



## **NEWSFLASH - *AUTUMN 2012***





## Message from the Board

Early September the board had her annual meeting in Vienna, the Capitol of Austria, where next year's AETAP conference will be organized. The meeting took place at the head office of the Vienna police. The Threat Assessment Unit was very generous in providing us a meeting room, and three of their team members advised us during the day. They will also assist us during the conference. The board was furthermore honored by the visit of Police General Karl Mahrer, vice president of the Vienna Police. He was there on Saturday morning and gave a warm welcome to the AETAP board, offering several high standing services and opportunities for the 2013 conference, which will make next year's conference the place to be. During the coming months the necessary meetings will take place in order to work out these opportunities.

The board meeting started with giving our new board members a warm welcome – Professor Henrik Belfrage and Ms. Andrea Wechlin. We are very fortunate having these experts on board and looking forward to many years of working together as a team.

*Henrik Belfrage* is Professor of Criminology at Mid Sweden University in Sundsvall, as well as in Norway (University of Bergen). He is a well-regarded researcher in the field of forensic psychology and threat assessment. Henrik develops and evaluates risk instruments (e.g. the B-SAFER, SAM, HCR-20, SVR-20 and the PATRIARCH).

*Andrea Wechlin* is head of the coordinating office in Lucerne (Switzerland) that takes care of all interventions and strategies concerning domestic violence and threat management. Her office falls under the justice and safety department of Lucerne ([www.gewaltpraevention.lu.ch](http://www.gewaltpraevention.lu.ch)). Besides her work for the department, she is also one of the directors of the woman shelter of central Switzerland ([www.frauenhaus-luzern.ch](http://www.frauenhaus-luzern.ch)). In her country she is an authority in the field of domestic violence and has a great amount of case and advisory experience in this field.



*Andrea Wechlin*



*Henrik Belfrage*



One of our board members left the organization. Mr. Peter Sund informed the board that he has to spend more time with his work for the Finnish Police College, and that his daily work does not have so much to do with threat assessment or – management anymore. We would like to thank Peter for all his work and efforts for the association throughout the years and wish him all the best for his private and professional life.

During the meeting several general issues were discussed, such as the current financial situation of the association. In the next (winter) edition of Newsflash we will provide more administrative-organizational information as well as our financial resources. Our association's website is currently under construction and will be rebuilt to a user friendly and up to date service provider. The board has decided that our attention should be more focused on expanding our number of members, because we believed that our association is a professional benefit to those working in the field of threat assessment and – management. We also would like to ask our current members to spread the word about our association and help us make our organization grow.

The board takes note of two important international developments. First of all, AETAP is getting involved in more than only setting up the annual conference and providing high value presentations to the threat assessment arena, as it should be for a professional organization.

### **Professional Quality Standards for European Threat Assessment & - Management**

The demand for threat assessment and - management services in European governmental bodies, private industries, schools and universities have been growing during the past decade. As a consequence of these developments there is an increasing necessity to describe and define professional quality standards for threat management. AETAP will be the body responsible for providing a clear set of guidelines when it concerns the certification of individual professionals in Europe providing threat assessment and management services, as well as for European based institutions (organizations) who have installed threat management expert teams and - systems. During AETAP's 2010 conference in The Hague (The Netherlands) an AETAP certification working group was appointed by the board: Jens Hoffman (AETAP board member), Bram van der Meer (AETAP president), and Katherine Timmel Zamboni (former AETAP board member) The mission of this working group was defined as developing (1) quality standards, and (2) describing the AETAP certification process for individuals as well as institutions. Before the summer recess the working group presented their official document: *'Certification of European Individual Professionals and Organizations in Threat Assessment and – Management'*. With the advise of the working group's international advisory board (dr. Stephen Hart, dr. J. Reid Meloy, dr. Stephen White, dr. Lisa Warren) the working group is currently working on the final draft which will be published on the AETAP website and put into practice before the end of the year. The Quality Standards document was also presented and discussed at the 'international board meeting' in Anaheim (California) in August this year. The other associations also presented their developments regarding quality standards for threat assessment professionals.



