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*See Appendix AGE – Aging Out
See Appendix SO & IO – Special Operation & Information Operation Example*

“However, you are just as dead if you buy the farm in an ‘incident’ as you are if you buy it in a ‘declared war.’” – Robert Heinlein, Starship Troopers (1959)

Political Cant: The likely underpinning of this statement by Robert Heinlein was the recent Korean War which was not a war declared by Congress, but instead was a United Nations Security Council action. Enough people died on both sides in the Korean War to make it a war *de facto* by any standard, even if not a war *de jure* in the United States. As the U.S. Supreme Court opined in the Obamacare case, Justices (and historians) are not bound by what other people call something out of political convenience or ideological cant. *And neither is the Concierge in GGDM.*

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- ✓ If the Justices determined that Obamacare was a Congressional Taxation Power Activation, the Justices could treat it in that way, with all of the legal precedents and reasoning applied, and calling it an ‘individual mandate’ was just political cant.

Korea was the first of a proliferation of modern ‘military actions’ and ‘incidents’ (sometimes contrived) in which the U.S. Congress never exercised its Constitutional authority to declare war.

[Interview] “Parties at the lab during the war were very segregated... You didn’t talk to the people who came to the parties about what they did because you just didn’t do that so you had to have some other way of having a conversation with them which was certainly more about family and hobbies and what did you read lately rather than what do you do for a living. You didn’t ask that question.”

– Sara Schreiber (daughter of Raemer Schreiber), *The Half-Life of Genius: Physicist Raemer Schreiber* (2018)

Fuzzy Ops: Colleges present an ‘in-between’ Black-ops problem in GGDM, and to some extent so do Corporations and MegaCorporations (see Corporations generally, *infra*): On one hand they are hosted at a specific location, a physical unit within the GGDM universe, and can be affected by Black-ops potentially, but in another sense, they also exist across the position and hence are not considered to be in one location only, but simultaneously exist through the Public Space in every Friendly or Naturalized population factor and ship controlled by the position.

- ✓ It is because Ground Units contain population factors that they can be affected by Colleges and Black-ops and Counter-Operations. It is also assumed that ships are crewed from population at the colony at which they were built and replacements from colonies where they have stopped. This then, comes back around to the issue of drones and artificial intelligence (see Web of Night, 2 Colleges, p. 477, *supra*); the Concierge will need to make a ruling when or if armies and ships consist entirely of drones, AI war droids, the stuff of science-fiction trope (noting the example of the Battle of Naboo in Star Wars, which was a Ground Combat in conjunction with an Orbital Combat and palace penetration Black-op).¹

The Host location provides a place where Colleges and Corporations can be ‘targeted,’ but the effects must depend heavily on the Profile of the Mission (e.g., the Russians have long sought to infiltrate ‘think tanks’ and political campaigns), circumstances of the target, and the judgment of the Concierge. Conversely, Institutes (see Institutionalized 3 Colleges, p. 487, *supra*) are single location specific extensions of Colleges and should be treated slightly differently.

