Ethics in Crisis Negotiation: A Law Enforcement and Public Safety Perspective

Michael G. Gelles, Psy.D., ABPP, Director, Deloitte Consulting

Scott Allen, Ph.D. Senior Psychologist, Miami-Dade Police

Mark Fallon, Senior Vice President, The Soufan Group
Psychology and Crisis Negotiations: A Natural Partnership
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1970 Dr. Harvey Scholssberg and Det. Frank Bolz:

• Demonstrated partnership between psychologist and crisis negotiation team: approach emphasized

• Containment and negotiation,

• Understanding motivation, personality

• Slowing down the incident

• On scene consultation

• Ethical challenges were not considered
<table>
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<th>Phase</th>
<th>Duties</th>
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| Pre-Incident          | • Provide training on psychological topics  
                        • Participate in training exercises (see Fuselier, 1981)                                                                            |
| Intra-incident Duties | • Monitor the negotiations; translate the communications and behavior of the subject  
                        • Manage the stress level of the negotiator  
                        • Liaise with collateral sources and other professionals to support the ongoing assessment of the subject  
                        • Assist negotiators in the management of the subject’s behaviors that are presented during the negotiation  
                        • Assess the interface between the mental state of the subject and the unfolding situation  
                        • Assess the original motivation for the barricade situation and the evolving motivations underlying each communication  
                        • Analyze intelligence gathered through interviews with family members and other data sources regarding the subject’s patterns of behaviors and violence risk  
                        • Apply the Behavioral-Based Threat Assessment model to determine if the subject is making and/or posing a threat, and moving toward violence |
| Post-Incident         | • Provide stress management education  
                        • Provide team debriefings and counseling to crisis team members |
Five Categories of Ethical Considerations

- **Ethics Code 3.11 Psychological Services Delivered To or Through Organizations** (APA, 2002, p. 7)

- **Ethics Code 3.04 Avoiding Harm** (APA, 2002, p. 6)
  
  *PENS Task Force Statement 11 (Identifying the client; APA, 2005, p. 7)*

- **Ethics Code 2.06 Personal Problems and Conflicts** (APA, 2002, p. 5)
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- Ethics Code 2.01 Boundaries of Competence (and 2.03 Maintaining Competence) (APA, 2002, pp. 5-6)
  
- Ethics Code 2.02 Providing Services in Emergencies (APA, 2002, p. 5)
Five Categories of Ethical Considerations

- Ethics Code 3.05 Multiple Relationships (APA, 2002, p. 6)
  
PENS Task Force Statement 6 (Mixing potentially inconsistent roles; APA, 2005, p. 6)
Five Categories of Ethical Considerations

- PENS Task Force Statement 3 (Use of medical records; APA, 2005, p. 4)

- PENS Task Force Statement 12 (Resolving ethical dilemmas through consultation; APA, 2005, p. 8)
Developing Guidelines for Psychologists Consulting to Crisis Negotiation

1. Identify the client, the psychologist’s role, and the roles of other team members
2. Remain in the role of an expert psychologist consultant
3. Remain autonomous in consultation and free from external influence and pressure
4. Identify the boundaries of the psychologist’s role
5. Appreciate the uniqueness of each crisis situation
6. Clearly delineate the boundaries between operational consultants and health care providers
7. Establish and maintain professional competence
Issues Associated with Training Hostage Negotiators Psychologists