

# NATIONAL CENTER FOR CREDIBILITY ASSESSMENT

PDD 501



## Counterintelligence Post-Test Interview Supplement

## **Preface**

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This document contains post test interrogation theme material that supplements the NCCA Interview and Interrogation Manual. The material is specifically intended for personnel who are, or will be, involved in counterintelligence (CI) screening and operational PDD examinations. It is by no means all inconclusive, but is viewed merely as a starting point for those examiners with little or no experience in the counterintelligence/operational PDD testing environment.

Most of the post-test concepts addressed in the basic Interview and Interrogation Manual can be used in a CI post-test interview. NCCA recommends that each student become thoroughly familiar with the basic Interview and Interrogation Manual.

The ideas and concepts discussed in this supplement are merely a compilation of themes used by many PDD examiners who administer CI screening and operational PDD examinations. Ideas and suggestions from individuals in this field are actively solicited.

## **Themes**

The purpose of a theme is to place or project the blame to someone or something else for improper conduct so that the examinee will be able to admit knowledge or guilt about the incident. Be flexible and prepared to rationalize, minimize, and project a positive outcome from the perspective of the examinee.

The following are general themes that you will find effective for various types of CI screening and operational issues.

## **Deliberate Compromise of Classified Information**

### **Motives**

- Revenge
- Politics – disagreement with policy

### **Themes**

- Difficulty keeping secrets, need to tell someone just in case something happened to them, feel weight of burden placed upon them (psychological)
- Has already been in the press, so felt no longer classified
- Angry, did not get that promotion/position, mistreated by management
- Violated your beliefs (political or religious)
- Felt you had been betrayed by politicians, leaders, management
- It was an error, you slipped in conversation;
- It was an accidental removal, you meant to bring it back but time got away from you
- Afraid if you brought it back in, you would get in trouble

- Wanted to write a book about your career, used as reference material
- You gave birth to this program/project, ownership, wanted to keep an original copy (much like an author gets the first copy off the press)
- Someone else (family, friend) had access, they showed to you or discussed with you
- Revenge, getting even
- Security where you work is lax, you were just testing the system
- You were overworked, tired of being 24/7 guy; you have a family, wanted to be with them more often, so took work home
- Did not understand the rules; it was security's fault for not properly briefing you
- You were just bragging to some friends/family
- You took it home to safeguard
- You've heard classified discussions of a much more sensitive nature taking place in bars and restaurants
- This person is someone you can trust – probably a friend or relative
- The person you told simply had an intellectual curiosity about the matter – they didn't want to know it for personal gain
- The Government trusts your discretion/judgment – sure you wouldn't have told someone that won't be discreet
- You drinking in a bar with some friends and it accidentally slipped out
- You provided the information to an American – not like giving it to a foreign national
- No malicious intent, simply a desire to do more work and had to bring the material home
- You removed and stored the material safely – there wasn't any chance of compromise
- You were proud of your work and wanted to show your family what you really do for the USG

### **Foreign National Contacts**

- It is part of your job to have foreign contacts
- This is someone you met and developed a relationship with, and you felt this was your private life, no one's business but yours
- You saw a business opportunity and like most people you went for it, besides doesn't effect your government work, again your personal affairs
- No personal contact, met only over the internet, so you felt it was not necessary to report
- You were embarrassed by the nature of the contact
- You didn't know this person was a foreign national
- You were just too busy and you forgot to fill out a Foreign National Contact Form
- Can't expect to fill out a Foreign National form for every foreign national you meet
- You live in an area which is a melting pot like D.C., it's impossible to go anywhere and not meet a foreign national
- You were alone for a long time on your TDY and wanted companionship
- Prostitution is acceptable/legal in many countries
- You didn't plan on this being a long term relationship – just thought it would be a one night stand
- By the time you realized the relationship was going to last, you didn't want to fill out the contact form because you thought Security would believe you were hiding something

## **Espionage/Foreign Intelligence**

### **Motives**

- Money, greed
- Political, belief system
- Revenge

### **Themes**

- Mistreated by the government or contractor
- Passed over for promotion
- Low pay
- Poor security just wanted to teach the organization a lesson in security
- Blackmailed for some misconduct
- Someone else failed to do his or her job and left classified material unsecured – again trying to teach them a lesson
- Trying to help a competing contractor
- Political reasons - ideology
- Needed money to help support your family
- Hostage situation – family in a denied area, you agreed only to protect them

