

*Case No. 2*

This 21-year-old male junior came from a culturally rich but somewhat sheltered family background. He was an "A" student in college and had been looking forward for 3 years to joining the Peace Corps. He enrolled in the advanced training program for juniors and was considered by the trainees and staff as one of their outstanding possibilities. However, at least one member of the host country national staff expressed reservations but "didn't know why."

The MMPI revealed a masculine-femininity score of extreme elevation in relation to other scores which were within the normal range. For the assessment officer this was the first indication of some potential difficulty of feminine interests. Before the clinical interview this observation did not seem to be in keeping with his behavior at the training site.

However, during the clinical interview the assessment officer inquired about his "social relationships" and the trainee indicated that "everything was fine." But bearing in mind the MMPI, the assessment officer prodded a bit and suddenly the trainee volunteered the information that he had found "a new found freedom in sexual affairs." Upon further discussion the trainee disclosed that he had had recent homosexual experiences, but that he regarded these as merely exploratory and nothing serious.

On the advice of the field selection officer, the assessment officer confronted the trainee with the observation that, although this type of exploration is not unusual among boys just reaching puberty, it was a concern when it occurred in somebody of his age. During further interviews the trainee began to analyze feelings and thoughts concerning this behavior, and the selection board which met at the end of his advanced summer training recommended also that he seek professional help during his senior year in college. At the end of his senior year another evaluation of the seriousness of this activity will be undertaken.

On the basis of the trainee's record and his performance in training, it was unlikely that this information would have come to light but for the question raised by his MMPI scores.

*Case No. 3*

This 20-year-old female college junior was in the advanced training program for juniors and seemed to be getting along fairly well in training, although she was having some difficulties in learning the foreign language. Her peers seemed to rate her in the middle of their own group but surprisingly few of the other trainees seemed to know her.

The MMPI had elevations on the manic depressive, schizophrenic, and psychos-thenia scales, sometimes referred to as the psychotic triad. This indicated the possibility that this girl was functioning well only on the surface, and that when she met with a stress situation she might not be able to handle it successfully.

On the basis of his interviews and observations, the field assessment officer felt that she was making an effort to blend into the group rather than risk engaging in any personal stressful situations. She seemed to be making sure that nobody paid too much attention to her. In an effort to verify the MMPI's results, the assessment officer introduced some stress in an interview and observed that the trainee became anxious very quickly.

As a result, the Finald board's recommendation was that this trainee seek psychotherapy at her school. She agreed to this, and an initial report from the school indicated that she is presently under therapy. Whether these problems can be resolved or not will take an evaluation from the school and in her further training upon graduation.

*Case No. 4*

This 21-year-old trainee came from a rather isolated, smalltown background. He attended three colleges, changing his major from forestry to English and finally dropping out because he was not sure what he wanted to do. He was invited to a rural community development project. Although quiet in classes, he performed adequately in training.

In this case the MMPI first identified the problem that led to his deselection from the program, although no behavior in training set him apart from the others. His MMPI profile shows exaggeratedly high scores on the psychos-thenia, schizophrenia, and psychopathic scales raising the possibility of extreme anxiety and possible psychotic disorganization.

He was referred to the project psychiatrist. The psychiatrist's conclusion was that the trainee evidenced symptoms of latent schizophrenia which posed too great a risk of a psychotic breakdown under the stresses of overseas Peace Corps