

Permission to use this presentation is
authorized provided credit is given to
David L. Charney, MD
NOIR4USA.org

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

By David L. Charney, M.D./NOIR for USA
Psychiatrist Specializing in the Mind of the Spy

Spying: A BIG Problem

■ What's being done to manage the problem?

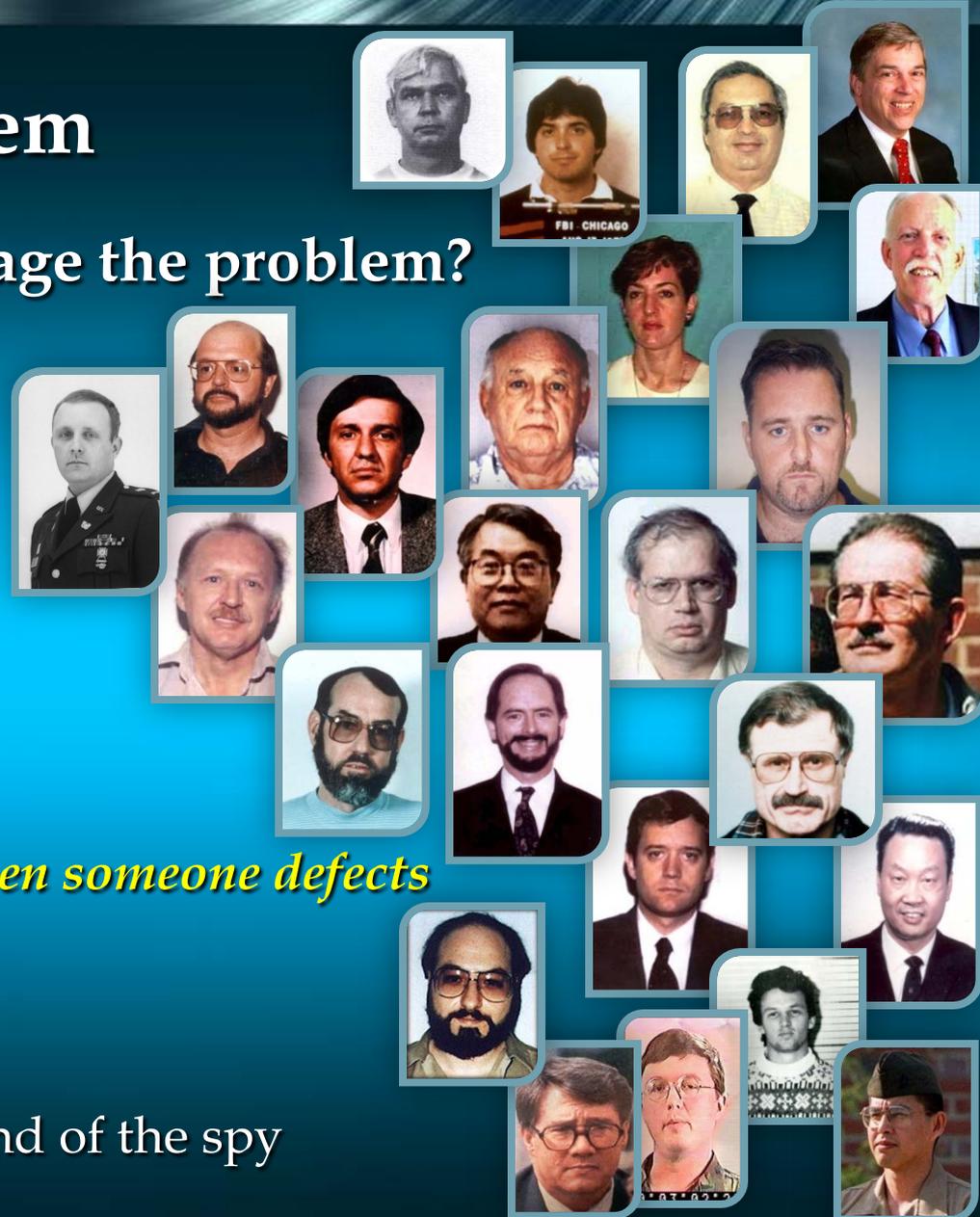
- Initial Screening
- Reinvestigations
- High-tech detection
- Counterintelligence units

■ How is it working?

- Detection rarely works
- Dirty little secret:
 - *Cases usually solved when someone defects from the other side*

■ What's been missing?

- Better understanding the mind of the spy



How I Became An Expert in the Mind of the Spy

- Training in Psychiatry
- Air Force Psychiatrist
 - Strategic Air Command
 - Andrews AFB
 - Treated NSA Personnel
 - Received a Security Clearance
- Thought about becoming a CIA consultant
 - Intimidating application so “maybe later...”



Down the Rabbit Hole by Accident

- Solo Private Practice, Old Town, Alexandria
- Group Practice that needed staffing up
- Just one more Social Worker – and I'm in!
- A decade of treating CIA and other IC personnel
- Squash game leads to Earl Pitts
- Luck of practicing near the Rocket Docket



Access is Key



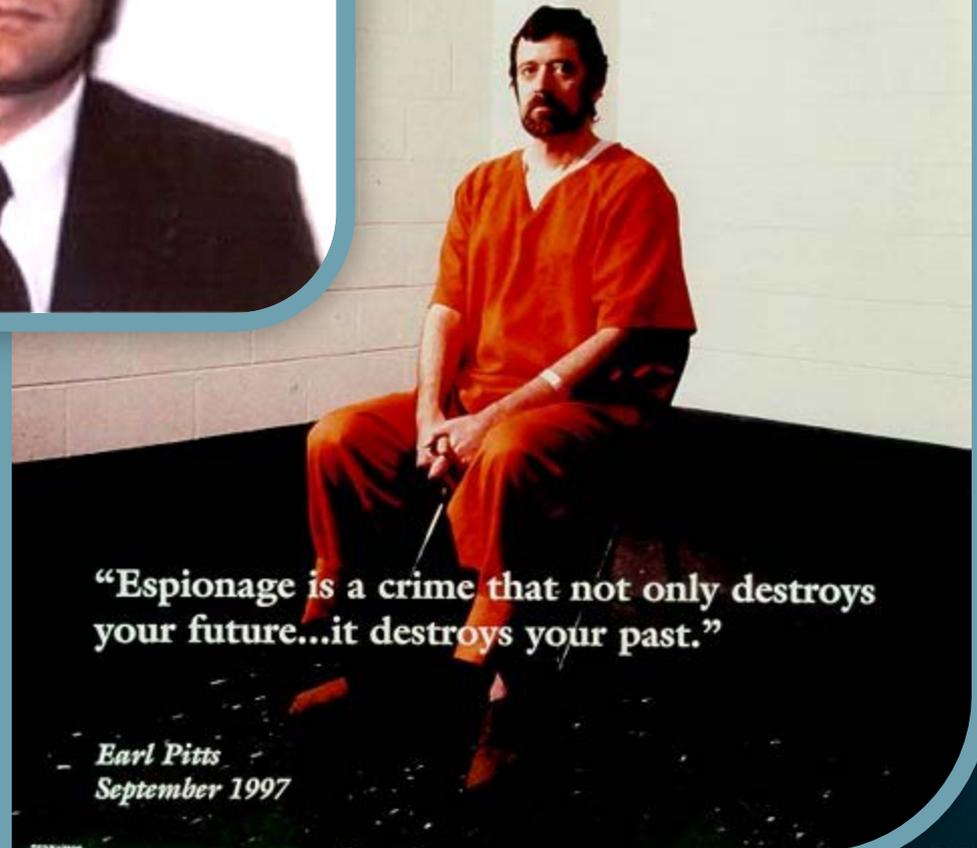
- Government psychologists and psychiatrists have access
 - Brief evaluations, adjudications
 - No long-term therapy
- Defense Team has access
 - Freedom to intensively engage with captured spy
- No one else has access
 - They don't have clearances

