

Aperture

The Newsletter of the International Remote Viewing Association

IRVA News

Welcome to the second issue of the *Aperture*! In addition to organizing the 2002 Remote Viewing Conference, we have been crashing to get this issue out before everyone converges on Austin, and think we may have succeeded. A great deal of credit for that is due our new editor, Bill Eagles. For several years now, Bill has faithfully contributed hundreds of hours of his time as IRVA's secretary and as publicity director for the Remote Viewing Conferences.

To ensure quality and continuity, we needed a dedicated editor for this newsletter, so we recruited him to provide that service. He is a committed and selfless member of the remote viewing community, and his willingness to accept the sometimes demanding job of editor is a great relief to the members of the IRVA board. You will see the value of his work in this very issue.

Also, a last-minute reminder about the 2002 Remote Viewing Conference. Details of how the conferences came to be are in the history Bill has written as our feature for this issue. But don't miss this latest chapter in that history, as legends from remote viewing's present and past will be speaking at what may be a never-to-be repeated assembly of RV greats. Details at www.rvconference.org and 866-374-4782. Hope to see you in Austin!

Paul H. Smith
Vice President, *The International Remote Viewing Association*

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Feature Article

The Annual Remote Viewing Conferences: How It All Began *By William P. Eagles*

This year's 2002 Remote Viewing Conference marks the third such annual public gathering affiliated with the International Remote Viewing Association (IRVA) since the organization's creation in 1999. An instant "hit" with the general public as well as the growing community of trained remote viewers, IRVA's annual confab has attracted well over 300 people each year. Each year speakers, programs, and events have fostered Conference objectives of (1)

bringing together a wide range of remote viewing practitioners, trainers, and researchers to share experiences and knowledge; (2) providing an accurate and reliable picture of remote viewing history and techniques to the public, and (3)

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Taskings & Responses

(Q & A)

What is Associative Remote Viewing?

By Greg Kolodziejzyk (<http://www.remote-viewing.com>)

APERTURE

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IRVA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization devoted to the encouragement of research, education, and public information in the field of Remote Viewing.

A General Membership in IRVA is \$35 per year (\$45 outside the US and Canada), which includes a subscription to Vital Signs and discounts on major conferences.

Letters and contributions to Aperture are invited. All manuscripts, review copies, reprints, and information items should be addressed to the Editor. Submission of material does not guarantee its publication.

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First, let us state what ARV is not. ARV is not a method of utilizing one's own intuitive abilities like CRV (controlled remote viewing), TRV (technical remote viewing), ERV (extended removing viewing), or any other remote viewing methodology. Rather, ARV is a protocol by which one can apply his or her remote viewing method of choice for purposes of answering a simple binary ("yes" or "no") question.

The ARV protocol is typically used in the following three circumstances:

1. When the direct remote viewing of a target is difficult due to the nature of the target; that is, the target is a number or the future outcome of a financial market or sporting event, or if knowledge of the target by the remote viewer might adversely affect—or even effect—the outcome;
2. a quantifiable degree of confidence in the remote viewing experience is required. In ARV, this is achieved by a consensus of viewer results; and
3. When the information desired is of simple form, that is, there are only two or three possible answers.

Simply explained, ARV is the remote viewing of a static target (usually a photograph) that is **associated** with the outcome of the question being tasked, rather than the **actual** answer to the question

being tasked.

The best way to explain ARV is with an example. Consider a hypothetical situation in which you want to use CRV to predict the overall outcome of this coming Monday's stock market. There are only two possible outcomes in the performance of the stock market on Monday: Up or Down. (Actually there are three possibilities—up, down, or no change, but for simplicity's sake, let's leave it at two.) To utilize the ARV protocol, you will, at any time before the market opens (typically a few days before), pick two photographs randomly from your collection of digital stock photography. It is, however, very important at this point that you do not observe the photos in any way, including seeing any descriptive file names for them. Typically, you might randomly pick two files from a compact disc, such as, say, "0045.jpg" and "7654.jpg." Note that nothing in these file names gives away what the photographs disclose.

Next, you randomly **associate** each of the two photos with one of the two possible outcomes for the question being tasked (here it is: In which direction will Monday's stock market go?). In this case, you might assign 0045.jpg to UP and h 7654.jpg. to DOWN. It is vital that this assignment be blind; that is, you cannot be aware of which photo's content is associated with UP and which is associated with DOWN.

Now, you task yourself with re-

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Annual Remote Viewing Conferences, continued from page 1

providing an overall forum for education, understanding, and expanded awareness in the remote viewing community.

These annual Conferences are a natural outgrowth of the discussions among leading present and past remote viewing experts and luminaries during IRVA's founding meeting in March 1999, on the eve of a somewhat more private conference held in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Attendance at this first conference was limited to invited guests and individuals professionally trained in one particular discipline, Controlled Remote Viewing, by former military instructors.

So how did the Conferences come about? As with many great ideas of the past, the notion arose independently in the minds of three individuals at about the same time: David Hathcock, a private businessman from Arizona who had undertaken substantial training in remote viewing from several trainers; Lyn Buchanan, a former member of the military's STAR GATE "psychic-spying" unit at Ft. Meade, Maryland and owner of a remote viewing training company; and Paul H. Smith, another longtime alumnus of the same military unit and owner of another such training company. Hathcock also consulted with independent parapsychology researcher Angela Thompson Smith.