## **Terrorism**

### **Motives**

- Politically based;
- Religiously based;
- Criminal based;
- Monetary based

### **Themes**

- Intent was designed to correct a wrongdoing or unjust behavior by victim
- Religion – action was based upon sound religious teachings vs. personal conviction
- Suggest action was taken to bring attention to a very serious problem
- They approached you, you did not go to them (minimize)
- This was a person you met, developed relationship with and did not know there were involved
- Person you thought was a friend asked you to carry something
- These were your friends/relatives/neighbors; if you wanted to get along you had to go along
- Shame vs. guilt: their cooperation may prevent possible shame that may be cast upon their families
- Place blame on anyone or anything else – peer pressure, environment; now he knows better and would not do again

## **Unauthorized Activity on a US Government Computer System**

### **Motives**

- Stealing classified/proprietary information
- Browsing/curiosity
- Ego – wanted to prove you could crack the system

### **Themes**

- You did not understand the rules
- You were just trying to maintain the system
- (For administrators/those with root access) This was your creation, no one else understood, so you did what you felt was necessary to maintain the system
- You did not agree with policies, management doesn't understand
- You were curious, that's why you tried to break into the system
- You wanted to know if the others received better ratings than you
- You were going to start your own business, needed the information for that
- Angry with management, wanted to get even so you placed a "time bomb"/other virus in the system
- You did it as a joke
- You knew you would return to that office sooner or later, so you built the remote access to maintain the system from your new office
- You knew you would need to maintain the system, so you left a back door in it for expediency
- You had to work on your project, you didn't have a password, so it was easier to use/take that other person's password
- There were security weaknesses in the system and you were simply trying to point that out to management
- Any of the other themes (for deliberate actions) – acting on political/religious beliefs/convictions

## **Falsification or Omitting Information from Application Forms**

### **Motives**

- Conceal true identity
- Conceal biographic information
- Conceal past misdeeds
- Conceal prior addresses – evictions, neighbors knowledgeable of illegal/improper behavior
- Conceal prior employments – jobs fired from, left under less than favorable circumstances
- Conceal past foreign travel/connections
- Conceal intelligence/terrorist connections

## **Themes**

- You just wanted to put your best foot forward
- At the time, you did not think it was important
- Felt this was all behind you now, and you just wanted to leave it there
- Maybe someone else suggested you do this

## **Adult Major Crimes**

### **Motives**

- Conceal personal involvement in crimes against a person
- Conceal personal involvement in crimes against property
- Conceal personal knowledge of major criminal activity

### **Themes**

- You did not plan this, it was an act of passion
- This was a target of opportunity, you didn't plan it
- You took that money because you needed to support your family
- You were with a group of friends, everyone else was doing it so you did to
- The "Ozzie and Harriet" theme – everything is pushed at you in the media, must have this car, that house, live this lifestyle; you cannot afford it, it's not your fault, so you took it
- In college, needed books for class, clothes to wear, money to spend, had no money so took from another student's locker/room, etc
- You borrowed the money with every intention of returning it
- You needed the money for an emergency, family needs
- You planned on paying for the merchandise a little later when you got the money
- Why do you think everything is so overpriced? They deliberately do that knowing that some of the merchandise will be taken, they expect it
- You took it from your workplace, you were overworked and underpaid, I'm sure you deserved it
- What's a few dollars, they won't miss it, everything is overpriced
- If she didn't want it, she wouldn't dress the way she did (Rape)
- Children today are much more mature and wise to the way of the world, he seduced you
- Once it started, you just could not stop, you are only human (theory of diminished capacity)
- It was an accident, the gun just went off
- It was self-defense, you were just protecting yourself
- You only meant to scare the person, the gun went off accidentally
- (Perjury, false swearing) You were just seeking attention, you did not mean to cause any harm
- You only intended to hit him once, but your adrenaline started to flow and you couldn't stop
- You lost your temper – you weren't thinking straight
- They deserved it and you knew the police weren't going to do anything