My First Meetings with Earl Pitts



A bargain struck:

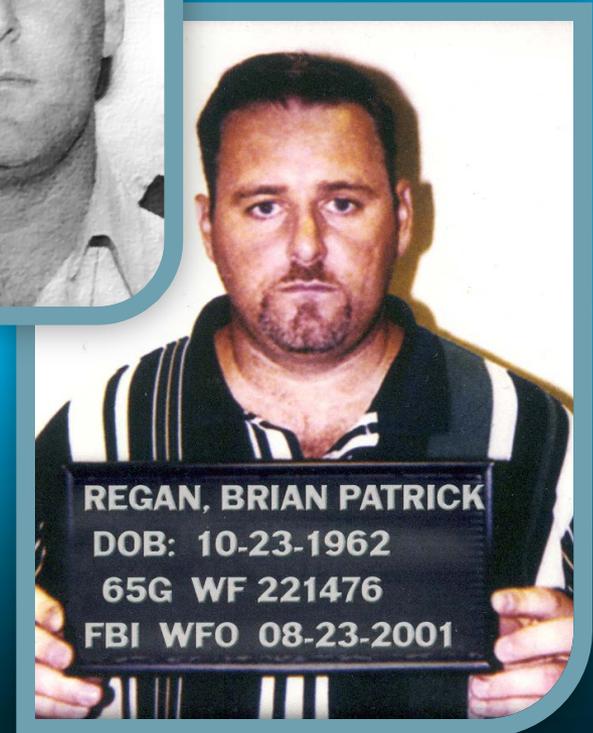
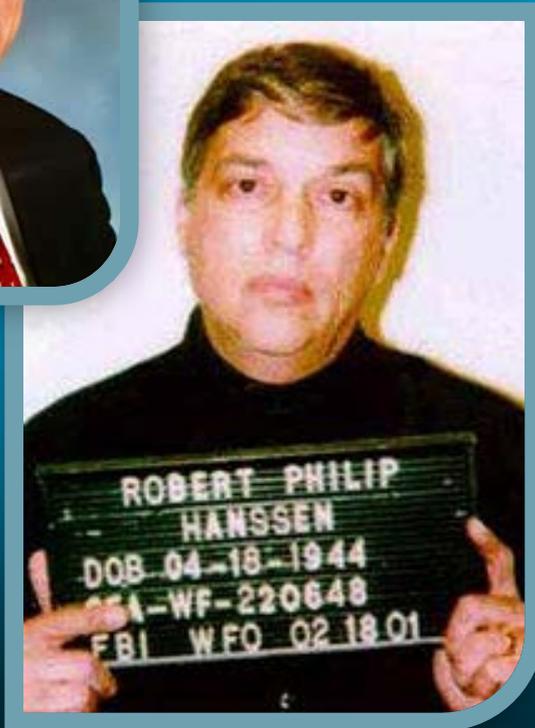
- “I’ll be your guinea pig”



“Espionage is a crime that not only destroys your future...it destroys your past.”

*Earl Pitts
September 1997*

Deepening the Knowledge - More Than One Case



Growing the Relationship

- Listening is the key
 - Art of keeping mouth shut
- Nature of the Relationship
 - Forensic Psychiatrist?
 - Doctor-Patient?
 - Therapist?
 - Confidante?
 - None or all of the above?

Predictable By Design

- Same Routine
- Same Location
- Same Clothing
- Intensity of Contact
 - Weekly, for up to two hours, for a whole year

A spy is the loneliest person in the world

- Empowers the handler
- My role mirrors the handler, but without exploitation
- Tone: Mutually cooperative enterprise