### **International Board Meeting**

At our conference in Krakow earlier this year, the first international board meeting was held. Representatives of the ATAP, CATAP and AETAP were present at this historical event where the three boards met for the first time. Unfortunately the AATAP board could not be present, but they were at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting on August the 13<sup>th</sup> in Anaheim. The first two meetings were successful and motivated all four organizations to continue the cooperation and contributing to the global services for threat assessment professionals, and the development of our expert field. Therefore the 3<sup>rd</sup> international meeting is scheduled for Vienna in 2013 on the Monday prior to the AETAP conference.

*Bram van der Meer*

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## **New developments**

### **Research in progress**

*International Violence Risk Assessment On Line Survey.* The University of Manchester just started an international survey of violence risk assessment and management practices. Key questions are such as how are violence risk assessments conducted in practice, and what are clinicians' perceptions regarding the utility of structured instruments in the assessment and management of violence risk towards others? Differences between countries will be studied. Everyone who carries out behavioral threat assessments (from law enforcement perspective as well as mental health perspective) is invited to participate in this survey. See the attached Wordfile 'IRIS initial letter' and link to the relevant website address in it. This link is active until the 15<sup>th</sup> of October!

Under the flag of the Stalking Risk Profile this website describes the *research in progress on stalking*: <https://www.stalkingriskprofile.com/research/current-research>

### **Published research**

*Intelligence* is a forum to share and develop your expertise in threat assessment. Their latest issue (Volume 1, Issue 7, Summer 2012) refers to publications on '*Threats Posed by Radical Environmental and Animal Rights Groups*', '*Using Social Media for Violence Prevention*'. Visit their website:

<http://proactive-resolutions.com/newsletter/intelligence-volume-1-issue-7-summer-2012/>

Just a few days ago Dr. Reid Meloy posted his newest article: "*the seven misconceptions of mass murder*" on the Oxford University Press blog. This interesting publication can be found on: <http://blog.oup.com/2012/09/seven-myths-of-mass-murder/>



## **Journal of Threat Assessment and Management**

Last but certainly not least, after so much effort from dr. Stephen Hart and his team of editors, dr. Reid Meloy, dr. Jens Hoffman, and dr. Lisa Warren, the official start of the Journal of Threat Assessment and Management has been informed. This is a tremendous and exciting step forward for threat assessment / management internationally. This journal will focus on operational aspects of threat assessment and -management. So it is not solely meant as a scientific journal - 'best practices' and case studies can also be submitted. The first issue will be published in April 2013, and submissions are already accepted through the website: <http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/tam>. Here you will also find a more thorough introduction to the journal. See also Intelligence for a list of requested topics for submission: <http://proactive-resolutions.com/newsletter/intelligence-volume-1-issue-7-summer-2012/>

## **Threat Assessment Tools & Techniques**

### *Release Date Announced for Version 3 of the HCR-20*

Version 2 of the HCR-20 is one of the world's most widely used and best-validated violence risk assessment instruments. Originally published in 1997, the HCR-20 V2 has been translated into about 20 different languages. Work on development of Version 3 has been in progress for several years now. A draft version has been translated into several different languages and pilot-tested in a number of countries including Canada, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. HCR-20 V3 introductory conferences have been held in several countries over the past year. Recently, Kevin Douglas, a Professor of Psychology at Simon Fraser University, announced that the revision process is nearing its end. V3 will go to press at the end of 2012 and will be distributed in January 2013. Keep tuned to Intelligence for information regarding publication details and training workshops: see Intelligence:

<http://proactive-resolutions.com/newsletter/intelligence-volume-1-issue-7-summer-2012/>

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## **Operational: Threat Assessment- and Management Cases**

The keynote speakers at this year's ATAP conference held in Anaheim, California, Reid Meloy, Jens Hoffman and Bram van der Meer presented the mass murder case that occurred in Norway on 22 July 2011. Their presentation focused on warning behaviors as described in recent literature, and if these warning behaviors can be identified in this case. The presenters were not personally involved with the case and received their information from open sources. At the time of their talk it was still unknown what the sentence of the offender would be, and whether or not he would be found sane. But recently Judge Wenche Elisabeth Arntzen delivered her conclusions.