- ✓ Constructural Elements at the target game unit where the Black-op is executed could certainly be affected by the ‘right’ kind of operation; the devil is in the details. The Concierge can also take into account political status of the population, size of the colony, frequency of contacts with the central interstellar government, strength of Insurgencies (see Fabrication of Order, 6 Combat, p. 1022, *supra*), prior Orbital Bombardment, alterity of the population, Native Population Type, etc. ‘Invisibility’ in the Galactic Space of the game does not make a target immune to attack or effect, intentional or as a side consequence (e.g., ‘psyops’). Note that some Black-ops can trigger disruption checks at a colony.
- ✓ Perhaps the most effective use of Black-ops is against anything that might disrupt the target position’s Government Titles, especially any Conflict Checks whose failure is permanent (and many of the Conflict Checks are difficult and precarious), though purely local effects might sometimes be useful, just one planet disobeying a Power activation could be quite consequential as a result, in addition to all of the other problems the target position might be experiencing. Government Titles may also be affected purely as a side consequence of a successful Black-op when operating blindly (see Player Generated Entropy, 1 Special Operations, p. 1270, *supra*) especially if it is perceived that sovereignty has been violated (see Sovereignty & Legitimacy, 3 Government Titles, p. 609, *supra*).
- ✓ Technology is an even more elusive issue because it is considered to exist through the Matrix and Patents, through and over the entire position. Common technologies (e.g., toasters, lamps) that are ubiquitous could be ‘stolen’ easily, just go to the store and buy one, put it in a box and ship it out. And the basic science behind those items is also readily available in primary school books, etc., but that’s not what anyone is trying to ‘steal.’ Rather, the issue is the cutting-edge industrial and military research and technology that is the target (and the romance of) black-ops in science fiction adventure. The Concierge and participants will need to judge the locations at which such technologies can be pilfered – ships, the Capital Colony, Specialized Colonies devoted to research, recently Captured or Converted Colonies that hosted sufficiently-related Colleges, are possible examples. It’s also a matter of scale, stealing a Patent would be huge (but since everything has specs and blueprints, it is possible), stealing an Application less, and the most accessible (and most location specific) and common ‘technology’ to be stolen are Research Pieces located adjacent to a colony on the Public Space. Technology operations also raise the issue of relative cost-benefit of multiple Special Operations Power vs. Technology Power activations.

Though everyone is probably well familiar with the nature of information by now, it must be stated explicitly here that ‘stealing’ a Patent, Application, or Research Piece does not mean that the target has physically ‘lost’ it (i.e. it is not removed from the Public Space or Matrix), but that the attacker has gained it illicitly (like plagiarizing, or surreptitiously copying the whiz kid’s test answers at school). See Thomas Jefferson feature quote, top of 3 Patents, p. 746, *supra*.

*“Remember gentlemen, it’s not just France we are fighting for,
it’s Champagne!” – Winston Churchill in WWI*

“Dinner would have been splendid...if the wine had been as cold as the soup, the beef as rare as the service, the brandy as old as the fish, and the maid as willing as the Duchess.” – Winston Churchill

Une Affaire Francaise: Special Operations could be thought of as sort of connected to Interventions, they share some of the same traits, much of what can be said about and offered as justification for Special Operations results also applies to story-creating Interventions by the Concierge. Many very strange things happened in the 16th to 19th Century Europe that might serve as examples for Special Operations (possibly of the unintended consequences kind) or Interventions by the Concierge in GGDM, depending on what participants think is going on in the game.

- **The Affair of the Poisons:** One of the strangest chains of causality run from an astrologer, fortune-teller, black magic practitioner in 17th Century Paris, Catherine Monvoisin (known as “La Voisin,” burned at the stake in 1680 for witchcraft) to Prince Eugene of Savoy, a French noble exile who became one of the greatest generals in European history and together with the Duke of Marlborough, checked Louis XIV’s ambitions for hegemony over Europe. La Voisin was connected to Prince Eugene’s mother, the Countess of Soissons, a lover of Louis XIV who aspired (and failed) to be Queen of France, through the Affair of the Poisons (*L’affaire des poisons*); the Countess abandoned Eugene and her other children and fled France, was then expelled from the Spanish court, and died in exile in Brussels in 1708 at age 70.

When Eugene came of age at 19 years old, he personally requested of King Louis XIV and was denied command of a company in the French army; he left Paris in July 1683 to join a branch of his family in the service of the Holy Roman Empire and received a commendation for his service at the Battle of Vienna in 1683. His abilities gave rise through the army ranks and he repeatedly distinguished himself defeating the Ottoman Turks and campaigned against his former countrymen, ending the Turkish threat to Europe and becoming the major Imperial commander checking French ambitions at the end of the 17th Century.