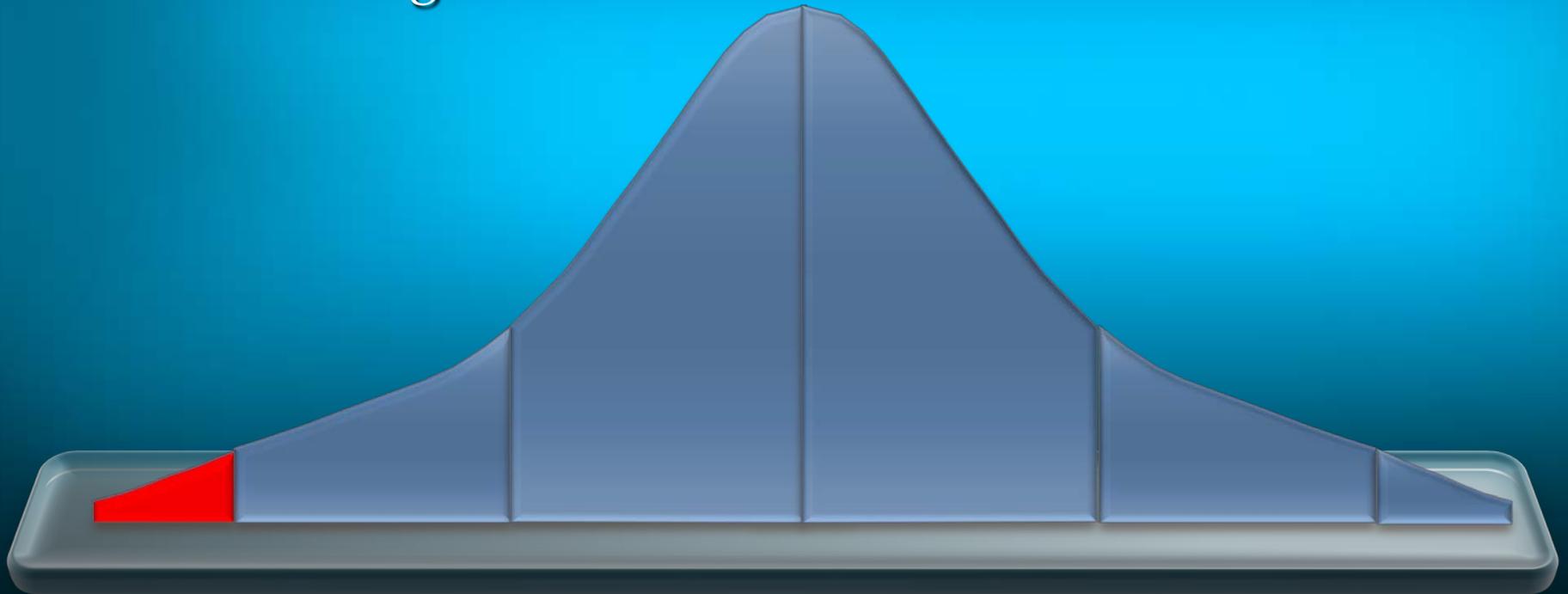
Starting Assumptions About Motivation

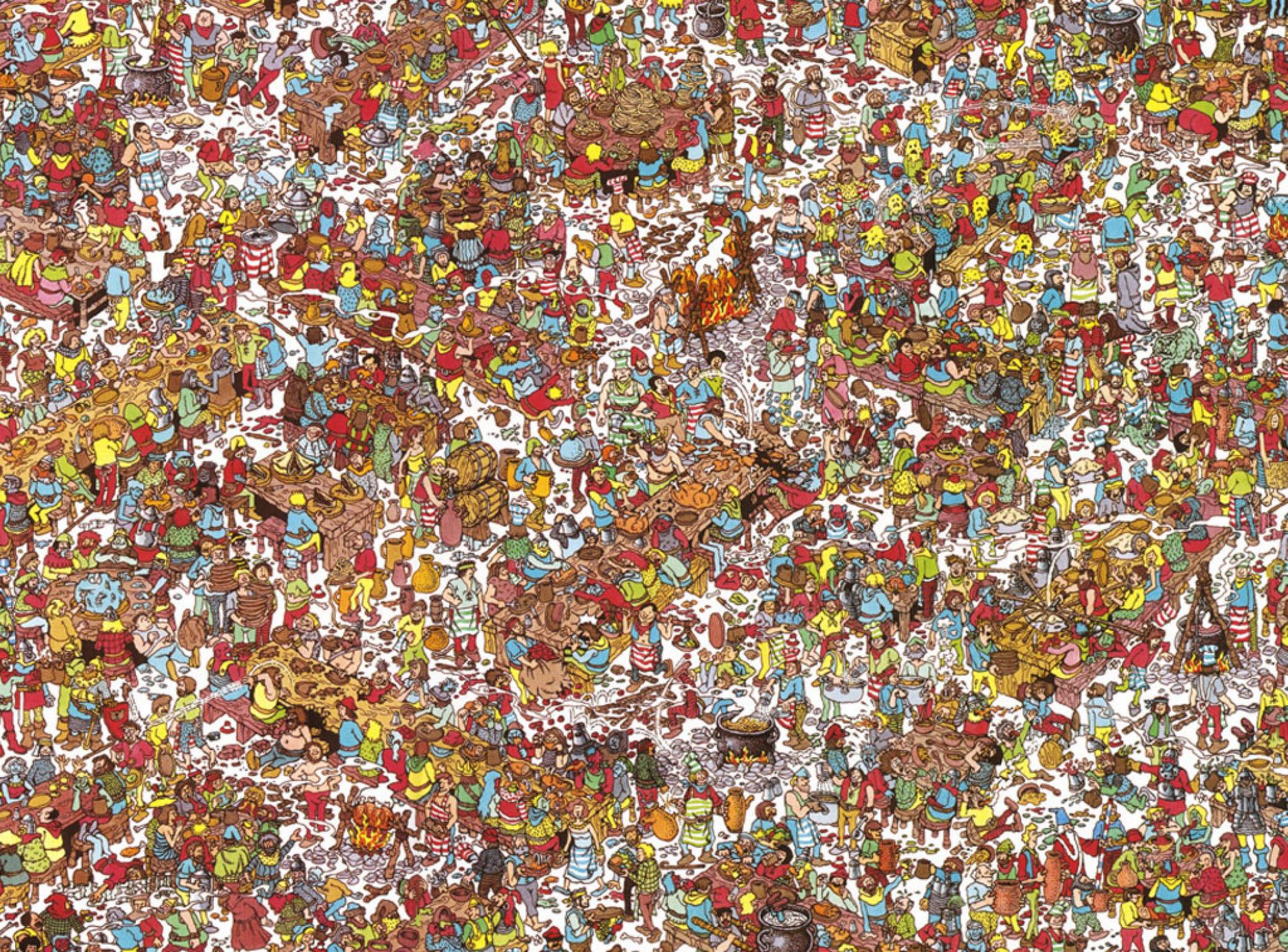
- Conventional concepts of spy motivation:
 - Greed and Money
 - Of MICE and Men
 - **M**oney
 - **I**deology
 - **C**ompromise
 - **E**go



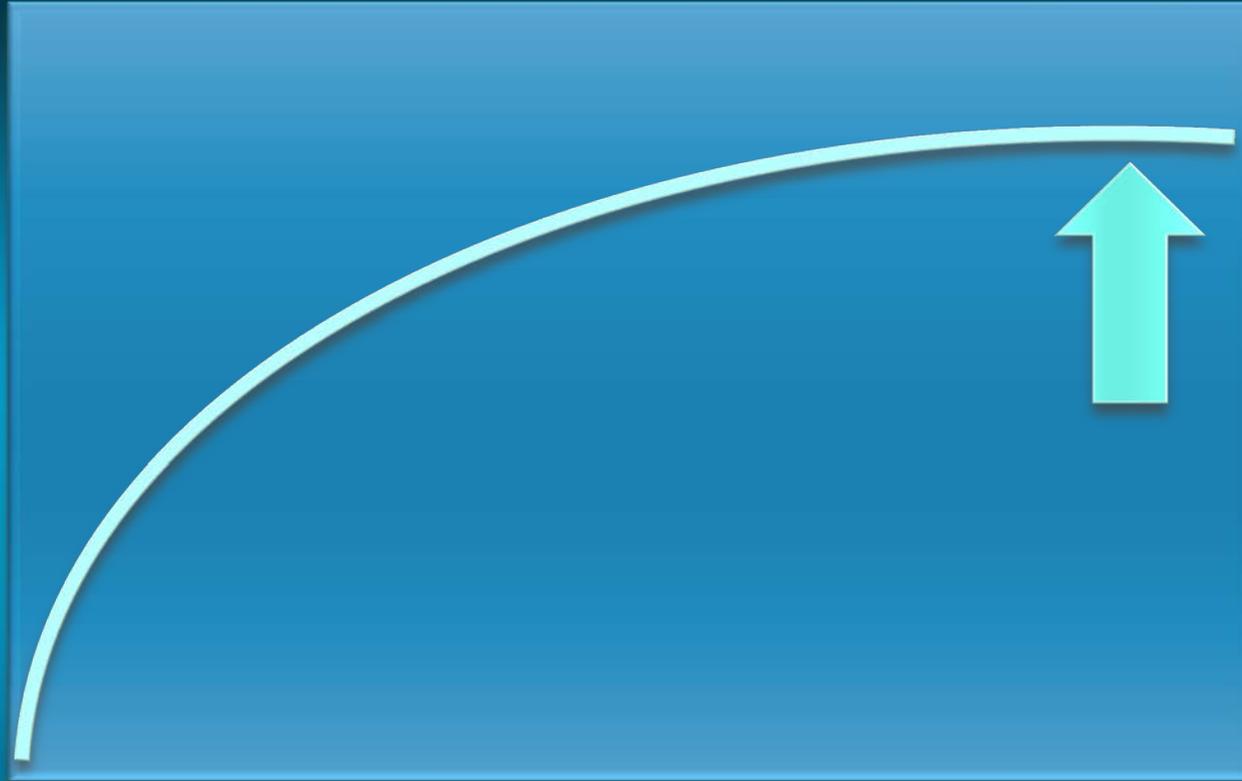
If We're So Smart About This, Why Does it Keep Happening?

- Bell-Shaped Curve of Life
 - An unlucky few get stuck at the bad tail
 - But which ones?
- The Law of Large Numbers





Finding Spies Subject to Iron Law of Economics



- Law of Diminishing Returns
- More and more effort is required to get back less and less

Tradeoffs in Screening for Spies



- False Negatives – Missing some spies
- False Positives – Wrongly accusing others
- Too much investigation will hurt morale

Conventional Theories of Motivation? Not What I Found!

“To every complex problem there is a simple answer. And it is wrong.”

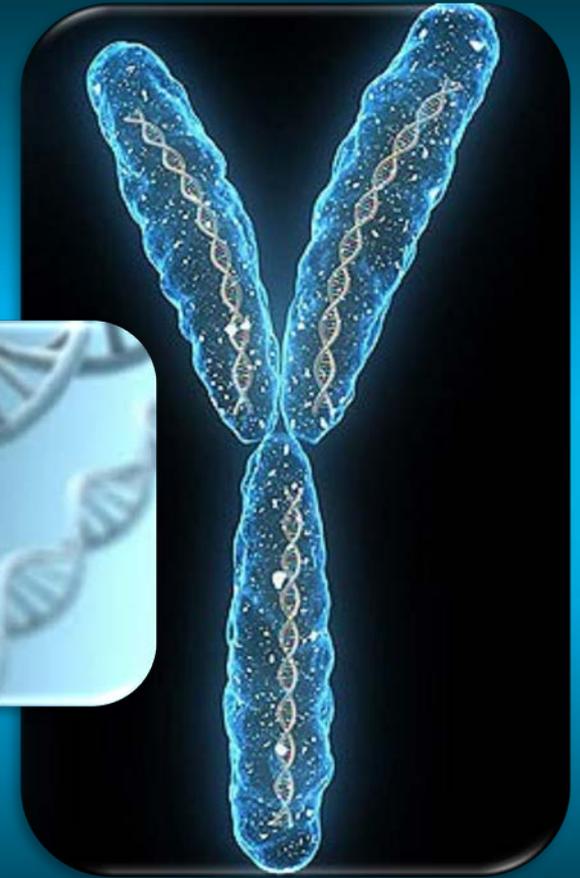
– H.L. Mencken

- Importance of asking: **Why?**
 - More than once, like a 4 year old
- Why do people eat in gourmet restaurants?
 - Because they're hungry (??)

