

# Controlled remote viewing

## *The future of surveillance?*

By Geoffrey Gluckman

**E**ver since the notion of someone wanting information about someone or something began, the essence of surveillance has stayed fairly constant throughout the ages. Even in the last century that base premise remained intact, other than technological advancements. That may be about to change.

Controlled Remote Viewing (CRV) is probably a name unfamiliar to most individuals using surveillance as part of their work. This technique has altered the science of gleaning information about a target. Despite being in use by the U.S. government for over a quarter-century, CRV is relatively unknown to many in both intelligence and law enforcement arenas.

Lyn Buchanan, who came to the attention of the military in the early eighties for his ability to crash computers with an innate psychic talent and was later employed by the CIA as a remote viewer, hopes to shed some light on this technique. In his book, "The Seventh Sense," he defines CRV as "the ability to control the psychic sense through trained methods." His company, Problems, Solutions, Innovations (PSI), also aids law enforcement agencies in CRV information gathering. "Law Enforcement Technology" recently spoke with this top CRV to get his thoughts on how the technique might be used in law enforcement applications.

**Q: During the Gulf War (1991-1992), you were given Saddam Hussein as a target. Yet, why was the information gathered not used for his disposal?**

**A:** "It is your assumption that it was not used. In fact, it was, and on a daily basis. But you must understand that our information was not the only information at the intel[ligence] community's disposal. As a result, our information went into a large pot and was melded into information from other sources."

**Q: Are you still under contract with the U.S. government or U.S. military?**

**A:** "If I were not under contract, I would be honest and say, 'No.' If I were under contract, I would be duty-bound to lie and say, 'No.'"

"So, to answer your question: No.

"Seriously, though, when President Bush ordered the intelligence community to 'think outside the box,' it gave agents the freedom to use remote viewers, as well as many other intelligence-gathering methods not normally available to them. I was in Lower Manhattan the morning of 9/11, and was mad as hell at what I witnessed, standing there looking up at the buildings. I offered my services to agents within the proper agencies, and those services were used [by] individual agents within intelligence [circles]. That does not mean that I officially worked for the government, any more than saying that an auto mechanic who works on a congressman's car works for Congress. If any psychic or remote viewer tells you that they worked for the government during those times, they are either not using the correct terminology or they are lying."

**Q: What is the difference between CRV and a psychic used by**

**police?**

**A:** "Actually, there are many differences. The basic one is that CRV is an organized and scientific method developed in the laboratory. It was, in fact, designed so the government would not have to deal with psychics, and could train the average soldier to do the work instead. There are differences in practice, as well. A psychic will generally try to 'solve' the case — that is, provide the final answer — (and often, try to take credit for the police department's success). A CRV tries only to provide the investigator with intelligence that cannot be gained in any other way. The CRVer [is] simply an adjunct information-gathering tool for the investigator."

**Q: Are all viewers fully competent in all areas?**

**A:** "Each viewer has his/her strengths and weaknesses. Since CRV is a science, the work of each viewer is databased to provide a track record of each viewer's work. That has several implications. When an investigator requests a viewer to do some work, the database can be consulted in order to choose the person who is most suited for the specific type of information needed. Whether psychic or controlled remote viewer, human error is always a factor. CRV provides a way to evaluate each viewer's work before someone acts on it. Because of that, we always ask for feedback, [which is added to] the viewer's dependability rating or track record of accuracy for each type of information provided. When feedback indicates that a viewer is lacking in some specific area, we can provide that viewer with further

## What is Controlled Remote Viewing?

Controlled Remote Viewing (CRV) is a specific form of applied parapsychology.

Spurred by similar techniques in use by the USSR in 1970, the U.S. government embarked on a two-pronged investigation into developing CRV, as a weapon against enemies of U.S. intelligence. An "operations unit" and a "research unit" were established, though kept distinctly separate from each other, like a double blind research study. Under the auspices of the CIA, the basic purpose of the operations unit was to spy on designated targets, while the research unit trained potentially talented candidates for psychic warfare.

