ABSTRACT

TITLE OF THESIS: Anomalous Human Cognition: A Possible Role within the Crucible of Intelligence Collection

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Nearly 15 years have passed since the Central Intelligence Agency's 1995 public cancellation of the U.S. Remote Viewing (RV) project known as *Star Gate*. In the interim, significant changes have taken place that present a number of daunting challenges to the U.S. Intelligence Community's ability to not only accurately discern a target's capabilities and intentions, but also to defend itself from foreign intelligence operations. Concomitantly, scientific experimentation and theory have appeared to erode – for lack of a better term – a number of the positions taken by Scientific Materialism in its refutation of anomalous human cognition as an existing phenomenon. This thesis seeks to ascertain whether considered reexamination of RV as a useful intelligence collection method is warranted following the disparate developments of the past 15 years.

ANOMALOUS HUMAN COGNITION: A POSSIBLE ROLE WITHIN THE CRUCIBLE OF INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION

by

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do not reflect the official policy or position of the
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CONTENTS

List of Illustrations …… v

Chapter

1. A VIEW OF THE ISSUE AT HAND …….. 1

   Introduction, 1
   The Research Question, 4
   Related Literature, 4
   Thesis Statement, 7
   Research Design, Data Collection, and Analytical Strategy, 7

2. WHERE WE'VE BEEN – A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW …… 9

   The Beginnings – A Piquing of IC Interest, 9
   Remote Viewing: 1974-1977, 20
   Remote Viewing: 1977-1981, 29
   Remote Viewing: 1981-1986, 36
   Remote Viewing: 1987-1995, 44

3. THE EVOLVING SCIENCE OF PSI …….. 53

   The Statistical Tool Set, 53
   Ganzfeld Psi, 55
   Conscious Sense of Being Stared At, 56
   Dice PK Experiments, 56
   A Challenge to Scientific Materialism, 57
   Theories of Psi, 58
   Remote Viewing, 60
   Conclusion, 61

4. CONTACT – A CONFLUENCE OF IC NEEDS AND RV …… 63

   IMINT and SIGINT – Challenges and Potential Partial Solutions, 64
   HUMINT and the CI Problem Set – Possible Applications for RV, 70
   Finding the Line – Real-Time Evidence Suggestive of RV Success, 73
   Conclusion, 75

5. NEXT STEPS – BUILDING A BETTER MOUSETRAP …….. 76

Contract vs. In-house, 77
Viewer Selection, 78
Additional Analytical Element Needed, 79
Maintenance of Focus, 80
Open Questions, 81
Conclusion, 82

Bibliography …… 83

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Fig. 1a CIA artist tracing of a satellite image of URDF-3 site at Semipalatinsk …… 23

Fig. 1b Pat Price's drawing of the gantry crane he remote viewed at URDF-3 site … 24

Fig. 1c CIA artist rendering of URDF-3 crane based on satellite imagery ……. 25

CHAPTER 1

A VIEW OF THE ISSUE AT HAND

Introduction

Over the nearly 15 years that have passed since the CIA's termination of the U.S. Remote Viewing (RV) program known as *Star Gate*, significant developments have taken place both at home and abroad that have profoundly impacted the Intelligence Community (IC). The collapse of the Soviet Union, the rise of non-state asymmetric threats, and the effect of a rapidly globalizing economy have all brought corresponding modifications to the IC's mission requirements, collection capabilities, and its counter-intelligence posture.

An examination of the Imagery Intelligence (IMINT) collection field points to a number of significant hurdles that have arisen over the past decade and a half. The degradation of existing imagery capabilities, brought on by the prohibitive costs and long lead times involved in National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) asset replacement, looks like it will continue into the foreseeable future, and in the interim, the IC has looked to United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) and managed use of "white world" commercial satellite imagery to fill a portion of the NRO "black world" imagery gap.[1] That said, the escalating needs of today's warfighter require IMINT collection of increasing quality over an ever-expanding geographical area. Add to this the continuing

[1] Colin Clark, "Biting Memo Details Intel, DoD Satellite Feud," *DoD Buzz -- Online Defense and Acquisition Journal* (August 22, 2008): page nr., http://www.dodbuzz.com/2008/08/22/biting-memo-details-intel-dod-satellite-feud/ (accessed May 1, 2010).

needs of the rest of the U.S. Government for IMINT and it becomes apparent that the IC has a problem significantly beyond the ability of commercial imagery assets to address.

Looking at the Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) collection field, one is struck by the number of difficulties facing IC attempts to acquire both signals and the data contained therein. In addition to increased SIGINT taskings following the attacks on 9/11, the growing appearance of fiber-optic systems within target areas and the escalating use of sophisticated methods of data encryption by target entities continue to drive the IC to expend greater time, resources, and computing power on efforts to acquire the needed data. Such problems are only compounded when the IC finds itself facing loss of signal due to the reliance by certain targets on couriers and other non-electromagnetic-based means of communication.[2]

Regarding Human Intelligence (HUMINT) and counterintelligence (CI), the IC also finds itself facing difficulties in mitigating and policing the potential internal risks brought on by its growing use of so-called "Heritage Americans" within the IC and the impact of significantly shorter background investigation timelines.[3, 4] Add to this the need for more rapid detection of espionage due to the ever-increasing ability of

[2]Annie Turner, "How Do You Fight Against a Low-Tech Enemy That Uses Paper and Couriers?" *Military and Aerospace Electronics*, October, 2006, http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ARCHI&ARTICLE_ID=275869&VERSION_NUM=2&p=32&pc=ENL (accessed May 1, 2010).

[3] As used within the Intelligence Community, the term "Heritage Americans" refers to first- and second-generation U.S. citizens possessing advanced language skills and cultural expertise beyond that which is generally found within the broader population.

[4] Katherine Herbig, "Changes in Espionage by Americans: 1947-2007," *Defense Personnel Security Research Center*, March, 2008, http://fas.org/sgp/library/changes.pdf (accessed May 1, 2010).

technology to assist in the theft of vast amounts of sensitive data, and it becomes easy to grasp the daunting task facing today's counterintelligence professionals.

While these and many more changes took place within the IC, the world failed to stop as well for scientists exploring the realms of theoretical physics and parapsychology and for practitioners working in the extant RV field. Flying somewhat in the face of the 1995 closure of the *Star Gate* program, an increasing number of peer-reviewed scientific studies seem to be positively addressing the cognitive dissonance that psychic (psi) related phenomena have engendered within the larger scientific community. The challenges presented to Scientific Materialism by psi appear on the verge of mirroring, in form and function, the paradigm-changing pressures that quantum mechanics continues to bring to bear on the modern scientific edifice.[5] Additionally, a few individuals who were former practitioners under the various U.S. RV programs have made a number of potentially important experimental observations recently that could provide methods for addressing a number of long-standing issues with RV efficacy. [6]

Given the various problems being faced by the IC that continue to impact both missions and resources, it is clear that efforts must be undertaken to identify possible solutions – even partial ones. Through a detailed study of both circumstances influencing the IC and developments within the RV arena, it may be possible to determine whether an acceptable role for RV collection exists within the intelligence field.

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[5] Dean Radin, *Entangled Minds: Extrasensory Experiences in a Quantum Reality* (New York: Paraview, 2006), 231-36.

[6] "CRV-REG Study," CRVREG.org, http://www.crvreg.org/ (accessed May 1, 2010).

The Research Question

Are there elements currently at play within both the Intelligence Community and the extant Remote Viewing field that might suggest value in a careful reexamination of RV as a collection method by the IC?

RELATED LITERATURE

In examining research materials for this thesis study, a number of documents with clear applicability to the subject have risen to the forefront. Two of these are excellent books that detail the history of the U.S. Government's interest and involvement in RV from the early 1970's through to the 1995 public cancellation of *Star Gate,* while another is a book that examines the current state of scientific inquiry into psi-related phenomena using modern meta-analytical methodologies. Also examined is the American Institutes of Research (AIR) report which was used by the CIA as its public basis for the termination of *Star Gate* in 1995.

History from Two Perspectives

Published in 1997, *Remote Viewers: The Secret History of America's Psychic Spies* by freelance science writer Jim Schnabel, was the first substantive history attempted regarding U.S. Government involvement in psychic research. Focusing on the development and practice of RV and Coordinate Remote Viewing (CRV) by various elements within the IC, Schnabel sought and was granted unprecedented access to many

of the most important personalities involved, including key scientists, policy makers, project managers and RV practitioners. This work provides a well-researched grounding of RV-related people, places and events that can be used to inform further exploration of the facts surrounding the various U.S.-sponsored RV programs.

The second history of importance is *Reading the Enemy's Mind: Inside STAR GATE – America's Psychic Espionage Program*. Published in 2005, this book is a unique history written by Paul Smith, one of the exceedingly small number of individuals trained to practice RV on behalf of the U.S. Government. Of additional interest is the fact that Mr. Smith also happens to be a former graduate of the National Defense Intelligence College. While this book naturally covers many of the same events found in the Schnabel book, it examines the subject with an insider's eye for both the tangible and intangible details surrounding the various government-sponsored RV programs. In particular, this text provides an excellent overview of the personalities, politics and program morale that before this had been the purview only of those directly involved.

The Science of Psi

While a significant number of works have been published over the past decade on the topic of science and the field of parapsychology, few are as cogently presented as *Entangled Minds: Extrasensory Experiences in a Quantum Reality*, a book published in 2006 by Dr. Dean Radin. Expounding on his 1997 book *The Conscious Universe: The Scientific Truth of Psychic Phenomena*, Radin examines in detail the evidence accumulated over decades of scientific research within the field of parapsychology. Through the use of meta-analysis and modern statistical methodologies, this book

presents in clear "odds against chance" terminology overwhelming evidence of the existence of psi-based phenomena. In one of the most impressive examples, Radin uses meta-analysis on a subset of psi studies involving what is known as "the sense of being stared at." An examination of a total of 33,357 experimental trials demonstrated positive correlation with statistical odds against chance of 10^{46} to 1. In addition to providing access to evidence of this caliber, the text also devotes a significant amount of resources examining a number of the more compelling theories of psi being considered within the scientific community – many of which have a basis in modern quantum physics.

The Commissioned Public Report

Critical to understanding the environment and history of the CIA's public cancellation of the *Star Gate* program is the September 29, 1995 American Institutes of Research commissioned report, *An Evaluation of Remote Viewing: Research and Applications*. While the AIR Report Executive Summary was publicly used by the CIA as the basis for its cancellation of *Star Gate*, the full report presents a far more nuanced assessment of RV and its potential than the summary suggests. Demonstrative of this is the fact that strong pro and con positions regarding RV can be found within the body of the report. The fact that the former position was defended by a renowned statistician while the latter position was held by a well-known psychologist is also noteworthy. Close examination of the AIR Report in its entirety helps shed additional light on a number of key elements involved in the CIA's final determination regarding *Star Gate*.

Thesis Statement

There exists a confluence between IC needs/requirements and recent developments within the extant RV field that suggests the time is right for a reexamination of RV – particularly CRV – as a viable intelligence collection method.

Key Questions

1) What is the current state of scientific understanding regarding psi and anomalous human cognition?
2) What factors appear to be indicative of RV abilities?
3) What types of collection did RV address well, if any?
4) What specific factors led to the cancellation of *Star Gate* in 1995?

Research Design, Data Collection, and Analytical Strategy

Research Design

This thesis was approached qualitatively using both content analysis and field research.

Data Collection Strategy

Collection of data for this thesis was largely conducted through the use of archival records in the form of books, articles, commentaries, academic research papers, and recordings, and was accessed via library, audio-visual, internet, and archived database sources.

Field research consisted of targeted personal interviews with individuals of developmental and operational significance to the RV field, and was directed at eliciting both historical and theoretical/speculative data points for possible thesis inclusion.

Analytical Strategy

In order to lay the groundwork necessary for a useful exploration of the thesis statement, a detailed examination of U.S. Government records relating to its involvement in RV and contemporaneous historical accounts of actions taken at that time was essential. Careful examination of the 1995 CIA-sponsored American Institutes of Research report, which provided the public basis for putting an end to U.S. Government involvement in RV, anchors much of the argument in opposition to this thesis. A study of scientific literature focusing on quantum mechanics, holography, and consciousness served to inform this author's efforts to outline the current state of scientific thinking relative to the subject. Finally, interviews with key individuals involved in past and/or current RV-related efforts served as both fact checks on the published historical record of RV and as departure points for further considered research related to this work's stated hypothesis.

Research Classification

Given the significant amount of U.S. Government material that has been declassified following the publicly acknowledged closure of the *Star Gate* program in 1995, it has been possible to complete this thesis at the unclassified level.

CHAPTER 2

WHERE WE'VE BEEN – A BRIEF HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The most exciting phrase to hear in science, the one that heralds
new discoveries, is not 'Eureka!' but 'That's funny...'

-- Isaac Asimov

The Beginnings – A Piquing of IC Interest

It has been said that each and every language in existence has at least one word it uses to express the concept that the modern English world generally terms "psychic phenomena."[7] The ubiquitous appearance of these words underlines the fact that experiences of these phenomena have been reported by people of all cultures and classes throughout recorded history. Generally speaking, psychic phenomena are roughly divided by most parapsychologists into four types: *telepathy* – used to describe "mind-to-mind" connections between two or more individuals; *clairvoyance* – which describes the perceiving of events and/or objects at a distance; *precognition* – the perceiving of future events; and *psychokinesis (PK)* – used to describe interactions between mind and matter.[8]

The term "psi" was first coined in 1942 by British psychologist Robert Thouless in order to facilitate description of all manner of psychic phenomena/experiences in a manner implying nothing regarding either the origin or the mechanism of the phenomena.[9] A cursory examination of the various forms of psi-related phenomena

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[7] Dean Radin, *Entangled Minds: Extrasensory Experiences in a Quantum Reality* (New York, NY: Paraview, 2006), 6.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

reveals one overarching connection between all of them – the transfer over distance of information via as-yet-unknown means. In much the same manner as the electromagnetic communications revolution – from telegraph and telephone to radio and television – had been seized upon as a force multiplier by governments and militaries in the 19th and 20th centuries, psi-related phenomena were similarly examined for potential use by the world powers.

Beginning in the 1920's, the Soviet Union authorized research into a number of areas related to psychic phenomena and functioning, many of them associated with efforts to either induce pain or influence behavior at a distance.[10] In one of the earliest public examples of this type of research, Dr. K.I. Platinov – working on behalf of the Leningrad Institute for Brain Research – reportedly succeeded in demonstrating surreptitious "mental induction" of periods of sleep and awakening in a test subject during the 1924 All-Russian Congress of Psychoneurologists, Psychologists, and Teachers held in Leningrad.[11] By the advent of the 1960s, the Soviet leadership believed the results of decades of prior psi research sufficient to warrant the development of a crash program to identify and control psi phenomena for use by the state.[12] Using such terms as *psychoenergetics* and *psychotronics* to describe the psi-related effects being examined, the Soviets established dozens of research facilities across the nation dedicated

[10] Russell Targ and Keith Harary, *The Mind Race: Understanding and Using Psychic Abilities* (1984; repr., New York, NY: Ballentine Books, 1985), 77.

[11] Ibid., 78.

[12] Jim Schnabel, *Remote Viewers: The Secret History of America's Psychic Spies* (New York, NY: Dell Publishing, 1997), 185.

to uncovering whatever they could about psi phenomena and developing uses for whatever was found.