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

I'm a Doctor – I Discover the Genetic Marker for Spies

- The Y Chromosome!
- 95% of spies are male
- Male pride and ego

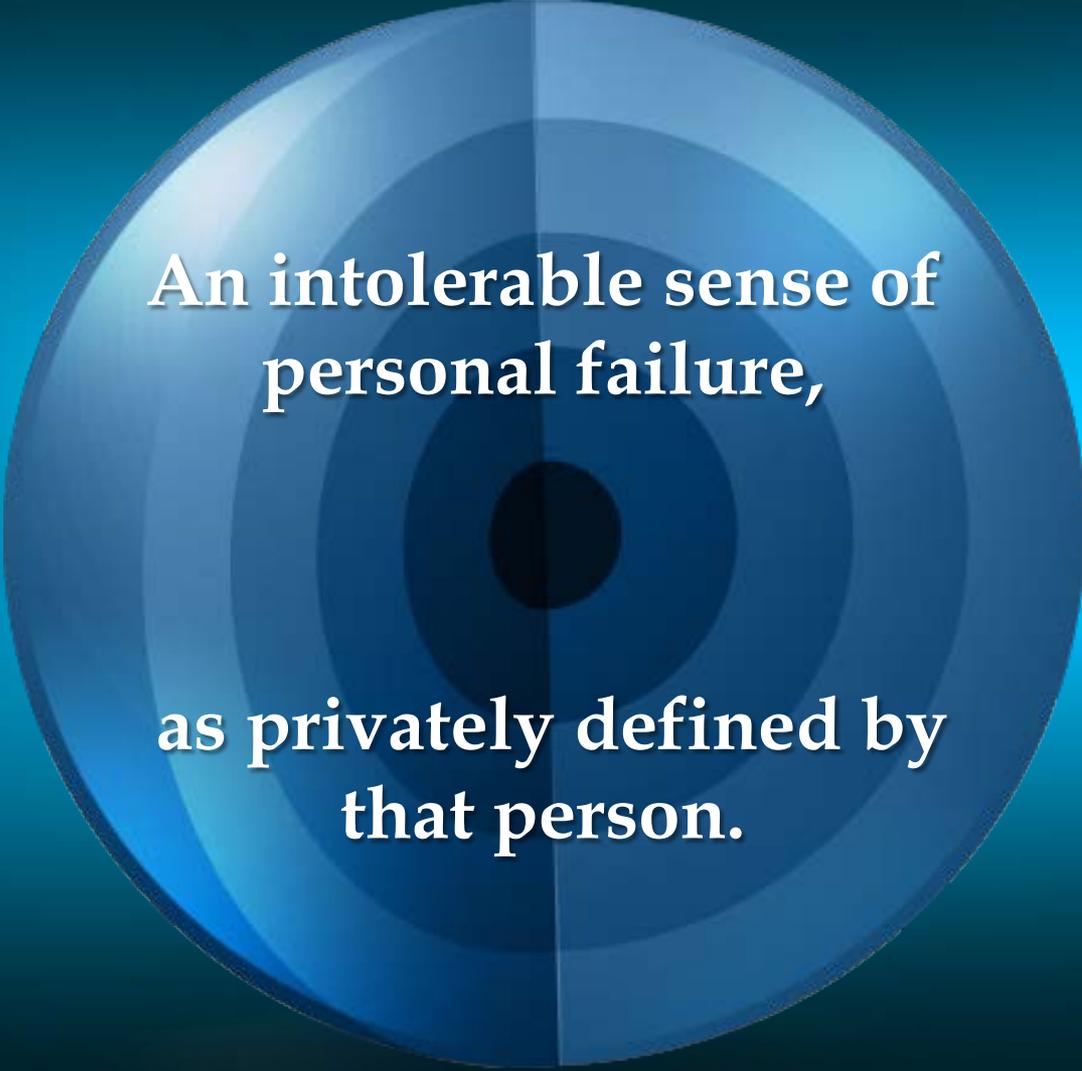


Gender Counts

- Career
 - Men want to be good providers
 - Cannot lose respect in eyes of wife
- Relationships
 - Women feel like failures if they don't feel loved
 - Female spies are trying to fix that problem

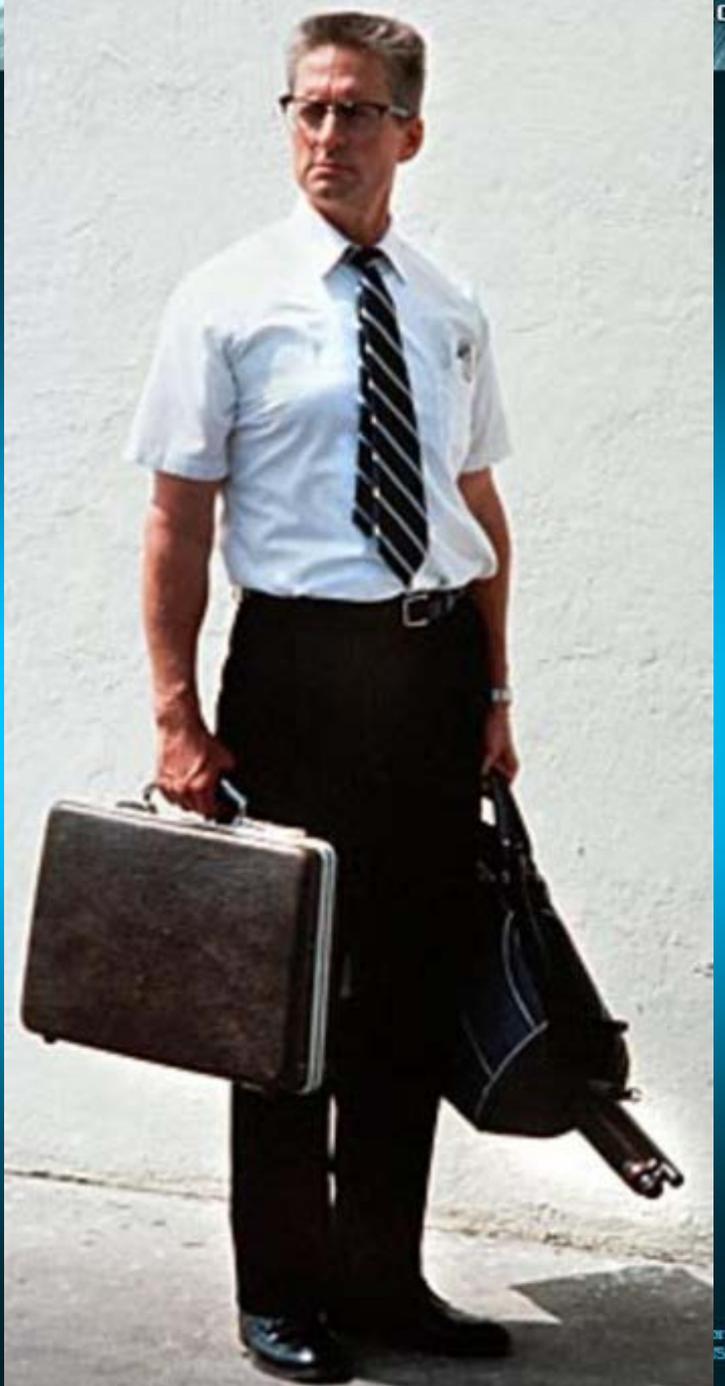


Core Psychology of the Insider Spy



**An intolerable sense of
personal failure,
as privately defined by
that person.**

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?



