



Situational Awareness: Prison officers Correctional services & Detention centres



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Critical Thinking is uncovering loopholes, discovering damming issues and opportunities. For this case, we consider that the practitioner must be able to read the situation, the people on the ground or a person-of-interest to limit and mitigate collateral damage to the prison officer, whilst suggesting a professional development tool to out-think the perpetrators.

Prison Officers cannot afford to being misled.

In the in-depth research ¹“Researching prisoner experiences with prison officers” by Deborah Drake (2014), she goes into conventional qualitative research by using prison officers to undertake interviews with the inmates. Drake reported successful results whereas the officers acknowledged the inmates now more so as human beings, but some were traumatized on hearing sad histories of inmates.

This work suggests that the interview is only as good as the interviewers. Who knows if the inmate could read the officer better while the officer was interviewing them? Some inmates are highly skilled in reading people as it could be the skills that they traded to manipulate, intimidate and deceive victims. Furthermore, were these officers in daily contact with the inmates, as perhaps their methods of bonding with the victim to extract information could confuse the inmate thinking that they have a personal relationship with the officer, which could cause collateral damage.

The officers that cannot read the situation, the people or a person-of-interest involved could realize collateral damage in many aspects. The non-fatal and fatal results in ²Occupational Injuries among U.S. Correctional Officers by Konda, Reichard and Triesman (2015) display officer PTSD and suicide percentages recorded. These types of results suggest that there is a possibility of inmates that do have the skills to unsettle officers.

¹ Drake (2014) <http://oro.open.ac.uk/40068/1/Drake2.pdf>

²Konda, Reichard, Tiesman (2015)
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4562411/#>

In Predictors of Vicarious Trauma and Secondary Traumatic Stress Among Correctional Officers by ³Bertee Thomas Jr (2012), goes into stress and burn-out impacting the officers relating to macro-vision of the negative environment and suffering because of various hypothesis.

This work focuses highlights that inmates could be attacking an officer or officers on purpose as they may be on a mission of sorts. The quicker the officer identifies who, what, when and how the inmates are doing such, the more effective to limit and mitigate the damage.

The officers using critical situational interviewing can identify if the person is lying, hiding something or question themselves why would an inmate is volunteer information? Critical thinking designed with metacognition (self-awareness and self-regulation) using cognitive behaviour skills could reduce the anxiety brought upon by inmates.

There are times when the prison officer must make quick decisions to limit or mitigate collateral damage. Instinctively they need to identify, decide and react. Security success will depend on the level of situational awareness of the decision-makers on the ground and reaction speed. Environmental or special awareness training could service the training but, there are instances where the officer cannot afford to be misled by social interaction. Critical situational interviewing is used to read the situation, the people involved or a person-of-interest because the situation could be a person acting on their own or in concert with other inmates or someone outside the prison either voluntarily or under duress. Furthermore, the objectives must be to uncover new methods of crime or to detect copycat crime and most importantly the true situation of something happening under their own nose.

³ Thomas Jr(2012)

https://digitalcommons.pcom.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1227&context=psychology_dissertations

Radicalized Indoctrination

There are people charged for crime or terror and have gone to prison. In the prison itself, it has been recorded that people did radicalize and on exit from the prison caused the deaths of others. In ‘‘The Radicalisation of Prison Inmates: Exploring Recruitment, Religion and Prisoner Vulnerability’’⁴ Authors Mulcahy, Elizabeth, Merrington, Shannon, Bell, Peter (2013) research page, the process of radicalization in prisons is described.

This work adds that additional stimuli to the radicalization of migrants in prisons. The cultural conduct and behaviour of the prison guards or authorities without knowing are offending the migrants, therefore, contributing to the sub-conscious motivations of migrants towards radicalization. Unfortunately, people in the West do not comprehend the level of emotion related to cultural behaviour of distinct cultures or the impact on very religious people.

Cultural Awareness

The policing authorities must ensure according to this work must ensure that the guard-force of prisons and detention centres are emotionally capable and screened to ensure that they are not racist, biased, or xenophobic, as these emotions will play out in their tone of voice, language used or displayed in their body language that will agitate and infuriate the natural-instinct of detainees.

Being versed in all aspects of cultural behaviour and cultural conduct, the guard-force would be able to read when people are working in concert and therefore, would be able to mitigate and prepare for threats that are about to enter the theatre of riots or attacks.

⁴ ‘‘The Radicalisation of Prison Inmates: Exploring Recruitment, Religion and Prisoner Vulnerability

https://research-repository.griffith.edu.au/bitstream/handle/10072/64669/98691_1.pdf?sequence=1

There is substantial proof by researchers that discover issues and validate the benefits of knowing cultural behaviour for team-building multi-cultural project management ⁵ (Sharma. V, (2016), ⁶Farah & Vuniqi (2012), ⁷Onah & Endsley (2012), Vardaan Sharma (2016).

The detention centres host migrants and therefore, the skill sets of lie, deception detection and investigative interviewing must add cultural diversity knowledge as outlined in this work. *However, do keep in mind* that Critical Situational Interviewing is different to investigative interviewing because there are times when the practitioner has only seconds to comprehend the narrative, know the situation that they are dealing with making-decisions and their success will be determined on their timeous reaction speed

The protection officers must acquire the skillsets and master the skill-craft.

Technology for prisons

The technology is only as good as the users. Having said such, technology designers should consult with security practitioners that know the crime and criminal behaviour to speedily litigate issues. The combination of technologies could assist in safe confinement besides identify emerging threats.

More booklets along with research work and skill-sets can be located on www.human-investigation-management.com

⁵ Vardaan Sharma (2016) <https://www.slideshare.net/VardaanSharma9/msc-project-management-dissertation-58805447>

⁵Farah & Vuniqi (2012)

⁶ <http://www.diva-portal.org/smash/get/diva2:538974/FULLTEXT01.pdf>

Onah & Endsley (2012) *Requirements and Design for Cultural Awareness*