While Soviet governmental and scientific interest in psychic phenomena was undoubtedly bolstered by a Slavic tradition rich with esoteric associations, it is important to note that actual exploration of psychic functioning still had to contend with a Communist ideology which lauded the virtues of Scientific Materialism and openly abhorred anything perceived as carrying the taint of superstition or idealism.[13] The clashing of these two elements – tradition and ideology – reinforced both the tendency of Soviet researchers to focus their efforts exclusively on psychic phenomena deemed to hold the greatest utilitarian value for the state's military and intelligence structures, and the tendency to couch any and all psychical research in terms deemed sufficiently "scientific" to deflect overt criticism from state ideologues. Regarding the former, the overall tone and timbre of Soviet scientific inquiry unsurprisingly resulted in significant levels of research into what is often termed the "darker side" of psychic functioning – remote-influencing (e.g., mental suggestion/behavior modification at a distance, and psychokinesis).[14]

By the 1970s, the Soviet leadership had embarked on a society-wide screening effort designed to identify individuals capable of demonstrating controlled psi effects – particularly in the realm of remote-influencing. According to numerous intelligence sources from that time, the Soviet effort succeeded in identifying a number of exceptional test subjects, including a woman from Leningrad who had demonstrated not only the

[13] Ibid., 186.

[14] Ibid., 185-189.

ability to remotely stop the beating of a frog's heart, but also the ability to remotely induce tachycardia in human subjects.[15]

While U.S. military and intelligence structures had been keeping abreast of Soviet paranormal research throughout the 1960's via translations of research findings and interviews with émigrés and defectors, the first substantive government assessment addressing elements of the Soviet psi program was not published until July, 1972. Entitled *Controlled Offensive Behavior – USSR*, and prepared by the Medical Intelligence Office of the U.S. Army Office of the Surgeon General, this Defense Intelligence Agency document describes in significant detail Soviet interests and capabilities in the manipulation of human behavior, including via psychic functioning/remote-influencing. In perhaps its most significant passage, the report suggests that Soviet psi research could present an actual strategic threat to U.S. interests:

> Soviet efforts in the field of psi research, sooner or later, might enable them to do some of the following:
> a. Know the contents of top secret US documents, the movements of our troops and ships and the location and nature of our military installations.
> b. Mold the thoughts of key US military and civilian leaders, at a distance.
> c. Cause the instant death of any US official, at a distance.
> d. Disable, at a distance, US military equipment of all types including spacecraft.[16]

Postulating – in essence – the existence of a U.S.-Soviet 'psi-gap," this report appeared to have been viewed with an odd mixture of bemusement and alarm by the larger U.S. intelligence community.[17]

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[15] Ibid., 188.

[16] John LaMothe, "Controlled Offensive Behavior – USSR," Defense Intelligence Agency, http://www.dia.mil/publicaffairs/Foia/cont_ussr.pdf (accessed May 4, 2010).

[17] Schnabel 1997, 94.

For some analysts, many of the supposedly "wild tales" and reports of Soviet "breakthroughs" in psi research served only to confirm already existing views that science behind the Iron Curtain was overly influenced and perhaps even bogged down by "mystical" tendencies and traditions.[18] As related to science journalist and author Jim Schnabel by a high-ranking CIA officer involved in the matter, "The greatest threat was that they would *stop* wasting money on this!"[19]

For other analysts, however, the DIA report raised issues that many within the intelligence establishment found troubling. As described by Schnabel, the intelligence community may have believed it had reason to be concerned:

> Precisely how well the KGB and the military were really able to harness psi to nefarious purposes was anybody's guess, but they obviously were very interested, and there were reports of strange occurrences – perhaps mundane, but perhaps psi-related – that must have made a few American hairs stand on end. For example, near the end of his first term President Nixon made a very strange complaint to the CIA. According to testimony by CIA scientist Sidney Gottlieb at a congressional hearing in 1977, Nixon claimed that he and several members of his staff, including his personal physician, Walter Tkach, had exhibited unusual behavior, including "inappropriate tears and crying," during a visit to an unnamed "potentially hostile country" in the early 1970s. Nixon visited both China and the Soviet Union in 1972.[20]

Weighing the preponderant nature of the data collected on Soviet psi research against the core intelligence functions of recognizing strategic threat and issuing strategic warning, elements within the U.S. intelligence community decided to respond by quietly seeking U.S. researchers in this arena to fund – with hopes of ascertaining whether the alleged "psi gap" represented a genuine "psi threat."

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[18] Ibid., 95.

[19] Ibid., 190.

[20] Ibid., 95-96.

In late June, 1972, Dr. Harold Puthoff – a well-known and highly respected physicist working at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) – circulated a report regarding an unusual test he had conducted earlier that month involving potential psi functioning. Aware that there was interest in identifying repeatable psi effects that could be of military or intelligence value, Dr. Puthoff had invited Ingo Swann – a noted New York artist and purported psychic – to SRI in order to see if any such effects could be demonstrated. Puthoff brought Swann to Stanford University's Varian Physics Building and asked him to focus his attention on a heavily shielded magnetometer buried beneath the facility. Prior to the test, a decaying magnetic field had been established inside the magnetometer in order to provide a background calibration signal that could be charted. The device had been charting the decay for nearly one hour without any signs of interference when Swann was asked to turn his attention to the magnetometer, which was hidden from view within the basement vault. After a reported five second delay, the previously steady rate of magnetic decay suddenly doubled. Asked if he could halt the decay entirely, Swann was able to do so for a period lasting 45 seconds – after which time he ceased focusing on the magnetometer, returning the field decay rate to its previously recorded levels.[21] Following this, Swann produced a highly-accurate sketch of what he had perceived about the hidden device – including design elements that had not been previously revealed to him, such as the presence of a gold alloy plate within the magnetometer. What made this experiment particularly impressive to the scientists involved and, later, to the U.S. intelligence community was the fact that this particular device had been specifically

[21] Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff, *Mind-Reach: Scientists Look at Psychic Abilities* (1977; repr., Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, 2005), 20-24.

designed to be impervious to outside forces, as it was a key component in the facility's search for the quark.[22]

While interest was high regarding the psychokinetic mind-matter effects demonstrated, these turned out to be significantly less robust than the clairvoyant "remote viewing" (RV) results that had accompanied Swann's efforts.[23] Following an impressive series of additional demonstrations of Swann's remote viewing ability carried out in the presence of CIA officers, the CIA awarded Puthoff and SRI a $50,000 exploratory contract to fund eight months of additional research into remote viewing.[24] With the addition of physicist Russell Targ, who had joined the SRI program shortly prior to the contract award, Puthoff and Swann began their collaboration in earnest in December 1972.[25]

Throughout the first four months of the CIA contract, Puthoff and Targ conducted numerous tests of Swann's remote viewing abilities, with both scientists following much the same path of inquiry as that used by earlier parapsychologists.[26] Swann had previously worked with researchers at the American Society for Psychical Research in New York and had been involved in the first "beacon" or "outbounder" remote viewing experiments conducted there. Author Paul Smith provides an excellent overview of the

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[22] Ibid.

[23] The term "remote viewing" had been coined by Swann in December 1971 following his success in psychically viewing Tucson, AZ during an experiment at the American Society for Psychical Research (ASPR) in New York. Swann had described the city as being very cold and experiencing heavy rains – a counterintuitive description subsequently confirmed by telephone call to the Tucson weather service. For further details of this event, see Smith 2005, 55-57.

[24] Schnabel 1997, 96-97.

[25] Ibid., 99.

[26] Targ and Puthoff 2005, 26.

protocols used in these experiments in his description of outbounder tests eventually pursued by SRI:

> Rather than a specific *way* of remote viewing, the "outbounder" protocol was more a means of focusing a viewer on a target. In the SRI outbounder experiments that followed, a beacon or outbounder team would be given instructions to visit a unique building, a landmark, or some other easily identifiable location, designated as the "site" or "target." Sites would be selected randomly from a pool of sealed opaque envelopes containing instructions to many locations in the Menlo Park–Palo Alto area. As the experiments progressed, the viewer was locked in various laboratory locations, among them soundproof, shielded rooms, and kept fully "blind" to the location and nature of the target. At a prearranged time, the viewer would attempt to describe the location where the outbound team was standing. According to the theory, the outbounders acted as a "beacon" for the viewer to "home in" on.[27]

While Swann recognized that remote viewing was the most robust and repeatable psi phenomenon of clear value to the U.S. intelligence community, he also recognized that there were inherent weaknesses in the existing protocols that would need to be addressed in order to enhance that value. The outbounder methodology was likely to be of little use in addressing intelligence needs, as it would be extremely difficult for an outbounder to gain access to any of the myriads of highly sensitive sites the intelligence community would be interested in learning more about. Additionally, even if one were actually able to place an outbounder at one of these locations, analysts would understandably view the utility of that individual's first-hand impressions of the site as being greater than any impression the remote viewer may have had.

Swann believed that the other targeting method used at the time – basically someone asking the viewer for psychic impressions of "Site X" –presented problems of a different sort: a frontloading of information that often triggered unwarranted cascades of

[27] Paul Smith, *Reading the Enemy's Mind: Inside Star Gate - America's Psychic Espionage Program.* (New York, NY: Tom Doherty Associates, LLC, 2005), 71-72.

imaginative mental associations connected with the phrase "Site X." What Swann believed was needed was a method for accurately targeting the viewer without letting him or her know what the target actually was. One evening in April 1973, in what was destined to be a significant turning point in the field of remote viewing, Swann was drinking scotch and relaxing in his apartment complex's swimming pool when he heard a voice in his head telling him to "Try coordinates."[28] Swann returned to SRI and suggested Puthoff and Targ use geographical coordinates – longitude and latitude – as the means of conveying the remote viewing target to him. As geographical coordinates were purely human constructs, neither scientist could see there being any utility in exploring the matter. In response to threats by Swann to quit the SRI project entirely, small "off the clock" experiments involving the use of coordinates for RV targeting commenced April 23, 1973. By late May, Puthoff found the accuracy demonstrated by Swann sufficient to warrant placing a call to the CIA, although not to the Directorate of Operations' Technical Services Division – the office responsible for overseeing SRI's exploratory contract.[29]

The CIA officer he spoke with, Dr. Christopher "Kit" Green" served in the Agency's Office of Scientific Intelligence and had been tasked by his superiors with keeping an eye on the work being done at SRI in order to better assess the overall importance of Soviet and U.S. psi research.[30] Having many of the same reservations Puthoff and Targ had initially voiced regarding the use of coordinates in remote viewing, Green accepted Puthoff's challenge to provide a blind set of coordinates for Swann to

[28] Schnabel 1997, 101.

[29] Ibid., 101-105.

[30] Ibid., 105-106.

view. Wanting to place yet another layer between himself and the target, Green asked a colleague to select a location and provide him with only the site's geographical coordinates. Having received from Green a set of coordinates matching a site unknown even to Green, Puthoff provided them to Swann. In a fateful spur-of-the-moment decision, Puthoff also elected to provide the same set of coordinates to an acquaintance named Pat Price, a former Burbank, CA police commissioner who considered himself a psychic of some ability. Working separately, Swann and Price provided Puthoff with written impressions of the site identified by the coordinates – both described the presence of some type of facility at the location. Swann provided a detailed drawing of the site – including buildings, roads, contours and compass bearing – and a written description indicating the impression of something underground at the location. Price's response, according to Puthoff,

> …was a five-page running commentary beginning with a description of the area from an altitude of 1,500 feet and ending with a tour through building interiors. The tour was complete with descriptions of equipment, names from desks, and – just to show he was serious – a list of a dozen labelings on file folders locked in a file cabinet.[31]

Amongst the "labelings" Price provided were the words *Flytrap, Minerva, Cueball, 14 Ball, 8 Ball,* and *Rackup*.[32]

Provided by Puthoff with both sets of responses, Green shared them with his colleague – the originator of the coordinate set – for feedback. Told that the coordinates were to his colleague's summer cabin in the Blue Ridge Mountains of West Virginia, Green initially believed the test to be an abject failure. Intrigued by the similarities

[31]Targ and Puthoff 2005, 47-48.

[32] Schnabel 1997, 110.

contained in both Swann's and Price's descriptions, Green decided to drive to his colleague's cabin the following weekend to have a look around. Discovering the existence of an unknown U.S. government installation with "No Trespassing" signs posted around it a few miles from the cabin, Green wondered if Swann and Price might have found this site simply too compelling to ignore. Deciding to pursue the matter further, Green located an official who thought he might know the facility in question, and shared with him the SRI data. As Schnabel relates, within days, Green,

> …found himself at the center of an intense and very hostile security investigation. Ingo Swann, and to a far greater extent Pat Price, had described details of a secret Pentagon facility in the hills near the West Virginia village of Sugar Grove. Ostensibly a U.S. Navy communications base, the site was manned by numerous military and civilian National Security Agency cryptographers, and it included large subterranean facilities tucked into the base of Reddish Knob Mountain, elevation 4,397 feet. Among its secret functions were the interception of international telephone communications, and the control of U.S. spy satellites. Much of it was underground, and nuclear-hardened, because it would be one of the first targets the Soviets hit if war broke out. Swann's and Price's remote-viewing data had been accurate enough to conjure up images, in Pentagon minds, of a massive and criminal leakage of top-secret, codeword-clearance information.[33]

Regarding Swann's performance, Puthoff later noted, "Not only was Swann's description correct in every detail, but even the relative distances on his map were to scale."[34] As for Price's efforts, Dr. Kenneth Kress – the CIA's project manager for the exploratory SRI contract – would later write,

> Pat Price, who had no military or intelligence background, provided a list of project titles associated with current and past activities including one of extreme sensitivity. Also, the codename of the site was provided. Other information

[33] Ibid., 111-112.

[34] Targ and Puthoff 2005, 4.

> concerning the physical layout of the site was accurate. Some information, such as the names of the people at the site, proved incorrect.[35]

Despite having previously dabbled in the funding of small-scale investigations of psi phenomena in the 1950s and 1960s, neither the Pentagon nor CIA believed they had ever identified a single repeatable psi effect worthy of note.[36] The remote viewing of the NSA's Sugar Grove facility in West Virginia, however, represented a genuine watershed, shaking the preconceived notions many key players within the U.S. national security structure had regarding both the validity of psi phenomena and its potential. When the CIA renewed its research contract with Puthoff and SRI for an additional two years, those involved understood the significant role Sugar Grove had played in the decision.[37] What no one involved could have known at the time was that the CIA's two year contract would fund research which the U.S. government was destined to underwrite in one form or another over the next 22 years.

Remote Viewing: 1974-1977

Beginning in February 1974, the SRI remote viewing program was being funded by the CIA through two different offices – the Office of Technical Service (OTS – formerly the Technical Services Division) and the Office of Research and Development (ORD). As Dr. Kenneth Kress – project officer for the new contract – described it later,

> The project proceeded on the premise that the phenomena existed; the objective was to develop and utilize them.
>
> The ORD funds were devoted to basic studies such as the identification of measurable physiological or psychological characteristics of psychic individuals,

[35] Kenneth Kress, "Parapsychology In Intelligence: A Personal Review and Conclusions," *Journal of Scientific Exploration* 13, no. 1 (10/1999): 72-73.

[36] Schnabel 1997, 99.

[37] Smith 2005, 75.

> and the establishment of experimental protocols for validating paranormal abilities. The OTS funds were to evaluate the operational utility of psychic subjects without regard to the detailed understanding of paranormal functioning.[38]

The SRI work being carried out under ORD funding yielded observations that would prove to have significant ramifications for future remote viewing studies and programs. Regarding the identification of "measurable characteristics" for psychic individuals, efforts focused on the medical profiles (e.g. medical history, blood chemistries, electroencephalogram), neuropsychological profiles (e.g. Halstead-Wepman Aphasia Screening Test, Verbal Concept Attainment Test, Buschke Memory Test), and psychological profiles (e.g. Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, Thematic Apperception Test) of two groups of individuals identified either as "experienced" (those having already participated in successful ESP experiments) or as "learners" (people with no prior experience with ESP experiments). Following completion of the various profile tests, both groups participated in remote viewing experiments using "outbounder" protocols. The positive results of the outbounder tests and SRI's failure to identify physical and personality characteristics separating "psychics from non-psychics" ultimately led the research team to question whether a dichotomy between the two exists at all.[39] Following further observations of successful remote viewing being performed by other "non-psychics," Puthoff and Targ concluded "…that remote viewing may be a latent and widely distributed perceptual ability."[40]

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[38] Kress 1999, 73.