Spies are Unhappy

- An intolerable sense of personal failure as privately defined by that person.
- Most are not “recruited” or do not volunteer until after 30 years old
 - After they have had time to try and fail.



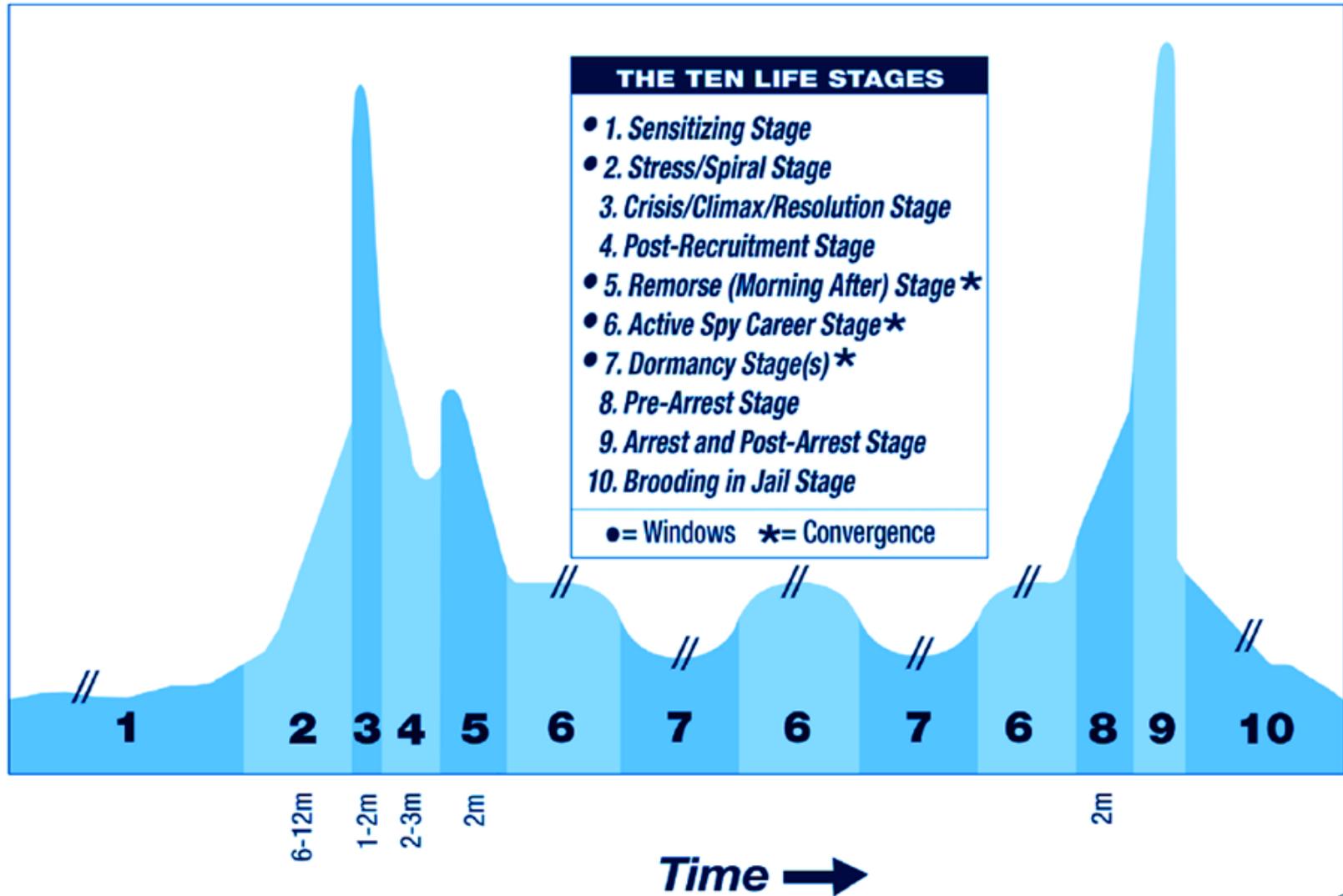
The Holy Grail: The Perfect Profile of the Spy

- A blind alley
- Spies are not born; they're made
- Still Photo vs. Movie
 - Not static: Not one Perfect Profile, like a snapshot
 - Dynamic: Stuff happens, more like a movie unfolding
- Epigenetic theory
 - Life happens
 - Brings forth hidden tendencies: Good ones – but also BAD ones



Ten Life Stages of the Insider Spy

Inner Tension



© David L. Charney, MD, '07

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

Stage One

SENSITIZING STAGE

1

- Nearly everyone experiences adversity
- If every early adverse life experience produced a spy outcome
 - 85% of all Law Enforcement, Military and Intelligence Personnel would have to be let go!
- Sensitizing but not determinative

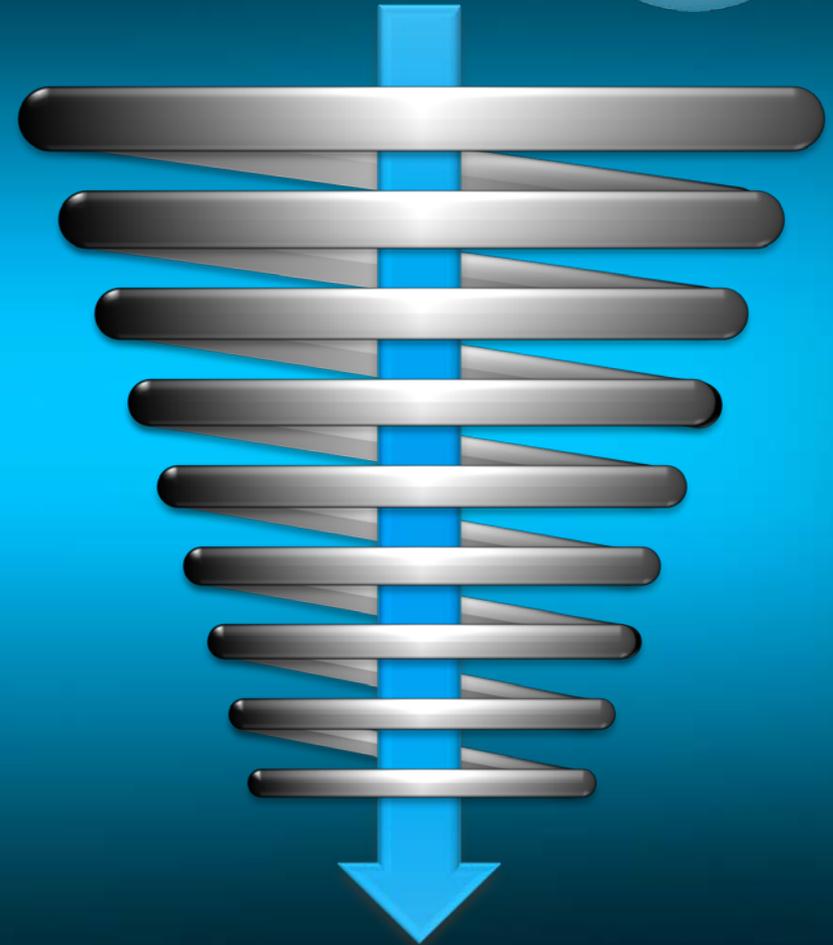


WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

Stage Two

STRESS / SPIRAL STAGE

- Acceleration
 - Things start to pile up six months before decision to spy is made
- “Psychological Perfect Storm”
 - Too many bad things all at once
 - Feels like drowning



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

Stage Three

CRISIS / CLIMAX / RESOLUTION STAGE

- “Personal Bubble Psychology”
 - Cornered, but desperately reaching for a Survival Strategy
 - Aha! Epiphany of a Solution
 - Context is key
 - Going postal –

