**VERA**

**VIOLENT EXTREMISM RISK ASSESSMENT**

**Version 2\***

**\*to be used in conjunction with**

**Risk Assessment Decisions for Violent Political Extremism (D. Elaine Pressman Ph.D) 2009-02**

**PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM**

**Agenda and Documents**

**TRAINER**

**D. E. Pressman, PhD**

**Nederlands Instituut voor Forensische Psychiatrie en Psychologie (NIFP)**

**DJI Ministerie van Veiligheid en Justitie**

**Utrecht, The Netherlands**

**11 en 12 april 2016 & 13 en 14 april 2016**

**VERA-2**

Consultative Version: Pressman and Flockton 2010

Violent Extremism Risk Assessment

**TRAINING PROGRAM DOCUMENTS (3)**

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| **1.** | **Training Manual- Document 1**  **(PROVIDED BY NIFP)**  **Contents**   1. **VERA Summary Rating form** 2. **VERA Procedural Example Interview Form** 3. **VERA Indicator Definitions** 4. **VERA Working Rating Form** |
| **2** | **Document 2- Agenda, Background Articles & VERA 2 Assessment Forms**  **(TO BE PROVIDED BY NIFP)**  **Articles:**  **Risk Assessment Decisions for Violent Political Extremism**  D. Elaine Pressman, [2009-02]  Published by Public Safety Canada  Copyright Her Majesty the Queen, 2009  Cat. No.: PS3-1/2009-2-1E-PDF. ISBN No.: 978-1-100-13956-2  *(Also available on the Public Safety Canada website)*   1. Background, rationale and procedures to the VERA 2. Comparative Charts of VERA and other risk Assessment Indicators   **Calibrating Risk for Violent Political Extremists and Terrorists: The VERA 2 Structured Assessment**  D. Elaine Pressmanand John Flockton, 2012: in The British Journal of Forensic Practice  1. Background, rationale and definitions of the VERA 2  **2.** Implications for us |
| **2**  **@** | **Document 3- Illustration Cases for Training Assessment-**  **(PROVIDED BY NIFP).**  **Contents:**   1. **Introduction to Users** 2. **Cases 1-10.** |

**VERA-2**

**TRAINING PROGRAM**

**-Day 1**

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| **0900 hrs.** | **Welcome and Introduction to Materials and Objectives** |
| **0930 hrs** | **Background Information, Rationale for the VERA**  **Comparison of Indicators from Other Risk Assessment Tools, Relevance** |
| **1045 hrs** | **Break** |
| **1100 hrs** | **Validity Criteria for Violent Extremism risk assessments. Reliability and Validity Issues.**  **Rationale for Use**  **Problems of Data Collection**  **Importance of measurement for monitoring.** |
| **12:15 hrs** | **Lunch Break** |
| **13:15 hrs** | **Review of VERA 2 Risk Indicators, Definitions and Rating Challenges**  **Case Example: Discussion** |
| **15000 hrs** | **Break** |
| **1515** | **Case Example continued AND Case 1.** |
| **1600 hrs** | **Close session** |

**VERA 2**

**TRAINING PROGRAM**

**-Day 2**

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| **0900 hrs** | **Short review, Introduction to Procedures for Analysis, Cases for assessment and analysis Case 2** |
| **1045 hrs** | **Break** |
| **1100 hrs.** | **Case 3: Individual ratings and paired comparisons of differences. Reporting and Discussion** |
| **12:15 hrs** | **Lunch Break** |
| **13:15 hrs** | **Case 4: Independent/Paired raters for consensus. Confirmation, Reporting to group- and Case 5** |
| **1500 hrs** | **Break** |
| **1515** | **Resume -Ease, Confidence and Importance Issues in Ratings: Predictive Analytics, Computerization of records** |
| **1600 hrs** | **Wrap up and close after summary of benefits and limitations of VERA 2** |