[39] Targ and Puthoff 2005, 69-72.

[40] Ibid., 89-90.

OTS funding – focused on evaluating the operational capabilities of remote viewing – also yielded a number of impressive results, highly suggestive of significant operational utility. The "first intelligence collection operation using parapsychology" took place in July 1974 and involved Pat Price being given the geographical coordinates of a location that was described to him only as a Soviet Research, Development and Engineering test site.[41] Known to Air Force Intelligence as "P-NUTS" (Possible Nuclear Underground Test Site) and to the CIA as URDF-3 (Unidentified Research and Development Facility-3), the site was located in the Kazakh Republic adjacent to the Semipalatinsk nuclear test area.[42] As Paul Smith describes Price's performance,

> …the results were astonishing. "I am lying on my back on the roof of a two- or three-story brick building," Price declared. "…There's the most amazing thing. There's a giant gantry crane moving back and forth over my head…it seems to be riding on a track with one rail on each side of the building." Within the building "on" which he found himself, he reported an assembly room where a huge "sixty-foot-diameter metal sphere" was being put together from "thick metal gores" which resembled segments of a giant orange peel. The workers were having trouble putting the gores together to form the sphere, Price reported, and needed to find some low-temperature way to keep the gores from warping during assembly. Price also reported a cluster of tall, round-topped, silo-sized compressed-gas canisters.
>
> Price's results were soon evaluated. Highly classified satellite imagery confirmed the presence of a huge, multistory gantry crane that closely matched the sketch Price had made of the unusual structure. The crane did indeed ride on two widely separated rails, and did in fact pass over at least one two- to three-story building. Price's sketches of the gas cylinders also matched almost exactly what the satellites saw. But no sixty-foot sphere was anywhere to be seen in the material provided SRI as feedback.[43]

Smith notes that three years following Price's session, the periodical *Aviation Week & Space Technology* published an article May 2, 1977 reporting that reconnaissance

[41] Kress 1999, 74-75.

[42] Schnabel 1997, 121.

[43] Smith 2005, 76.

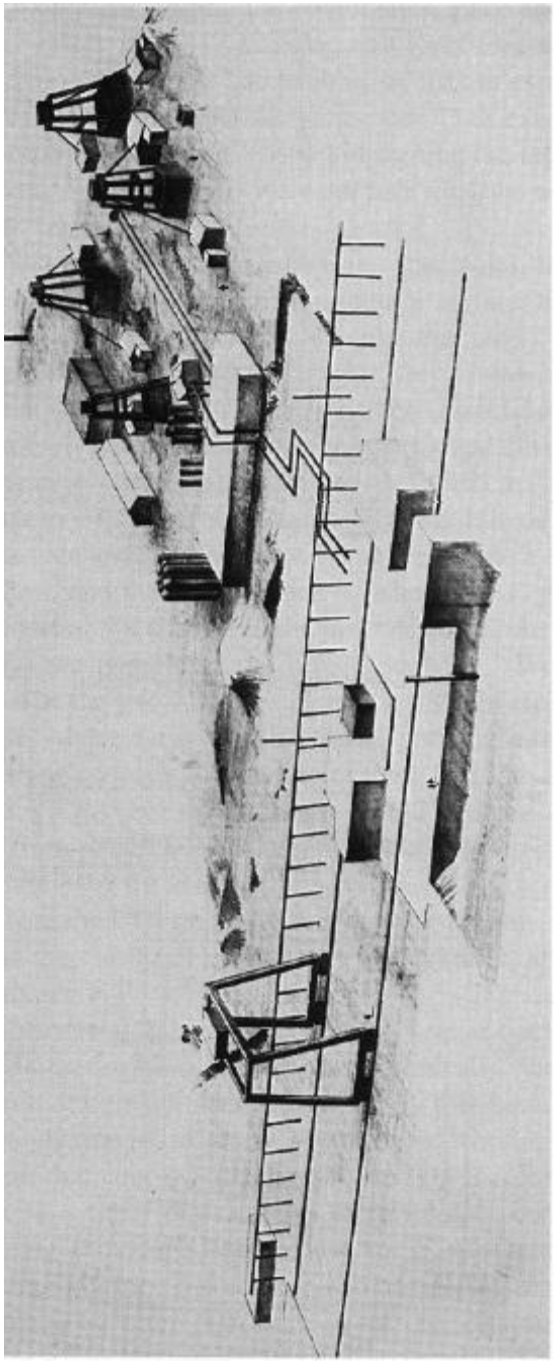


Fig. 1a. CIA artist tracing of a satellite image of the URDF-3 site at Semipalatinsk.

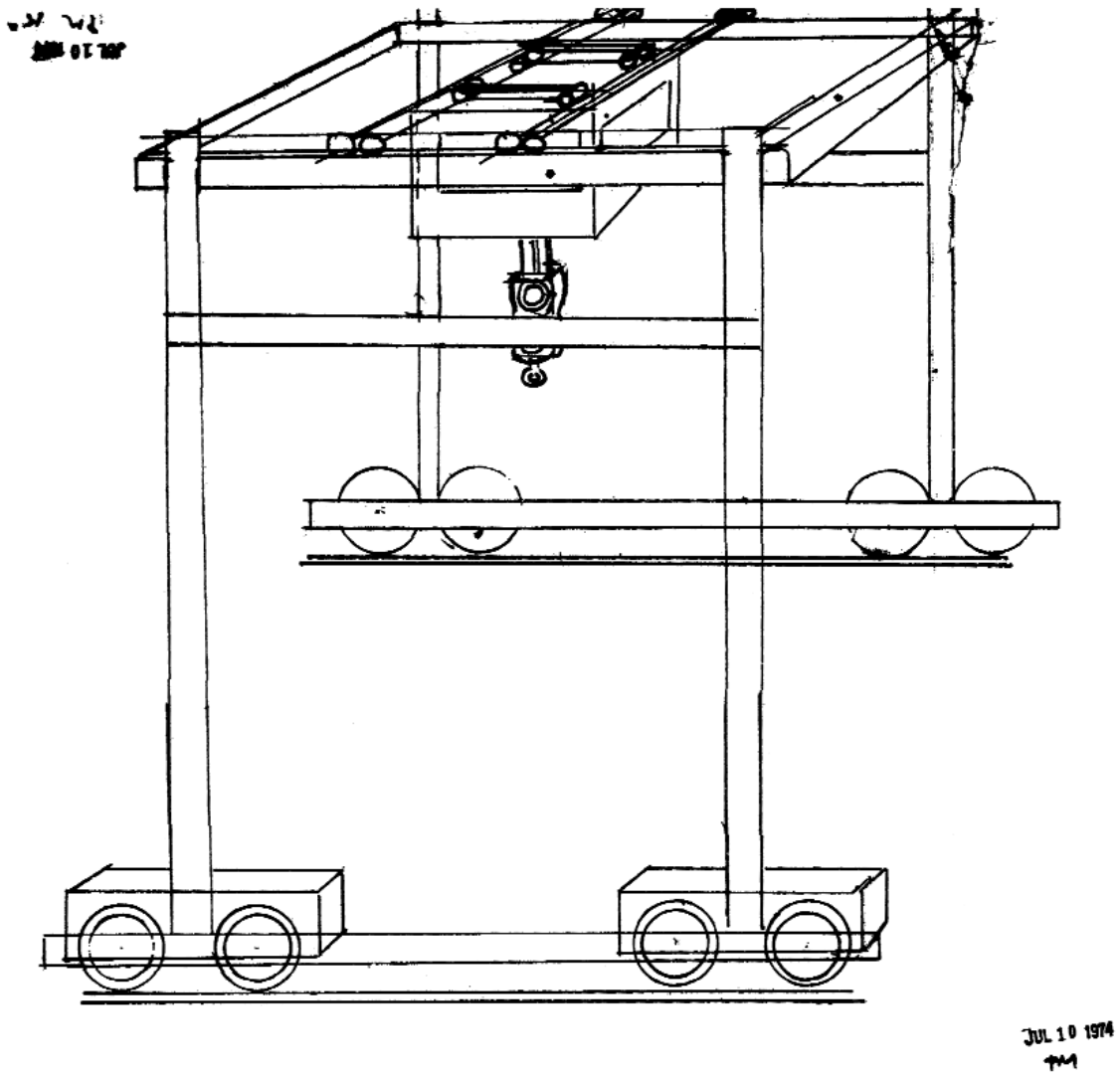


Fig. 1b. Pat Price's drawing of the gantry crane he remote viewed at the URDF-3 site.

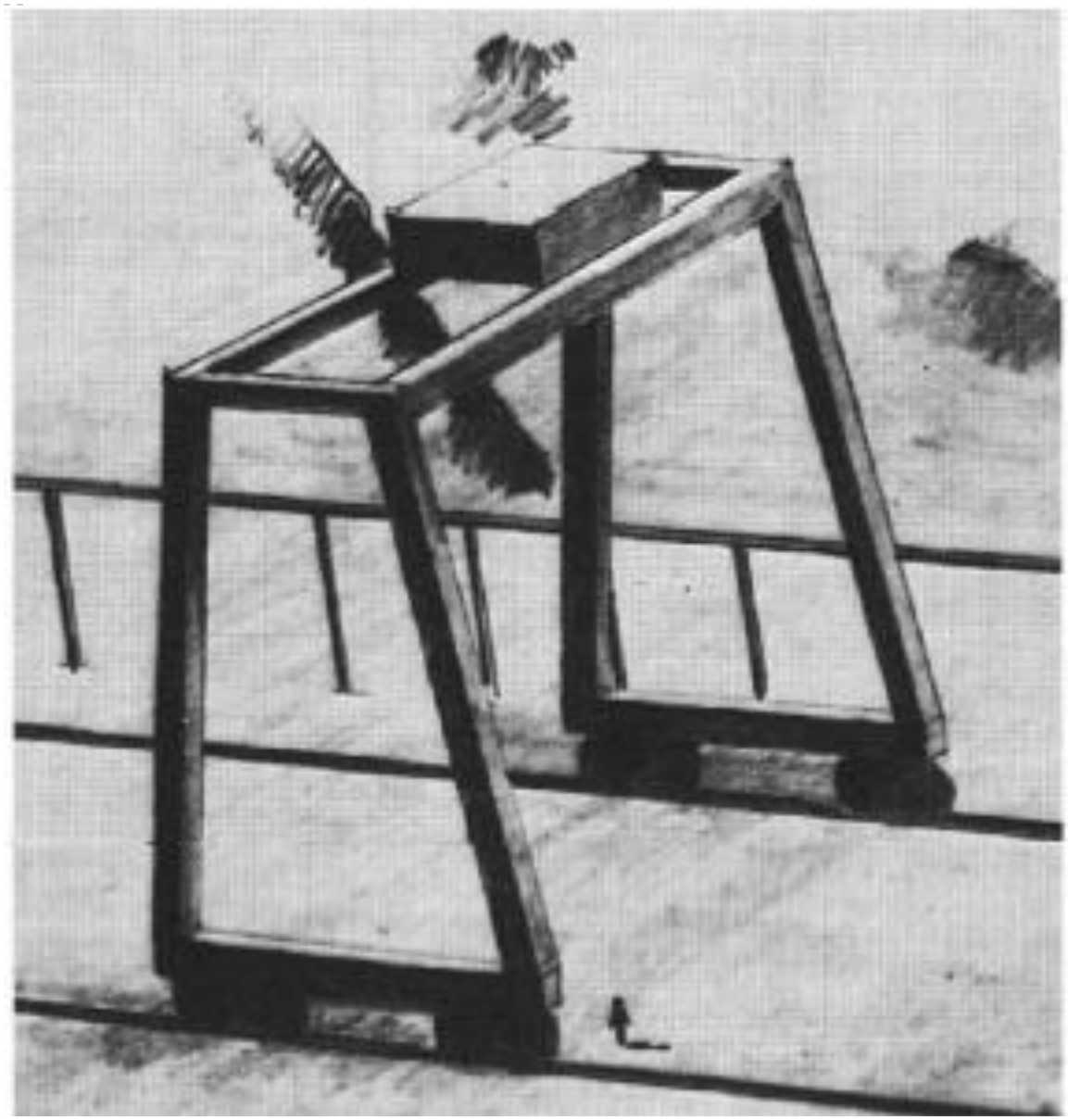


Fig. 1c. CIA artist rendering of URDF-3 crane based on satellite imagery.

satellites had imaged Soviet engineers at the site burying large spheres "about 18 meters (57.8 feet) in diameter. According to the report, the spheres were made from "huge extremely thick steel gores" which had been manufactured in a nearby building.[44]

Kress describes in brief another operational test involving Pat Price remote viewing the interiors of secured foreign buildings – embassies to be exact. According to Kress,

> The interiors of two foreign embassies were known to the audio teams who had made entries several years previously. Price was to visit these embassies by his remote viewing capability, locate the coderooms, and come up with information that might allow a member of the audio team to determine whether Price was likely to be of operational use in subsequent operations. Price was given operationally acceptable data such as the exterior photographs and the geographical coordinates of the embassies.
>
> In both cases, Price correctly located the coderooms. He produced copious data, such as the location of interior doors and colors of marble stairs and fireplaces that were accurate and specific. As usual, much was also vague and incorrect. Regardless, the operations officer involved concluded, "It is my considered opinion that this technique — whatever it is — offers definite operational possibilities.[45]

Schnabel notes that the test Kress describes involved Chinese embassies located in Africa, and was actually meant to serve as a "condition" for Price being used to determine the unknown location of a coderoom in another Chinese embassy. Despite his success in completing the terms of the "condition" set, the office charged with determining the coderoom's location chose not to use Price for the task – largely due to fears over what became widely known as "the giggle factor."[46]

It was to be an unfortunate comingling of this "giggle factor" with the harsher political realities of the mid-1970s that ultimately brought an end to the CIA's direct

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[44] Ibid.

[45] Kress 1999, 78.

[46] Schnabel 1997, 176-180.

involvement in funding further exploration of remote viewing. As could be imagined, given the variance in the stated goals of ORD and OTS funding of remote viewing studies, the two offices frequently found themselves at odds over SRI's findings, with ORD finding fault – sometimes rightly, sometimes wrongly – with SRI methodologies and OTS focusing solely on the potential operational threat and utility of remote viewing, "without regard to the detailed understanding of paranormal functioning."[47] This internal battle was – in turn – waged on the shifting political ground created by the investigations and findings of the Church Committee in the U.S. Senate and its House parallel, the Pike Committee – both brought on as a result of Seymour Hersh's December 22, 1974 *New York Times* article alleging large-scale acts of domestic spying by the CIA.[48] As Paul Smith notes, this, combined with the subsequent uncovering of elements of the decades-long CIA study of "behavior modification" and "mind control" methods known as MKULTRA, caused the CIA to eliminate,

> …any questionable, marginally legal, or politically sensitive project, even if it hadn't been found out by congressional investigators. One of the victims was the fledgling remote viewing program. About halfway through 1975, SRI was informed that the CIA would no longer finance explorations into the extrasensory realm.[49]

Demonstrating what may have been accidental foresight, the CIA began discussions as early as 1973 with a number of other members of the intelligence community regarding the SRI's psi research, in order to both inform and determine the

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[47] Kress 1999, 73-78.

[48] L. Britt Snider, *The Agency and the Hill: CIA's Relationship with Congress, 1946-2004* (Washington, DC: Center for the Study of Intelligence, CIA, 2008), 234-35.

