



# BIOGRAPHY

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

### MAJOR HEATHER L. MORRIS

Maj Heather L. Morris is an investigative and operational psychologist at Headquarters Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) Behavioral Science Directorate (HQ AFOSI XB) in Quantico, VA. She is a board certified clinical psychologist with a background in forensic psychology and is a Certified Threat Manager (CTM). Dr. Morris is currently the Chief Psychologist of OSI Behavioral Threat Assessment and leads the OSI Behavior Threat Assessment Cell (BTAC). BTAC is a multidisciplinary team with special agents, analysts, and investigative psychologists, which provides behavior threat assessment and management consultation to OSI field offices across the globe. Dr. Morris also teaches several advance courses on targeted violence, threat assessment, and Domestic Violent Extremism. Maj Morris was previously a clinician at the Peak Performance Center for the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, CO (CWPS). There she provided evaluation and treatment services for cadets, taught Introduction to Behavioral Sciences, consulted with leadership on mental health issues related to cadets, developed and managed the Gender Forum program, conducted Sanity Boards, and was the Director of the Substance Abuse and Prevention Services program. In addition, Dr. Morris has consulted and served as an expert witness in several Courts-Martial cases.



Maj Morris received her bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in leadership from the University of West Florida, where she was also captain of the women's basketball team (2002). She then obtained her master's degree in forensic psychology from the University of Denver in 2004. Maj Morris completed her second master's degree (2006) and her doctorate in clinical psychology (2008) also from the University of Denver. Her clinical experience includes treating and evaluating offenders - including sex offenders - both in prison and in the community.

Maj Morris practiced in a police psychology firm for eight years in which her duties included: consulting with schools, universities, and workplaces on insider/outsider threats; conducting behavioral threat assessments; trial consulting; investigative case consultation; responding to critical incidents to provide psychological first aid; and conducting trainings on trauma, stress management, verbal de-escalation, threat assessment, and active shooter prevention, response, and recovery. In 2007, Maj Morris traveled to Antarctica with a team of psychologists to conduct pre-deployment evaluations. She entered the United States Air Force in April 2013, receiving a direct commission in the Biomedical Services Corps. Maj Morris graduated Commissioned Officer Training in September 2013, earning the Distinguished Graduate honor.

#### EDUCATION:

- 2002 Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, minor in Leadership, University of West Florida, Pensacola, Fla.
- 2004 Master of Arts in Forensic Psychology, University of Denver, Denver, Colo.
- 2006 Master of Arts in Clinical Psychology, University of Denver, Denver, Colo.
- 2008 Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, University of Denver, Denver, Colo.
- 2015 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Bases (AFB), Ala.
- 2019 Air Command and Staff College (correspondence), Maxwell Air Force Bases (AFB), Ala.
- 2019 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Investigative Psychology, HQ AFOSI Behavioral Science Directorate, Quantico MCB, Vir.

#### ASSIGNMENTS:

1. September 2013 – June 2017: Clinical Psychologist, Peak Performance Center, United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
2. June 2017- June 2019: Investigative Psychology Post-Doctoral Fellow, HQ AFOSI XB, Quantico, Va.
3. June 2017- October 2019: Investigative and Operational Psychologist, HQ AFOSI XB, Quantico, Va.
4. October 2019 – present: Chief Psychologist, OSI Behavioral Threat Assessment, HQ AFOSI XB, Quantico, Va

#### MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

- Air Force Commendation Medal, 2017
- National Defense Service Medal, 2013
- Global War on Terrorism Medal, 2013

#### SPECIALIZED TRAINING:

- Behavior Threat Assessment and Management
- Critical Pathway to Insider Risk
- Interview and Interrogation Methods

Investigative Psychology  
Child Forensic Interviewing  
Consultation on Forensic Psychology Issues  
Psychology of Violence  
Trauma Informed Critical Incident Response  
Biofeedback Training  
Evaluation and Treatment of Offenders  
Suicide Prevention and Intervention  
Communication and Verbal De-escalation  
Stress Management and Trauma in Police Officers  
Critical Incident Training for Police Officers  
Peer Support Training for Police Officers

**OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS:**

HQ AFOSI Field Grade Officer (FGO) of the Year, 2021  
HQ AFOSI FGO of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2021  
Society of Air Force Psychology FGO of the Year 2020  
AFOSI ICON FGO of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2020  
Certified Threat Manager (CTM) Association of Threat Assessment Professionals, 2020  
HQ AFOSI FGO of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2019  
American Board of Professional Psychology, Board Certified in Clinical Psychology, 2017  
Commandant of Cadets Company Grade Officer (CGO) of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter, 2016  
Commandant of Cadets CGO of the Year, 2015  
United States Air Force Academy CGO of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2015  
Commandant of Cadets CGO of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter, 2015 Distinguished  
Graduate COT, 2013  
University of West Florida Female Academic Athlete of the Year, 2002

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Morris, H.L. (2021). Research-based best practices: extremism and the pathway to violence. Report 2021001. Air Force Office of Special Investigations Behavior Sciences Directorate Publication.

Morris, H.L. (2019). Research-based best practices: targeted violence and threat assessment. Report 2019001. Air Force Office of Special Investigations Behavior Sciences Directorate Publication.

Morris, H.L. (2018). Research-based best practices: the danger of non-lethal strangulation. Report 2018001. Air Force Office of Special Investigations Behavior Sciences Directorate Publication.

Morris, H.L. & Nicoletti, J. (2018). Kinetic insider violence and mass shootings. In Bollinger, C., Flintoft, R., Nicoletti, J., Spencer-Thomas, S., & Dvoskina, M. (Eds.), *Violence goes to college: The authoritative guide to prevention, intervention, and response*, 3rd ed. (pp. 316-346). Springfield, IL: Charles C. Thomas.

Morris, H.L. & Ray, D. (2019). Investigative psychology: applying psychological science to military criminal investigations. In Staal, M.A. & S.C. Harvey, S.C. (Eds.), *Operational Psychology A New Field to Support National Security and Public Safety*, (pp. 185-209). Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger.

Nicoletti, J., & Morris, H.L. (2010). Avenger Violence on College Campuses. Nicoletti, Spencer-Thomas, & Bollinger (Eds.), *Violence Goes to College 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* (pp.217-244). Springfield: Charles C Thomas.

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS:**

American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP)  
American Psychological Association (APA) Member Division 18 (Psychologist in Public Service)  
APA Member Division 19 (Society for Military Psychology)  
APA Member Division 41 (Psychology-Law Society)  
Association of Threat Assessment Professionals (ATAP)  
Certified Threat Manager (ATAP)

**EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION:**

Captain April 3, 2013  
Major July 1, 2018

(Current as of 20 Jan 2022)