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| VERA-2  VIOLENT EXTREMISM RISK ASSESSMENT  **Working Rating Form**  **Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ID # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Current Location: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Reason for Referral: : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date of Birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_**  **===============================**  **SUMMARY SPJ RISK RATING**  **(Circle)**  **LOW, MODERATE, HIGH**  **VERA**  **VIOLENT EXTREMISM RISK ASSESSMENT**  **Version 2**  **WORKING RATING FORM**  **D. Elaine Pressman and John Flockton, 2010**  **13.9.14** | | | | |
|  | **VERA 2 ITEMS** | **Low** | **Moderate** | **High** |
| **BA.** | **BELIEFS-ATTITUDES**  **[IDEOLOGY]** |  |  |  |
| BA.1 | Attachment to ideology justifying violence |  |  |  |
| BA.2 | Victim of personal or group injustice and grievances |  |  |  |
| BA.3 | Dehumanization of identified targets of injustice |  |  |  |
| BA.4 | Rejection of democratic pluralistic society and values |  |  |  |
| BA.5 | Feelings of hate, frustration, persecution and/or alienation |  |  |  |
| BA.6 | Hostility to National Collective Identity/ Identity Conflict |  |  |  |
| BA.7 | Lack of understanding or empathy for those outside own group |  |  |  |
| **CI.** | **CONTEXT & INTENT** |  |  |  |
| CI.1 | Seeker, consumer, developer of violent extremist materials |  |  |  |
| CI.2 | Identification of target (person, place, group) in response to perceived injustice |  |  |  |
| CI.3 | Active personal contact with violent extremists |  |  |  |
| CI.4 | Anger and expressed intent to act violently |  |  |  |
| CI.5 | Expressed desire to die for cause or martyrdom |  |  |  |
| CI.6 | Expressed intent to plan, prepare violent action |  |  |  |
| CI.7 | Susceptible to influence, authority, indoctrination |  |  |  |
| **HC.** | **HISTORY & CAPABILITY** |  |  |  |
| HC.1 | Early exposure to pro-violence militant ideology |  |  |  |
| HC.2 | Network of family, friends involved in violent action |  |  |  |
| HC.3**\*** | Prior criminal history of violence |  |  |  |
| HC.4 | Tactical, paramilitary, explosives training |  |  |  |
| HC.5\* | Extremist ideological training, |  |  |  |
| HC.6 | Access to funds, resources, organizational skills |  |  |  |
| **CM** | **COMMITMENT & MOTIVATION** |  |  |  |
| CM.1 | Driven by perceived noble cause/ Glorification of violent action/ religious obligation |  |  |  |
| CM.2 | Driven by opportunism, excitement, adventure |  |  |  |
| CM.3 | Driven by comradeship, group belonging, status in group, social needs |  |  |  |
| CM.4 | Driven by moral imperative, moral superiority, identity |  |  |  |
| CM.5 | Driven by excitement, adventure |  |  |  |
| **P.** | **PROTECTIVE ITEMS** |  |  |  |
| P.1 | Re-interpretation of ideology less rigid, absolute |  |  |  |
| P.2 | Rejection of violence to obtain goals |  |  |  |
| P.3 | Change of vision of enemy |  |  |  |
| P.4 | Involvement with offence-related programs |  |  |  |
| P.5 | Community support for non-violence |  |  |  |
| P.6 | Family support for non-violence |  |  |  |
|  | ADDITIONAL INDICATORS |  |  |  |
| **SPJ** | **VERA FINAL JUDGMENT** | **Low** | **Moderate** | **High** |
|  | **OTHER COMMENTS** |  |  |  |

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| **VERA**  **VIOLENT EXTREMISM RISK ASSESSMENT**  **Version 2**  **D. Elaine Pressman and John S. Flockton**  **Summary Rating Form**  **Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ MIN or ID # \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Current Location: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Current Convictions:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Current Sentence: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date of Birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Age\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ M\_\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_\_**  **Date of Evaluation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **===============================**  **SUMMARY SPJ RISK RATING**  **(Circle)**  **LOW, MODERATE, HIGH**  **VERA-2 Summary Rating Form** | | | | |
|  | **ITEMS** | **Low** | **Moderate** | **High** |
| **BA.** | **BELIEFS, ATTITUDES, IDEOLOGY,** |  |  |  |
| BA.1 | Attachment to ideology justifying violence |  |  |  |
| BA.2 | Victim of injustice and grievances |  |  |  |
| BA.3 | Dehumanization of identified targets of injustice |  |  |  |
| BA.4 | Rejection of democratic society and values |  |  |  |
| BA.5 | Feelings of hate, frustration, persecution, alienation |  |  |  |
| BA.6 | Hostility to national collective identity |  |  |  |
| BA.7 | Lack of empathy, understanding outside own group |  |  |  |
| **CI.** | **SOCIAL CONTEXT & INTENTION** |  |  |  |
| CI.1 | Seeker, consumer, developer of violent extremist materials |  |  |  |
| CI.2 | Identification of target (person, place, group) in response to perceived injustice |  |  |  |
| CI.3 | Personal contact with violent extremists |  |  |  |
| CI.4 | Anger and expressed intent to act violently |  |  |  |
| CI.5 | Expressed desire to die for cause or martyrdom |  |  |  |
| CI.6 | Expressed intent to plan, prepare violent action |  |  |  |
| CI.7 | Susceptible to influence, authority, indoctrination |  |  |  |
| **HC.** | **HISTORY, CAPABILITY, ACTION** |  |  |  |
| HC.1 | Early exposure to pro-violence militant ideology |  |  |  |
| HC.2 | Network (family, friends) involved in violent action |  |  |  |
| HC.3 | Prior criminal history of violence |  |  |  |
| HC.4 | Tactical, paramilitary, explosives training |  |  |  |
| HC.5 | Extremist ideological training |  |  |  |
| HC.6 | Access to funds, resources, organizational skills |  |  |  |
| **M** | **MOTIVATION** |  |  |  |
| M.1 | Glorification of violent action |  |  |  |
| M.2 | Motivated by criminal opportunism |  |  |  |
| M.3 | Driven by comradeship, group belonging, status |  |  |  |
| M.4 | Driven by moral imperative, moral superiority, |  |  |  |
| M.5 | Driven by excitement, adventure |  |  |  |
| **P.** | **PROTECTIVE ITEMS** |  |  |  |
| P.1 | Re-interpretation of ideology less rigid, absolute |  |  |  |
| P.2 | Rejection of violence to obtain goals |  |  |  |
| P.3 | Change of vision of enemy |  |  |  |
| P.4 | Involvement with offence-related programs |  |  |  |
| P.5 | Community support for non-violence |  |  |  |
| P.6 | Family support for non-violence |  |  |  |
| **SPJ** | **VERA FINAL RATING** | **Low** | **Moderate** | **High** |