Paul remembers: "I had been thinking for quite a while that we needed to get a remote viewing conference together before someone else got the idea. Obviously there needed to be some kind of organization to accomplish it. I wasn't quite sure who 'we' were, but I had

some thoughts that it would have to include folks like Hal Puthoff, Joe McMoneagle, Ed May, Stephan Schwartz, Russell Targ, Skip Atwater, maybe even Ingo Swann—folks that had experience and legitimacy in the field. We second-generation folks—Lyn Buchanan and myself, for example—would also have to be involved, both to represent the commercial-practitioner part of the RV community and to add to the continuity of the association that might develop. After all, if we were going to create an organization out of thin air, as it were, it would have to get its legitimacy from the people that put it together, since there was nothing around like the American Association for the Advancement of Science or the American Medical Association to accredit it—and certainly the government wasn't about to do it. Over several months, David Hathcock and I had a number of conversations both over the phone and in person where we discussed various ideas some. Shortly thereafter, Lyn Buchanan and I also had some informal discussions."

David recollects discussing the idea of an association and conference with both Paul Smith and Lyn Buchanan, as well as Angela Thompson Smith. In the wake of certain exaggerated claims being made in various public media, David was concerned that the scientific community not lump the proper training being offered by these former military remote viewers into the

same "crazy" category as some other practitioners who had earned reputations for making sensational and unwarranted claims about what remote viewing was and what it could do. David felt that remote viewing training needed to be regulated in some way because of the hype that was being propagated and the overblown claims that were being made; he also wanted a conference that would include everybody who was sincerely trying to research the art and develop new and useful applications for it. In this vein, David also thought that any such organization should be solidly oriented towards science, so as to encourage acceptance by the scientific community, aid all reputable trainers in gaining greater notice, and help the public discover the utility of and learn this novel form of "extrasensory" cognition. David advocated holding an annual conference aimed towards achieving all of these ends.

Lyn had long had in mind a skills-enhancement conference for people specifically trained in Controlled Remote Viewing (CRV). One of the goals he had in mind as he met with the original IRVA organizing group in March 1999 was to develop a scientific oversight committee for his Assigned Witness Program, a structured remote viewing application that he had independently developed to aid law enforcement agencies in solving crimes and

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finding missing persons. After much discussion, IRVA was ultimately organized with the far broader mandate mentioned above.

Ever the entrepreneur, David was committed to “making it happen.” He contacted Paul, Lyn, and Angela Thompson Smith, and proposed creating an organization and assembling a conference, both of which he offered to help support financially. Because Lyn’s student base at that time was the largest, most robust, and most interested in attending such an event, David agreed that Lyn would host the initial conference in New Mexico, Lyn’s then new home state. Paul’s students, also trained in the CRV protocols, would also be invited. David particularly desired to create a synergistic effect by holding the conference coincident with the start-up of IRVA as remote viewing’s nonprofit “trade association.”

Lyn immediately began to organize the logistics, deciding where to hold the conference and inviting some of the presenters who would be in the program. David and Paul actively solicited various notables to attend IRVA’s organizing meeting and the subsequent first conference. Regrettably, renowned ex-military remote viewer Joe McMoneagle; Dr. Edwin May, a prominent figure in remote viewing research; and Ingo Swann, the original, gifted intuitive and research subject, were unable to accept the invitation. John Alexander, a retired U.S. Army colonel and manager of human-potential enhancement programs, accepted, as did Dr. Harold Puthoff, the laser physicist who originally focused on investigating and developing the skill now known as “remote viewing.” Russell Targ, Dr. Puthoff’s colleague in those original explorations at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI) in Menlo Park, CA, also signaled his acceptance. In the interests of maintaining objectivity and enhancing credibility, Professor Marcello Truzzi, an author and knowledgeable skeptic of psi phenomena, was invited and agreed to attend. Professor Jessica Utts, a statistician who authored the pro-remote viewer response to the report commissioned by the CIA in 1995 that ended the government’s operational remote viewing unit, was unable to attend. (She later presented at the Year 2000 Remote Viewing Conference.) Lastly, Stephan Schwartz, a longtime private researcher and

David also thought that any such organization should be solidly oriented towards science

author of noteworthy published accounts on the use of remote viewing in the field of archaeology, also agreed to participate.

It all came together on March 18, 1999, when IRVA was founded at Lyn Buchanan’s home in Alamogordo, New Mexico, followed the next day by the first conference on remote viewing at the Inn of the Mountain Gods, a mountain resort hotel on the Apache reservation in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Lasting through Saturday evening, March 20th, about 70 people attended. Skip Atwater, the former Army officer who founded the military’s remote viewing unit at Ft. Meade, was the banquet speaker, and most of the “RV legends” who attended IRVA’s founding meeting also gave presentations in the conference program.

The 2000 Remote Viewing Conference, held in May of that year in Mesquite, Nevada at the Oasis Casino Resort, was organized by an *ad hoc* committee that included three IRVA directors, but was not sponsored by the non-profit association, then still an embryonic organization. The committee was comprised of Paul, Angela, and Lyn, now all board members of IRVA, as well as Bill Eagles and Dr. Michael O’Bannon, CRV students, of Lyn and Paul respectively.

The committee initially considered developing the conference again as a by-invitation, CRV-only event. It quickly became clear, though, that such a posture would not serve the needs of the larger public interested in remote viewing, and would seriously hamper the economic viability of the Conferences, especially if they were to continue annually in the future. As a result, the committee decided to widen the tent to embrace non-CRV-trained attendees, including members of the general public interested in remote viewing. As well, speaker presentations were allowed on the program that were related to the art, if not specifically about the practice and application, of remote viewing.

The second meeting of the IRVA Board of Directors was held the evening before the conference, and it decided then that IRVA would be the official sponsor of the following year’s conference, in 2001. For the Year 2000 Remote Viewing Conference, (from May 26-28), once again most of the presentations on the program were provided by IRVA’s board members; the banquet speaker was Dr. Charles T. Tart, a widely respected pro-

lific author and longtime researcher into psi and altered states of consciousness.

