violence, Threat Assessment