- ✓ There are so many elements of this story that are hard to comprehend in modern terms. That an unproven, palace-spoiled 19-year-old boy with little or no military training (and slated to join the clergy and probably denied due to homosexuality) should think that he is entitled – by birth – to petition the King of France personally and receive command of a company of French soldiers – is astonishing in the modern sense of military command.² Yet his subsequent career and his display of military ability from an early age (he was a Major General at age 22, whereas Napoleon made Brigadier General at age 24, but of course, there is a great disparity in their family ranks), makes the King’s personal denial (and Eugene’s personal hatred of Louis XIV) based on his mother’s (and former King’s lover) status as an exile at least regrettable in hindsight to 17th Century French ambitions. Prince Eugene arguably extended the existence of the Austro-Hungarian Empire – being crushed then between Prussia, France, and the Ottomans – for several generations to WWI and his partnership with the Duke of Marlborough aided England’s efforts to contain the Continental Powers to Europe and check their ambitions.
- ✓ And the incomprehensible Affair of the Poisons (you have to read about it), like the Affair of the Placards (1534)³ and the Dreyfus Affair (1894), speaks volumes about

the paranoia, politics, sensitivities, social channels, and sociopolitical and cultural milieu of the time and provides background for much of what was to come.

- The Dreyfus Affair: Sometimes special operations can have unintended effects, even though the operation may have failed or been only partially successful. A historical example is the Dreyfus Affair during the Third Republic Period of France. This affair has been mentioned previously in *The Taxil Hoax*, 2 *Dreamtime*, p. 145, and *Deutsche Physik*, 2 *Patents*, pp. 737-738, *supra*. French intelligence learned that artillery parts were being passed to the Germans (what passed for TechInt back then) and an investigation was launched. Quickly, they zeroed in on Lt. Dreyfus, an artillery officer in the French Army. He was convicted in a secret courts-martial of treason and publically humiliated by having his sword broken and uniform torn off at the Paris Military School. He was sentenced to incarceration at the infamous Devil's Island and spent about five years total imprisonment, most of it on Devil's Island.

Many people were convinced that he was falsely convicted and had been singled out because he was Jewish and that anti-Semitism had colored the whole affair from the beginning. Eventually, he was returned to France and given a new trial in 1899. *They had discovered the real culprit, but Dreyfus was again convicted of treason regardless.* About that time, the whole matter became a huge divisive public debate, coinciding with radicalization of French politics, division of French society, rampant anti-Semitism in the press, spinning out of control. Army morale was low, and the public was furious for or against. What began as an operation for filching artillery parts turned into a sociopolitical fracas, the Germans had to be most pleased! The affair went on and on until 1906 when Dreyfus was reinstated and promoted to Major, and awarded the Legion of Honor. In 1908, a reporter attempted to publicly assassinate Maj. Dreyfus. Maj. Dreyfus served as a reserve officer in WWI, along with his son and two nephews, all in artillery, and ended his career as a Colonel.

- ✓ Thus, a somewhat successful Special Intelligence operation by the Germans against the French Army emerged into a spiraling affair that lasted more than ten years prior to the First World War that lowered Army morale, destroyed the credibility of the military tribunals and investigative services (see also the 1957 movie, *Paths of Glory*), divided, embittered, and radicalized the French Republic, affected the life of Marie Curie (see 2 *Patents*, *Id.*), and set the stage for official French anti-Semitic activities during the German Occupation May 1940 to December 1944 (e.g., *Opération Vent printanier*, rounding up Jews in Paris, July 1942).
- Petites Affaires: One of the most successful diplomatic 'special operations' was completely 'above board' so to speak. In 1855, Count Cavour, the Prime Minister of Piedmont-Sardinia, brought to Paris his beautiful and sophisticated 18-year-old cousin, Virginia Oldoini, Countess of Castiglione, and introduced her to 47-year-old Emperor Napoleon III, a philanderer of international fame. She became his mistress (like Greta Garbo as Napoleon I's Polish mistress in *Conquest* (1937)) for at least two years operating as a diplomatic spy and to plead the Italian cause, leading to France's involvement in the War in Italy in 1859 and the later Italian unification in 1861.

Napoleon III knew why she was there, there wasn't a person in Europe who didn't know why she was in Paris. He was personally sympathetic to the Italian cause and allowed her to stay. The proto-tabloid newspapers were fascinated by his *petites affaires* while at the same time

castigating him as a philanderer and adulterer (as France is largely Catholic) and for their distraction from his ability to govern.