The planning committee for the 2001 Remote Viewing Conference included only Paul, Angela, and Bill. Needed financial management was additionally provided by Ms. Sandy Ray, who had been earlier appointed IRVA's treasurer by vote of the Board of Directors. For this first-ever formal IRVA-sponsored remote viewing conference, an emcee was appointed in the form and figure of Lt. Col. Kent Johnson, USAF (ret.), a gregarious and amiable former fighter pilot. The conference was held at the Texas Station Casino Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada on June 15-17. The featured reception-speaker was Dr.

Edgar Mitchell, former Apollo 14 astronaut and the founder of the Institute of Noetic Sciences, one of whose mandates has been the scientific exploration of psi as a usable tool to benefit humanity.

Mindful of his original desire to serve the growing cadre of CRV-trained students interested in refining and growing their technical CRV skills, Lyn Buchanan began in early 2000 to organize a conference separate from the more broadly oriented IRVA Remote Viewing Conference to meet that need. Both he and many of his students were concerned that the ongoing development of skills and applications of CRV, as a well-defined, time-tested, and proven remote viewing methodology, might be de-emphasized in an IRVA conference designed to be more inclusive of alternative remote viewing approaches and focused more on spoken presentations. As a result, through his training company, **Problems > Solutions > Innovations**, Lyn convened a workshop-based annual CRV conference in May 2001 in El Paso, Texas, as a complement to the annual IRVA conference. Presentations by CRV practitioners were oriented towards "real-world" applications and involved having attendees explore new skills based on and related to proven CRV techniques. In early May 2002, the Third Annual CRV Conference (the Ruidoso conference

of 1999 being the common source for both Lyn's and IRVA's subsequent confabs) was held in Clearwater, FL, with Jim Marrs, author of *Psi Spies* and *Alien Agenda*, serving as the banquet speaker.

Commemorating three decades of remote viewing,

this year's IRVA conference will be held 30 years to the week after the first seminal remote viewing experiment conducted by Dr. Hal Puthoff and Ingo Swann. The 2002 Remote Viewing Conference will take place in Austin, TX from June 14-16, and is organized by a conference-planning committee consisting of Paul H. Smith as chairman and program organizer, Angela T. Smith as administrative director, Bill Eagles as conference publicity



IRVA organizing committee, March 18, 1999, Alamogordo, New Mexico. Standing L/R: Hal, David, John, Lyn, Paul, Skip, Angela, Marcello. Seated Russell and Stephan

director, Kent Johnson as operations director and master of ceremonies, and Shelia Massey, IRVA's webmaster. Janet Scollo will assist as registration and administrative aide. The 2002 Conference promises to be especially memorable. Legendary figures from remote viewing's past and present, such as SRI research-program founder Dr. Harold E. Puthoff; Dale Graff, a former research scientist and the Air Force's former program manager for remote viewing; former GRILL FLAME and SUN STREAK remote viewer Mel Riley; and pioneer mind-matter researcher Cleve Backster, among many other notables, will be giving presentations to the attendees. An extra-special highlight will be three hours of presentations by Mr. Ingo Swann, widely regarded as the "father of remote viewing."

This may very well be the year when remote viewing finally reaches mainstream awareness in America and elsewhere, as several video documentary crews are expected to be on hand to interview speakers and create programs memorializing this event. This will truly be a conference to remember. Hope to see you all there! www.RVConference.org, (Toll-free:) (866) 374-4782.

Bill Eagles is IRVA Secretary and Aperture Managing Editor ☯

What is Associative Remote Viewing?, continued from page 2

mote viewing the single photo that you will look at after the market closes on Monday. If the market closes UP, you will afterwards look at only the photo that was associated earlier with the market going up (here, 0045.jpg), and will look at the other photo (instead) only if the market actually closes DOWN for that day.

After you have completed your remote viewing session, you will then compare your session notes with **both** photos and attempt to predict which of the two will be shown to you on Monday after the market closes. If your session data more closely resembles the 0045.jpg photo, you can project that the market will go UP on Monday, because 0045.jpg is the photo that you can expect to view after the markets close on that day. Conversely, if your session data more closely resembles the other photo (7654.jpg), then you can predict that the market will go DOWN on Monday.

ARV provides remote viewers with a complementary protocol that is useful for forecasting future events where the actual event itself is difficult to remote view directly.

The final step in the ARV protocol is known as “feedback.” After the market closes on Monday, you **must** look at the photo that corresponds with the direction that the market actually went that day. That is, regardless of the prediction you made based on your session results, you must look at 0045.jpg if the market went UP on Monday **or** look at 7654.jpg if the market went DOWN.

This entire process or “trial” can be repeated many times before the market opens on Monday, in order to gain confidence by building a consensus among the trials.

This basic ARV protocol has been successfully tested many times, as have many variations of it. Following are some of the variations of this basic ARV protocol:

1. Third party judging: Rather than the remote viewer himself comparing (“judging”) his session data with both photos (judging), he could have another person conduct the judging, thereby keeping himself totally blind to both targets until after the outcome of the targeted event.
2. Target type: Many different target types exist. For example, movies, sounds, or physical objects can be used as targets instead of photographs.
3. More than two possible associations: You can

use more than two targets if the question being tasked has more than two possible answers. Be aware, though, that any greater number of targets will likely add considerable noise to the system and greatly diminish the judge’s ability to select a target and make a prediction.

4. Alter the point at which the targets and associations are chosen: You can choose the two targets **after** the remote viewer has completed her session. Of course, the choice of the two targets must be completely random, as must be the assignment of association.
5. The use of consensus: If consensus is required (and there is some evidence that consensual results do improve ARV’s reliability), there are two ways to do it:
 - A. You set up some number of target pairs beforehand, say 10, and then proceed to remote view the single target from each pair that you will be shown after the future event has transpired. In this case, we could consider that you actually did 10 separate ARV trials, each with its own remote viewing session and each with its own feedback target. However, the feedback target for each trial is triggered by the outcome of one single event—in this case, the direction of movement in the stock market.
 - B. You set up a single target pair and perform multiple remote viewing sessions on it in order to identify the target associated with the actual outcome of the event that is being predicted.

