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REPORT OF NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PATIENT: WOOD, Joseph R.

**DATES OF EVALUATION: 10/1/90
& 10/2/90**

DATE OF BIRTH: 12/6/58

**REFERENT: Lamar Couser,
Attorney at Law**

REFERRAL NOTE: Mr. Wood is a 31 year old male currently in custody awaiting trial. Neuropsychological evaluation was requested due to a history of head injury and his difficulty recalling the alleged offense. Neuropsychological evaluation was requested in order to assess his current level of functioning.

RECORDS REVIEWED: Psychological evaluation by Larry Morris, Ph.D.; psychological evaluation by Catherine Boyer, Ph.D.; psychiatric evaluation by Barry Morenz, M.D.; report #8908071455 from the Tucson Police Department; interviews with several policemen; interview with defendant done by Mark Espinoza; a variety of police reports from Las Vegas; interview of Mr. Woods by Karen Wright.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES: Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale-Revised; Wechsler Memory Scale-Revised; Rorschach Test; Clinical Interview.

RESULTS: Upon examination, Mr. Wood was alert, cooperative and oriented for person, place and time. His fund of personal and general information appeared within normal limits given his age and education (completion of high school). His mood was appropriate to the testing situation. His speech was clear and coherent without evidence of loose association or tangential thinking.

Upon interview, Mr. Wood reported that he had no recall of the day of the alleged incident. He stated that he recalled the evening before until the time he went to sleep and that his recall began at the time he was laying on the ground after being shot. He reported that the prior evening he had been anxious and nervous because he had not been able to contact Debra Dietz. He stated that when he had last seen Ms. Dietz they had parted on

good terms with the expectation that he would talk with her the following day. After not having contact with her, for approximately a day and a half, he began to feel anxious. He was unable to contact her which left him with a feeling of no control and frustration. He discussed visiting a friend that evening, and being too emotionally upset to have dinner. He recalled having developed a headache and taking a couple of pills for it and then gone home.

When asked about previous head injuries, Mr. Wood reported that he had suffered three motorcycle accidents in which he might have sustained a head injury. He stated that when he was 15 or 16 years old, he flipped a motorcycle at 60 miles an hour and described himself as landing on his head. At the time he was wearing a helmet. He stated that he was knocked out for a short while but stated that he was not kept in the hospital overnight. He reported this next accident as occurring in 1978 or 1979 when he was riding a motorcycle and flipped over the hood of a car. Again he was wearing a helmet. In this accident he described himself as having gone home first, but having developed such a headache that he went to the hospital. A third accident occurred in 1981 prior to his going overseas in the military. He stated that a tire blew out on his motorcycle and he lost control. Again he was wearing a helmet. He stated after each of these accidents he noticed no change in his thinking or personality. He did state that others noticed that he tended to get in more trouble and be moodier after his last accident, but he attributed this to increased drinking.

When asked about his drug and alcohol abuse, Mr. Wood described himself as an alcoholic who had been in treatment in 1984. He stated that he had abstained from alcohol for some time after his treatment at the VA Hospital but that he had once again started drinking and using drugs. He stated that when he got drunk he frequently got into fights. He stated that his drug of choice was Methamphetamine which he usually got from Ms. Dietz.

Mr. Wood reported that he is currently on Sinequan and that he has been taking this medication for a year for depression. He stated that when he first came to jail, he was depressed and had trouble sleeping. He stated that currently he feels better and that he is less tearful. He denied any suicidal ideation currently. He did describe himself as anxious currently due to the guards being a set of "rookies" who have recently started at the jail and who had been going by the book. He denied any hallucinations or derealization experiences. He also denied any flagrant paranoid ideation but admitted that prior to the alleged

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incident he did feel that the world was against him and he could not get ahead.

Formal evaluation of intellectual functioning indicated abilities generally in the average to low average range with a Full Scale I.Q. of 92. He demonstrated a near significant difference between his verbal and visuo-spatial abilities with his Verbal I.Q. falling at 88 while his Performance I.Q. fell at 101. Within verbal subtests he did show some intertest scatter with his performance being in the average range on abstract verbal reasoning and social knowledge and in the low average range on information learned in school, attention and concentration, vocabulary and arithmetic ability. He also demonstrated significant intertest scatter within the visuo-spatial subtests with his attention to visual detail, ability to sequence pictured situations and ability to construct designs with blocks falling within the average range while his psychomotor speed was in the low average range.

Formal evaluation of memory functioning indicated overall memory abilities in the average range with a general memory index of 102 (100=average). He did demonstrate a significant difference between his verbal and visual memory abilities with his verbal memory index being 94 while his visuo-spatial memory index was 122. On tasks of attention and concentration Mr. Wood's abilities fell within the average range. His performance was at the 14th percentile on digit spans forwards and the 61st percentile on digit spans backwards. His performance on visual memory span forward and backwards fell at the 81st and 88th percentile. His performance on immediate recall of a story was at the 47th percentile and after a half hour delay he maintained approximately 90 percent of this information which gave him a percentile score of 54. He did demonstrate the ability to learn pairs of words across repeated trials. Visuo-spatial abilities as assessed by his ability to recall simple line drawings was in the above average range with an immediate recall of drawings giving him a score at the 96th percentile. After a half hour delay, he could recall over 95 percent of the same information which gave him a score at the 94th percentile. He also did well on a task of learning visual pairs of information across repeated trials.

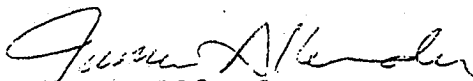
Personality evaluation and screening for psychopathology was accomplished through clinical interview and Mr. Wood's completion of the Rorschach test. Results indicated that Mr. Wood can see things along conventional lines and this argues against any active psychotic thought disorder. His reality testing does

deteriorate however in emotionally charged situations. The most prominent emotional theme within his responses was anger. His responses suggested that Mr. Wood sees his world as hostile and threatening and that he experiences a great deal of anger towards the outside world. He appears to cope with his anger and other emotional conflicts through repression and denial. When these coping mechanisms deteriorate, Mr. Wood's intellectual capabilities are overwhelmed and he has difficulty organizing his thinking. In emotional situations he is likely to act on his feelings without thinking.

The results of his MMPI which was given to him by Dr. Morris indicate a similar style. Individuals with his profile are characterized as distrustful individuals who often are angry and hostile. These individuals are described as unpredictable, changeable, hostile, irritable and resentful. When anxious these individuals may develop a sense of their world crumbling. Dr. Morris's report reads in part, "Impulsivity and poor judgement are cardinal features of this profile type."

In summary, Mr. Wood is a 31 year old male awaiting trial in the Pima County jail. Neuropsychological evaluation was requested given his history of potentially significant head injuries and his reported memory deficit. Neuropsychological evaluation suggests low average verbal skills and average visuo-spatial skills on intellectual and memory testing. This discrepancy seems consistent with his history of poor academic achievement and possibly a verbal learning disability. His report of no significant change in his thinking and the lack of significant findings on neuropsychological assessment suggest little evidence for cognitive impairment due to his motorcycle accidents. Personality evaluation suggests that he does not demonstrate a psychotic thought disorder although his reality testing does deteriorate in emotionally charged situations. He appears to try to cope with his anger through repression and denial but when these mechanisms aren't successful he has few ways to cope with his feelings. It is likely that in emotionally charged situations, Mr. Wood would act in an angry and impulsive way.

If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact me. Thank you for this most interesting referral.


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