Anders Breivik, the man who killed 8 people and injured 209 by placing a bomb in Oslo, and then continued to Utoeya island where he killed 69 and injured 14, was sentenced to 21 years in jail.

The question whether or not Breivik suffered from serious mental disorder was a sensitive issue during the trial and court-appointed psychiatrists disagreed on his sanity. A first team examined Breivik and declared him to be a paranoid schizophrenic. The keynote speakers argued that their case analysis showed no signs of delusional behavior; they did however find rather clear indications of narcissism. Personality disorder they considered much more likely than psychosis.

Breivik said he did not recognize the court, but felt that they had "sided with the multicultural majority in parliament" and stated that the attacks were necessary to stop the "Islamisation" of Norway. He decided to methodically hunt down people, attacks that he had meticulously planned. During the 10-week trial Breivik showed no remorse but cried when the film that he had produced himself was presented during one of the court sessions. Anders Breivik regretted that he had not killed more for his cause.

Breivik was dressed in a black suit, white shirt and grey tie, and smirked while listening to the verdict. Besides the 21-year prison sentence, judge Arntzen stated that Breivik was not psychotic while carrying out the twin attacks. She considered him to be suffering from "narcissistic personality characteristics". Breivik is almost certain to end his life in prison. Although Norway has a maximum prison sentence of 21 years, Breivik could be sentenced to "preventive detention", which can be extended for as long as an inmate is considered dangerous to society.

Before the verdict, Breivik said psychiatric care would be "worse than death". Per Balch Soerensen, whose daughter was among those killed in the shootings on Utoeya island, told journalists: "He doesn't mean anything to me, he is just air."

*Bram van der Meer*

*Reid Meloy*

*Jens Hoffmann*

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## **International Associations, Professional Networks & Education**

*AETAP annual conference: 23-26 of April 2013 in Vienna*

Over many years AETAP has selected Europe's most fascinating and beautiful cities to host its annual conference. Continuing this tradition, AETAP is proud to announce the 2013 conference will take place in **Vienna, Austria**. The capital city has a long and epic history of empire, invasion and conflict situated in the strategic heart of Europe.





This is reflected in its elegant, once fortified Innere Stadt (city Centre) with a striking and unique architecture set along tree lined ring roads and cobbled back streets. Imposing buildings, monuments and parks were created around the Ringstrasse such as the Rathaus (town hall), the Parliament and the stately State Opera House. The inner city also has a huge selection of intimate, traditional coffee houses known for their relaxing atmosphere and superb pastries.

Restaurants, bars and bistros of all culinary styles and tastes are common around the city. For the art lover and cultural visitors the city hosts the modern and fascinating Museums Quartier, the Albertina and the elegant palaces at the Belvedere and Schonbrun Park. Today, Vienna is a major financial and tourist hub with a focus on international diplomacy. Consequently, life in the city is never short of intrigue and controversy. This harks back to the Cold War era when Vienna was on the front line of East versus West power games with espionage common place in commercial and political life. Walk around the Prater in the late evening with its lively funfair and attractive open spaces and you might still encounter the ghosts of 'The Third Man,' the 1949 film classic which captures the mystery and elegance that is Vienna.