- ✓ The Countess was later personally involved in persuading Bismarck to avoid occupation of Paris by Prussian troops in 1871 and in-between, became a famous early photographic artist and later, a vain, crazy old woman who lived in a funeral-decorated apartment with black walls, no uncovered windows, no mirrors.
- ✓ Tabloid journalism began in the late 19th Century, shortly after the fall of Napoleon III.
- ✓ French attitudes on the subject of affaires has famously shifted slightly with the final victory of secularization in the 20th Century, e.g., *Un cinq à sept*.

“What do you think would be my fate if my misguided countrymen were to take me prisoner?”

– Benedict Arnold, as quoted in Clifton Johnson, The Picturesque Hudson (1915)

Treason: To which the captured Colonial Army captain reportedly replied, “They would cut off the leg that was wounded at Saratoga and bury it with the honors of war, and the rest of you they would hang on a gibbet.” *Id.*

- ✓ Merriam-Webster online dictionary at *treason*: **1:** the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state to which the offender owes allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign or the sovereign’s family, **2:** the betrayal of a trust: treachery.

Treason, as most people assume, usually implies foreign assistance (e.g., bribery, offers) and/or assurances (though the dictionary definition is silent on this point), especially in wartime or in combat. This perception is reinforced by the narrower definition of treason in the U.S. Constitution at Art. III, § 3, which was written less than a decade after the War of Independence:

- ✓ “Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort.”

Activation of the Special Operations Power for the purpose of Treason allows a position to attempt one Black-op between the activating position’s Regular Turns similar to Combat Alert, Treason is a Black-ops Alert. The Treason activation of the Special Operations Power expires at the beginning of the position’s next Regular Turn if not used; additionally the Lodged Missions reserved for the Black-op may age out (see Ralph Wolf & Sam Sheepdog, 2 Special Operations, p. 1296, *supra*) at the end of the same Regular Turn as the Treason activation (and that sucks!).

- ✓ Treason implies that the agent is in a position to act, usually a position of authority or trust. This becomes problematic in a setting with aliens, one must assume that the Lodged agent is a *secretly* dissident part of the alien population, which implies deception and personal dishonesty. This circles back to the issue of the two-step difficulty of recruiting and lodging SOMs on Native **alien colonies**.

Each time that a position does not use Lodged Missions during a Regular Turn (*whether SOMs or COMs*), those Missions may ‘age-out,’ *except* on the Turn in which they are initially Lodged (see Punching Time Cards, 2 Special Operations, p. 1296, *supra*).

- ✓ The activation must include all that is necessary for a normal Black-op activation, that is, a Profile, Missions at the target location, how many Missions to be used, etc. See True Little Lies, *et seq.*, 2 Special Operations, p. 1299, *supra*.
- ✓ Missions designated/reserved for the Treason activation cannot be used for any other Special Power Activation (including re-Lodging) during the same Regular Turn as the Treason activation.
 - In the original *movie* adaptation of The Handmaid’s Tale (1990), the assassination of Commander Fred by his “handmaid” (concubine) Offred was key to the rebel attack plan.⁴ Having lost everything – her husband, her daughter, her job, her life as a librarian – and enslaved for her ovaries, made a non-person object, and appalled by the hypocrisy of the privileged ruling elite of the Republic of Gilead, she is surreptitiously recruited and provided a knife to stab the Commander on the night of the rebel attack.

Thus, the position activating the Special Operation Power for the purpose of Treason must have a very specific anticipation of need which requires timing and circumstances or events precedent to taking the decision to act. The Treason activation of the Special Operations Power thus acts similar to the Combat Alert activation of the Combat Power (see DefCon 1, 1 Combat, p. 946 *supra*) – both require forces to be in position waiting – but due to the nature of Black-ops, have more specific requirements, and additionally, can be negated by loss of opportunity due to aging of Lodged Missions!