***BUT
WITH
ACCESS***



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

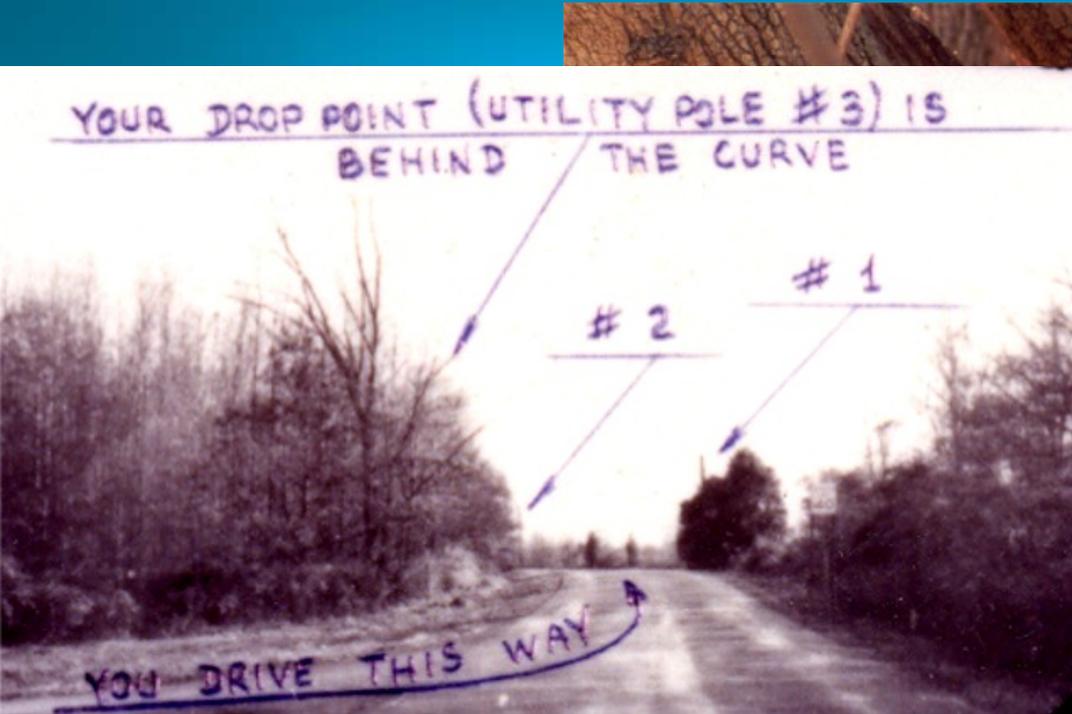
Stage Four

POST-RECRUITMENT STAGE

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?



- Euphoria
- A month or so
- Learning new tradecraft skills



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

Stage Five

REMORSE / MORNING- AFTER STAGE



“What was I thinking?!”

Recognition of being stuck and
trapped: No turning back

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?



Christopher Boyce

- Young TRW employee with a Top Secret US Government security clearance from CIA
- With friend Daulton Lee, decided to sell classified spy satellite information to the Soviet KGB for money
- 1977: Arrested; sentenced to life in prison
- April 1985: Boyce testified at hearings before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations which concerned the US Government Personnel Security Program.

TRW

Christopher Boyce on Stage Five

- “For whatever reason a person begins his espionage, a week after the folly begins, the original intent and purpose becomes lost in the ignominy of the **ongoing nightmare**.
- “Where was the **despair**? Where were the **sweaty palms** and **shaky hands**? This man said nothing about having to wake up in the morning with **gut-gripping fear** before steeling yourself once again for the **ordeal** of going back into that vault.



Christopher Boyce on Stage Five

- “None of them knew, as I did, that there was **no excitement**, there was **no thrill**.
- “There was only **depression** and a **hopeless enslavement to an inhuman, uncaring foreign bureaucracy**.
- “If a person knows what espionage would mean to him, what kind of life he would have in the future, it’s just **so totally an unattractive thing to be into – you’re never going to get away from it and it’s never going to end**.
- “I would tell them they are going to **regret it**, that there just isn’t anything about it that is how it’s pictured in the public’s mind. **There’s no exit from it**.



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

28 YEARS LATER – Boyce's Stage Five is *STILL* on his mind





Boyce on Snowden (CNN, June 2013)

“If I were him, I would at this point probably be having **second thoughts**. Asking myself: What did I do? What have I brought down upon my head? Did I really do this?”

- “I feel for the guy, and for what his life is going to become. I pity him.
- “He's in for a **world of hurt, for the rest of his life**. ...in the end, it'll **end badly** for him -- one way or another, they'll get their hands on him. He's **doomed**.
- “I think he's **scared to death**. He's probably **worried** that there is a large group of people in Washington, D.C., trying to come up with some way of getting back at him, to get control of him, to **lock him up for the rest of his life**.
- “He is **utterly vulnerable** and knows that there are a lot of people who really want to hurt him now.
- “He can **never come back home**. He's **totally separated from everything he has ever known**, from his family. He is always going to be a **fugitive**, until they get him. And eventually, they will.
- “He will **never see his family again**. The only way that he can truly hide is to abandon his whole past, his entire life.
- “When he realizes that, he's going to be **racked with depression**. I would imagine that his **stress levels** are at a point where they could actually make him **physically sick**. I'm sure **everything is gnawing at him**. And he's **isolated**.



Chris Boyce on Committing Espionage

- “I realized immediately that:
 - There was **no stepping back**
 - I was **doomed**
 - My life would **never** go back to the way it was before
 - I was **surrounded by an impending sense of doom**, knowing this was something that **could not end well**. . . .
 - What you’re really doing is just **walking into a buzz-saw.**”

CNN, 2013

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

Stage Six

ACTIVE SPY CAREER STAGE

6

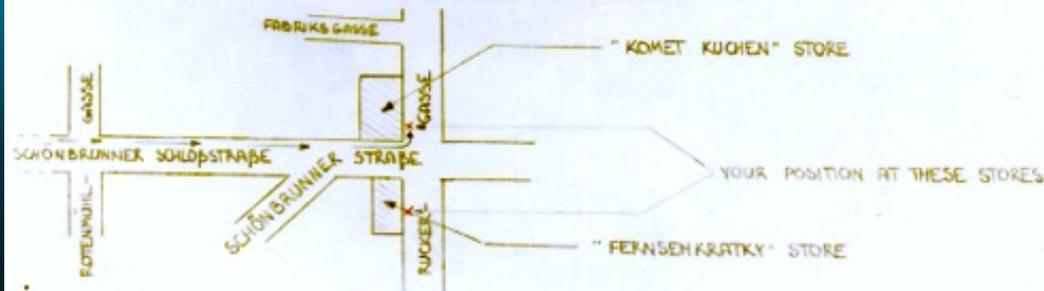
- Rationalizations
 - I can spy for years & years
 - The bad things I do have a good side
 - I have no other choice
- Constant Stress
 - Uncertainty
 - The most corrosive state for anyone
 - Can't plan, can't think straight
 - Paranoia
 - Fear of someone on the other side turning you in
 - Getting caught