*Roman Pryomko*



Hundertwasser House, Vienna

**ATAP annual conference, 14 – 16 August 2012 in Anaheim, California, USA**

This was a historical conference since it was actually the first time when all associations were officially represented in a meeting before the actual ATAP 2012 conference. The results of the meeting have previously been mentioned in this newsletter, but the conference itself presented a wonderful opportunity to gain experiences of the oldest and the biggest event in the field of threat assessment and management. The topics presented a broad spectrum of assessment and management related presentations from across the continent and surely gave the audience their money's worth. Close to 800 participants gathered to Anaheim for four days and the AETAP board did it's best to network and promote the "European link" to our colleagues overseas.



Hopefully we will see an increase of ATAP attendees in our conference in Vienna. As mentioned, president Van der Meer and dr. Hoffmann were the keynote speakers with dr. Reid Meloy, but during the conference we also had opportunities to look at possible new speakers for our 2013 conference as well. Stay tuned since we were able to secure some seasoned professionals but new speakers to AETAP to send in abstracts for 2013 Vienna conference. Every evening presented great networking in the form of hospitality suites as well as unofficial dinner meetings around Disney hotel area. You might want to mark the dates 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August 2013 for the next annual conference.

*Totti Karpela*

**CATAP 2012 annual conference: 24-28 of September in Banff, Alberta, Canada.**

World-class speakers presented interesting topics such as fixated threats, spousal homicide, honour based violence and workplace violence. No wonder that the organizational committee had to close the registration before the deadline. A number of thorough case studies were presented, such as “The Lori Dupont Homicide: A Case Study in Workplace Violence”, “The Serial Predator: From Paraphilic Interest to Acting Out”, and “The Shafia Family Homicides: A Case Study in Honour Based Violence”. The latter case was examined and commented by an expert panel. The conference was a success and a good start for the board of CATAP and their new president Keith Hammond. The program can be found on:

<http://www.atapworldwide.org/associations/8976/files/documents/20120612SyllabusWebsite.pdf>

*Henrik Belfrage*

**AATAP 2012 annual conference: 8 -9 of November 2012, Melbourne, Australia**

The major focus of AATAP will be stalking and threat management. A call for abstracts as well as a message from the current AATAP president can be found on:

<http://www.atapworldwide.org/associations/8976/files/documents/AATAP.pdf>

**European Network on Public Figure Threat Assessment, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.**

Lieke Bootsma attended this conference. Her evaluation: “A wide variety of speakers and topics on public figure threat assessment, with excellent network opportunities. However, attendance is for civil servants only. It is their goal to stimulate exchange of knowledge between governmental organizations. *Content:* a forensic psychiatrist and a police officer (who didn’t handle the case themselves) together gave their reflections on the Breivik case; David James and our Australian colleagues presented on professionalising risk assessment in cases of inappropriate attention towards public figures. During the afternoon there were several workshops, for instance about the European legislation for sharing sensitive information, and another workshop focussed on how to handle threats after incidents such as the Breivik case in Norway”. Attached is a PDF-file of the lecture of Jolanda van Boven about the European legislation on and possibilities for sharing information. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual conference will be held in Berlin (probably in May 2013). Juergen Ebner, Deputy Head of the Close Protection Division, BKA, will be organising the event.





The conference will focus on: Scientific Research Study, Assessment of Anonymous Threats, Impact of the Internet on Future Threat Assessments, and Common Threat Assessment on EU-Dignitaries. Proposals for plenary presentations or workshops can be sent to: [SG22GE@bka.bund.de](mailto:SG22GE@bka.bund.de)

*Lieke Bootsma*

**Psychopathy training: the PCL-R & Application to Offender Profiling 28-30 of January 2013, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.**

This training is unarguable relevant for our field of threat assessment -and management. Dr. Reid Meloy will teach how to use the PCL-R in forensic practices. Psychopathy and its relationship to treatment amenability and violence risk, including instrumental (predatory) violence, will receive specific attention. Also a third day, on the application of psychopathy to investigative psychology, with a specific focus on offender profiling will be offered. More information can be found in the attached folder.

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