[49] Smith 2005, 83-84.

level of interest the subject matter elicited – interest which might translate into eventual funding. Discussions took place with offices within the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the Army Materiel Command, the Navy, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), with modest levels of interest being shown by all and a minor contract eventually being funded by the Navy – although that too eventually fell prey to many of the same concerns that were driving the CIA away.[50]

Shortly after the CIA completely withdrew its funding of SRI's work, a new benefactor was found within the intelligence community. Following discussions with both Puthoff and Targ regarding the state of SRI's research, the Air Force Foreign Technology Division (FTD) located at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, agreed to fund SRI's work on an exploratory basis.[51] FTD's contract, combined with additional funding resulting from the open publication of certain unclassified details of SRI's research, meant that exploration of remote viewing continued.[52] While those involved at the time might argue that remote viewing research "limped along" under the resulting tight budgets, the work done under these circumstances still yielded data of significant value, including SRI's comprehensive refutation of one of the "most popular" Soviet models of psi functioning, which envisioned "extremely low frequency" (ELF) waves playing an important role in psychic data transmission.[53]

[50] Kress 1999, 80-81.

[51] Smith 2005, 85.

[52] Ibid., 85-87

[53] Targ and Harary 1984, 47-51.

Remote Viewing: 1977-1981

The open publication of certain unclassified elements of SRI's work – combined with a broader awareness developing within the intelligence community of the classified work being performed – resulted in a degree of interest being generated within the office of the U.S. Army's Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI), specifically regarding the potential threat remote viewing might pose to operational security (OPSEC).[54, 55] Tasked with keeping an eye on the issue of remote viewing, then-Lt. F. Holmes "Skip" Atwater selected the code name *Gondola Wish* for his new project, which consisted at that time of little more than a modest travel budget and a safe for Atwater's files.[56]

Following meetings with a knowledgeable DIA official and Dale Graff, the civilian employee and physicist most responsible for the Air Force FTD funding of SRI's work, Atwater believed there was compelling evidence that remote viewing could represent a genuine OPSEC threat. Based upon this assessment, Atwater proposed that the Army's Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) create a small "in-house" remote viewing team in order to begin examination of the perceived threat – approval to proceed was quickly granted by Brigadier General John A. Smith, INSCOM's deputy commander.[57] Receiving expert input from both Puthoff and Targ regarding how best to

[54] By this time, Puthoff and Targ had published peer-reviewed articles regarding unclassified elements of their psi-related research in both *Nature* (October, 1974) and the *Proceedings of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers* (March, 1976), and had published the first edition of their book *Mind Reach* in 1977.

[55] Schnabel 1997, 11-13.

[56] Smith 2005, 107.

[57] Ibid., 108.

identify potential remote viewers, Atwater proposed to begin the process of selecting individuals for INSCOM's remote viewing team. Following the addition of a higher-ranked officer – Major Watt – to oversee both the project and nascent RV team, the project was renamed *Grill Flame* in October, 1978 and began the task of identifying remote viewers. Eventually, six viewers – out of a starting pool of 117 military and civilian INSCOM personnel – were selected for assignment to a unit known as Detachment G (Det G), to be located at Fort Meade, which the ACSI determined would be "the focal point for all Army involvement in parapsychology and remote viewing.[58]

By 1978, U.S. government funded research into the remote viewing phenomenon had bifurcated – after a fashion. Work continued to be performed by the research team at SRI using funding from a number of sources, including the DIA's Scientific and Technical Intelligence Directorate (DT), and the Air Force's FTD office at Wright-Patterson – even the Army's Det G operation provided some funding to SRI.[59] While all of this was occurring with SRI, however, at least two of these funding sources – FTD and ACSI/INSCOM – were actively engaged in developing their own in-house remote viewing capabilities, although FTD's effort was less formalized than the Army's Fort Meade operation.[60]

Despite the apparent "Balkanization" of remote viewing efforts at the time, cooperation between the various elements remained excellent, probably due at least in part to the development of a pioneering esprit de corps among the groups. In one well known case from 1978, remote viewers from both SRI and FTD were tasked with

[58] Ibid., 109-110.

[59] Schnabel 1997, 219.

[60] Ibid., 217-218.

locating a Soviet Tupolev-22 that had crashed in the dense jungle of Zaire. Using elements of descriptions from both groups' remote viewers, Graff – working out of Wright-Patterson – succeeded in identifying the location of the downed craft to within three miles of its actual location, which turned out to be nearly seventy miles from the initially presumed search area.[61] Many years later, former President Carter would relate elements of this event in response to a question about "remarkable occurrences" during his time in the White House.[62]

The year 1979 was quite significant for the U.S.-funded exploration of remote viewing. In what would prove to be an important decision that would secure the remote viewing program's continued existence into the 1990s, the DIA's Scientific and Technical Intelligence Directorate – headed by Dr. Jack Vorona – was chosen to coordinate both funding and tasking for all subsequent remote viewing efforts, placing them under the now collective program name *Grill Flame*.[63] Schnabel writes of an added benefit of this decision, noting, "The integration of the project also provided attractive political cover for other agencies that might have been embarrassed to fund psychic spying directly."[64] Puthoff himself would later refer to Dr. Vorona as "the godfather of remote viewing," due to his success in shielding *Grill Flame* from both the vagaries of intelligence community "sandbox politics" and the threats to funding levels that arose

[61] Ibid., 217-219.

[62] Smith 2005, 100-101.

[63] Schnabel 1997, 220.

[64] Ibid.

from them.[65] It was for much the same reason that Swann would later call Vorona "the super god in the sky over us."[66]

While Vorona and the DIA were able to stabilize matters for the larger remote viewing program, a number of problems arose regarding the Army's Det G group. In direct response to fallout from revelations regarding the CIA's MKULTRA program, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services was tasked with developing guidelines for the use of "human subjects" in U.S. funded research – guidelines that the Department of Defense followed. A lengthy battle – beginning in 1979 – ensued over whether or not Det G's training of remote viewers constituted "human use" as defined under guidelines, with official determination regarding the issue switching on several occasions.[67] With the final determination rendered that RV training did involve "human use," it took until February 1, 1982 to gain approval from the Secretary of the Army to continue Det G operations – continuation of funding up until that point had required a series of interim approvals by the Undersecretary of the Army responsible for R&D programs.[68]

Another funding crisis of historical significance for the Army program began March 5, 1980, with the issuance by then-Undersecretary of Defense for Research, Development, and Acquisition, William Perry, of a memorandum cutting P-6 R&D funding for "programs aimed at scientific demonstration of parapsychology."[69] Fortunately for those serving in Det G, the ACSI eventually determined that the majority

[65] Harold Puthoff, telephone interview by author, May 13, 2010.

[66] Schnabel 1997, 220.

[67] Smith 2005, 116.

[68] Ibid., 117.

[69] Ibid., 118.

of the work being performed by that group constituted "foreign intelligence collection," thereby opening the way for funding to resume using allocations from the Army's share of the National Foreign Intelligence Program (NFIP).[70] Additionally, the ACSI transferred authority over Det G directly to the commanding general of INSCOM, in hopes that it might further insulate the program from future budgetary interference.[71]

Throughout this time period, a number of remote viewing taskings yielded striking results. One of these operations was instigated by a security office attempting to ascertain whether the Soviet parapsychology program presented an actual threat to the security envelope protecting a highly-classified project – the XM-1 tank. The results of the test must have presented a distinctly unsettling challenge to those charged with protecting these projects.

Those tasking Det G with remote viewing the XM-1 began by placing the prototype tank within the confines of an aircraft hangar located at a U.S. base. Skip Atwater, having been presented with a sealed envelope containing a black-and-white photograph of the hangar, selected Joe McMoneagle to be the viewer. As described by Schnabel,

> Atwater put McMoneagle on the target, and McMoneagle started to describe a keyboard-like instrument attached to some kind of computer. There was an optical system involved, too. And there were large explosive shells. McMoneagle eventually moved his perception back a few paces and saw the tank. Though he had no prior knowledge of the XM-1's design, and apparently did not even know that he was perceiving the tank, he eventually produced a detailed engineer-style drawing, with a cutaway diagram of the laser-targeting system, the ammunition storage and feeder, the turret lockdowns, the main gun assembly, and the special high-tech armor. McMoneagle would later declare it to have been one

[70] Ibid.

[71] Ibid.

> of his best sessions ever. What the XM-1 project's security people thought was never recorded, but they never came back.[72]

In another Det G session, McMoneagle was tasked by the NSC to remote view an enormous building located at the Soviet Baltic naval base of Severodvinsk – a building that some analysts within the intelligence community believed was hiding construction of what would be the Soviet Union's first aircraft carrier.[73, 74] However, as described by Smith,

> …Joe did not find an aircraft carrier hiding in there. Instead, he described the construction of a massive submarine. As Joe reckoned the dimensions, the vessel was bigger by a significant factor than any other submarine known to man. Joe described it as having a bulbous nose and an unusually broad and flattened stern, and identified a set of missile tubes that seemed to be located in *front* of the conning tower. All of this ran contrary to known submarine design standards. Joe was tasked to give an estimate of when this vessel would see the light of day. He reported that when he viewed the immense building several months in the future, it was empty.
>
> The analysts scoffed at the data. It made no sense according to conventional wisdom. And, since the information came from such a controversial source, there was no reason why they should believe it.
>
> But then, months later, satellite photos showed an immense submarine being fitted out alongside the quay in the Soviet naval yard. Sometime in the recent past, the Soviets had dug a channel between the harbor and the end of the construction building, and had floated the *Typhoon*, the world's largest submarine, out to its moorings. The *Typhoon* was long – about 560 feet from nose to tail – and had a flat, splayed-out stern, reminiscent of a whale's flukes. Unlike most previous NATO and Warsaw Pact subs, its conning tower (or "sail") was set far back, closer to the stern than the bow. It had a blunt, bulbous nose, and a double row of missile tubes in *front* of the conning tower, unlike U.S. submarines, whose Polaris and Trident missiles were housed in the aft portion of the vessel. Joe had been right.[75]

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[72] Schnabel 1997, 50-51.

[73] Ibid., 70.

[74] Smith 2005, 128.

[75] Ibid., 128-129.

During this same period of time, the results of one particular RV-related experiment would contribute – according to some – to the end of Air Force FTD funding of SRI. Fearful that a Soviet nuclear first strike might cripple any effective U.S. counterstrike, the Air Force had decided by 1979 to push for administration support for a railroad "shell game" plan for the new MX intercontinental ballistic missile. Under this scheme, each of the proposed 200 MX missiles would be placed on its own railroad line – each containing twenty-three "garaged" silos. Each missile would then be shuttled secretly back and forth between the silos, from where they might be launched. By assuming that it would require two nuclear warheads to ensure the destruction of each potentially armed MX silo, the Air Force believed that the Soviets would be forced to expend at least 9,200 warheads in order to be sure of destroying all 200 of the MX missiles.[76] The Air Force set up a "Red Team" exercise located at Norton AFB in California, tasked with determining if the Soviets might be able to devise novel methods of defeating the MX shell game. With the group having already looked at numerous potential methods the Soviets might use – including the possibility of using satellites to track cockroaches attracted to materials found in missiles – FTD's Dale Graff believed the team might benefit from talking to Puthoff regarding remote viewing.[77] Puthoff briefed the team at Norton AFB on the results of an experimental study that Dr. Charles Tart from the University of California-Davis had carried out under contract to SRI. In this experiment, Tart had identified ten individuals with better-than-average "hit" rates on ESP card tests and had tasked them with identifying – in a computer-simulated shell game – which shell out of ten concealed a single hidden marble. As chance would dictate

[76] Schnabel 1997, 224-225.

[77] Ibid., 225.

a 10 percent "hit" rate, Tart was able to identify one woman in particular who was able to correctly identify the shell with the marble an impressive 25 percent of the time. Using an error correction strategy which consisted of having each individual guess the location of the marble 25 times and sifting the responses for the shell most often chosen, Tart was then able to correctly identify which shell contained the marble – a stunning 20 times in a row.[78, 79] Puthoff noted that the data suggested the Soviets – using an equally skilled group – would be able to correctly identify which silo housed an MX missile with an 80 percent accuracy within fifty guesses – in essence, defeating a multi-billion dollar system in a matter of hours.[80] While it is doubtful that these findings played a significant role in the final decision to scrap the MX shell game scheme, it is believed that the results were briefed to President Carter, who chose to leave the final decision to President Reagan.[81] What is less doubtful – according to those involved at the time – is the connection between this incident and the ending of FTD's association with the SRI program. Seeing the writing on the wall at Wright-Patterson, Dale Graff left FTD and went to work for Dr. Vorona at his DIA offices.[82]

Remote Viewing: 1981-1986

While efforts by SRI researchers to gain a better understanding of the remote viewing phenomenon and to achieve greater control over its application continued

[78] Ibid., 225-226.

[79] In a May 15, 2010 interview conducted by this author, Dr. Puthoff stated that the odds against chance of Tart's results stood at 10^{12} to 1.

[80] Schnabel 1997, 226-227.

[81] Harold Puthoff, telephone interview by author, May 15, 2010.

[82] Ibid.

throughout the life of the program, Puthoff and Swann's development of the Coordinate Remote Viewing (CRV) methodology during this period stands as one of SRI's most significant advancements. Having identified the "noise-to-signal" problem early on as the most serious issue facing remote viewers – himself included – Swann convinced Puthoff that it might be possible to improve remote viewing results through the use of a carefully ordered structure or protocol designed to enable the viewer to recognize the differences between useful "signal" and deleterious "noise."[83]

Somewhat unique among the remote viewers known to SRI, Swann was not only focused on pushing the boundaries of his remote viewing abilities, he was also deeply fascinated by the internal processes involved in remote viewing. Puthoff would later state that Swann's greatest contribution to the field of remote viewing was not his preternatural psychic abilities, but rather his prodigious capacity for introspection.[84] Using this latter talent, Swann painstakingly "mapped" the internal processes he encountered when remote viewing a set of targeting coordinates. While "noise" could be the result of something as understandable as environmental distractions (e.g. disruptive lights/sounds, worries about money or relationships, etc.), the most commonly encountered type of "noise" seemed to be a result of the viewer attempting to prematurely analyze the impressions experienced during RV. Coining the term "Analytical Overlay" (AOL) to describe the phenomenon, Swann and Puthoff believed it to be the result of left-brain verbal and analytical functioning intruding on what appeared to be an essentially

[83] Schnabel 1997, 238.

[84] Harold Puthoff, telephone interview by author, May 13, 2010.

right-brain pattern recognition function on display during remote viewing.[85, 86] This right-brain vice left-brain functioning during remote viewing sessions was particularly noticeable when viewers routinely were unable to correctly label easily identifiable drawings they had made while remote viewing – for example, being unable to come up with the word "butterfly" when asked to identify their own clearly drawn picture of one.[87] Puthoff would later confirm with neuroscientists that this type of behavior was entirely consistent with the characteristics of individuals suffering from specific forms of damage to the left-hemisphere of the brain – implying that the left-hemisphere was essentially being "disengaged" during successful remote viewing sessions.[88]

Swann believed that he could identify distinct "stages" that occurred during the process of remote viewing – stages that corresponded to the form and manner in which RV data/impressions impinged on the awareness of the viewer. Swann termed this data stream the "signal line" and the passage through which it traveled to the viewer's awareness the "aperture."[89] By being aware of the order in which these "stages" tended to appear and the types and amounts of information the signal line carried through a gradually widening aperture – by understanding the *structure* of CRV – Swann believed that remote viewers could learn to correctly separate the noise of AOL from the actual signal.[90] By the end of the program, Puthoff and Swann had identified six distinct stages

[85] Schnabel 1997, 237.

[86] Smith 2005, 235.

[87] Harold Puthoff, telephone interview by author, May 13, 2010.

[88] Schnabel 1997, 237-238.

[89] Smith 2005, 165-167.

