

service. He was therefore separated from the program, but in view of his failure thus far to manifest any overt psychotic symptoms it was recommended that he be reconsidered after a year and invited again if his activities in the interim were not indicative of emotional instability.

Case No. 5

This 20-year-old man was invited to an agriculture program as a small industries specialist. His performance in training ranged from adequate to outstanding. The staff saw him in a generally favorable light, describing him as competent, able, flexible, and willing. His peers also reacted favorably to him.

The CSC report was generally positive. It indicated that the subject had been adopted by an uncle who others saw as demanding more than the subject was able to produce. He, in turn, was seen as responding by working to the best of his ability.

By contrast, the MMPI was indicative of either a psychotic or of an adolescent without focus! The MMPI yielded T scores of 70 or above on scales 4, 5, and 9, indicating an individual who rejects authority and is somewhat disorganized and hyperactive in thought and action. In addition, the relationship of 7 to 8 indicated that the individual may have some "looseness" in thought. These results were substantiated in psychological interview and by other psychological tests which indicated very low frustration tolerance, low superego strength, suspiciousness, insecurity, criticalness, tension, and uncertainty of self.

In view of the discrepancies between performance in training and the psychological evaluations, projective techniques and a psychiatric consultation were requested. They confirmed the presence of a psychotic process in the subject rather than the identity diffusion of adolescence.

Based on the above findings, the subject was separated at the second intermediate advisory selection board for reasons of personality unsuitability. In the exit interview, the professional opinion was shared that the trainee had undergone great perturbation and was just beginning to work it through. This was confirmed by the subject who shared his own concerns about his behavior and the fact that he now had some understanding of a very confused and anxiety-provoking period in his life.

The MMPI made a significant contribution in this case and was protective to the individual. His behavior was such that he might have been selected had we not been alerted to look more closely at his dynamics. To have subjected this individual to additional stress at this period of his life may have resulted in a psychotic decompensation of serious proportions.

GROUP B: MMPI IDENTIFIED A PERSONALITY PROBLEM THAT WAS CONFIRMED BY OTHER DATA

Case No. 6

This 26-year-old married man with experience as an elementary school teacher was invited to a teaching program.

His MMPI profile looked like that of an effeminate, anxious, obsessive-compulsive type individual who was somewhat depressed and socially introverted. This combination caused the assessment staff to look more closely at his dynamics. In assessment interviews, the field assessment officer found the subject to be rigid, passive, inarticulate, and anxious. He expressed serious concern over the diseases he might contact in an overseas assignment. As a result, he was referred for a psychiatric consultation.

The CSC investigation was consistent with the MMPI findings. The trainee was an elementary school teacher who was described by his principal as "working and playing too hard." Other referents referred to his "compulsion to help," his "introversion," "nervousness," and "short temper." Respondents were also aware of his anxiety over diseases and his "visions of dying of disease" in a Peace Corps assignment.

The subject was psychiatrically disqualified because of his neurotic symptoms. The MMPI had correctly identified the problem and was corroborated by the clinical observations. The wisdom of selecting this trainee out was further validated in the termination interview where the subject and his wife described their marriage as unstable and characterized by bickering and fault findings. They explained that although they had been married 2 years, the marriage had never actually been consummated.