- ✓ The Treason activation of the Special Operations Power only applies to Black-ops and not to Counter-Operations. There is no reason – game mechanically – why Counter-Operations would be carried out between Regular Turns; Counter-Operations should be used to purge opposing Special Operations Missions from a target location *before* the Black-ops. The timing of Recruiting, Lodging, and using SOMs for Black-ops requires at least three Regular Turns and thus, there are plenty of opportunities for Counter-Operations to attempt a purge of SOMs at a location or game unit.
- The Gibbet: The Black-op profiled and/or used in a Treason activation of the Special Operations Power does not require that actual treasonous acts occur. Rather it is a ‘sexy’ term for a Special Operations *interrupt* that likely may (but not necessarily) involve an ongoing Combat (i.e. not passing artillery parts during peacetime, Dreyfus Affair, p. 1309, *ut supra*) – which is the main reason for the existence of this action in the game, e.g.:
 - ✓ “On the second day of the chaotic [Ship Combat] battle ... the virus was released. One of Dulinor’s strike teams was able to seize control of the research station’s data center. In their hurry to get the goods and get out, they infected their data retrieval systems with the virus, believing they were only collecting raw research data. However, the team had run out of time. To ensure that the data would get to Dulinor’s fleet even though they were not unable to escape, they began spewing high-speed data transmissions which were picked up by several of Dulinor’s ships as well as Lucan’s.” – Dave Nilsen, “When Empires Fall II,” Challenge Magazine, Issue 69, February 1993.

In GGDM terms roughly, the purpose of initiating the Ship Combat was to capture intact or *raid* via a Black-op (not the same as Raid Combat with Fighters) Research Station Omicron. Special Operations Missions had been Lodged in the attack fleet (in the form of a commando

strike team) to raid the station during the Ship Combat, while Counter-Operations Missions had been lodged on the colony, target protecting the Research Station. Plausible Deniability would be rather pointless in this case...

- ✓ *Treasonous Example:* I remember reading a story in a comic book, I think it must have been a Conan (probably Savage Sword of Conan, which usually featured betrayals), where a defending army consisting of infantry and cavalry met an invading army that had only infantry. The two infantry masses engaged, while the defender's cavalry remained hidden behind a hill to charge the flank at the opportune moment, a sure victory for the defenders. The cavalry didn't charge, the leader of the cavalry had been compromised and betrayed his ruler at the crucial point in the battle. The defenders became nervous when they saw the cavalry's hesitation and the defender's infantry started to lose will, eventually, it turned into a rout and the land was overrun by the invaders. The cavalry quietly rode away.
- ✓ In a tabletop board game of Battlestar Galactica, I was Lee Adama, the CAG and a human. When the Vipers were pulled in for a jump, I was assassinated on the flight deck by Cali who was a Cylon. Starbuck then became the CAG. When it came time to launch the Vipers again, the Vipers were not launched. Starbuck was a Cylon and fled to the Cylon Base Ship. I came back into the game as Kat, a human Viper Pilot (you remember Kat, right?) and resumed as the CAG. We managed to have Cali executed, but it didn't matter because we lost the game on the next turn. The third *unrevealed* Cylon was Commander Adama!

Treason is one of three crimes specifically mentioned in the U.S. Constitution (the others being piracy and counterfeiting) and the only one defined. Understandably, all three of these issues were sensitive matters for the Framers and treason in particular touched a sore spot because of the acts of Benedict Arnold. The Framers did not want treason to be used as a political weapon leading to totalitarianism, so they required sworn written statements from two witnesses, but they also wanted to define it as one of the highest crimes against the United States. They could not convict Aaron Burr of treason, however.

- ✓ See discussion of the Ft. Griswold Massacre, Massacres, 5 Combat, p. 1012, *supra*.
- ✓ Many countries have their traitor, in Norway, his name was Vidkun Quisling, while Col. Konrad Sundlo was considered either a traitor or traitorously negligent.

“The evening of 10 July saw a lively atmosphere aboard the Rainbow Warrior as the crew and guests celebrated Steve Sawyer’s birthday. Margaret Mills, another crew member, had baked a birthday cake decorated with a jelly bean rainbow. People mingled and enjoyed drinks and slices of cake.