[90] Ingo Swann, interview by author, April 17, 2010.

within the architecture of CRV, although Swann believes that there exist additional stages to be identified and fully explored.[91] In 1982, Swann began training two Det G personnel – Thomas McNear and Robert Cowart – using the new CRV method.[92]

In early October, 1982, another blow was delivered to Det G's bottom line – NFIP funding of *Grill Flame* activities had been ordered "terminated" by directive of Congress. In response to this, Major General Albert Stubblebine – commander of INSCOM – directed on December 2, 1982, that funding be continued using non-NFIP funds legally at his disposal for use in supporting INSCOM's mission.[93] Having assumed funding responsibility for the program, INSCOM ended the project's *Grill Flame* codename and replaced it with *Center Lane*. Following on the heels of the new codename, Det G was renamed the "Security Systems Planning Division" (SSPD) and was placed under Fort Meade's 902nd Military Intelligence Group. Importantly, this change also signaled a tightening of the security envelope around the newly-christened *Center Lane* program – on June 15, 1983, the Secretary of the Army authorized placement of the program within its own special access program (SAP).[94]

Due to funding issues that would continue to plague the program despite INSCOM's new role, training for the "second generation" of Fort Meade viewers proceeded in fits and starts over the next few years. As a direct result this off-again, on-again funding regimen, Tom McNear's time spent training in CRV with Swann was

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[91] Ibid.

[92] Smith 2005, 121.

[93] Ibid., 119-120.

[94] Ibid., 120-122.

forcibly stretched out over a two year period – significantly longer than it would have taken had funding streams been steady.[95, 96] While *Center Lane* was able to fund limited training for a number of other viewers with Swann, only McNear completed training in all six CRV stages, even exploring with Swann elements of a seventh stage.[97] Swann would later praise McNear as having developed into a better remote viewer than even himself.[98] As a result, McNear was given much of the responsibility for completing the training of the remaining second generation viewers through the six established CRV stages.[99]

It is worth noting that much of the burden for operational viewing that took place during this time fell to the remaining members of the original cadre of Fort Meade remote viewers, as well as to a number of viewers working at SRI who assisted from time to time with taskings.[100] One example of this continued cooperation between the military and civilian elements of the program occurred in December 1981. While tasked with identifying the whereabouts of the terrorist known as "Carlos the Jackal," SRI remote viewer Gary Langford described something out of the ordinary that he believed would happen within a few days time. Langford described a group of "Mediterranean-looking"

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[95] Tom McNear, interview by author, April 11, 2010.

[96] The second of the two viewers first sent for CRV training, Rob Cowart, had to withdraw due to medical issues unrelated to training. For additional information, see Schnabel 1997, 288.

[97] Tom McNear, interview by author, April 11, 2010.

[98] In an interview with Ingo Swann, conducted by this author on April 17, 2010, Swann described details of McNear's "final test," during which he successfully identified 19 of 19 targets, even correctly naming four of the sites.

[99] Tom McNear, interview by author, April 11, 2010.

[100] Schnabel 1997, 281-288.

kidnappers driving a blue van with white markings on its side. In the back of the van, Langford stated there was a large trunk containing a bound and gagged "high-level" U.S. official. Despite Langford's belief that there was nothing anyone could do to stop this event from happening, Puthoff passed the information to both the DIA and FBI, prompting issuance of a secret alert warning certain U.S. agencies of a possible kidnapping threat. Several days later, on December 17, 1981, General James Dozier was kidnapped from his apartment in Verona, Italy by members of the Italian "Red Brigades" terrorist group. According to information gleaned later, the terrorists had placed a bound and gagged Dozier in a large trunk and had made their getaway in a blue van with white markings on the side.[101] As the search for Dozier moved forward, Joe McMoneagle was tasked at Fort Meade with remote viewing the general's whereabouts. McMoneagle described Dozier as being held in a second floor room in the city of Padua, sketching in detail both the room Dozier was being held in and a distinctive storefront façade he said existed on the building's ground floor. Forty-two days after his kidnapping, Dozier was located by means of intensive SIGINT and HUMINT operations – not via remote viewing. That said, many within the intelligence community were struck by the fact that Dozier was indeed found in Padua and was rescued from the exact second-story room in a building with the exact same storefront façade described earlier by McMoneagle.[102]

While General Stubblebine's level of interest in the *Center Lane* program appeared to have been quite high from the very beginning, his overall interest in paranormal phenomena had begun earlier, during his tour as commander of the Army

[101] Ibid., 282-284.

[102] Ibid., 285-286.

intelligence school at Fort Huachuca in Arizona.[103] Due in large part to his strong personal affinity for the "human potential" subject matter, Stubblebine created a "High Performance Task Force" within INSCOM to better "promote new projects in…alternative areas."[104] Counted among these projects were motivational training exercises utilizing "neuro-linguistic programming" methodologies, performance training for marksmen and linguists using "altered-state" and "visualization" techniques, and the exploration of human potential via the ancient practice of firewalking.[105] Intrigued by work that was being done on "out-of-body" (OBE) experiences at the privately run Monroe Institute near Charlottesville, Virginia, Stubblebine ordered the development of a five-day course of study – known as "Rapid Acquisition Personal Training" (RAPT) – at the institute, ostensibly designed to raise awareness and promote the kind of lateral thinking Stubblebine himself was known for.[106, 107] Using *Center Lane*'s Human Use certification as the covering mechanism for sending not only remote viewers but numerous other INSCOM staff to the institute for RAPT, Stubblebine unknowingly set the stage for both his and *Center Lane*'s eventual downfall. In early January 1984, an INSCOM lieutenant with a history of psychiatric problems somehow slipped past the program's medical screening process and was allowed to participate in a RAPT session, during the course of which he suffered a severe psychotic break.[108] While a subsequent

[103] Ibid., 275-276.

[104] Ibid., 276.

[105] Ibid.

[106] Ibid., 278.

[107] Smith 2005, 142-143.

[108] Ibid., 198-200.

investigation determined that neither the Monroe Institute nor RAPT safeguards were at fault, then-ACSI General William Odom used the incident during high-level meetings to criticize what he and others believed was a "loss of perspective" by Stubblebine. Faced with the prospect of engaging in a protracted internal battle with Odom that could damage INSCOM, Stubblebine chose to retire.[109, 110]

While Stubblebine's replacement as INSCOM commander – General Harry Soyster – was intent on eliminating the remnants of Stubblebine's tenure, he found ending *Center Lane* to be a difficult matter, due to the Secretary of the Army's prior imprimatur.[111] Rather than risk facing the bureaucratic and political ire that might arise from actually killing *Center Lane*, Soyster recognized the efficacy of passing the program off to another agency willing to take over. Over several months, a number of interested agencies were identified, including the CIA, NSA, DIA, and the Army Medical Research and Development Command located at Fort Detrick in Maryland.[112] By October 1984, a signed Memorandum of Agreement authorizing the transfer of *Center Lane* assets and people was in DIA's possession, although it would be a further 15 months before DIA would assume full control of the program, changing its name to *Sun Streak* in the process.[113]

Changes in personnel are a natural occurrence in any operation – the effects of illness, acrimony, transfers, and retirements inevitably alter organizational charts. During

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[109] Schnabel 1997, 315-316.

[110] Smith 2005, 220.

[111] Ibid., 225.

[112] Ibid., 226.

[113] Ibid., 237, 269.

this time period, SRI and the Fort Meade unit both proved to be no exception. Puthoff, Swann, and Targ all departed SRI, although not at the same time or for the same reasons. With the retirement of Joe McMoneagle in September 1984, the last of the first generation Fort Meade viewers departed the program, leaving behind a second generation of viewers being trained in the use of Puthoff and Swann's CRV methodology.[114, 115] Losses occurred even among this second generation – most notably with the 1985 transfer of Tom McNear to an assignment outside of the program.[116] While somewhat extreme during this time frame, personnel flux would continue to play a significant role in both the direction and health of the program throughout its remaining years.

Remote Viewing: 1987-1995

This period covers most of the remote viewing program's time under formal DIA control – which actually began in January of 1986 – up through its eventual cancellation in 1995. Throughout most of this time, the military and civilian viewers in the program continued to work both operational and research-focused targets. Out of hundreds of sessions run on myriads of targets during these years, one event – occurring in 1987 – stands out as a superb exemplar of the potential that remote viewing was believed to possess by its supporters.

Beginning in 1985, the Fort Meade unit started to "encrypt" the geographical coordinates they were giving as targets to their remote viewers, ostensibly as a method to

[114] Paul Smith, "A Brief Time Line of Remote Viewing History," Remote Viewing Instructional Services, http://www.rviewer.com/RV_Timeline.html (accessed May 10, 2010).

[115] McMoneagle would eventually go to work for SRI on the civilian side of the program, while one of the other first generation viewers, Mel Riley, would return to the Fort Meade unit in 1986 and receive training in the new CRV architecture – becoming one of the few viewers proficient in nearly all remote viewing methods. For further details, see Smith 2005, 293-294.

[116] Tom McNear, interview by author, April 11, 2010.

aid the viewer in avoiding unwanted AOL that might arise from recognition of the general whereabouts of a particular coordinate. It was revealed later that there had never been any actual encryption of the coordinates, only use of a random number generator to replace the numbers in the coordinates. While there was confusion as to how this could possibly work, it appeared to work surprisingly well.[117, 118] It seemed to those involved that merely the act of providing the viewer with something representative of the "intention" of the tasker was often sufficient to enable accurate targeting.[119]

Using this "random number equals intention" structure in early 1987, viewer Paul Smith was given a set of "coordinates" and found himself describing what seemed to be a warship at night passing through waters bordering a flat and sandy stretch of land. As Smith describes in his own words,

> Then the session took an unusual turn.
>
> I recorded something that I sensed occurred as a preliminary to the main event – a glare, a bright flash, and a noise I spelled out as "zzzzzzzttttt." The sound came from a metal cylinder with something "like wings" on it that were short and stubby. The cylinder was "dropped and left," and turned this way and that in the air. It was "distant, then approaching." I sensed that the people on the vessel knew the object was coming at them, and I recorded their reaction: "unreal – can't believe this is going on." They milled around in confusion, unsure of what to do. They were "watching, anticipating, cowering," as the object moved somewhat erratically towards them.
>
> And then the people and the moving cylinder "seem somehow to come together. The structure/vessel shivers, shakes, quivers." There were a "clang," a "screech," and a "metallic squeal" that set my teeth on edge. I sensed the vessel tip. There was smoke, and something falling. Dented, broken structure and parts

[117] Smith 2005, 276-277.

[118] In a telephone interview with Hal Puthoff, conducted by this author on May 13, 2010, he related that he was able in 1980 to direct SRI remote viewer Keith Harary to a superb viewing of the circumstances facing American hostage Richard Queen being held in Iran, simply by stating the word "Target." For more information regarding this particular event, please see Schnabel 1997, 257-258.

[119] Smith 2005, 277-279.

> were "tangled about." People lay amid metal debris and heat. The image came to me of hoses snaking across flat surfaces and through openings, accompanied by raised, frantic voices. The vessel was changed, I wrote. It was now "crumpled or bent."[120]

Following the end of the session, Smith's monitor suggested that he had "missed" the intended target. As it turned out, the "target" had actually been a type of open search, seeking to identify the "most important thing" that they needed to know at this point in time. Putting it to the back of his mind, Smith was surprised three days later when interest in this session skyrocketed – the U.S.S. *Stark* had just been reported struck by two Iraqi-fired Exocet missiles while patrolling in the Persian Gulf after 9 P.M. local time. While both missiles hit the *Stark*, only one exploded, killing thirty-seven American sailors.[121]

While it appeared that Smith had indeed accurately viewed the "most important thing" the U.S. government needed to know, there was no operational utility attached to the feat. Smith pointedly notes that precognitive warning would face an intensified version of the same difficulties facing other types of intelligence warning – degree of believability, and the "Cry Wolf" syndrome that arises when warning successfully deters an attack, but is not recognized as having done so by one's leadership. Smith further identifies the remote viewer's own lack of confidence in the validity of precognitive sessions as yet another barrier to effective use, noting that precognitive information often turns out to be incorrect.[122, 123]

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[120] Ibid., 304-305.

[121] Ibid., 306-308.

[122] Ibid., 309.

The release in 1988 of a National Research Council (NRC) report – commissioned in 1984 by the Army Research Institute – examining many of former INSCOM commander Stubblebine's "human potential" efforts (e.g. hypnosis, neurolinguistics, parapsychology), added to the difficulties being faced by supporters of the remote viewing program. The negative assessment of the report was somewhat mitigated by an apparent lack of objectivity by the report's drafters, one of whom – Dr. Ray Hyman – served simultaneously as the report's chairman and as a member of the executive council of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP).[124] The Parapsychological Association – an international organization of scientists and academics involved in examining psi phenomena and an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) since 1969 – published a twenty-eight page rebuttal of the NRC report, citing numerous methodological issues that seemed to reflect poorly on the objectivity of the report's authors.[125] While *Sun Streak* was sheltered this time from the fallout over the NRC report, this issue and a number of the same personalities involved would return to haunt the program seven years later.

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[123] A fascinating example of retro or postcognition occurred during one of Pat Price's first tests at SRI. Targeted on an outbounder located at a swimming complex in Palo Alto, California, Price sketched two pools, a number of buildings, and two large elevated tanks with rotating equipment, identifying the place as a water purification plant. While his pool and building descriptions were mostly correct, there were no water purification tanks or equipment at the complex. Twenty-one years later, Russell Targ found historical records and photos confirming that the water park had been a water treatment facility from 1913 until the early 1960s – the photos showed Price had correctly identified the location, size, and function of the now-missing tanks. For additional information on this incident, please see Smith 2005, 79-80.

[124] Smith 2005, 370-371.

[125] Ibid., 371-374.

The 1989 replacement of Dr. Vorona as head of the DIA science and technology office with John Berberich – a career bureaucrat lacking Vorona's scientific credentials – signaled a serious change in the way the remote viewing program was both viewed and managed within DIA.[126] In 1990, Berberich transferred Dale Graff to Fort Meade, making him the new chief of the remote viewing unit. As security protocols required the selection of a new codename to replace the aging *Sun Streak* moniker – Graff decided on the codename *Star Gate*. More important than the name change, Graff put in motion the paperwork necessary to eliminate the program's restrictive SAP status and have it categorized as a "limited dissemination" (LimDis) program – believing wider awareness of the program within the intelligence community would result in a greater number of clients for the *Star Gate* viewers.[127]

In that same year, a report to the Military Intelligence Board drafted by Colonel William Johnson – a staff officer working for the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence – found that remote viewing was an effective operational intelligence tool.[128] In order to make such a determination, Johnson had earlier ordered teams from the Fort Meade unit to work with Joint Task Force 4 (JTF-4) in Key West, Florida and JTF-5 in Oakland, California on the counternarcotics problem set.[129] While there were successes and failures in both operations, the overall assessment for the hundred-plus projects the two teams conducted was significantly positive. In a sampling of thirty-two projects

[126] Ibid., 420.

[127] Ibid., 421-422.

[128] Ibid., 422.

[129] Ibid., 402.

conducted with JTF-4, eleven of the projects were found to demonstrate a strong correlation between the viewer's inputs and information derived from subsequent narcotics busts – an impressive 34.4 percent success rate when compared to the roughly 15 percent effectiveness demonstrated by the HUMINT discipline on the same problem set.[130]

Beginning around 1987, with the appointment of Fernand Gauvin to the position of operations officer for the Fort Meade unit, a slow but noticeable relaxation in the standardization of remote viewing techniques took place. The first generation of remote viewers had approached the task in a variety of ways, however all of the approaches used were based on the inducement of an altered state of awareness in order to facilitate remote viewing.[131] The second generation of viewers was originally intended to be comprised of individuals trained in the Puthoff-Swann CRV methodology – designed to help the viewer improve the signal-to-noise ratio during their sessions. Despite tensions existing between the two "camps" regarding the efficacy of each, the historical record clearly suggests that successful remote viewing was achieved using both approaches. What followed from Gauvin's easing of standardization practices was an exploration into "alternative" methods for obtaining the same types of information gained during remote viewing sessions. While remote viewing clearly involves utilization of psi phenomena, such an assessment is difficult to make when considering some of the methods permitted under Gauvin's watch, such as "channeling of spirit guides," "automatic writing," and

[130] Ibid., 423-424.