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

What was exciting is now drudgery, exhausting

THE VIENNA PROCEDURE

AT **18:15 P.M.** COME UP TO THE "KOMET KÜCHEN" STORE (KITCHEN CABINETS AND APPLIANCES) ON THE CORNER OF **SCHÖNBRUNNER STRASSE** AND **RUCKERGASSE**. TO GET THERE WALK FROM **SCHÖNBRUNN PALACE** AND PARK GROUNDS ON **SCHÖNBRUNNER SCHLOSSSTRASSE** AND ITS CONTINUATION **SCHÖNBRUNNER STRASSE** TO **RUCKERGASSE**. TURN LEFT ON THE LATTER AND STOP AT THE WINDOW OF THE "KOMET KÜCHEN" STORE, WHICH IS LOOKING ON **RUCKERGASSE**, JUST A COUPLE OF YARDS AWAY FROM THE CORNER.
FOR EASY IDENTIFICATION PLEASE CARRY YOUR CAMERA BAG ON YOUR LEFT SHOULDER AND HOLD A SMALL PAPER BAG IN YOUR RIGHT HAND.
PAUSE BY THAT WINDOW FOR ABOUT TWO MINUTES FROM **18:15 P.M.** TO **18:17 P.M.** DRIFTING SLOWLY ALONG IT AWAY FROM **SCHÖNBRUNNER STRASSE** TOWARD THE OTHER CORNER OF THE BUILDING. THEN TURN AROUND THE CORNER ON **FABRIKSGASSE**. WALK A FEW YARDS ON IT, THEN COME BACK A MINUTE OR SO AT THE BRICK WALL RUNNING ALONG THE ~~STADTBANH UMBEZAUGER UBER~~ OPEN TUNNEL WITH STREET CAR TRACKS AT THE BOTTOM OF IT. THEN TURN THE CORNER BACK ON **RUCKERGASSE**, WALK TO **SCHÖNBRUNNER STRASSE**, CROSS IT, WALK A FEW YARDS ON **RUCKERGASSE** PAST THE PILLARS SUPPORTING THE OVERHANGING SECOND FLOOR AT THE CORNER OF THIS INTERSECTION AND AT **18:22 P.M.** PAUSE FOR ABOUT A MINUTE OR SO BY THE WINDOW OF THE "FERNSEHKRATKY" STORE (SELLING TV SETS, STEREO SYSTEMS, ETC.) THE WINDOW IN QUESTION IS THE FIRST ONE AFTER THE LAST PILLAR AND HAS A VERTICAL SIGN "FERNSEHKRATKY" TO ITS RIGHT. THEN CONTINUE ONE BLOCK UP ON **RUCKERGASSE**, RIGHT AND ONE BLOCK ON **NYMPHENGASSE**, LEFT AND TWO BLOCKS ON **EHRENFELSGASSE** AND LEFT AGAIN ON **HASCHKAGASSE**. (THE STREET SIGN AT THIS CORNER IS PRETTY OLD AND BARELY READABLE) WALK ONE BLOCK ON **HASCHKAGASSE** TO **RUCKERGASSE**, CROSS IT AND CONTINUE ALONG A NARROW PEDESTRIAN LANE **FÜCHELHOFGASSE** WHICH WIDENS TO A REGULAR STREET HALFWAY THROUGH IT. WALK ON IT TO **MEIDLINGER HAUPTSTRASSE**, CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LATTER, TURN LEFT AND CONTINUE ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE OF THIS STREET PAST A SMALL SQUARE ON YOUR LEFT TO **SCHÖNBRUNNER STRASSE**. YOU'LL SEE A STADTBANH STATION ACROSS IT WHEN REACHING THIS INTERSECTION. TURN AROUND AND WALK BACK ONE BLOCK UP ON **MEIDLINGER HAUPTSTRASSE**, THEN LEFT AND ONE BLOCK ON **WIEBENHOF STRASSE**, RIGHT AND ONE BLOCK ON **VINENOTGASSE**, RIGHT AND ONE BLOCK ON **RESCHGASSE** TO **MEIDLINGER HAUPTSTRASSE**. TURN RIGHT ONTO THE LATTER, PAUSE BRIEFLY BY THE WINDOWS OF THE TWO LADIES' APPAREL STORES WHICH ARE NEAR THIS CORNER, THEN CROSS **RESCHGASSE** AND WALK TWO BLOCKS UPHILL ON **MEIDLINGER HAUPTSTRASSE** TO **BONYGASSE**. TURN LEFT ON THE LATTER, WALK TWO BLOCKS TO ITS END, THEN RIGHT AND TWO BLOCKS ON **IGNAZGASSE**, LEFT AND TWO BLOCKS ON **RAUCHGASSE** TO **VIERTHALERGASSE**. TURN LEFT ONTO IT AND STROLL ONE BLOCK DOWNHILL. THEN TURN LEFT ON **KIRCHBAUMGASSE**; WALK TWO BLOCKS TO **IGNAZGASSE**, TURN RIGHT ONTO IT AND WALK THREE BLOCKS TO **RESCHGASSE**. TURN LEFT ON IT AND STROLL ONE BLOCK TO **MEIDLINGER HAUPTSTRASSE**, THEN LEFT AND ONE BLOCK DOWN TO **FÜCHELHOFGASSE**. IT SHOULD TAKE YOU ABOUT 40 MINUTES TO NEGOCIATE THIS ROUTE. WHEN MOVING ALONG IT PAUSE OCCASIONALLY BY THE STORE WINDOWS.
AT **18:55 P.M.** STOP AT THE MEN'S APPAREL STORE "BAZALA" "INTERNATIONALE KLEIDUNG" ON THE CORNER OF **MEIDLINGER HAUPTSTRASSE** AND **FÜCHELHOFGASSE**. BROUZE AROUND ITS WINDOW DISPLAYS INSIDE SHORT PASSAGES IN THE CORNER SECTION OF THIS BUILDING FROM **18:55 P.M.** TO **18:58 P.M.** YOU'LL BE CONTACTED EITHER AT THE "BAZALA" STORE OR SOMEWHERE ON YOUR ROUTE. IF NO ONE CONTACTS YOU PLEASE USE ALTERNATE DATES AND THE SAME ROUTE.



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

Stage Seven

DORMANCY STAGE



- Fantasy of escape
- Puts the lie to assumption of an Evil Genius



Robert Lipka: Spied in the 1960's, Caught in the 1990's

- “When I first got into it, I didn't realize what it all meant. As I was doing it, I did come to realize and **I did try to withdraw numerous times**. I've lived a life of terror for 30 years that this whole thing would get found out.”



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

Stage Eight

PRE-ARREST STAGE

- I'm not that stupid; I know you're on to me!
- Let's get it over with!



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

Stage Nine

ARREST AND POST- ARREST STAGE

- Return of the Defiant Teenager:
Insolence and belligerence
- Gives the wrong impression
- It's actually his Third Failure—
and his shame is made public too



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

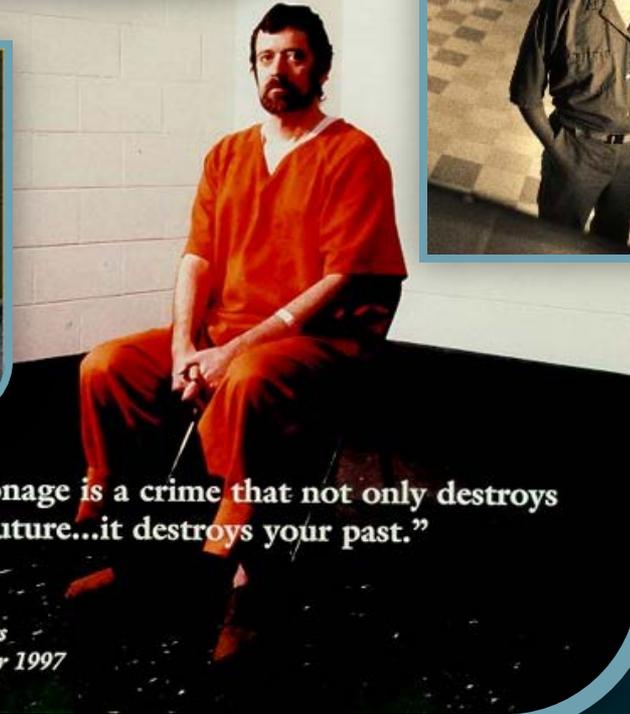
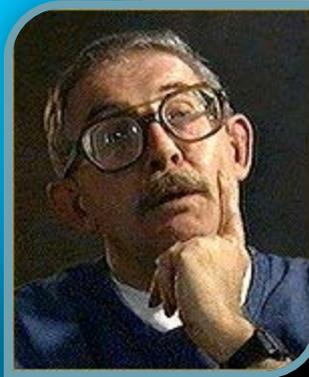
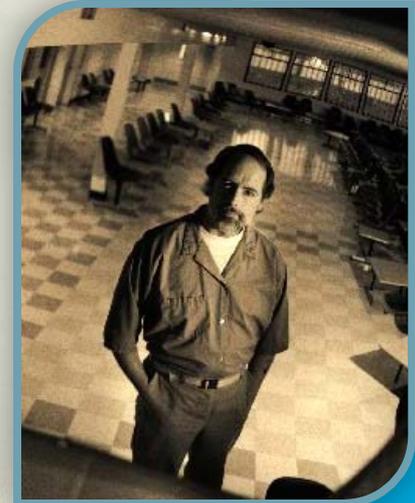
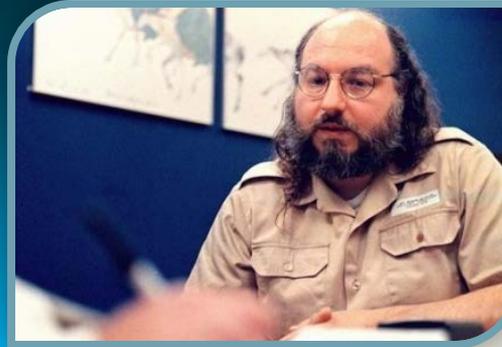
Stage Ten

