

## **NCIS Psychological Services Unit (PSU)**

The NCIS Psychological Services Unit (PSU) is comprised of staff psychologists, case review specialists, a rotating Operational Psychology Fellow and a Forensic Pathology Intern. The unit has been a leader in developing a partnership model that embeds professional behavioral scientists in multidisciplinary teams that are directly involved in investigations and operations.

NCIS psychologists are adjunct resources who advise the operational decision maker, the Special Agent. They respond to inquiries from the field and conduct case reviews, file reviews, and indirect or direct assessments. They also offer presentations on a variety of topics, with recent events at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center; the facilities of federal, state, local and foreign agencies; and professional conferences.

Work by PSU psychologists in recent years has included the following:

**Criminal Investigations:** Behavioral assessment of stalking, workplace violence, arson, sabotage, sexual assault, and domestic violence; psychological autopsies and case file reviews; suspect assessments; interrogation themes; cognitive interviewing and forensic hypnosis; and expert testimony.

**Counterterrorism:** Assessments of risk and threat; adversary recruitment methods; interview and interrogation support; consultation on discerning potential attack-related behavior; asset credibility assessment; and behavioral analysis of threats. In Iraq and Afghanistan, the PSU has consulted on insurgent attacks (methodologies, case studies, etc.) and has conducted specialized training for international partners in the behavioral assessment of terrorist behavior.

**Counterintelligence:** Direct support to investigations, including those ranging from security violations to espionage.

The NCIS PSU has provided consultation to several entities within the Department of Defense; to law enforcement agencies, including ATF, FBI, US Marshals Service, Bureau of Prisons, and US Postal Inspection Service; to intelligence agencies, including CIA, the National Counterterrorism Center, and the National Counterintelligence Executive; and to various foreign agencies, including those in Canada, the UK, Australia, Singapore, Denmark, Mexico, Italy, and the Bahamas.