The major advantage of Method A over Method B is evident if the single target set of the latter method contains a photograph that is difficult to remote view for some reason—say, it is too simple or is not interesting enough somehow to the viewer’s subconscious mind. Method A obviates this difficulty because several different target sets are used and are chosen randomly, thereby minimizing the chance of a poor target being selected.

ARV thus provides remote viewers with a complementary protocol that is highly useful for forecasting future events where the actual event itself is difficult to remote view directly. It may be readily utilized for this purpose in conjunction with any of the several remote viewing methodologies that are currently being taught and employed in the “anomalous cognition” community. Much success is potentially in the offing for those who use it well! ☺

RV History

A Brief Time Line of Remote Viewing History

Compiled by Paul H. Smith, Vice President, IRVA

This is only a brief chronology of events in remote viewing history. Many more details could be added, and many more names included. But this will serve to place the major events and some of the important personalities in relation to one another. Certainly, important events and personalities have been left out in the interests of space and (relative) simplicity. I will publish a more complete timeline at a later date. Readers should be aware that there are two parallel remote viewing timelines: the operational, military-run program at Ft. Meade, Maryland, and the civilian-led, military-funded research program in California. External civilian research and applications were also taking place. In the chronology below, the operational and military lines are intermingled with a few references to RV-related activities in the civilian sector.

Sept 1971	Ingo Swann begins PK research with Cleve Backster.	1 Oct 1972	CIA awards SRI \$50K exploratory contract.
Nov 1971	Swann participates in PK experiments in Gertrude Schmeidler's lab; also participates in OBE experiments.	Sept 1972	Russell Targ joins the RV program at SRI.
8 Dec 1971	First remote viewing experiment (describing weather in Tucson, AZ from ASPR offices in NYC). Term "Remote Viewing" is adopted.	Summer 1973	Pat Price and Ingo Swann remote view NSA's Sugar Grove facility in West Virginia.
22 Feb 1972	First beacon experiments (also conducted at ASPR).	July 1974	Pat Price's operational remote viewing of a facility near Semipalatinsk in USSR conducted.
March 1972	Cleve Backster shows Swann a letter from Dr. Hal Puthoff at Stanford Research Institute. Swann and Puthoff communicate.	18 Oct 1974	Russell Targ and Hal Puthoff publish article on remote viewing research in <i>Nature</i> .
6 June 1972	Swann/Puthoff magnetometer/quark-detector experiment in physics building at Stanford University.	July 1975	CIA terminates involvement in and funding of remote viewing.
27 June 1972	Puthoff communicates with Kit Green, Central Intelligence Agency, concerning the magnetometer experiment results.	Later in 1975	Air Force Foreign Technology Division becomes the primary funder of SRI research program, with Dale Graff supervising.
Aug 1972	Under Puthoff's supervision, CIA representatives conduct first evaluation trials with Swann. Russell Targ visits Puthoff at SRI.	March 1976	Puthoff & Targ publish a major article about remote viewing in <i>Proceedings of IEEE</i> .
		1976	Dr. Edwin May joins RV program at SRI International.

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Research News

Brainwave Study of Remote Viewers

by R. Michael O'Bannon, Ph.D.

While the practice of remote viewing (RV) has been established for three decades, the mental processes of remote viewers are still not well understood. Many researchers employ the electroencephalogram (EEG) to study the brain during such tasks. This technique detects tiny variations in electrical activity on the surface of the head and uses these signals to characterize events in the cerebral cortex. "Brainwaves" measured by the EEG indicate those areas of the brain most active during mental tasks, and provide clues about how the brain may be processing information. Much of the early brainwave research on RV has failed to produce significant findings, but recently two independent researchers, Michael Persinger and Cheryl Alexander, have reported interesting results with talented remote viewers. The field of EEG technology has also advanced rapidly in recent years and now offers more powerful methods of analysis.

I am proposing a research project that will gather data for a detailed analysis of brainwaves during RV sessions. Each participant will be asked to set aside 90 minutes for the study. A standardized clinical procedure will be used for capturing continuous brain activity during the entire session. Twenty-three small conductive gel electrodes will be placed at precise locations on the scalp and ears. A laboratory-quality, multi-channel physiological monitoring system will record the EEG and archive it for off-line analysis at a later time. Continuous audio and video recordings of the entire session will also be made. The final result will provide a time-synchronized record of the session and ongoing brain activity in 50 millisecond time samples.

During the actual session, participants will be asked to complete a self-monitored CRV protocol on a typical training target. Targets will be double-sealed in opaque envelopes and selected randomly at the beginning of each session. Both viewer and experimenter will remain blind to target content during the session. Immediate feedback will be provided to each viewer at the end of the session.

The data-collection process for this project yields a very detailed record of both brain behavior and external responses of the viewer. This will allow more finely grained and more sensitive analyses than have been

possible in the past. Some of the previous research has compared the brainwaves of remote viewers to those of the general population. While these results are interesting, there is more to learn by looking carefully for changes in each individual's EEG at different points in a protocol. By doing so, it is possible to detect subtle processes that are lost when many individuals are combined into a group. Past research has also averaged EEG responses over periods of minutes rather than looking at shorter periods of time. This makes it impossible to discover short-duration events that are often of greatest interest. By examining a large number of very short time samples, it may be possible to gain a new picture of complex mental events during remote viewing.

This type of research may contribute to the field of remote viewing in several ways. For those building theories to explain remote viewing, a better understanding of mental activity during sessions may bring more detail to models of viewers and their relationship to targets. The groundwork may also be laid for practical outcomes. If EEG patterns can be found that predict viewer accuracy, then the overall quality of remote viewing data could be improved. Brainwave analysis could be employed as a method for sifting through the data from a session to determine the most useful content. For those who are teaching and learning remote viewing skills, the findings of this research could help to improve current training techniques and develop new ones. Eventually, it may be possible to train viewers directly in the specific mental functions necessary for success.