[131]Joseph McMoneagle, *Remote Viewing Secrets: A Handbook* (Charlottesville, VA: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, 2000), 95-97.

tarot cards.[132] A much easier assessment to make – and one supported by feedback provided to the program from client agencies – is that CRV hit rates consistently exceeded those from these alternative methods, particularly on targets with a high science and technology element involved.[133] Unfortunately for the program's future, reliance on these methods increased vis-à-vis CRV use, negatively impacting unit morale and – more importantly – bottom-line unit efficacy.[134]

The appearance in 1994 of a line-item added to the FY95 intelligence budget ordering the DIA to transfer the *Star Gate* program to the CIA signaled the beginning of the end for the decades-long U.S. government involvement in remote viewing. It is generally believed that the language contained in the budget was an addition made by an influential Senate staffer known to have been in a relationship with one of the Fort Meade unit's "alternative methods" members, who was known to be unhappy with DIA control over the program.[135] The fact that the CIA had no interest in assuming responsibility for the program had apparently not been taken into consideration.

Meetings occurred in late 1994 and early 1995 between DIA *Star Gate* personnel and CIA officials to pave the way for transfer of the program, now consisting of only one CRV-trained viewer and two "alternative method" viewers. In an ominous sign of things to come, the CIA issued a memorandum in March of 1995 indicating its intent to declassify both *Star Gate* and the work SRI had done years before under CIA contract.[136]

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[132] Schnabel 1997, 340-346.

[133] Smith 2005, 385-390.

[134] Schnabel 1997, 345-346.

[135] Smith 2005, 445.

[136] Ibid., 447-448.

In what would be the final act leading to the ending of the remote viewing program, the CIA signed in June 1995 a contract with the American Institutes of Research (AIR) to conduct a congressionally-mandated evaluation of the program. Rather than attempting a full review of over two decades worth of remote viewing research in the two months it had been given to complete the report, AIR selected a mere ten out of the hundreds of possible remote viewing experiments to review. More significantly, AIR did not examine any of the thousands of intelligence-focused remote viewing sessions that had occurred in the years prior to 1994.[137] Two outside experts were brought in to review the findings of the AIR staff – UC-Davis statistician Dr. Jessica Utts and Dr. Ray Hyman, arch-skeptic and chairman of the 1988 NRC report. On the issue of psi phenomena being real or not, Utts concluded that, "Using the standards applied to any other area of science, it is concluded that psychic functioning has been well established."[138] For his part, while Hyman grudgingly conceded to Utts that, "The case for psychic functioning is better than it ever has been," he did not let this fact stand in the way of his overall negative assessment of psi.[139]

Commenting on the AIR findings related to the operational side of remote viewing, Smith notes that,

> The evaluation of the operational side of the program was just as perfunctory. Having already rejected virtually all of the operational military remote viewing data – the three to four *thousand* sessions or more that had been performed prior to 1994 by two dozen viewers – the AIR based its evaluation on approximately forty sessions conducted in 1994 and 1995 by three demoralized viewers. This

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[137] Ibid., 449.

[138] Michael Mumford, Andrew Rose and David Goslin, *An Evaluation of Remote Viewing: Research and Applications* (Washington, D.C.: The American Institutes of Research, 1995), 3-2.

[139] Ibid., 3-59.

> means the evaluators used less than *two percent* of the data to come to the conclusion that "…the remote viewing phenomenon has no real value for intelligence operations…" and "…one must question whether any further applications can be justified…"[140]

Based on the limited data it used in assessing the efficacy of remote viewing in the intelligence field, the report's executive summary states, "In no case had the information provided ever been used to guide intelligence operations. Thus, remote viewing failed to produce actionable intelligence," adding that there is "…a compelling argument against continuation of the program within the intelligence community."[141] One might be forgiven for finding it difficult to reconcile the AIR assessment on this particular point with the 1990 report Colonel Johnson provided to the Military Intelligence Board which found remote viewing an effective operational intelligence tool.[142]

In the end, the CIA ordered *Star Gate* closed on June 30, 1995 – within days of the AIR contract being signed and three months prior to the report's eventual publication – a chronology highly suggestive of a "rush to prejudgement."[143] Regardless, the curtain closed on twenty-three years of U.S. government-funded research into psi functioning and remote viewing – an exploration that history would note held far more surprises regarding human potential than many could accept.

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[140] Smith 2005, 449-450.

[141] Mumford, Rose, and Goselin 1995, E-4

[142] Smith 2005, 422.

[143] Ibid., 450-451

CHAPTER 3

THE EVOLVING SCIENCE OF PSI

All of physics is either impossible or trivial. It is impossible until you understand it and then it becomes trivial.

-- Ernest Rutherford

The Statistical Tool Set

The September 29, 1995 American Institutes of Research commissioned report – *An Evaluation of Remote Viewing: Research and Applications* – provides an excellent example of both the difficulties psi research faces in gaining traction within the broader scientific community and of the tools parapsychologists have at their disposal in arguing the existence of genuine psi phenomena. While the AIR Report Executive Summary was used retroactively by the CIA as the basis for its cancellation of *Star Gate*, those taking time to read the full report would find themselves presented a far more nuanced assessment of remote viewing and its potential than the summary alone suggested. The strong pro position regarding remote viewing taken by renowned statistician Dr. Jessica Utts of the University of California-Davis, certainly flies in the face of the Executive Summary's negative tone. "Using the standards applied to any other area of science, it is concluded that psychic functioning has been well established."[144] Buried within the body of the AIR Report, this bold statement went relatively unnoticed by those outside the fields of statistical analysis and parapsychology.

While it may seem an odd pairing at first blush, the fact remains that statistical analysis has become a key component in the modern state of parapsychological

[144] Mumford, Rose, and Goselin 1995, 3-2.

discourse. Often derided by many within the Western scientific community as being comprised of either delusional pseudo-scientists or abject charlatans, the field of parapsychology has faced a daunting uphill battle for acceptance by its skeptics and scientific peers – this despite the Parapsychological Association having been accepted as an affiliate of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 1969.[145] Regardless of parapsychology being a *bona fide* scientific discipline – as demonstrated by its inclusion in the AAAS – the field is constantly being forced to contend with the less-than-rational cognitive phenomenon known as "confirmation bias." Simply put, this "psychological quirk" results in one viewing evidence supportive of one's existing beliefs as being plausible, while consequently viewing evidence contradicting one's beliefs as being implausible – regardless of the quality of the evidence being considered.[146]

If one is to have any chance of overcoming the effects of confirmation bias, one must be able to demonstrate that results achieved under controlled experimentation are independently repeatable under laboratory conditions – something that can perhaps best be achieved by analyzing the outcomes of collections of similar experimental studies. Commonly referred to as meta-analysis, this further analysis of existing analyses has become a critical tool for use throughout the so-called soft sciences.[147] Meta-analysis methodologies are capable of assisting researchers in determining: whether valid comparisons can be made by combining results from different experiments (the *apples-*

[145] Radin 2006, 283.

[146] Ibid., 101-104.

[147] Ibid., 102-104.

and-oranges problem); whether valid comparisons can be made when combining experiments of varying qualities (the *quality problem*); and how to adjust for potential selective reporting by researchers in a manner that still yields valid comparisons (the *file-drawer problem*) – the latter using carefully constructed "trim and fill" algorithms to achieve reasonable results.[148]

A brief examination of three meta-analyses that have been performed on decades of experimental psi studies can be helpful in addressing the intellectual and scientific inertia created by confirmation bias. Presented in clear "odds against chance" terminology, these meta-analyses add teeth to Dr. Utts' assertion in the AIR Report that "psychic functioning has been well established."[149]

Ganzfeld Psi:

Ganzfeld (whole field) studies involve mild visual and auditory stimulation to induce an altered state of awareness. The most common form of ganzfeld psi test involves one individual in an induced state (the receiver) and one non-induced "sender" located at a distance from the receiver. The sender views a single image chosen randomly from a pool of four possible images – neither the receiver nor the sender have any idea what images will be used. Over the next thirty minutes, the sender attempts to "send" impressions of the selected image to the receiver – whose impressions are then recorded. The receiver is then removed from the induced state and is asked to rank order the four images based upon his/her impressions – no one present knows which image was used by the sender. The design allows for a 1-in-4 chance the receiver might randomly

[148] Ibid.

[149] Smith, *Reading the Enemy's Mind*, 449.

place the correct image first.[150] The most thorough meta-analysis of ganzfeld experiments looked at 88 experiments conducted from 1974 through 2004, reporting 1,008 "hits" out of the 3,145 trials conducted. This yielded a combined hit rate of 32% compared to the 25% expected by chance. While this 7% above chance result might seem small, it correlates to an "odds against chance" figure of $3x10^{19}$ to 1.[151]

Conscious Sense of Being Stared At:

In this type of experiment, the "stared at" person makes note at a given point in time whether or not they were being stared at by an individual they themselves could not see – a 50/50 proposition.[152] A meta-analysis of 65 studies comprised of 34,097 trials found a combined hit rate of 54.5% – correlating to an "odds against chance" figure of $8.5x10^{46}$ to 1.[153]

Dice PK Experiments:

One of the oldest forms of mind-matter interaction experiment, the test subject selects in advance one die face as a target and then tosses one or more dice while "wishing" for the targeted face to land up.[154] While a meta-analysis of 169 studies comprised of 2.6 million dice being tossed resulted in a relatively small magnitude effect being demonstrated overall, the odds of that small effect having been the result of chance were found to be an astounding $2.6x10^{76}$ to 1.[155]

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[150] Radin, *Entangled Minds*, 115-117.

[151] Ibid., 276.

[152] Ibid., 126-127.

[153] Ibid., 276.

[154] Ibid., 148.

[155] Ibid., 276.

A Challenge to Scientific Materialism:

Much of the edifice of today's Scientific Materialism remains tied to the five basic assumptions of classical physics: *reality* (that the physical world is objectively real and exists independent of observation), *locality* (that objects can only be influenced via direct contact), *causality* (that cause-and-effect sequences are fixed in time), *continuity* (that time and space are continuous rather than gapped), and *determinism* (that things progress in an ordered and predictable fashion).[156] However, the modern advent of quantum physics and its experimentally proven accuracy (e.g. the wave/particle nature of light; Heisenberg's uncertainty principle; quantum entanglement; etc.) has done much to weaken the classical foundations of Scientific Materialism. In describing the impact of quantum physics in the creation of a new understanding of the underlying nature of reality, researcher and author Dr. Dean Radin writes:

> The new reality has replaced the assumption of *locality* with the concept of *nonlocality*. The fact that quantum objects can become entangled means that the common sense assumption that ordinary objects are entirely and absolutely separate is incorrect. In unobserved states, quantum objects are connected instantaneously through space and time. It is no longer the case that unmediated "action at a distance" is prohibited because it's spooky. In fact, unmediated action at a distance in quantum reality is *required*.
>
> The new reality has dissolved *causality* because the theory of relativity revealed that the fixed arrow of time is an illusion, a misapprehension sustained by the classical assumptions of an absolute space and time. We now know that *when* events seem to occur depends on the perspective (technically, the frame of reference) of the observers.
>
> The new reality has abandoned the assumption of *continuity* because the fabric of quantum reality is discontinuous; at small scales, space and time are neither smooth nor contiguous. And finally, absolute *determinism* has been fatally challenged because it relies on the assumptions of causality, reality, and certainty, none of which exist in absolute terms anymore.[157]

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[156] Ibid., 210.

[157] Ibid., 221.

Most psi phenomena seem to share an observable trait with at least one proven element of quantum physics – *nonlocality*. This has led a number of theorists – both physicists and parapsychologists – to speculate that there may be a connection between psi and what is known about the quantum realm.

Theories of Psi:

The three meta-analyses described earlier all yield compelling evidence that certain psi-related effects are both real and measurable. What they do not provide is an understanding of *how* psi functioning occurs. Over decades of research into psi, a number of theoretical models have been put forward for consideration and testing. While an exhaustive examination of each is a task beyond the scope of this paper, a brief examination of three select theories may assist in providing a sense of the direction psi research is moving towards.

--**Signal Transfer Theories**: An early favorite of Soviet psi researchers, these theories postulate that psi information is transmitted via some form of physical carrier wave – similar in characteristic to electromagnetic (EM) waves used for radio and television signals.[158] Soviet physicist and psi researcher I.M. Kogan suggested extremely low frequency (ELF) waves as the transmission method, since they were known to maintain field strength over much greater distances than other EM frequencies.[159] Examining Kogan's theory in 1977, the SRI research team led by Dr. Puthoff placed remote viewers Hella Hammid and Ingo Swann aboard a submersible and had them remote view randomly selected coordinates while submerged at depths of 250-550 feet in

[158] Ibid., 246-247.

[159] Targ and Puthoff, *Mind-Reach*, 43-44.

the Pacific. Given the known degree that seawater attenuates ELF signals, and the fact that the remote viewers suffered no reduction in either the speed or accuracy of their viewings, SRI researchers concluded Kogan's ELF hypothesis to be dead.[160] Additionally, regardless of the hypothesized signal carrier wave considered (e.g. EM, tachyons, neutrinos, and gravitons), none would seem capable of explaining clairvoyance, where there would appear to be nothing capable of "transmitting" the information being received.[161]

--Bohm's Implicate/Explicate Order Theory: Put forward by American physicist and Einstein protégé Dr. David Bohm, this theory postulates that there exists a deeper level of reality than the one our senses perceive. Calling this deeper reality the "implicate order," Bohm suggests that it is a holistic construct in which everything is completely enfolded with every other thing. Bohm's "explicate order," on the other hand, unfolds from the implicate order and consists of everything which our senses are capable of perceiving. In Bohm's own words, "The essential features of the implicate order are that the entire universe is in some way enfolded in everything, and that each thing is enfolded in the whole."[162] Bohm further uses a "universe as hologram" metaphor to describe how information about the entirety of a system can be enfolded within each of its discreet elements –in much the same way that interference patterns on a piece taken from a hologram contain sufficient information to recreate the image from the original

[160] Schnabel, *Remote Viewers*, 207-209.

[161] Radin, *Entangled Minds*, 247.

[162] David Bohm and Basil Hiley, *The Undivided Universe: An Ontological Interpretation of Quantum Theory* (New York, NY: Routledge, 1993), 382-86.

hologram.[163] It is relatively easy to grasp why this particular theory appeals to many of those seeking to explain the functioning of psi, since it seems to suggest that each individual – operating as a discreet element of the system – contains within themselves the "interference patterns" reflective of the system's entirety.

--Stapp-von Neumann: A hybrid theory developed by physicist Henry Stapp of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Stapp-von Neumann is one of the more recent and difficult to grasp theories that may have applicability to psi phenomena. Using the central orthodoxy of quantum theory developed by John von Neumann as its basis, Stapp-von Neumann postulates that the mind/brain is, in actuality, a "self-observing quantum object" capable of collapsing external probabilistic states into preferred ones.[164] Stapp believes that the quantum nature of the mind/brain is connected to the ion channels – each less than a nanometer in diameter – that exist within microtubules in each neuron, since quantum effects are known to occur at that scale.[165] As a "self-observing quantum object," Stapp's mind/brain would exist within a non-local, fully entangled medium that is seen by some as being fully compatible with the known functioning of psi.[166]

Remote Viewing:

While Soviet researchers put great stock in various Signal Transfer theories of psi – particularly EM-based ELF waves – U.S. researchers involved in the remote viewing

[163] Michael Talbot, *The Holographic Universe* (New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1992), 43-46.

