

## HOSTAGE TAKER PROFILES – REVISED

Federal Correctional Complex - Beaumont, Texas

Crisis Negotiations Team/Hostage Negotiations Team

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## Antisocial Personality

### **Characteristics**

Tend to lack empathy

Are cold, cynical, and arrogant

Charming, well groomed, and articulate

Impulsive

Irresponsible and exploitative in personal relationships

May have spent many years in prison

### **Common Behaviors**

In jail or prison often

Cons others for profit

Impulsive, irritable and aggressive

Displays reckless behavior

Engages in high-risk sex and drug abuse

Indifferent to having hurt, abused, or mistreating someone else

### **Communications Goals**

Keep the subject's egocentricity in mind

Keep the subject busy to prevent harassment of his victims/hostages

Convince that the safe release the hostages is to his advantage

Do not try to "con" this con man

Girlfriends, wives, or family members will be of little value

Use a business-like approach

## Emotionally Unstable

### **Characteristics**

Undermine themselves as they near a goal

Completion rate of suicide is higher than general population

History of self-inflicted injuries

Experience psychotic-like behavior during times of stress

Recurrent job losses, interrupted education, and broken marriage are common

Childhood histories may include physical and sexual abuse, neglect, early parental loss

### **Common Behaviors**

Exhibit violent or agitated behaviors to avoid real or imagined abandonment

A pattern of unstable relationships

Undergo identity disturbances

Impulsive in areas that can be self-damaging

Mood is unstable and unpleasant

Difficulty controlling their anger resulting in outbursts and physical fights

Stress related feelings and beliefs that they are being harassed or treated unfairly

### **Communication Goals**

Use active listening skills

Stay in contact as much as possible

Be alert for clues to suicide or homicide

Reassure the subject that help is available

Prepare for shifts of emotions

## Seriously Mentally Ill

### Schizophrenia

#### **Characteristics & Common Behaviors**

Presence of hallucinations and delusions

Social isolation or withdrawal

Peculiar behavior

Decrease in personal hygiene and grooming

Unusual speech patterns

May exhibit paranoia

May have poor treatment (medication) compliance

#### **Communication Goals**

Subject's need to explain might offer an opportunity to establish rapport

Do not try to argue the subject out of his delusions

Should not get into a schizophrenic's delusional system

Avoid use of family members

Focus on "here and now"

## Seriously Mentally Ill

### Depression

#### **Characteristics & Common Behaviors**

Moods are depressed, sad, hopeless, or down in the dumps

Loss of interest or pleasure in usual activities

Reduction in sexual interest

Mood may be irritable rather than sad in children or adolescents

Weight loss and sleep problems

Feels exhausted or lack of energy

Diminished ability to think, concentrate, or make decisions

Recurrent thoughts of death or suicide are common

More often barricade situation than hostage taking

#### **Communication Goals**

Beware of sudden improvements

Keep your time perspective in the here and now

A depressed subject will generally be honest and straightforward with the negotiator

Beware of "suicide by cop"

Active listening skills should be used to build empathy and establish a rapport

Attempt to postpone a suicidal action

Gently challenge irrational beliefs

## Substance Intoxication

### **Characteristics & Common Behaviors**

Slurred speech

Rapidly changing emotions

May exhibit psychotic symptoms

Impulsive

Superman complex

### **Communication Goals**

Keep calm

Slow negotiation process down

Stay in contact as much as possible

Be alert for clues to suicide or homicide