Participation in the study will be limited to experienced remote viewers who agree to use a conventional CRV protocol during the session. Those who are interested should feel free to ask any questions prior to volunteering. All individual data collected will remain confidential. Only group findings will be reported publicly unless prior consent has been obtained. A viewer may terminate his or her participation at any time during the session. Because of the complexity of the analysis process, immediate feedback on EEG data cannot be provided. However, each participant will receive extensive information regarding their own results as they become available. ☯

Thinking Critically On Pseudo-Skepticism

A Commentary by Marcello Truzzi

Over the years, I have decried the misuse of the term “skeptical” when used to refer to all critics of anomaly claims. Alas, the label has been thus misapplied by both proponents and critics of the paranormal. Sometimes users of the term have distinguished between so-called “soft” versus “hard” skeptics, and I, in part, revived the term “zetetic” because of the term’s misuse. But I now think the problems created go beyond mere terminology and matters need to be set right. Since “skepticalism” properly refers to doubt rather than denial—nonbelief rather than belief—critics who take the negative rather than an agnostic position, but still call themselves “skeptical,” are actually pseudo-skeptical and have, I believe, gained a false advantage by usurping that label.

In science, the burden of proof falls upon the claimant; and the more extraordinary a claim, the heavier is the burden of proof demanded. The true skeptic takes an agnostic position, one that says the claim is not proved, rather than disproved. He asserts that the claimant has not borne the burden of proof and that science must continue to build its cognitive map of reality without incorporating the extraordinary claim as a new “fact.” Since the true skeptic does not assert a claim, he has no burden to prove anything. He just goes on using the established theories of “conventional science” as usual. But if

a critic asserts that there is evidence for disproof, that he has a negative hypothesis—saying, for instance, that a seeming psi result was actually due to an artifact—he is making a claim and therefore also has to bear a burden of proof. Sometimes, such negative claims by critics are also quite extraordinary—for example, that a UFO was actually a giant plasma, or that someone in a psi experiment was cued via an abnormal ability to hear a high pitch, which others with normal ears would fail to notice. In such cases, the negative claimant also may have to bear a heavier burden of proof than might normally be expected.

Critics who assert negative claims, but who mistakenly call themselves “skeptical,” often act as though they have no burden of proof placed on them at all, although such a stance would be appropriate only for the agnostic or true skeptic. A result of this is that many critics seem to feel it is only necessary to present a case for their counterclaims based upon plausibility rather than empirical evidence. Thus, if a subject in a psi experiment can be shown to have had an opportunity to cheat, many critics seem to assume not merely that he probably did cheat, but that he must have, regardless of what may be the

complete absence of evidence that he did so cheat and sometimes even ignoring evidence of the subject’s past reputation for honesty. Similarly, improper randomization procedures are sometimes assumed to be the cause of a subject’s high psi

scores even though all that has been established is the possibility of such an artifact having been the real cause. Of course, the evidential weight of the experiment is greatly reduced when we

discover an opening in the design that would allow an artifact to confound the results. Discovering an opportunity for error should make such experiments less evidential and usually unconvincing. It usually disproves the claim that the experiment was “airtight” against error, but it does not disprove the anomaly claim.

Showing that evidence is unconvincing is not grounds for completely dismissing it. If a critic asserts that the result was due to artifact X, that critic then has the burden of proof to demonstrate that artifact X can and probably did produce such results under such circumstances. Admittedly, in some cases the appeal to mere plausibility that an artifact produced the result may be so great that nearly all

Some proponents of anomaly claims, like some critics, seem unwilling to consider evidence in probabilistic terms

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would accept the argument; for example, when we learn that someone known to have cheated in the past had an opportunity to cheat in this instance, we might reasonably conclude that he probably cheated this time too. But in far too many instances, the critic who makes a merely plausible argument for an artifact closes the door on future research, when proper science demands that his hypothesis of an artifact should also be tested. Alas, most critics seem happy to sit in their armchairs producing *post hoc* counter-explanations. Whichever side ends up with the true story, science best progresses through

laboratory investigations.

On the other hand, proponents of an anomaly claim who recognize the above fallacy may go too far in the other direction. Some argue, like Lombroso when he defended the mediumship of Palladino, that the presence of wigs does not deny the existence of real hair. All of us must remember that science can tell us what is empirically unlikely, but not what is empirically impossible. Evidence in science is always a matter of degree and is seldom, if ever, absolutely conclusive. Some proponents of anomaly claims, like some critics, seem unwilling to consider evidence in probabilistic terms, clinging to any slim loose end

as though the critic must disprove all evidence ever put forward for a particular claim. Both critics and proponents need to learn to think of adjudication in science as more like that found in the law courts, imperfect and with varying degrees of proof and evidence. Absolute truth, like absolute justice, is seldom obtainable. We can only do our best to approximate them.

Marcello Truzzi is a professor of sociology at Eastern Michigan University, and an advisor to the International Remote Viewing Association. This article is reprinted from the Zetetic Scholar, #12-13, 1987, with the author's permission. ☯



FeedBack

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for *Aperture* received today. I do not know that I qualify as an RV, but I'm curious. I will be 78 years old this June, and as I move from this to a higher life, dream of Earth being better because of my being here.

I am citizen of both the USA and Barbados. A poet/musician with profound experiences in both countries.

I do seem to possess Psi propensities, and reading page 16

about IRVA goals, perhaps I may be one to help make progress, not from a scientific but a metaphysical perspective.

Planet Earth does seem woefully lacking relative to cosmic considerations. Religions and politics are not very helpful.