BROODING IN JAIL STAGE

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

10

- Sadder, wiser, philosophical
- Unexpected displays of patriotic sentiment and gratuitous advice

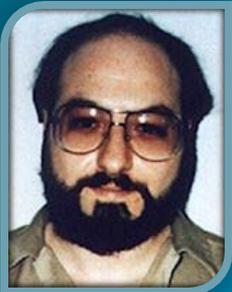


“Espionage is a crime that not only destroys your future...it destroys your past.”

*Earl Pitts
September 1997*



- “I regret the actions I took. they were wrong. They overshadowed anything good I’ve done in my life before and after. I’m glad it’s over.”
— *Former NSA employee and Russian spy David Boone*



- “There is nothing good that came as a result of my actions. I tried to serve two countries at the same time. That does not work.” — *Former Navy analyst and spy for Israel, Jonathan Pollard*



- “I regret very much the betrayal of the trust they put in me, and of the oaths that I swore, and that I did it for my own gain and then my own arrogance.”
— *Former CIA officer and Russian spy Rick Ames*

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

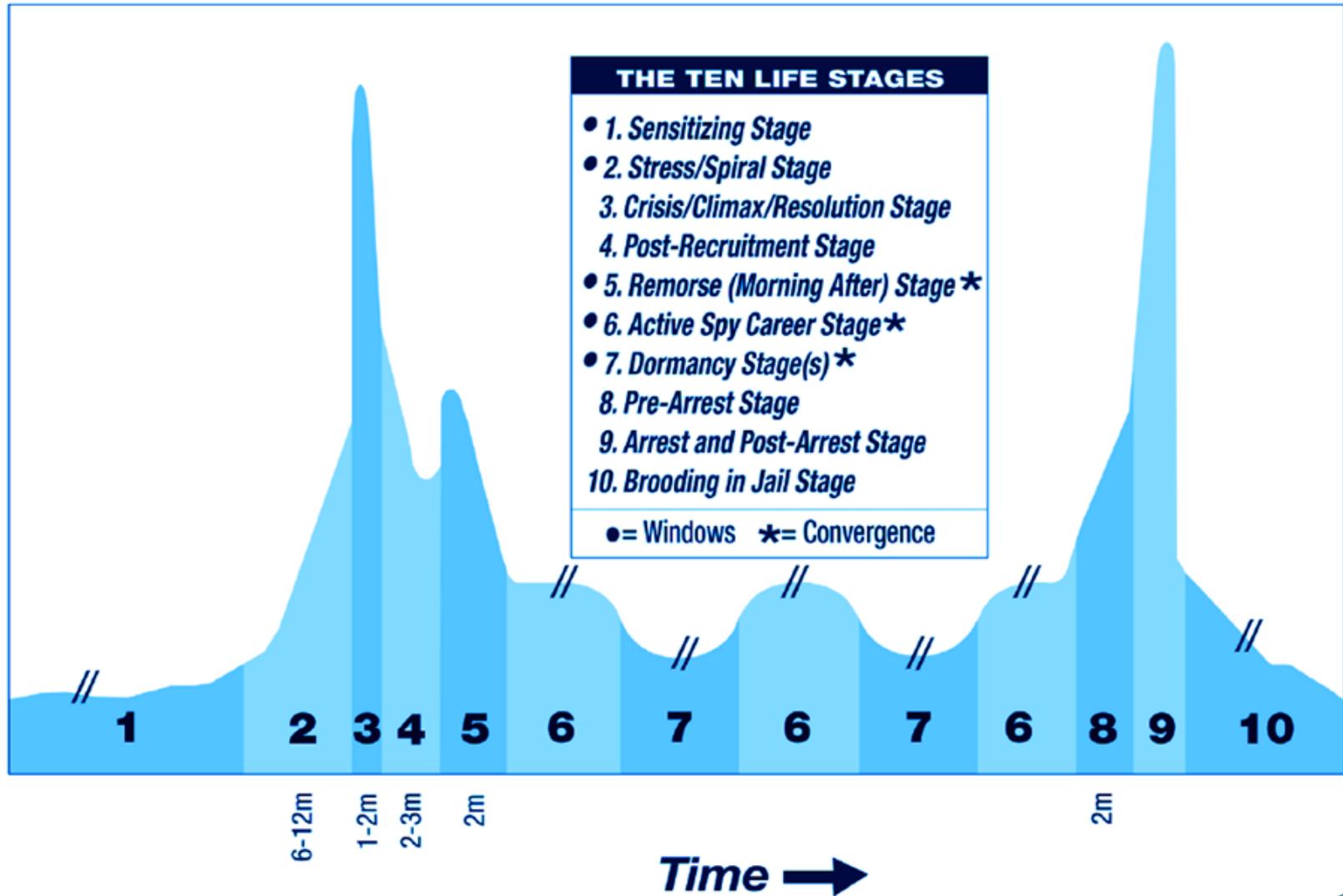
Existential Dilemmas of the Insider Spy

Existential Consequences

- Failure upon failure
 - Inability to successfully navigate his own life
 - Discovering his best attempt to solve his worst life crisis turned out to be a pathetic delusion
 - Could not even succeed at being a spy
- Stuckness
 - State of paralysis; unable to steer course of his own life
 - Loss of control over his life

Ten Life Stages of the Insider Spy

Inner Tension



© David L. Charney, MD, '07

Existential Consequences

- Convergence of psychology
 - Fear of being caught
 - Constant grinding uncertainty
 - Waiting for the other shoe to drop
 - Yearnings for deliverance and relief
 - Despair and hopelessness about direction of life

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

WHY CURRENT STRATEGIES DON'T WORK VERY WELL



- Misunderstanding the mind of the spy
- Trying the same old things, hoping for better outcomes
- Clinging to the idea of building better *technology-based* mousetraps
- Fig leaf of EAPs
 - Distrust
 - They won't go there

WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

TIME FOR SOMETHING NEW

NOIR

- Check out the website: NOIR4USA.org
- Three Part White Paper on Insider Spies
 - Part One:
 - “True Psychology of the Insider Spy”
 - Part Two:
 - “N.O.I.R.: Proposing A New Policy For Improving National Security By Fixing The Problem of Insider Spies” soon to come
 - Part Three:
 - “N.O.I.R.: New Ideas for Prevention of Spying” will be posted shortly after Part 2



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

QUESTIONS ?



WHAT MAKES TRAITORS TICK?

**CONTACT
INFORMATION:
www.NOIR4USA.org**

**David L. Charney, M.D.
dlc43@his.com**