In 1983, the government implemented a revised program, led by Ingo Swann and Harold Puthoff, to train anyone to reach minimum accuracy competence on targets tasked. By 1991, the program transferred to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) under the name STARGATE. It operated, more or less, secretly, performing hundreds of intelligence collection tasks. Then, in 1994, for unclear reasons, the CIA declassified the CRV programs within the U.S. government, and evidently STARGATE was terminated shortly thereafter.

According to U.S. military sources, when recruits employed these techniques, they presented it as "the structured, scientific use of natural human potential for the acquisition of no-nonsense, real-world information without being dependent on: the normal five senses, prior or existing knowledge about the target, help or information from other people, logical deductions, and equipment, such as photos, electronics or other devices."

However, CRV is a physical activity, not a purely mental one. It uses the body's autonomic nervous system to act as a "translator" between the subconscious and conscious minds — which normally do not talk to each other. This requires a discipline of physical as well as mental training. While the practitioner needn't possess a great degree of natural ability, the person does need to be disciplined and employ repetition of the methods taught.

After the CIA declassified CRV, Remote Viewer Lyn Buchanan established his company, Problems, Solutions, Innovations (PSI), to serve as an independent contractor in the information gathering field. According to Buchanan, the method of remote viewing that he teaches is best suited for "real-world applications, such as medical (physical) diagnostics, business information collection, [and] police work," as well as other physical targets that surround us.

CRV is performed in a waking state, not in a trance, state of "rapture" or "possession" by some "entity," or some other altered consciousness. The source of the information is not important to the method, rather the process of retrieval onto paper.

A key component of the training is the practitioner's mastery over self, which along with a strict set of "protocols," keeps his/her mind from "polluting" the information he gathers. In essence, the remote viewer is the equipment for intelligence collection, the conduit through which the data passes, like one computer connected to another by a serial cable.

training in that specific area, to make him/her better for future use."

**Q: Can you give an example of how CRV performed by you, or one of your people, helped a police investigation?**

**A:** "We have been privileged to be of help in cases of serial killers, missing children, unidentified victims, white and blue collar crimes, location of missing evidence, and providing information about perpetrators. [That] information [does not consist of] such

things as: 'Has a G in the name' or personal names and addresses. [Rather], a CRVer can provide descriptions of the perpetrator's home, family, vehicle, workplace, type of work, hobbies, interests, type of dress and other factors that allow investigators to organize and improve the work they do, pursue new leads, locate new evidence, etc."

**Q: How many competent CRV practitioners are there in the world?**

**A:** "That depends on how you interpret the word, 'competent.' The way I interpret the word, I would say that there are less than 30. We have

more people coming up through the ranks, though, and that number will be burgeoning very quickly in the future."

**Q: Are you still considered one of the best CRVer's in the world?**

**A:** "I don't think that there is such a thing as the 'world's top CRVer.' I have my strengths, but have to face that database daily, and it keeps reminding me of my weaknesses, too. Besides, the newer generation of viewers seems to be building on the science and experience of us old fogies. I have found lately that many of my students seem to be doing bet-

ter work than we did in the military. A few of them are averaging in the 90+ percent accuracy range, whereas we generally averaged in the low to mid 80 percent range. Besides, when you talk about someone being ‘the best’ viewer, you have to ask, ‘At viewing what?’ Doctors make the best medical viewers. Cops make the best police viewers, etc. The people in a field are the ones who best know the field’s language, who know what to look for as they view, and who understand the impact of what they are getting. I was an intelligence agent. Put me into that field and I can hold my own in any group. Put me doing medical diagnostics and any doctor trained in CRV can view circles around me. One of the problems with using natural psychics in police cases is that they are rarely ever trained as cops. Get a psychic cop, and you really have something. It is the same with CRV — if you want REALLY good remote-viewing work for police purposes, get a CRV-trained cop.”