[164] Radin, *Entangled Minds*, 256-260.

[165] Ibid.

[166] Ibid.

program tended to gravitate towards Bohm's Implicate/Explicate Order Theory as an umbrella model for how remote viewing may function. One of the most appealing aspects of Bohm's model was that it eliminated entirely the theoretical paradigm – intrinsic to many models of psi functioning – of the viewer's consciousness somehow "traveling" to the location being viewed. Under Bohm's theory, the viewer is believed to be "diving deep down" into his or her own implicate structure, where everything is in some way already enfolded and accessible to the viewer.[167]

This is not to say that everyone associated with the U.S. remote viewing program found the Implicate/Explicate Order Theory to their personal liking. A number of the program's viewers have taken issue with many – if not all – of the commonly discussed theoretical models of psi functioning, finding them variously wanting on either philosophical grounds or experiential grounds.[168, 169] Despite these differences of opinion, it is important to note that the search for such descriptive models was compelled by the strength of the experimental evidence the program had accumulated in favor of the remote viewing phenomenon – not unlike the supportive evidence which parapsychologists have gathered over the years on a much wider range of psychic functioning.

Conclusion:

Following on the heels of thousands of years of human experience, decades of well-conceived and increasingly scrupulous experimentation are finally providing compelling evidence for the existence of at least some forms of psi – including remote

[167] Harold Puthoff, telephone interview by author, May 13, 2010.

[168] Paul Smith, telephone interview by author, May 6, 2010.

[169] Joe McMoneagle, written responses to questions by author, April 16, 2010.

viewing. The cognitive dissonance this evidence engenders within the larger scientific community mirrors in form and function that which has been created by the paradigm-changing pressures quantum physics continues to bring to bear on the modern scientific edifice. Simply put, reality is far stranger than classical physics could possibly imagine. Given the increasingly sharp lens through which modern physics views our reality, it grows increasingly likely that there will be established a theoretical framework capable of rationally explaining the existence of psi.

CHAPTER 4

Contact – A Confluence of IC Needs and RV

When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail.

-- Abraham Maslow

Over the nearly 15 years that have passed since the CIA's termination of the *Star Gate* program, significant developments have taken place both at home and abroad that have had profound impacts on the IC. The collapse of the Soviet Union, the rise of non-state asymmetric threats following 9/11, and the effects of globalization have all brought corresponding modifications to the IC's mission requirements, collection capabilities, and its counter-intelligence posture. The demands being placed on IMINT, SIGINT, HUMINT, and CI capabilities by policy makers and warfighters continue to exceed the IC's in-house ability to provide – a situation that has led to unprecedented levels of IC reliance on private contractors in order to help fill the ever-widening production gap. Among a number of intelligence organizations created following the events of 9/11 – including the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) and the DoD's Counterintelligence Field Activity (CIFA) – over half of all analysts working some of the most sensitive intelligence matters facing the nation are actually private contractors.[170] Indicative of the extent to which the IC is being forced to rely on outside contractors are estimates suggesting that nearly half of the entire 2004 U.S. intelligence budget was spent on procurement of "commercial systems and operational support services."[171]

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[170] Glenn Voelz, "Commercial Augmentation for Intelligence Operations: Lessons Learned from the Global War on Terrorism," *Defense Acquisition Review Journal* 14, no. 3 (December, 2007): 419-20, www.dau.mil/pubscats/PubsCats/ARJ46_Complete.pdf.

[171] Ibid.

While IC budgets in the years following 9/11 were sufficient to underwrite this expansive – and expensive – reliance, the short-to-mid-term budgetary outlook could best be described as "challenging." Given that "Baby Boomer" retirements – beginning in earnest in 2011 – are projected to result in a shift in the worker/retiree ratio from today's 5:1 to 3:1 by 2025, combined with recent International Monetary Fund (IMF) projections that the total U.S. government debt – currently $13 trillion – will exceed U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) by 2012, and it is highly reasonable to anticipate significant downward pressure on most discretionary elements of the U.S. budget.[172, 173] For those serving at the forefront of U.S. intelligence, the prospect of responding to demands for development of "universal situational awareness" during a time of diminishing resources looms as a train wreck of potentially epic proportions.

IMINT and SIGINT – Challenges and Potential Partial Solutions:

When considering the "high-tech" side of intelligence gathering, satellites are usually one of the first elements to come to mind. The average individual likely envisions U.S. government surveillance satellites as "eyes" rather than "ears" in the sky, despite the key role they play in both IMINT and SIGINT collection. An examination of the IMINT collection field points to a number of significant challenges that have arisen over the past decade and a half for those tasked with developing, launching, maintaining,

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[172] Jeff Barnett et al., *DIA Workforce of the Future: Creating the Future of the Defense Intelligence Agency* (Washington, D.C.: Defense Intelligence Agency, 2003), 22-23, www.dia.mil/thisisdia/DIA_Workforce_of_the_Future.pdf.

[173] Garfield Reynolds and Wes Goodman, "U.S.'s $13 Trillion Debt Poised to Overtake GDP: Chart of Day," Bloomberg.com, http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601109&sid=aa0cI64Gx.4E&pos=15 (accessed June 5, 2010).

and utilizing one of the most frequently sought after and useful of U.S. intelligence assets. Highlighting the prohibitively high costs, long lead times, and risks involved in National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) asset replacement is the estimated $10 billion that was spent between 1995 and 2005 on the Future Imagery Architecture (FIA) spy satellite program contract with Boeing, initially scheduled to launch in 2005. When an independent review board determined that it would take an additional five years and $8 billion in order to save the program, NRO removed Boeing and transferred the project to Lockheed.[174] Lest one suspect that NRO's difficulties with FIA ended there, it is strongly believed that orbiter USA-193 – which failed entry into orbit and was shot down by the U.S. Navy in early 2008 – represented the first of the FIA radar imaging assets to make it to launch.[175]

Program cancellations and on-orbit failures have created the potential for development of an imagery collection gap. While expanded use of commercial imagery satellites for Tier 2 (medium-level) reconnaissance makes economic, political and security sense, the escalating needs of today's policy maker and warfighter require IMINT of increasing quality over an ever-expanding geographical area – a requirement commercial assets will be hard-pressed to meet.[176] It is important also to add to this mix of IMINT challenges the increasingly sophisticated and effective denial and deception tactics being practiced by governments and entities worldwide -- if one considers just

[174] Noah Shachtman, Danger Room: Rogue Satellite's Rotten, $10 Billion Legacy, *Wired*, February 20, 2008. http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2008/02/that-satellite/ (accessed June 1, 2010).

[175] Ibid.

[176] Colin Clark, "NRO Loses Decision Authority on BASIC Imaging Satellite Program," Space News, http://www.spacenews.com/archive/archive08/nroloses_0310.html (accessed June 1, 2010).

how little it cost the Indian government to successfully hide its 1998 Pokhran II nuclear test from billions of dollars worth of U.S. IMINT assets, the cost-benefit equation becomes even more difficult to accurately assess.[177]

Although the SIGINT field utilizes a wider array of technical assets than those found within the IMINT field, those assets associated with space-based platforms present many of the same challenges – prohibitively high costs, long lead times, and risk of asset loss. Already the most expensive intelligence discipline, SIGINT bridges the gap between IMINT-derived observations of activity and HUMINT-derived insights into intentions, often providing a "hedge against strategic deception…useful for the tipping of other collection assets."[178]

Recent developments, however, are threatening the ability of SIGINT collectors to gather the data needed to perform this vital role. One of these is the growing usage of fiber-optic systems within target areas, which continues to result in the loss of information that was once readily accessible via copper cables and microwave relay stations.[179] Encryption continues to be a growing threat as well. While the use of sophisticated commercially-available encryption software presents a genuine annoyance to SIGINT collectors of data and voice signals, the real encryption threats come from quantum key distribution (QKD) devices and the more recently developed "thermal noise" cipher device, both of which have the potential to severely hamper or even halt

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[177] "Pokhran - The Intelligence Failure," GlobalSecurity.org, http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/india/pokharan-intell.htm (accessed June 1, 2010).

[178] "IC21: The Intelligence Community in the 21st Century," gpo.gov, http://www.gpo.gov/congress/house/intel/ic21/ic21005.html (accessed June 1, 2010).

[179] Bob Drogan, "NSA Blackout Reveals Downside of Secrecy," *Los Angeles Times*, March 13, 2000. http://articles.latimes.com/2000/mar/13/news/mn-8336 (accessed June 1, 2010).

NSA signal decryption efforts.[180] Even without target use of fiber optics and encryption, the NSA must contend daily with the millions of largely "indigestible" email and phone messages it intercepts – a problem compounded by the difficulty the NSA has in tracking stationary data placed in password protected internet draft files.[181] Add to all of this the actual loss of signal due to the increasing reliance by certain targets on non-electromagnetic-based means of communication, such as couriers, and one begins to grasp the enormity of the challenges facing the modern SIGINT collections field.[182]

Given the documented history of the U.S. remote viewing program, an examination of the records for examples in which RV might be able to address some of the challenges currently facing the IMINT and SIGINT collection fields seems a worthwhile exercise. The basic functional parallels between human "remote viewing" and machine "remote sensing" are simple enough – both involve acquisition of perceptual data regarding a location distant from the observer. As demonstrated by Swann during his remote viewing of the NSA Sugar Grove complex and by Price during his Semipalatinsk sessions, remote viewing can yield stunningly accurate renderings of the type of data that IMINT monochromatic and panchromatic sensors are used to provide on

[180] D. Jason Palmer, "Noise Keeps Spooks Out of the Loop," *New Scientist*, 23 May 2007, page nr. http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/1840389/posts (accessed June 1, 2010).

[181] Michael Hirsh, "The NSA's Overt Problem: So Many Conversations, So Few Clues to the Terrorists' Chatter," *Washington Post*, January 1, 2006. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/12/30/AR2005123001594.html (accessed June 1, 2010).

[182] Annie Turner, "How Do You Fight Against a Low-Tech Enemy That Uses Paper and Couriers?" *Military and Aerospace Electronics*, October, 2006, http://mae.pennnet.com/Articles/Article_Display.cfm?Section=ARCHI&ARTICLE_ID=275869&VERSION_NUM=2&p=32&pc=ENL (accessed May 1, 2010).

distant sites.[183, 184] The additional demonstrated ability of RV to provide perceptual data beyond that which simply describes what something looks like – to describe the actual physical characteristics of what is being observed – often appears to exceed even the capabilities of modern hyperspectral remote imaging sensors. Often touted for its ability to identify such things as underground construction, minefields, mass graves, and targets under foliage, hyperspectral remote imaging would be hard pressed to match the level of accuracy achieved by remote viewers over the course of the program's existence, including Swann's remote viewing of Stanford University's subterranean magnetometer, Price's detailed description of the underground facilities at Sugar Grove, and the team remote viewing effort which located the downed Soviet TU-22 hidden deep within the jungles of Zaire.[185, 186, 187]

The history of the U.S. remote viewing program contains a number of accounts of SIGINT-applicable RV operations. One occurred in the early 1980's and involved the CIA tasking the Fort Meade unit with remote viewing the U.S. Embassy in Moscow – which was being built at the time – for suspected listening devices. As Schnabel relates, the viewers,

> …found numerous bugs in the prefabricated walls already at the site; some were real, some were nuts-and-bolts decoys, but in any case they were too numerous to count, much less to remove entirely. Joe McMoneagle even described steel girders and reinforcing rods that had been welded together in such a way as to serve as a giant broadcasting antenna for some of the bugs…

[183] Targ and Puthoff 2005, 3-4, 47-48.

[184] Ibid., P-2, P-3.

[185] Targ and Puthoff 2005, 20-24.

[186] Schnabel 1997, 110-112.

[187] Ibid., 217-219.

> A year or two later, in 1983, a CIA/NSA team quietly brought a large X-ray machine to the construction site, to look inside the walls. The Soviets, when they realized what the U.S. team was doing, suddenly announced that they were walking off the job, in "protest" at this impolite intrusion into their work space. The game was up. The CIA found that the structure was indeed riddled with thousands of bugs and metallic decoys; they would later find the girders welded together as antennas, as McMoneagle had described…[188]

In another operation – this one involving the tracking of an individual – Schnabel describes the tasking of the Fort Meade unit and Skip Atwater's monitoring of McMoneagle on the target,

> One day in about 1980, a client in the intelligence community came to the Fort Meade unit with a special tasking. The client wanted the remote viewers to track the movements of a person, apparently a foreign agent based in Europe, at certain specific times – every twelve hours or so – over a period of several days in the recent past.
>
> Atwater soon ran McMoneagle against the target. The target folder had the agent's photograph inside. On the outside were the specified dates and times when the client wanted to know what he had been doing. Atwater told McMoneagle the target was a person; his task was to describe the person and his surroundings at the times written on the envelope.
>
> McMoneagle sank down into his zone, and began to run through the list of times. For one of the specified times, he sensed a road. It wound through hills. He realized that the target was the driver of a car on this road. He was male, dark-haired, neatly dressed, perhaps a businessman. McMoneagle described the road, and the hills, and the car, and then about five minutes into the session, something about the target changed. McMoneagle became confused. "The guy's going somewhere I can't go," he said. "What do you mean?" asked Atwater. "Well," said McMoneagle, "it's like I was looking at his picture and the picture turned sideways." The target had suddenly vanished.
>
> Later, after delivering the session results to the client, Atwater learned that the man in the photograph had failed to appear for a meeting with his case officer. That was why the client had wanted to retrospectively track his movements. Some time after the remote viewers turned in their data, the client discovered that the man – at the point in time where Joe McMoneagle had remote-viewed him – had somehow lost control of his car on a winding road in Italy, and had plunged over a cliff to his death.[189]

[188]Schnabel 1997, 48-50.

[189] Ibid., 65-66.

While it is possible now for modern GPS tracking devices to relay accurate information regarding automobile accidents, such devices were not available in the early 1980s. Regardless, it is safe to say that no matter how advanced the tracking device, one would still need to place it with the individual *prior* to an accident taking place.

HUMINT and the CI Problem Set – Possible Applications for RV:

Whether gathered from sources hostile, friendly or neutral – witting or unwitting – HUMINT data continues to hold both promise and peril for the intelligence analyst. For every "Top Secret - Can't Reveal Details" HUMINT success story touted by Cabinet-level government officials, there exists a cautionary counter – the "Curveball" debacle merely being the most recent example.[190] Due in part to the difficulties inherent in asset acquisition and validation, the HUMINT field waged a mostly losing battle for IC resources with the technical collection disciplines (e.g. IMINT, SIGINT) for the better part of the last four decades – resource allocations following the attacks of 9/11 have only recently begun to alter this trend.[191]

While the post-9/11 flow of resources directed at strengthening intelligence collection throughout the IC has been largely well-received, it has brought with it a number of potentially serious CI issues. The IC currently finds itself facing difficulties in mitigating and policing the potential internal risks brought on by its growing use of so-called "Heritage Americans" and the impact of significantly shorter background

[190] Bob Drogan and John Goetz, "How U.S. Fell Under the Spell of 'Curveball'," *Los Angeles Times*, November 20, 2005. http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-curveball20nov20,0,1753730.story?coll=la-home-headlines (accessed June 1, 2010).

