The APA Saga of Torture Interrogation — Lessons for Psychological Ethics in Institutional Settings
Presented by: Jean Maria Arrigo, Ph.D.
and Terrence Karney, SSG (Ret)

Course Outline

9:00 – 9:15 am
Overview — Arrigo

9:15 – 9:45 am
Context of the APA Torture Interrogation Saga — Arrigo

• The social contract of the professions (Cooper, 2004)
• The legal tradition of civil-military relations (Owens, 2001)
• The example of ethical conflicts between Military Intelligence and one of psychology’s sister professions: anthropology (Fluehr-Lobban, 2009; Villoldo, 2003)
• Evolution of the relationship between psychology and the military since World War I (Camfield, 1992; Herman, 1995)
• An historical example of challenges to psychological ethics in national security settings, the World War II selection of American spies and operatives: Henry Murray (Banks, 1995); Kurt Lewin and Ron Lippett (Cooke, 2009); Ralph Granneberg (Dippner, 2009); Anonymous (Garcia, 1995)
• APA framing of psychological consultation in War-on-Terror interrogations
  — Interpretation of the APA Ethics Code to authorize psychological interventions to harm targets of national security operations (Kennedy & Williams, 2011)
  — 2002 APA Ethics Code waivers for psychologists employed by the US Government, Standards 1.02 and 8.05 (APA, 2002)

9:45 – 10:45 am
U.S. Army Interrogation before and after 9/11 — Karney

• Distinction between police and military interrogations
• Best practices in interrogation for collecting information
• Institutional positions of interrogators in the U.S. military
• Selection, training, mentorship, and monitoring of interrogators
• Interrogation ethics, international law, and U.S. military law
• Traditional roles of operational psychologists in military and intelligence settings
• Detention and interrogation with and without operational psychologists
• Behavioral Science Consultation Team psychologists and their effect on the War on Terror
• Recommendations for “safe, legal, ethical, and effective” roles of operational psychologists with respect to military detention and interrogation

10:45 – 11:00 am
Break

11:00 am – 12:15 pm
The Hoffman Report, an ethics investigation into possible APA collusion with the DoD and CIA in torture interrogation

• How much truth can be expected from an ethics investigation? Example of the 1993-1995 President’s Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments (ACHRE, 1995; Libby, 1956; Garcia, 1995) — Arrigo
• The Hoffman Report: precipitating events (Risen, 2014, 2015; Soldz, Raymond, & Reisner, 2015); APA appointment of David Hoffman (APA, 2014), and the results of the investigation (Hoffman et al, 2015) — Arrigo
• A counterintelligence interpretation of the APA PENS debacle: “running the opposition” and manipulation of organizations — Karney
• Post-Hoffman reform and “business as usual” at APA — Arrigo

12:15 – 1:30 pm
Lunch

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm
“You are there!”—Ethical risks and resources in your own institutional roles as psychologists, with examples from APA governance – Arrigo, with Karney and one volunteer NPA member as demonstration models.

Each participant, please think of two institutional roles you occupy as a psychologist to engage each of the institutional themes now presented. A follow-along worksheet will be distributed.

• Individual participation in organizational roles and goals (Weick, 1979)
• Conceptions of moral responsibility (Fischer & Ravizza, 1998; Flanagan, 1991)
• Accountability in complex organizations (Bovens, 1998) — levels of analysis, the problem of “many hands,” sense-making in organizations (Weick, 1995)
• Review of social conformity (Asch, 1952); social deviance (Moscovici, 1985); bystander behavior (Staub, 1989); and personality and moral behavior (Doris, 2002)
• Scope of individual action as an organizational role player, in the face-to-face or virtual “behavior settings” of ecological psychology (Barker, 1968; Wicker 1979; Blanchard, 2004)

3:00 – 3:15 pm
Break

3:15 – 3:30 pm
Orientation to the “You Are There!” partner exercise — Arrigo

3:30 – 4:15 pm
“You Are There!” partner exercise — CE participants

Each participant, consult your partner on your findings from one of the two organizational roles you examined. 20 minutes for each partner. Use your follow-along worksheet.

4:15 – 4:45 pm
Closing discussion of ethics in institutional roles — Arrigo & Karney

• Review of the “You Are There” partner exercise
• The Selective Service System draft law for all clinical psychologist under age 44 in national emergencies
• Upcoming challenges to psychological ethics in national security settings
References and Bibliography


Chaplain A. (2010). Chaplaincy-military relations as a comparison for psychology-military relations. Interview conducted by J. M. Arrigo. Intelligence Ethics Collection. Hoover Institution Archives, Stanford University, Stanford, California. [Restricted until 2020.]


U.S. Senate, Select Committee on Intelligence and Subcommittee on Health and Scientific Research of the Committee on Human Resources. (1977) Project MKULTRA: the CIA’s program of research in behavioral modification. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC.


