

## **Imitative Communications Deception or ICD**

That division of deception involving the introduction of false or misleading but plausible communications into target systems that mimics or imitates the targeted communications.

This story is true - it happened to me as I was the instigator.

While in school in 1960 at The Army Security Agency Training Center and School at Ft. Devens, Mass, part of our curriculum as an O55 Communications Security Specialist was training in ICD, recognizing dialects and communications mannerisms. Being able to mimic another radio communications operator by voice, Morse code or teletype.

Other classes involved familiarization of all equipment that we would be using in the field or at our future PCS.

One of those classes was several days of training on the teletype. Unpacking the equipment, setting up and tuning the teletype.

We were connected to a radio that received up to date broadcasts from the United Press International (UPI) and Associated Press (AP). This was way before the INTERNET.

One day just moments before our morning class coffee break, I was sitting at a teletype and began composing a UPI style story.

### **UPI WIRE 1960**

(GUANTANAMO BAY CUBA)-----A CUBAN FORCE HAS INVADED THE GUANTANAMO NAVAL BASE. REPORTED THAT 18 U.S. FORCES HAVE BEEN INJURED AND 35 CUBAN NATIONALS WERE KILLED. HEAVY SMALL ARMS FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS HAVE OCCURRED OVER A THREE (3) HOUR PERIOD.

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### **HIGH-LOW**

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE REPORTS THAT THE LOWEST TEMPERATURE IN THE 48 CONTIGUOUS UNITED STATES THIS MORNING WAS ONE (-17 CELSIUS) AT INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA. THE HIGH YESTERDAY WAS 75 (24) AT YUMA, ARIZONA.

UPI 10-28-60 08:09 APS

As the class departed the room for a break I hit send and the message was sent to all of the teletypes in the classroom.

Then I departed for a break.

As we filtered back into the classroom I noticed six or seven of the training cadre wandering around and talking to each other rather excitedly. Normally we only had at the most two instructors in the classroom. It dawned on me what the excitement was all about. I then cornered our main instructor and told him that I had typed the message.

Within a few moments the atmosphere calmed down, although several instructors appeared to be frustrated or mad. Moments before several people had been heard to say we were going to war with Cuba.

Nothing happened to me because I had deceived everyone and sent a plausible message. **THEY WERE FOOLED AND BELIEVED IT.**

I later successfully used these techniques on the 25th Infantry Division on my four year assignment in Hawaii on Oahu and "The Big Island of Hawaii" at the Pohakuloa Training Area.

W.J. Page