- You were just trying to help and got caught in the middle of the situation
- It wasn't your fault, they instigated the fight, they provoked you
- You tried to walk away, but they wouldn't let it go
- You didn't intend to go that far, once your hormones started, you couldn't stop
- Had she been behaving properly, you wouldn't have had to discipline her
- Listen, we're talking about a fight, it's not like you killed him
- You were just disciplining your child and it got out of hand

## **Non-Medicinal Drug Use**

### **Motives**

- Conceal past drug use
- Conceal current drug use
- Conceal addictive behaviors

### **Themes**

- Some drink beer to relax, you smoke marijuana, so what?
- Everyone else is doing it
- Peer pressure, your friends offered it to you, your boyfriend/girlfriend offered it
- Many feel marijuana is no worse than alcohol
- You were having a bad time (upset, depressed, etc), so smoked some, did a line or two just to pick yourself up
- She's a lot younger than you, in order to "stay with her", you did some just to keep you going
- Your job involves long hours, you used it to keep working
- You were cramming for finals, needed something to keep you going
- It's not like you are addicted, weekend/party user, recreational use
- For personal use or getting it for someone else
- Society accepts small amounts for personal use
- Better for you than alcohol
- Use on your own time or at work
- Had too much to drink, you didn't know what you were doing
- You weren't living your life in college as though you were going to work for the USG
- You were curious, you always heard a lot about it and wanted to try
- You need to make an informed choice
- You used it during high school/college, it's not part of your life now
- What you do in the privacy of your own home is your own business; it's not like you're using them at work
- You used it just to relax, not to get high every time
- You're not the person society is worried about, they want the people who are selling drugs to our children on the playground, society isn't worried about people like you
- You're not hurting anyone, it's your body

## **Unauthorized disclosure of an agent's secret USI relationship**

### **Motives**

- Reporting to another intelligence service, terrorist group, drug/criminal cartel or foreign government (acting as double agent)
- Disenchanted with US policy/actions
- Need to confide in wife/family
- Pride
- Psychological pressure
- Money

### **Themes**

- Psychological pressure of the situation, need to tell someone
- Not your fault, your case officer did not properly instruct you
- It's not your fault, you're only human, it's very difficult to maintain a secret as important as this
- Your colleagues started to say that you were working for the USG, so you had to tell the one you most trusted in order for him to help you dispel the rumors
- I'm sure we're talking about a few of your most trusted friends, colleagues, family
- After all, we're the ones placing you at an apparent risk, you needed to tell someone in order to protect your family in case something happened
- It's not as if you were out at a bar bragging to everyone about your relationship and everyone knows
- Your wife suspected you were running around on her, had to tell her something
- A friend/family member saw you meeting with case officer and you had to explain it
- Obviously case officer trusts your judgment, you wouldn't tell anyone who would violate that trust
- After all, we entered this relationship with you because we know you have sound judgment, I'm sure the people you've told are very discreet
- It was a matter of personal pride, you just wanted to tell someone about your accomplishment
- You just wanted to impress family/friends/girlfriend and show how you are contributing to help your country
- You probably told your colleague/co-worker/cousin because you thought they would be a great asset to the USG also
- This was undoubtedly the biggest decision in your life, I'm sure you just wanted to discuss this with someone that you truly trusted
- You were having a difficult time explaining the source of extra income so you decided to tell that person so they wouldn't think you were involved in some type of terrorist group
- I'm sure you were caught in the act (meeting case officer, taking documents, etc) and had no choice
- Just like people in my own country, you became disenchanted with US policy, many people would have done the same thing



## **Working for a foreign intelligence service**

### **Motives**

- Directed by another intelligence service
- Greed, money
- Revenge
- Ideology

### **Themes**

- You just wanted to help your country in any way you could, it's perfectly understandable, you are loyal (a patriot)
- You're not out to harm the US, just level the playing field
- You were approached by them, you didn't approach them, and you saw an opportunity to make more money
- You are not out to report on your activities with us, you are simply giving the same information to someone else
- This isn't your fault; case officer didn't understand you so you offered your services to someone else
- This wasn't your idea, you were told to contact us and report back to them, you had no choice
- You just needed some money to help your family
- This wasn't premeditated, the situation just presented itself