Polygraph Countermeasures

- Where we were…
- Where we are…
True or False?

“...most examiners do not expect skillful countermeasures and, not looking for them, will not see them.”

Once upon a time...

- Some examiners believed (or were told) that:
  - few subjects would attempt to manipulate the test
  - if a subject attempted to manipulate the test, it would be easily recognized by the examiner
Really?
Another view...
Acceptable?
Another view...
The world has changed...

- Those examiners were:
  - Wrong...and/or...
  - Poorly trained...and/or...
  - Incompetent
Classroom

Countermeasures...

another definition

- Any effort to affect the outcome of a polygraph examination through tactical use of:
  - Physical
  - Mental
  - Pharmacological and or
  - Behavioral actions

It’s Deliberate!
Does it matter?  
...from a countermeasure concern

- Whether subject is guilty?
  - More or less likely to use Cm?
  - Will the Cm look different?
  - Will subject still respond to relevant issue?
Does it matter?
…from a countermeasure concern

- Whether subject is innocent?
  - Will innocent subjects use Cm?
  - How will Cm affect examination?
    - Depends on skill sets of examiner and subject!

- Can you reach an NDI conclusion once Cm have been noted?
  - Risk assessment
Anti-polygraph sites

- http://www.polygraph.com
- http://www.nopolygraph.com
- http://stoppolygraph.com
- http://antipolygraph.org
- http://www.beatpolygraph.com
- http://www.police-test.net
Antipolygraph sites advocate:

- Do not submit to a polygraph exam
- If you must take the exam...
  - Use Cm to pass
    - Regardless of guilt or innocence
  - Innocent subjects need to employ Cm to “pass”
Protecting the innocent?

“If I were a guilty suspect, I would immediately …request a polygraph exam and employ countermeasures … This would be my best hope of diffusing the suspicion ....”

http://antipolygraph.org/cgi-bin/forums/YaBB.pl?board=Policy;action=display;num=1027360333
22 Jul 2002
Antipolygraph sites advocate:

- Use Cm by creating responses
  - At CQs in a comparison test format
  - At RQs in a RI test format
- Drugs are discouraged
- Formats in use are explained
For examinees concerned about movement sensors...

- “…one might employ mental countermeasures (which in any event would be my first choice if I were to use countermeasures) or tongue biting, combined with breathing manipulations” 3 Mar 05
The good news…

- Fortunately (for you) & unfortunately for some prospective subjects…
  - Some of the information is inaccurate
  - And it’s not as easy to employ most Cm as some think…
  - And hide it from an examiner who is trained in CM detection and recognizes the threat
Atypical Physiological Responses

- Is there a difference between the physiology normally observed on charts and that which is atypical?

- How can we tell?
Atypical or legitimate?
Atypical or legitimate?
Atypical or legitimate?
Atypical or legitimate?
Atypical or legitimate?
Atypical or legitimate?
Atypical or legitimate?
Sensors & Cms

...how should we treat movements?
Do we need new rules?

- How should we treat artifacts?
  - Depends on where & when they occur
    - Frequency & Specificity
- Is this really anything new?
ACQT
ACQT w/sensor
I-1 w/sensor
I-2 Any problem?
Movements?
What do you think?
What do we do?

- Analysis
  - Is the physiology typical of what we normally see?
  - Is there a *frequency & specificity* to any of the movements or atypical physiology?
What do we do?

- Anti-countermeasures
- Counter-Countermeasures
What not to do...

in posttest
What not to do...
Let’s look at some cases...

- All are from exams in which the subject admitted applying CM
- All obtained their information from the internet sites
Sex Offender – I-1
Sex Offender – I-3
Sex Offender

- Sex Offender Maintenance Exam
- Controlled Breathing
- Antipolygraph.org
- Knew suppressed breathing was criteria used for evaluation
- Confessed off-tape...
RI Exam

A D R A R

SW
RI Exam

23/2003

A

R

R

R

D
CQ Exam
CQ Exam
CQ Exam
CQ Exam
Criteria present?
THE TEST IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, PLEASE REMAIN STILL
Subject confessed & gave up manual!
The examiner holds the key!

- **Competence**
  - Proper training
  - Adherence to standards
  - Attend training – keeps up with change
  - Recognize quality & normal physiology

- **Professional**
  - Appearance
  - Presentation
  - Knowledgeable
The examiner holds the key!

- Do not get paranoid!
Final Analysis

- Do it right
- Keep abreast of training
- Be conservative
- Adhere to standards

Discussion – Questions?