I do possess a BS in Religion, yet, I'm not a religionist.

Hoping you know a little something about me, I'm called Vanroy.

Miami, FL

The opinions and views expressed in *Aperture* are those of the writers. They do not necessarily reflect the position of the International Remote Viewing Association

ReView by Skye Turell

Review of *Remote Viewing Secrets: A Handbook* by Joe McMoneagle

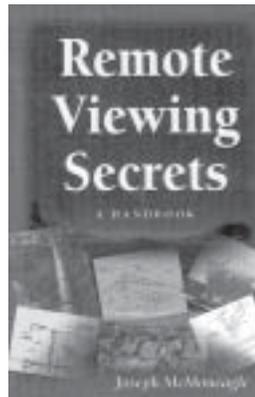
“Someone who wants to be a remote viewer should have balance—should always fall somewhere in the middle.”—Joe McMoneagle

In *Remote Viewing Secrets*, Joe McMoneagle performs quite a balancing act. The book is indeed a handbook—the most authoritative and detailed guide to the field thus far. More importantly, for those already familiar with the basics, McMoneagle wades straight into the middle of the most polarized, hotly debated issues in remote viewing today. “In writing this handbook, I hope to clarify for the reader where real difference lies and where it doesn’t.”

Is anything “psychic” properly called remote viewing? Is everyone equally capable? Does training help, and if so, what kind? Do students and operational remote viewers have to stick with the scientific protocols, or are those notions old-fashioned? Doesn’t an emphasis on scientific method contradict what is essentially a spiritual undertaking? Is the ability to remote view connected to one’s spiritual level of development? It’s better to be right-brained, right?

Understanding the context in which these issues arose, and clarifying definitions and misleading statements that have caused confusion, together go a long way towards integrating seemingly opposing points of view. These discussions are highly detailed. We are not talked down to; in fact, we are expected to absorb new ideas and make subtle distinctions. “You must, above all else, sustain your ability to think critically, to ask questions, to maintain a healthy skepticism, and to walk the centerline of acceptable reality,” says McMoneagle.

In his view, the “re-mystification” of the field has led to unreasonable expectations on the part of viewers and the general public. The media is largely to blame,



but sometimes the culprits are “people who claim to be remote viewers, but who clearly do not understand what it really is.”

It is hard to imagine someone coming away from *Remote Viewing Secrets* without a vastly improved understanding of “what it really is.” The section on targets and tasking, often an area of many disputes, is detailed and authoritative. This section should be required reading for every remote viewing student.

Remote Viewing Secrets is not dry and textbookish, however. In fact, a significant portion of the contents deals with self-growth and the more spiritual aspects of the field: remote viewing as martial art. The book achieves a very satisfying balance between knowledge about the field and the more experiential aspects.

The proper attitude about the field lies in the experience and attitude of remote viewing itself. “Remote viewers have to be so ‘neutral’ that they flow like water wherever they have to flow in order to seek ground truth. Adding a single thought or desire as to where that should be, or how it might be, will automatically put them somewhere else.”

Remote Viewing Secrets: A Handbook, by Joseph McMoneagle (2000), Hampton Roads Publishing; Charlottesville, VA. ISBN 1-57174-159-3

FATE Proposes Remote Sensing Experiment

ReView, by Shelia Massey

The May 2002 issue of *FATE* magazine includes an article by Frank Joseph, editor of “Ancient American” magazine. Joseph begins with a connection to the ancient past when demonstrations of psi were attached to such labels as “shaman,” “sorcerer,” “sybil,” or “witch.” With the obligatory dark past associated, Joseph then counterpoises the move forward into our more enlightened age with a brief history of the beginnings and ending of remote viewing at the Stanford Research Institute in Menlo Park, CA and Ft. Meade, Maryland.

Joseph does what most writers fail to do: He connects remote viewing to its scientific background, stating that “the active participation of academically qualified and experienced individuals helps to defuse attempts by skeptics to debunk remote viewing and

continued on page 12

ReView continued from page 11

dismiss the phenomenon as delusional.” Listing the board members of IRVA and their credentials, he goes on to cite the explorations of Stephan Schwartz and the Mobius Group, which led to the discovery of the lost harbor of Alexandria in the Mediterranean Sea.

After affirming that remote viewing works and bringing us into a modern-day context, Joseph seemingly digresses into a discussion of Teilhard de Chardin’s noosphere theory—briefly put, “a mental sphere into which every human mind was subconsciously tuned.” Following more historical background on de Chardin, including his discoveries and persecutions, Joseph segues into a discussion of remote sensing as a close variation of remote viewing. He defines remote sensing (a term adopted in the 1960s and still used today to refer to technical surveillance-and-detection capabilities from satellites and aircraft) as differing from remote viewing in that it lacks the final feedback component. It is of interest to note that Joseph’s fondness for the term “remote sensing” may indeed be related to its technical usage. He was, after all, involved in the first use of modern electronic sonar to sweep Rock Lake (1989) in a search for the “lost pyramids of Rock Lake” in Wisconsin; he subsequently wrote two books about these pyramids, *The Lost Pyramids of Rock Lake* and *Atlantis in Wisconsin*.

Joseph correctly notes, “the difference is small but significant.” Citing Ingo Swann, he narrows the RV model to a five-point “must-have” list: “a subject, active ESP abilities, a distant target, the subject’s recorded responses, and confirmatory positive

feedback.” You may have noted that one of the major aspects defining remote viewing—the viewer and others taking part in the process must be completely blind to the target—was omitted. Joseph did, however, mention this aspect earlier in the article when quoting Joe McMoneagle, Lyn Buchanan, Paul Smith, and Angela Thompson Smith. Their comments specifically were tuned toward clarifying the protocol aspect that defines remote viewing and distinguishes it from other forms of psi phenomena.

