

Prediction of Illicit Drug Use by United States Servicemen

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OBJECTIVES: For a description of the objectives of this study see the SEATO Annual Progress Report, March 1972.

PROGRESS: A fifty-nine item questionnaire designed to predict involvement with illicit drugs has been administered to 450 Army and Air Force troops upon their arrival in Thailand. Interviews are being scheduled for each of these individuals at four month intervals during their first year in Thailand. As of 1 May 1974 all individuals had been interviewed one time and about one-third received a second or third interview.

It is anticipated that data collection will be completed by 15 November 1974. At that time a classification of each individual as a non-user or drug abuser will be made. These clinical classifications will be based on the clinical interviews. Each individual will also be statistically classified as a drug abuser or non-user by use of discriminant coefficients derived from a discriminant analysis of the 59 item questionnaire (1). Clinical classifications will be compared with statistical classifications to provide evaluation of the efficacy of the questionnaire instrument for predicting drug use.

SUMMARY: A questionnaire designed to predict involvement with drugs has been administered to 450 individuals. These individuals are being interviewed at four month intervals during their first year in Thailand, and all have been interviewed at least one time. Drug use classification based on the clinical interview and the questionnaire will be compared to evaluate the predictive validity of the questionnaire.

REFERENCES:

1. Schneider and Rothberg: Prediction of Drug Use in Servicemen. The SEATO Annual Progress Report, 1973.

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