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## Pentagon Obstructionism - Part 2

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In an article prepared for the September 2005 edition of the American Psychological Association Newsletter, *psychological science agenda*, two of the Pentagon's top experts in truth detection, John G. Capps, of Counterintelligence Field Activities (CIFA), and Andrew Ryan, of the DoD Polygraph Institute (DoDPI), describe the nature of research in electronic credibility assessment. According to Capps and Ryan, "Existing DoDPI research focuses on the science and technology of *alternate methods of deception detection* (emphasis added) while continuing research designed to improve on traditional polygraph.

"...Research is also underway at DoDPI on use of the laser Doppler vibrometer (LDV)...Through LDV, DoDPI researchers study changes in respiration, cardiovascular activity, muscle contraction, and body tremor at a distance of up to hundreds of feet. *Since this technology is both non-invasive and can be conducted without the subject's awareness* (it offers significant advantages (over) traditional polygraph techniques that require a cooperative subject and attachment of sensors (emphasis added)."

I leave it to others to determine whether or not it is even remotely possible to measure minute changes in respiration, cardiovascular activity, muscular contractions, etc. from hundreds of feet away, while the subject may be constantly on the move and experiencing emotional stress and physical exertion. However, for the serious-minded, we should not allow our fascination with "trick science" to distract us from our purpose, which is to determine whether or not a subject is telling the truth when directly confronted with questions of war-fighting significance. The ability to measure a subject's veracity from hundreds of feet away, when that subject may only be discussing how often he beats his camels and his wives, is of little significance to battlefield commanders.

What is needed, and what the DoDPI should be searching for, is a means of confronting an enemy combatant with questions of military significance, assessing his veracity in a non-invasive regime, with minimal cooperation, without his knowledge, without the need to attach sensors to his body, and often under battlefield conditions.

But that technology already exists and is widely used by federal, state, and local law enforcement organizations across the country. It is called Computer Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA), owned and manufactured by the National Institute for Truth Verification (NITV), of West Palm Beach, Florida.

CVSA has been used by the U.S. military in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo, and is now used by more than 1500 federal, state, and local law enforcement organizations across the country. They find it to be more reliable, far less expensive, and more user-friendly than the polygraph, and it does not require the cooperation of the subject. And while the DoDPI spends significant tax dollars attempting to find a way of measuring minute changes in physiological functions from "hundreds of feet away," CVSA is already capable of performing the required function, up-close and personal, with a small microphone and a laptop computer.

The CVSA technology is also capable of being miniaturized to make it compatible with a small hand-held computer, the Field Interrogation Support Tool (FIST), designed specifically for use by field interrogators.

However, within the higher echelons of the civilian Pentagon bureaucracy, CVSA technology is now taboo. By his own admission, the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence, Stephen A. Cambone, published a June 8, 2004 policy directive declaring that "the polygraph is the only instrument approved in the DoD for use as a credibility assessment tool," effectively outlawing CVSA technology in military applications.

In an attempt to provide academic support for his decision, the Undersecretary ordered a study by the University of Florida to assess the reliability of voice stress analysis. However, that study, completed in February 2006, is so seriously flawed in its methodology as to be all but meaningless. A team of high school students could easily have produced a study with a much higher degree of credibility.

Yet, in a letter dated October 27, 2006, Robert Andrews, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Counterintelligence and Security, relied heavily on the University of Florida study, concluding that CVSA performed at "chance levels," at roughly the same level as "random guessing."

One might infer from what CIFA and DoDPI researchers have written that they are interested in embracing private sector research and development in their search for new and innovative truth assessment technologies. Well, perhaps they are, but apparently only if their researchers are given a lion's share of the credit. The old "not-invented-here" syndrome appears to be alive and well in the Pentagon.

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld is a man of absolute integrity, with absolutely zero tolerance for bureaucratic game-playing. If and when he learns that CIFA and DoDPI are suppressing and withholding field-tested technology, much desired by commanders in the field, he will not be a happy man.