The experiment itself is described in detail. Joseph forsakes his former distinction between remote viewing and remote sensing when he says that “never before have so many ‘perceivers’ been asked to join in remote viewing a common target.” This assertion could turn out to be a race for the record—in the mid-1980s, in conjunction with the Mobius Group, Omni magazine sponsored an RV experiment that received a huge response from its readership.

Unfortunately, Joseph devotes five paragraphs to frontloading the potential viewers by telling the reader not only what the target is (“a so-far-unknown feature” of the Sphinx at Giza, Egypt), but also what has been speculatively determined by Egyptologists, psychics (Edgar Cayce), and scientists (discovery of an underground tunnel) in the past. He later restates his tasking in a more specific cue: “the Atlantean ‘Hall of Records’ that Edgar Cayce reported lay underground at the Sphinx.”

A six-step Controlled-Remote Viewing procedure is given for potential participants to follow. Joseph does acknowledge that “critics may justifiably chide us for sidestepping some of the fundamental guidance

that evolved over years of experience,” but maintains that, although feedback will not be forthcoming, the effectiveness of the viewing can be “at least partially gauged by comparing the written and illustrated materials” of the participants. With the best of intentions and yet with gross naiveté about RV, Joseph has set the stage for a classical scenario of self-delusion. Yet, we all arrived at the doorstep of remote viewing by odd circumstance and synchronicity. The various readers will give it all a try, and some will wow themselves enough to perhaps seek more in-depth information. We should laud Frank Joseph for presenting remote viewing without derision and for detailing information that rarely sees the light of day in print articles.

CBS’s SUNDAY MORNING with Charles Osgood, April 28, 2002

What can a news correspondent do with the subject of remote viewing in ten minutes? Not much, especially when the rules dictate that the pros be countered with the opposing view. Take two remote viewers (one former military, one civilian), mix in a skeptic (Paul Kurtz, who “pooh-poohs” all psychic claims), and add a dash of researcher (Dr. Bruce Greyson, involved with past lives, near-death experiences, and ghosts), and what do you have? What passes at CBS as balanced reporting.

Correspondent Rita Braver discusses a remote viewing demonstration provided by Prudence Calabrese and her team. Braver’s off-hand comment: “No, they didn’t identify the precise scene. But were

they close? You'll have to psych that out for yourself."

Calabrese's claims for the potential, and present, utility of remote viewing for forecasting economic trends, assisting police investigations, and preventing terrorist attacks were met with some resistance. In a counterbalancing act to Calabrese's claims of successful remote viewings, Braver noted that an attempt to check out Calabrese's claims of an FBI connection resulted in FBI sources stating that they "could find no record of any official contacts with her," softened with an "it is possible that she talked with an agent. And the government has acknowledged using remote viewers...in the past."

Paul H. Smith was the government side of the "balancing act," giving historical background and a human face to the history. A quote from the 1996 American Institutes of Research report was used to discredit the STAR GATE program: "[It] has not been shown to have any value in intelligence operations." Softening that blow was the countering statement that "Smith and other STAR GATE veterans did have many successes," citing the identification and location of Russian spies, hostages,

and drug dealers. This was followed by a comment by Smith that "about 30 percent of the time our information was declared to be useful and successful." Presented outside the context of the military's designations of what is considered "useful" and "successful," this was a misleading use of Smith's statement. If one were to view a target site and describe it in perfect detail, this would be considered a good remote viewing session. But for operations, however, if the viewer does not return with something of significant "value" that adds new "knowns" to the sum of knowledge concerning the operation, the information derived is considered useless.

All in all, the show was a typical sound-bite agglomeration of conflicting conceptals. What the individual program viewer came away with is programmatically styled to be as diverse as the make-up of the audience. But, again, what can you do in ten minutes? Most likely add confusion to an already misunderstood subject.

HARPER'S Magazine Presents Analysis

In its December 2001 issue, Harper's magazine printed a declas-

sified document detailing a negative analysis of one remote viewing experiment that occurred over a four-day period in 1974 at the Stanford Research Institute. The experiment was from the era when map coordinates were still being used, and the now-standard CRV protocol of being "blind to the target," to avoid leading the viewer, was not in place. The viewer was shown on a map the exact location he was to view and told it was a "real," not a "sample," target, thus frontloading him with vital clues. The location shown was 60 miles WSW of Semipalatinsk in Russia. The viewer was additionally told that the target was a scientific military-research-and-test area.

The session analysis was a reprint from Jeffrey Richelson's book, *The Wizards of Langley: Inside the CIA's Directorate of Science and Technology*. Unfortunately, no mention was made of additional content in the book that might have shown the later developmental stages of research, or which would have presented remote viewing in a positive light.

Shelia Massey is IRVA's webmaster, and has provided assistance in planning for IRVA's Remote Viewing Conferences in 2001 and 2002. ☉

Taskings & Responses

(Q & A)

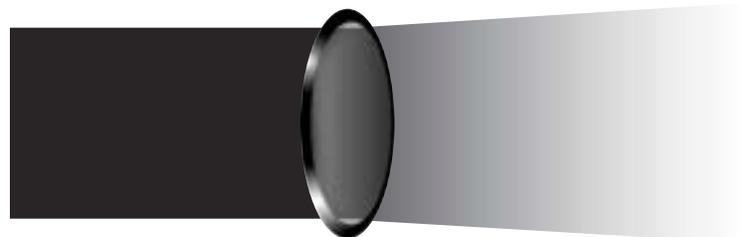
Have you been burning to ask a question of some remote viewing expert? Are you dying to know something about remote viewing, but didn't know where to turn for an answer? We will be printing questions and answers in the "Taskings & Responses" column in future issues of Aperture. Please forward your questions to:

Janet@irva.org (with T&R in the subject line), or mail to:
T&O Editor,
Aperture, Box 381,
E. Windsor Hill, CT 06028.

