I18   Psychological Impact on Guards at Guantanamo Bay Prison Camp - A Case Study Plus Others

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the impact of observing torture and threats on guards in relationship to long term psychological symptoms and the impact on subsequent duty behavior.

This presentation will impact the forensic community by promoting the understanding of the affects on guards Guantanamo Bay.

This presentation will focus on the psychological impact of being a guard at Guantanamo Prison for "enemy combatants." The source of the referral becomes important as the soldier had seen two mental health professionals before being referred to me.

The presentation will focus first on the establishment of the thera- peutic relationship - especially trust. The particulars of the case which are special to the position he held could not otherwise be discussed. His duties included, but were not confined to preparing prisoners for their interrogations. The second aspect will be a description of the prisoners' physical and psychological reactions which deeply affected this soldier. Thirdly, the symptom picture of the Guard and the treatment provided in the time available will be briefly discussed.

Following a detailed presentation of the soldier referred to above, comments will be made on other guards who were present at Guantanamo, although at a more recent date. The core of the presentation will, however, be about the Guard who was there in the very early days of the opening of the prison.

A question will be raised about whether PTSD can develop in a soldier who has seen no combat and is engaged as a guard doing duties expected of him. (The Army has a policy, for instance, that no health care professional can have PTSD unless they are engaged in direct combat, but not from performing their duties as ER-Nurse, X-Ray technician, etc.)

Guantanamo, Torture, Guards