



Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences Section – 20??

I17 Behavioral Science and National Security

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After attending this presentation attendees will be familiar with the interface between psychiatrists/psychologists and the intelligence community, and understand guidelines for evaluating or treating personnel with Top Secret clearances.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by improving the quality of services provided in the national security setting.

Psychiatrists and psychologists in a variety of settings may encounter patients involved in intelligence activities or undercover law enforcement operations. These patients may be legally prohibited from disclosing the details of their involvement, even though these activities themselves may be at the very heart of the psychosocial stressors prompting the evaluation. Levels of classification of national security information have been established by executive order and each federal agency responsible for such information has published similar regulations to implement these requirements. Top secret information may be part of a special access program (SAP) or sensitive compartmented information (SCI), with stringent security requirements. The procedures for obtaining special one-time access to classified information if needed for a case will be discussed, along with the potential pitfalls of bringing this into an evaluation. When a request for evaluation is specifically directed toward suitability for a security clearance, the general principles of conducting any forensic psychiatric examination apply. Furthermore, specific guidelines for determining eligibility have been enumerated in Director of Central Intelligence Directive 1/14 (18), and are incorporated in the regulations issued by each federal agency affected, including each of the military services. The guidelines are divided into thirteen areas of human conduct that adjudicators consider in determining whether someone represents a security risk, four of which may require evaluation by mental health professionals. There may be significant differences in the mental health information a security manager needs to adjudicate a clearance determination compared to the information a treating psychiatrist or psychologist considers relevant for clinical decision-making. These guidelines will be reviewed with an emphasis on providing answers that are indeed responsive to the questions being posed, and not simply clinical opinions with limited objective data. Other applications of behavioral science including support of military intelligence operations and counterintelligence activities will be discussed.

National Security, Classified Information, Military Intelligence