Time Line of Remote Viewing History continued from page 7

1977	The book <i>Mind Reach</i> (Targ & Puthoff) is published.	Dec 1982	US Army's RV project's name is changed to CENTER LANE.
June 1977	Founding of Mobius Group; Project Deepquest—a submarine RV experiment is jointly conducted by SRI International/Stephan Schwartz.	1983	With Swann as instructor, two individuals begin first CRV training; Paul H. Smith joins military RV unit in September.
Sept 1977	US Army's remote viewing program GONDOLA WISH is established by Lt. F. Holmes "Skip" Atwater at the direction of the ACSI, Maj. Gen. Edmund Thompson.	Jan 1984	Bill Ray joins military RV unit; second group of CRV candidates begins training (group includes Smith, Ray, Charlene Shufelt; Ed Dames is last-minute addition).
13 July 1978	GONDOLA WISH name is changed to GRILL FLAME.	1984	The book <i>Mind Race</i> (Targ & Keith Harary) is published.
Oct 1978	US Army's INSCOM is tasked by the ACSI with developing a parapsychology program.	Apr 1984	Lyn Buchanan joins the Ft. Meade RV unit.
Dec 78-Jan 79	Selection of remote viewers for GRILL FLAME. Mel Riley, Joe McMoneagle, Ken Bell, and three others are included.	Sept 1984	Joe McMoneagle retires from the Ft. Meade RV unit.
4 Sept 1979	First operational remote viewing session conducted.	July 1984	Brig. Gen. Harry Soyster replaces Maj. Gen. Bert Stubblebine as Commander, INSCOM. Decides to close Army's CENTER LANE RV program; program & personnel are to be transferred to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).
1979-81	Stephan Schwartz conducts Alexandria Project, a remote viewing archaeology project in Egypt. His book <i>Alexandria Project</i> is subsequently published.	1985	Dr. Hal Puthoff leaves SRI International to take directorship of Institute of Advanced Studies in Austin, TX. Dr. Edwin May becomes director of SRI's program.
ca. 1980	Air Force RV program is cancelled; Dale Graff joins Defense Intelligence Agency as principal staff officer for remote viewing effort.	1985-86	Caravel Project, an underwater archaeology project conducted by Stephan Schwartz.
1981-82	Puthoff and Swann develop coordinate remote viewing (CRV) architecture.	31 Jan 1986	After a year of holding operational control, DIA formally takes control of the operational RV program, and renames it SUN STREAK. Ed Dames joins unit.
1982	Russell Targ leaves SRI International's RV program. Mel Riley departs Ft. Meade's operational RV unit.		

1986	Mel Riley is reassigned to the Ft. Meade RV unit.	1995	CIA begins Congressionally directed evaluation of RV as an intelligence tool. American Institutes of Research is hired to do a “scientific” study; it concludes that RV has no value as an intelligence tool. Significant questions are raised about the validity of the AIR study.
1987	Brig Leander Project, an underwater archaeology project conducted by Stephan Schwartz.		
Dec 1987	F. Holmes “Skip” Atwater departs the Ft. Meade RV unit on retirement leave.	30 June 1995	CIA cancels STAR GATE program. The five remaining personnel are reassigned to other jobs in the government.
June 1988	David Morehouse is assigned to the Ft. Meade RV unit.		
Dec 1988	Ed Dames departs the Ft. Meade RV unit.	28 Nov 1995	Ted Koppel’s <i>Nightline</i> reveals existence of government remote viewing effort. Interviewed are former CIA director Robert Gates, Dale Graff, Edwin May, Joe McMoneagle, etc.
June 1990	David Morehouse departs, and Mel Riley retires from, the Ft. Meade RV unit.		
Aug 1990	Paul Smith is reassigned from the Ft. Meade RV unit to the 101 st Airborne Division for Desert Shield/DesertStorm.	1996	Remote viewing is featured in many media articles and broadcasts, and becomes a featured item on Art Bell’s and other talk shows.
Late 1990	Dale Graff becomes chief of the Ft. Meade RV unit, and changes project name to STAR GATE.	Nov 1996	The book <i>Psychic Warrior</i> (Morehouse) is published.
1991	Edwin May, moves RV research program from SRI International to Science Applications International Corporation.	Feb 1997	The book <i>Remote Viewers: The Secret History of America’s Psychic Spies</i> (Schnabel) is published.
Jan 1992	Lyn Buchanan retires from the Ft. Meade RV unit.	18 March 1999	The International Remote Viewing Association is founded.
1993	The book <i>Mind Trek</i> (McMoneagle) is published.	19-20 March 1999	First remote viewing conference: CRV Conference hosted by Lyn Buchanan’s training company, P > S > I. ☉
June 1993	Dale Graff retires.		
1994	Wording added to FY95 budget transferring control of STAR GATE from DIA to CIA.		



About The International Remote Viewing Association

The International Remote Viewing Association (IRVA) was organized March 18, 1999 in Alamogordo, New Mexico, by scientists and academicians involved in remote viewing since its inception, together with veterans of the military remote viewing program, who are now active as trainers and practitioners in the field. IRVA was formed in response to widespread confusion and conflicting claims about the remote viewing phenomenon.

One primary goal of the organization is to encourage the dissemination of accurate information about the remote viewing. This goal is accomplished through a robust website, regular conferences, and speaking and educational outreach by its directors. Other IRVA goals are to assist in forming objective testing standards and materials for evaluating remote viewers, serve as a clearing house for accurate information about the phenomenon, promote rigorous theoretical research and applications development in the remote viewing field, and propose ethical standards as appropriate. IRVA has made progress on some of these goals, but others will take more time to realize. We encourage all who are willing to join with us in trying to bring them about.

IRVA neither endorses nor promotes any specific method or approach to remote viewing, but aims to become a responsible voice in the future development of all aspects of the discipline.

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