**Q: What are some examples of things that could compromise a CRV session?**

A: “Interruptions, bad tasking, [poor] feedback and other factors [are all forms of pollution]. I always said that about half of our major problems came from bad tasking, another half from the viewer’s logic and imagination, and about 20 other halves from improper project management. There are many other problems as well. For example, let’s say that everyone in a CRV project does their job and gets tremendous results, but that information is given to a customer who won’t even read it because he/she thinks that it is ‘garbage from artsy-fartsy New Agers’ (an actual quote). Not only a session, but a whole project has been compromised and wasted.

“We also worry about compromising a viewer. In actual operations, such as drug interdiction, criminal cases, etc., we only provide the customer with a viewer’s identification number, not the viewer’s name. We do

not know what hands that information will fall into, and we are as careful to protect our viewer’s identity as we are to protect our customers.”

**Q: What is the reliability of the information gathered during a CRV session?**

A: “That is a simple question to which I can only provide a complex answer. A viewer who has an overall accuracy score of, say, 70 percent may, in fact, be able to describe the size or shape 99 percent of the time, and only provide the color 10 percent of the time. We might, therefore, use this viewer to describe the size and shape of a getaway car in such detail that it is identifiable to the investigator. But we would select another viewer to give us a description of its color. Through the correct use of a team of viewers, each of whom have an accuracy rate of say, 70 percent, we can get a much higher rate of accuracy for a project.”

**Q: What is the Assigned Witness Program (AWP)?**

A: “The AWP is a public-service branch of my company, Problems Solutions, Innovations. It provides viewers to be of service to the community, the police and other public-service governmental agencies.

“The name came about one day when I was talking to an investigator. I kept trying to find out what core bit of information he needed in order to get his investigation back on track. He wanted us to solve the case for him. Finally, he said, ‘What I really need is a witness.’ I answered, ‘I can provide one. If you had a witness, what would you ask him?’ He thought for a moment and said, ‘You can assign someone to witness things that have already happened?’ I answered, ‘That’s what we do.’

“From that conversation came the name, ‘The Assigned Witness Program.’”

**Q: How does “active mental**

**work” fit into the realm of controlled remote viewing?**

A: “Active mental work was the euphemism for remote influencing, hypnosis at a distance, psychokinesis (moving objects with your mind), etc. The government had been so badly burned in the ’60s when people learned about their covert mind control experiments that they didn’t want to chance even [the] slightest hint of that, again. We were strictly forbidden to do such work, even on an experimental basis.”

**Q: In your training how do you deal with the possibility of remote influencing, the ability of someone else interfering with a CRVer’s perceptions?**

A: “We don’t. This is another reason we keep our work secret. The concept of remote influencing is largely misunderstood. It is influencing, not control. It has about the same power over another person as making the wrapper of a soapbox red in order to [encourage] people to buy it. The effect is extremely small, and there are only a very tiny number of people in the world who can do it effectively — probably less than 10 or so.

**Q: If by definition Spontaneous Remote Viewing is pre-cognition, then is CRV just bringing that aspect of human consciousness/sub-consciousness under a repeatable and predictable framework?**

A: “Actually that term covers more than just precognition. But the letters ‘CRV’ stand for ‘CONTROLLED’ remote viewing. Therefore, it would probably be more accurate to say that spontaneous remote viewing is working without controls. This is how a natural psychic normally works. CRV is a set of controls, which allow for a highly regulated application of a person’s natural intuitiveness in a strictly controlled manner. The major complaint of most natural psychics is that they don’t have control over their abil-

ities. CRV has total control.”

**Q. What is the cost of hiring you for work on an investigation for police?**

**A:** “It is a free service. Our company never asks for any publicity. We generally ask the police department for whom we work to give either a department baseball hat or coffee mug to each of the viewers as a reward for their work.” ■

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*Geoffrey Gluckman is a novelist and freelance writer based in Vancouver, British Columbia. His upcoming espionage novel, “Deadly Exchange,” will be available in June 2004. Lyn Buchanan can be reached at [awp@charter.net](mailto:awp@charter.net) (this address is reserved for police and other public service agency use).*