

The NITV's 2008 Annual Advanced Examiners Course

Because I have tried to become the very best examiner that I can be, I have attended every AEC that I have been given the opportunity to attend (many over the past ten years). When the NITV says every year that they strive to make each year better than the last, I take them at their word. However, this year was probably the best that I have attended.

Starting with the venue, the Hard Rock Casino and Resort, this is a hard place to beat (pun intended). Not only do all of the stars perform there, but it is also an upscale sprawling complex of entertainment and shopping that has something for everyone (DO NOT give your wife the credit card here!). Besides that, you really don't have to leave the resort to relax and have a good time.

On Tuesday night, the NITV hosted a poolside meet-and-greet for the entire class (with an open bar!). We all got to know each other and it was a very welcome event enjoyed by everyone. I guess the hit of the evening was the fact that Dr. Humble took the time to sit at every table and talk with each student. For some of us it was a real treat to get to speak with the guy that started this whole thing. We were all also happy to get to know the six or seven detectives from Hawaii better (just in case we find ourselves there on an investigation!!!).

As has always been the case in the past, NITV provided the examiners with the finest training available with NITV instructors Mike McQuillan, Ben Conrique, and Bill Endler trading off teaching duties during the week. Rather than just a rehash of the CEC, this AEC was a visit to both familiar and unfamiliar territory with new cases interjected from time-to-time. The point is, they made even seasoned examiners such as myself have to think (imagine that!). One of the main areas stressed was the DBR. When Dr. Humble welcomed us and spoke to us briefly as a class, he told us that a great emphasis was going to be put on the DBR because that was the area that examiners tended to let slip over time, and he was right. During the week many examiners mentioned that they stopped doing a good DBR and that their confession rate had suffered. Along with a 'get back to the basics' drill, everyone came away with the same opinion, we were going back to our departments to solve cases and put bad guys away.

The guest speaker, Maryland District Court Judge Louis Hennessy gave a very interesting presentation that held everyone's attention, although it was the consensus of most everyone that I spoke with that an expert on interviewing and interrogation may have been more beneficial. I have spoken with the folks at NITV and not only are they working on a contract to hold the 2009 AEC at the Hard Rock next year, they are already in negotiations to secure one of the top names in the I & I field to teach.

Another hit of the AEC were the door prizes that NITV gave out. They actually gave away a new CVSA II, a pre-owned CVSA, a Glock pistol, and many other prizes. Everyone was on the edge of their seats for the CVSA II as we had all promised our bosses that we would bring it home! But, Det. Martha Faul of the Charlotte Co. Sheriff's

Office (FL) took that home along with training for 2 detectives. Det. Wayne Hirayama of the Hawaii Dept. of Public Safety took home the pre-owned CVSA and Det. Steven Gasavuso of the Pataskala P.D. (OH) took home the Glock. I was even the lucky winner of an Olympus Puma II police special digital recorder with software.

In closing, we all know that from time-to-time, there are those that enter the market with 'new' equipment and 'new' training techniques. However, there can be no deviations or 'innovations' from what has been proven as the established protocols over the past 25-30 years. This is where those in polygraph who had to put their names on techniques stepped off of a cliff and ruined the industry. As we all know, there are those that have a vested interest in seeing voice stress analysis fail. Likewise, there are many that are trying to enter the field with both inferior products and training. Let's not assist those that would see voice stress analysis fail by deviating from the established protocols.

I have every intent of attending the 2009 AEC (especially if it's at the Hard Rock) and hope to see you all there.

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