Little did they know that one of the guests was a French spy, observing all that was taking place to feed back to his colleagues. The spy departed just after 8pm, and at about 8.15pm, the skippers of all the protest yachts going to Moruroa descended into the hold of the Rainbow Warrior for a planning meeting.

Outside, French combat divers were attaching two bombs to the ship's hull below the water line. The divers had motored across the harbour in an inflatable zodiac dinghy from a secluded launching ramp at Stanley Point, Devonport."

– from Greenpeace New Zealand website, November 22, 2019 (no author)

Rainbow Warrior: Overt acts of foreign intelligence operatives may be considered *terrorism* by the government. For example, the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior* was sunk while docked (i.e. opportunity) in the port of Auckland, New Zealand on July 10, 1985 by two bombs that exploded outside the ship. One person was killed. The government of New Zealand declared it a terrorist act, the first terrorist act in New Zealand. Two French intelligence agents were arrested in New Zealand and pled guilty to planting the bombs; the French Minister of Defense resigned.

- ✓ “The French government saw its nuclear testing programme as essential for France’s security (even though a nuclear armed world is hardly a secure one). But negative publicity about the testing would put pressure on the French government to stop its programme. It was for this reason that the French government wanted to stop the *Rainbow Warrior*’s upcoming anti-nuclear protest.

The *Rainbow Warrior* was a large vessel which could act as a flagship for the smaller protest yachts. French naval vessels would not be able to intimidate it as easily as the other, more fragile yachts. The *Rainbow Warrior* could carry large amounts of supplies, which meant that it could protest for a long period of time. The communications equipment on board would allow the crew to maintain radio contact with the outside world and send up-to-the-minute reports and photos to international news organisations.

The French navy would find it extremely difficult to deal with the non-violent tactics of the protest vessels. To avoid this, the French secret service DGSE was ordered to launch ‘Operation Satanique,’ where French secret service agents were sent to New Zealand to sink the *Rainbow Warrior* before it could lead the protest flotilla.” *Id.*

The *Rainbow Warrior* was sunk in retaliation for Green Peace’s protests against French nuclear bomb testing in the South Pacific. In 2005, nine years after President Mitterrand died, his intelligence chief Admiral Pierre Lacoste admitted that the President had personally authorized the operation. Despite being left leaning, he disliked Greenpeace’s global initiative.⁵ Information from Wikipedia articles, “François Mitterrand,” (citing to archived Times article) and “Sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior*,” July 5, 2019.⁶

- ✓ The Partial Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963 and the United States discontinued testing at that time in the Pacific Proving Grounds. The French obviously continued testing into the early 1980s. The Treaty of Rarotonga in 1986 formalized the Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, and in 1996, coinciding in the year with the death of Mitterrand (a year after he left office), France ratified the three protocols of the Treaty.

“On multiple occasions, QAnon has dismissed his false claims and incorrect predictions as willful misinformation, claiming that ‘disinformation is necessary.’ This has led Australian psychologist Stephan Lewandowsky to emphasize the ‘self-sealing’ quality of the conspiracy theory, highlighting its anonymous purveyor’s use of plausible deniability and noting that evidence against the theory ‘can become evidence of [its] validity in the minds of believers.’”

– from Wikipedia article, “QAnon,” captured November 1, 2018

“Non-attribution to the United States for covert operations was the original and principal purpose of the so-called doctrine of ‘plausible denial.’ Evidence before the Committee clearly demonstrates that this concept, designed to protect the United States and its operatives from the consequences of disclosures, has been expanded to mask decisions of the president and his senior staff members.” – Church Committee II Reports, U.S. Senate, November 20, 1975 ⁷

Plausible Deniability: Regardless of the outcome of any Black-op or Information Operation, a die is rolled to determine if anyone ‘noticed.’ The Concierge may determine that the operation was noticed automatically, for example, when a ship blows up when it shouldn’t (e.g., the Rainbow Warrior, *ut supra*) or there is an **alien** plague on the colony, it’s hard not to notice.