[191] Robert Steele, *Human Intelligence: All Humans, All Minds, All the Time* (Carlisle, PA: Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army, 2010), 1, www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pdffiles/PUB991.pdf.

investigation timelines.[192] Recent espionage cases have also demonstrated the ever-increasing ability of technology to assist in the theft of vast amounts of sensitive data – as the recent breach in which over a quarter of a million State Department telegrams were reportedly passed to an online "whistleblower" site highlights.[193] Add to this the steep resource curve needed to bring counterintelligence capabilities up to speed following CI's post-Cold War "nadir," and it becomes easy to grasp the daunting task facing today's counterintelligence professionals.[194]

Arguably a form of HUMINT by definition, remote viewing was shown to have applicability to the CI problem set during the U.S. RV program. The most compelling operation demonstrative of this involved the 1987 tasking of the Fort Meade RV unit by an intelligence agency – not the CIA – to attempt to determine whether there was a foreign intelligence mole operating within the CIA.[195] Suspicions regarding the possible existence of a mole had been raised following a number of unexplainable asset losses within the Soviet sphere. Presented separately with no information other than a set of encrypted coordinates representing the task at hand, four viewers – including Paul Smith – all began to describe an anxious middle-aged male who seemed to be involved in improper matters at a "highly compartmented" organization "involved in security work"

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[192] Katherine Herbig, "Changes in Espionage by Americans: 1947-2007," *Defense Personnel Security Research Center*, March, 2008, http://fas.org/sgp/library/changes.pdf (accessed May 1, 2010).

[193] Kevin Poulsen and Kim Zetter, "U.S. Intelligence Analyst Arrested in Wikileaks Video Probe," *Wired*, June 6, 2010, page nr. http://www.wired.com/threatlevel/2010/06/leak/#ixzz0q8Qg5Sax (accessed June 6, 2010).

[194] Michelle Van Cleave, "Strategic Counterintelligence: What Is It and What Should We Do About It?" Central Intelligence Agency, https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/vol51no2/strategic-counterintelligence.html (accessed June 1, 2010).

[195] Smith 2005, 329.

and having an "international function."[196]. As related by Smith, the viewers described the man as having a close social or sexual relationship with an attractive, controlling, and "ambi-cultural" woman 30-40 years of age – described within the reports as being "Colombian."[197] All four viewers described the man as "having performed acts which were both secretive and in contravention to the responsibilities of his office and position."[198] Additionally, two of the viewers further described the man as driving a "grey-colored foreign luxury automobile."[199] After a report providing these impressions and others was submitted to the tasking agency in July 1987, no more regarding this matter was heard until the February 21, 1994 arrest of Aldrich Ames and his Colombian-born wife on charges of espionage. While a number of the impressions provided by the viewers were either "confused" or simply wrong, one should not lose sight of the key elements provided that proved to be absolutely correct – including Ames' possession of a 1983 silver-grey Jaguar XJ-6[200]. While the impressions given by the viewers could not – in and of themselves – have been used by CI practitioners to pinpoint the mole, they most certainly could have been helpful in "winnowing the chaff." As Smith clearly notes,

> The fact of the car alone might have significantly narrowed the field of possible suspects in the CIA. How many employees owned grey European luxury cars in 1987? Certainly some, but percentage-wise not that many. And how many CIA employees had a significant relationship with a Latin American woman, especially a Colombian? It is always possible that small facts such as these gleaned from our reports, coupled with the general picture we produced, when considered in light of what else the CIA may already have known, might have

[196] Ibid., 330-331.

[197] Ibid., 331.

[198] Ibid.

[199] Ibid., 332.

[200] Ibid., 340.

> increased the chances of catching Ames with much of the damage he caused still undone. Unfortunately, there is no indication that anyone in a position to make a difference ever saw our data.[201]

Finding the Line – Real-Time Evidence Suggestive of RV Success:

Having touched on some of the changes that the IC has been facing since the 1995 cancellation of the U.S. remote viewing program – changes that present daunting challenges to the IC's ability to not only accurately discern a target's capabilities and intentions, but also to defend itself from foreign intelligence operations – it is worthwhile as well to examine the extant RV field for any developments since 1995 that might improve its potential utility within the IC. While a lack of resources and cohesion following the government's public termination of *Star Gate* has severely hindered experimental efforts from within the RV field, a subset of those originally connected to the U.S. program continue to be involved in the parapsychological exploration of remote viewing. Of these efforts, two appear to have bearing on one of the key issues that confronted the U.S. RV program from inception to end – the separating of RV signal from AOL noise.

In the first, Ingo Swann participated in a study of RV functioning led by Dr. M. A. Persinger, a noted cognitive neuroscience researcher and professor at Laurentian University in Canada. The study – conducted over a four-day period using sophisticated neurological sensors and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) equipment – found that Swann's brain exhibited "bursts of paroxysmal 7-Hz spike and slow wave-like activity over the occipital lobes" during remote viewing sessions. Not present during the taking of baseline electroencephalographic readings or during any other time in which Swann was not engaged in remote viewing, this unusual and distinct pattern proved to be

[201] Ibid.

moderately correlated with the actual accuracy of Swann's RV sessions. The authors of the study additionally postulated that it might even be possible to "enhance" remote viewing by careful application of "complex experimentally generated magnetic fields."[202] If further studies were to substantiate the 7-Hz spike and slow wave activity with accuracy during remote viewing sessions, this discovery could yield a relatively simple and inexpensive method for determining in real time when a viewer is accessing the "signal line," as defined by Swann and Puthoff in their Coordinate Remote Viewing methodology.

The second effort having potential bearing on the "signal to noise" question involves a recent study attempting to identify whether "organizing effects" or non-random outputs observed during the operating of random event generators (REGs) during remote viewing sessions correlate with RV accuracy and successful accessing of the "signal line."[203] Sponsored by the International Remote Viewing Association, the preliminary analysis of the data seems to indicate that there may be small-scale organizing effects in REG outputs appearing during CRV Stages 2 and 3 during instances of accurate remote viewing.[204] While these findings are purely preliminary in nature, they warrant further examination, as use of REGs may also be another method for making real time determinations of successful contact between viewer and signal line.

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[202] M.A. Persinger et al., "Remote Viewing with the Artist Ingo Swann: Neuropsychological Profile, Electroencephalographic Correlates, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and Possible Mechanisms," *Perceptual and Motor Skills* no. 94 (2002 Jun): 927-49.

[203] Paul Smith and John Stahler, "CRV-REG Study," CRVREG.org, http://www.crvreg.org/index.html (accessed June 1, 2010).

[204] Paul Smith, telephone interview by author, May 6, 2010.

Conclusion:

Given the various challenges facing the IC that continue to impact both missions and resources, it is clear that efforts must be undertaken to identify possible solutions – even partial ones. A detailed examination of the documented history of the U.S. RV program strongly suggests that remote viewing could provide high-value intelligence capable of assisting the IC in addressing some of the challenges it currently faces – provided it was used in accordance with its known attributes.

CHAPTER 5

NEXT STEPS – BUILDING A BETTER MOUSETRAP

The real voyage of discovery lies not in seeking new landscapes,
but in having new eyes.

-- Marcel Proust

An examination of the daunting technical and fiscal challenges facing the IC as it attempts to meet its mission requirements, combined with a clear understanding of the history of U.S. government involvement in the remote viewing field, presents a compelling case for a serious reexamination of remote viewing as a viable collections tool for use within the IC. Presupposing the occurrence of such a reexamination, the question of how best to reconstitute a U.S. government remote viewing program would need to be contemplated at some stage of the process.[205] While a comprehensive

[205] This assumes that a clandestine remote viewing program does not currently exist within a SAP somewhere within the IC. While examining this possibility has been to this point beyond the scope of this thesis, failure to at least touch on the matter would be too glaring an omission. Speculation as to the existence or non-existence of an RV SAP began shortly after the public cancellation of *Star Gate* and continues to this day. While many seriously question how the IC could completely divest itself of a collections and warning method that had demonstrated operational potential – per the findings of the 1990 Military Intelligence Board – a majority of those who were actually involved in the U.S. RV program believe that political expediency and fear of public ridicule led to the complete shutdown of U.S. efforts in this field.

While the records appear to bear this viewpoint out, there exists at least one piece of information that could cast doubts regarding the completeness of the program's closure. Revealed in the Jim Marrs book *Psi Spies: the True Story of America's Psychic Warfare Program* (Franklin Lakes, NJ: Career Press, 2007) on pages 158-159, is the existence of a "second group" of U.S. government employees having been trained in CRV prior to 1986. Described as being more "black and…covert" than the second generation INSCOM viewers, none of these individuals have made themselves known to the public in the fifteen years since the reputed end of U.S. government involvement in RV – behavior which stands in stark contrast to that displayed by the vast majority of viewers associated with the known program. While the past existence and continued secrecy of this group does not prove that a covert RV program still exists within the bowels of the IC, one cannot help but be reminded of the old adage that "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence."

examination of this issue is beyond the scope of this thesis, both the 1972-1995 history of the U.S. RV program and current circumstances suggest a number of elements worthy of serious consideration.

Contract vs. In-house:

In determining how best to reconstitute a U.S. government remote viewing program, one of the first issues to address is whether or not IC needs could be served – completely or *ad interim* – through service contracts with viewers in the extant RV field, a number of whom were actually first and second generation viewers in the original program. The fact that these particular individuals once held security clearances would likely allow for easier "re-minting" for operational purposes – something that would be absolutely essential, given IC requirements. As just hinted at, the advantage to this approach rests in the speed with which operational remote viewing could commence. At least one model for a possible "RV surge" currently exists within the extant field, providing an excellent starting point for any agency seriously examining this option.[206] The most obvious downside to any long-term use of this approach lies in the ability to maintain secrecy surrounding renewed U.S. government involvement in remote viewing, as extensive and extended use of now-publicly identified remote viewers would be difficult to conceal. It is this problem – more than any other – which likely makes development of an operational in-house RV capability the more appealing approach to take. While not overly burdensome, the length of time it would take an agency to create an in-house capability could be mitigated by bridging the gap between immediate needs and development time through the use of an "RV surge-type" contract.

[206] Paul Smith, telephone interview by author, May 6, 2010.

Viewer Selection:

Assuming eventual pursuit of an in-house RV capability, the issue of viewer identification and selection will require serious attention and thought. Throughout the 1972-1995 history of the U.S. RV program, a great deal of effort was expended trying to identify types of individuals more "RV capable" than others – this despite SRI's general failure in identifying physical and personality characteristics separating "psychics from non-psychics."[207] While numerous tests were conducted on those being examined for the program, the most useful may have been the Personality Assessment System (PAS) developed by CIA psychologist John W. Gittinger, a descriptive model yielding a 16x16 matrix of 256 personality "types" – a relatively small number of which appeared to encompass some of the best viewers.[208] While never used during the course of the U.S. program, another assessment deserving of consideration today might be the 1991 Hartmann Boundaries Questionnaire, designed to measure individual differences in the "permeability" of the mental boundaries believed to separate elements of consciousness.

Regardless of the methods used to identify talented viewers, an issue no less important is the determining of which service pool to select from – uniformed military or civil service. The use of both during the life of the U.S. RV program provides a number of points to consider. While the use of uniformed military viewers generally resulted in a cadre of individuals prepared to excel at pursuit of the mission, the limited time they had in assignment meant that upwards of half of their tour could be spent in the training phase, yielding less time for "fully capable" operational viewing. The subsequent loss of trained talent resulted at times in pressure being brought to bear on uniformed staff to

[207] Targ and Puthoff 2005, 69-72.

[208] Harold Puthoff, telephone interview by author, May 13, 2010.

extend their tours in the RV unit – often to the detriment of the career. While it is preferable for these reasons to draw viewers from the civil service, consideration of a career track of some type is recommended, in order to both reduce complacency and improve retention.

Additional Analytical Element Needed:

One of the most difficult elements reported by viewers involved in the U.S. RV program was the nearly complete lack of feedback received following operational taskings. According to viewers, feedback is essential in helping them to acquire the inner insight needed to differentiate accurate impressions from inaccurate ones. Due to a number of factors – including both the dual scientific/operational nature of the program and the highly-compartmented nature of the taskings – it was virtually unheard of for feedback to be provided viewers outside of training exercises. Addressing this problem head-on should be an absolutely essential consideration for any agency pursuing creation of an in-house RV capability.

One method worthy of serious investigation would involve the addition of a professional "analytical element" (AE) to the unit, members of which would be cleared for access to any compartmented program seeking to task the RV unit. Individuals within the AE could be either uniformed military or civil service IC members, but would need to have been fully operationally trained in remote viewing – including CRV.[209] Under this system, tasking agencies should be required to provide the AE with not only a list of the key questions being asked, but also with all the related data currently possessed. The AE would then determine how best to task the viewers based on a detailed understanding of

[209] Depending on the individual, training up through CRV Stage 7 would likely take between one and one-and-a-half years to complete.

both RV and the "knowns and unknowns" associated with the tasking.[210] Regardless of the specifics involved, keeping the viewers "blind" to the target *must* be an essential element of the tasking, as frontloading of viewer data invariably results in disastrous levels of both analytical overlay for the viewer and doubt for the tasking agency.[211] Following completion of the required RV sessions, the AE would provide the tasking agency with *all* of the resulting RV data, attaching probabilities for accuracy to each impression, based on a detailed understanding of how RV data flows using the CRV methodology. Following data submission, the tasking agency would be required to provide detailed feedback to the AE, which would in turn provide general feedback to the viewers regarding the accuracy of specific impressions they received. While only a suggestion, the issue it addresses remains a critical consideration for development of an in-house RV capability – regardless of the unit, the full capabilities of RV collection cannot be realized without access to feedback.

Maintenance of Focus:

Weaknesses inherent in the dual scientific/operational focus of the original U.S. RV program also need to be addressed in any new endeavor. While scientific rigor must be maintained in the application of RV methodologies and protocols for reasons of both accuracy and integrity, there needs to be a concerted focus on the operational use of remote viewing vice the search for a provable theoretical model of psi functioning. While scientific inquiry into this issue is highly laudatory and potentially valuable, it should be de-coupled from operational remote viewing and pursued separately, as many

[210] Tom McNear, interview by author, April 11, 2010.

[211] Harold Puthoff, telephone interview by author, May 13, 2010.

of the failures associated with past operational efforts can be linked in some degree to the "neither fish nor fowl" nature of the original program.

In an oddly similar fashion, efforts must be taken to guard against the kinds of "New Age drift" that the program encountered in its later years. While exploration of additional "alternative methods" of data acquisition may be worth someone's time and resources, they should not be associated with any newly formed operational RV effort, as inclusion of unproven methodologies such as channeling, automatic writing, and the like can only serve to damage performance and credibility.

Open Questions:

There remain at least two open questions that need to be addressed in one fashion or another. The first of these involves whether a newly developed RV collection program should be placed within a SAP or made LimDis. It is generally believed by many of those involved in the original program that the secrecy imposed by the SAP greatly harmed the program by limiting the number of potential clients within the IC.[212] By the time the program became LimDis in 1990, it is felt by many that the damage had already been done. While a case for either could be made, it is conceivable that the addition of a carefully crafted analytical element described earlier might help address some of the problems associated with the isolation inherent in inclusion within a SAP.

The second open question involves the mainstreaming of RV-based data for inclusion in the all-source intelligence pallet. This issue dogged the original program from inception to cancellation, without successful resolution. As data identified as RV-based tended to be inappropriately rejected out-of-hand by one subset of IC professionals while being inappropriately accepted as "gospel" by another subset, RV data was

[212] Smith 2005, 421-422.

ultimately used on a case-by-case basis by individuals who already understood what it was – it was never forwarded into the mainstream. Identifying a viable mechanism for RV data mainstreaming will likely remain highly problematic for any agency looking at developing an in-house RV capability.

Conclusion:

The history of U.S. government involvement in remote viewing suggests strongly that there are tools available for helping the IC address the many technical and fiscal challenges it faces as it attempts to meet current and future mission requirements. As the total yearly cost of creating, selecting, training, and operating a remote viewing unit somewhere within the IC would likely be no more than a fraction of a rounding error in the cost estimate for placing an NRO reconnaissance satellite on station, a reexamination of RV as a viable collection method capable of addressing growing IC needs would appear to be a quite reasonable course of action. The German philosopher Arthur Schopenhauer famously stated that "Everyone takes the limits of his own vision for the limits of the world." Expanding those limits takes both new eyes and a bold determination to change – elements sorely needed today.

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