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## WELCOME

Welcome to the third 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, [How Good Are Your Threat Assessment Skills?](#), along with other research news and views can be found in this issue.

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**

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

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## Latest Research

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### How Good Are Your Threat Assessment Skills?

McNiel, D. E., Hung, E. K., Cramer, R. J., Hall, S. E., & Binder, R. L. (2011). An approach to evaluating competence in assessing and managing violence risk. *Psychiatric Services*, 62, 90-92.

Dale McNiel and his colleagues have made some important contributions to the field of threat assessment. In fact, the last issue of *Intelligence* included some discussion of his work related to the evaluation of violence risk assessment training in a civil psychiatric setting.

A paper published earlier this year summarizes the efforts of this research team to develop a tool that can be used to evaluate core threat assessment skills related to gathering, analyzing, and reporting relevant case information, as well as developing case management plans. The tool, called the Competency Assessment Instrument for Violence Risk, or CAI-V, is a checklist used to make 31 specific ratings. The CAI-V was developed

on the basis of a review of the literature on violence risk assessment and

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on the basis of a review of the literature on violence risk assessment and the evaluation of competencies in medical education more generally, as well as the authors' own experiences evaluating trainees and consultation with subject matter experts.

To test the reliability and validity of the CAI-V, the researchers had 31 faculty observers rate the competence of violence risk assessment of simulated patients conducted by 31 trainees (psychiatric residents and psychology interns who completed a training program). CAI-V ratings made by the faculty observers had good interrater reliability. Also, the competencies of more experienced trainees were rated higher than those of less experienced trainees, supporting the validity of the CAI-V. Finally, faculty observers reported positive experiences using the CAI-V. Overall, the study suggests it is possible to develop objective, systematic ways to evaluate the quality of threat assessment and management decisions for individual cases, as well as the general competence of threat assessment professionals.

For those who are interested in the CAI-V, the authors have made it available free of charge through the journal's website.

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## Practice Update

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### Pilot Threat Management by the Netherlands Police Agency

People with severe mental problems can pose a threat to the safety of public figures. Because of their experience in this field, the Netherlands Police Agency initiated a two year threat management pilot. The project was directly inspired by the work of the Fixated Threat Assessment Centre in London, the research of the Fixated Research Group and furthermore by the work of the Swedish Säkerhetspolisen.

The team consists of a clinical psychiatrist, investigative psychologists, threat assessment professionals, and data analysts from various Dutch security agencies. This team focuses on so-called "loners" with psychological or psychiatric problems, who pose a threat to the Queen, the Crown Prince, or the Prime Minister. The emphasis is on early detection and a customised approach to the threat posed by the particular individual.

The threat management team promotes collaboration between various police and public safety agencies and mental health services, ensuring an integrated approach. The strategy is based on a comprehensive approach that involves identifying the risks of fixated loners, referral to mental health services, and tackling them with a combination of preventative and punitive measures. In 2012, at the end of the two-year period, the pilot will be evaluated by an external research group. If the results are positive, the team will receive a formal status and continue and expand their work, for instance to threat management around other targeted politicians and members of the royal family.

For more information contact Bianca Voerman  
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## Book Review

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## The Handbook for Campus Threat Assessment & Management Teams

Threat assessment in educational settings continues to be a hot topic. Institutions around the world are scrambling to determine how best to deal with actual, attempted, or threatened campus violence. Many have established their own threat assessment teams, sometimes referred to as “behavioral intervention teams.” But who should be on these teams? What kinds of incidents should they handle? How should they assess and manage violence risk?

Gene Deisinger and colleagues attempted to answer questions such as these. The authors have extensive collective experience conducting threat assessments, delivering training, and developing teams. Originally published in 2008, their book continues to be useful because it is clearly written and practically focused. The handbook is divided into seven sections that discuss the recommended goals (e.g., mission and principles), structures (e.g., composition, responsibilities, meetings), and processes (e.g., threat assessment, threat management, information sharing) of campus threat assessment and management teams. Throughout these sections, the authors highlight decision points that may be particularly important for teams to consider. The appendices provide useful resources for campus threat assessment teams including summary checklists, quick reference guides, sample policies and procedures, and suggested reading.

Deisinger, G., Randazzo, M., O’Neill, D., & Savage, J. (2008). *The handbook for campus threat assessment & management teams*. Stoneham, MA: Applied Risk Management. [ISBN: 978-0-615-23493-9]

## Industry Association News

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### Association of Threat Assessment Professionals

#### Message from President Rachel Solov

It is my honor to be writing this message on behalf of the Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP). Membership in associations such as ATAP, CATAP, and AETAP is an essential component to successful violence risk assessment and management. Those of us who have worked in this field know that effective violence risk assessment and management is a collaborative endeavor. Our primary objectives are to prevent violence, detect violence and protect from violence. Doing this takes expertise and cooperation from many disciplines, constant and ongoing training about advances in the field, and commitment and compassion. Our work and our decisions are enhanced when we work together and learn from each other - which translates into preventing violence and saving lives. ATAP’s creation was based upon these principles. ATAP’s founder, John Lane, who at the time was a Lieutenant in the Los Angeles Police Department’s Threat Management Unit, brought together professionals from across disciplines to form the world’s first professional threat assessment association and put on the first Threat Management Conference. Twenty-one years later, professional threat assessment associations have thrived into a global community.

Since our formation, we have grown to 11 chapters across the United States, with 717 active members, including 71 new members in 2011 alone.

We recently enacted a Code of Ethical Conduct, as well as a written

procedure for handling ethical complaints. This was our first step in implementing a certification program, the creation of which is now underway. We have expanded our training opportunities to include a two-day spring conference with locations in the mid-west or east coast. The last two years we have provided incredibly successful conferences in Chicago, Illinois. These conferences have given attendees exceptional training and networking opportunities that compliment those offered at our Annual Threat Management Conference. Members enjoy reduced rates to these conferences, as well as bi-monthly trainings/case studies provided at the local chapter level. We are also in the process of expanding the members only area of our website to include a comprehensive library of research and literature related to our field.

As President of ATAP, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend both CATAP's and AETAP's conferences in the past year. I want to thank both organizations for their hospitality as well as to congratulate them for the success of their events. Throughout my travels at home and abroad, time and again, I have been inspired by the professionalism, dedication, passion, compassion and abilities of those of you whose paths I have crossed. Wherever you are in the world, I applaud the investment you have made in your profession by supporting our organizations. ATAP's Annual Threat Management Conference is August 16-19, 2011, at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, California. I hope you will join us for four days of exceptional training and networking opportunities. For more information, including the conference brochure, or to register, please go to [www.atapworldwide.org](http://www.atapworldwide.org).

## Upcoming Events

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### **Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Threat Management Conference**

August 16-19, 2011  
Anaheim, California

[Learn more](#)

### **Canadian Association of Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Conference**

September 19-23, 2011  
Banff, Alberta

[Learn more](#)

### **Association of European Threat Assessment Professionals Annual Conference**

April 24-27, 2012  
Krakow, Poland

[Learn more](#)

### **ProActive ReSolutions Inc. Violence Risk**

# Assessment and Management Workshop for Post-Secondary Institutions

December 5-9, 2011  
St. Catharines, Ontario

[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](mailto:shart@proactive-resolutions.com)) or associate editor ([kwatt@proactive-resolutions.com](mailto: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.

Email your feedback to the editor ([shart@proactive-resolutions.com](mailto:shart@proactive-resolutions.com)) or associate editor ([kwatt@proactive-resolutions.com](mailto:kwatt@proactive-resolutions.com)).

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