- ✓ “It was naïve for policymakers to assume that sponsorship of actions as big as the [Bay of Pigs] invasion could be concealed. The Committee’s investigation of assassination and the public disclosures which preceded the inquiry demonstrate that when the United States resorted to cloak-and-dagger tactics, its hand was ultimately exposed.” – Church Committee IV Reports, U.S. Senate.

It is somewhat more difficult to determine when the Black-op was unsuccessful or less than successful (Information Operations are automatically successful if not blocked, see 2 Information, p. 1349, *infra*). The base chance of anyone noticing the Black-op, if it is not determined to be automatic, is ... 50%! The Concierge may again, adjust the base percentage depending on the result of the previous rolls, the nature of exactly what happened, and where it happened, and other knowledge within the ken of the Concierge, mainly, whether anyone is ‘looking.’ The position executing the Black-op may not be informed of whether their operation was noticed by anyone, if the Concierge determines that they have no realistic way of knowing whether anyone noticed.

- ✓ “Operational phenomenology” if you will – the appearance of the operation: “By an ‘appearance’ is meant any existent which impinges on consciousness, anything cognized, irrespective of any judgment as to whether it be ‘real’ or ‘illusory.’ The evaluation of a particular appearance as a reality or an illusion is a complex process, involving inductive and deductive logical principles and activities.” – Avi Sion, from abstract for his book Phenomenology (2005).
- Alibi, Adlib, and Abscond: The difference between an alibi and plausible deniability? An alibi has to be factual, credibly provable (I was with him at the bar at the time of his wife’s

home-invasion murder) whereas plausible deniability is just that, *plausible* as in: “superficially fair, reasonable, or valuable but often specious,” “superficially pleasing or persuasive” and “appearing worthy of belief.” (Merriam-Webster online dictionary at *plausible*).

- ✓ [Narrator] “But there is a bigger barrier. Spies may have good causes, but few things they do could be called good. They want to know our secrets, but don’t want us to know theirs, ever.” – *The Spy Who Went into the Cold: Kim Philby, Soviet Super Spy* (documentary, 2013).

The problem with espionage agents is the same as for nuclear-armed submarines or fighter pilots – once they leave port, you can only hope they follow orders and do as they should do, as they were trained to do, and that their loyalty remains committed to the homeland. Once out there, they may harbor unpatriotic intentions, may encounter situations that change their minds, might have to alter plans due to unforeseen difficulties, or may just decide to not follow orders any longer unless it suits them. This is the issue of *The Hunt for Red October* (novel, 1984), Viktor Belenko and hundreds of other combat jet defections, and of course, an unknown number of secret agents who quit or go rogue while in foreign lands on missions (or in the case of ships, while at sea or in foreign ports). There is, of course, always the threat of retaliation against family back home, but this doesn’t always work; I recall from reading Viktor Belenko’s book back in the 1980s that he was married to a woman chosen by the Communist Party for whom he did not have romantic affections or children, while Soviet spy Jack Barsky avoided repercussions against his family in East Germany by cleverly telling the KGB he had contracted AIDS while in the United States and had to stay here.

- ✓ Everyone in *The Man in the High Castle* series lies about something every episode; it’s rather appalling, everyone is a walking living lie or omission, but it’s also adventurous and exciting. The art of their lying is plausibility; and plausibility lasts until new facts are presented, which is what churns the plot: Lies, plausibility, revelations.
- *The Blame Game*: If the Special Operation has been ‘noticed’ by the target, then it’s a question of whodunit? As law enforcement knows, even if the crime is discovered soon after it was committed, it is oftentimes difficult to discover whodunit. The basic chance of being able to officially blame anyone is 50% and half of those times the actual perpetrator of the operation will be discovered (e.g., French intelligence agents in New Zealand, p. 1313, *ut supra*), and the other half, that it will be blamed on someone else. Somebody will be blamed, if possible, it’s our nature. But that still leaves a 50% chance that no blame can be attached.
 - ✓ “Fake news doesn’t get retracted or corrected because it’s specifically designed to deceive; detachment from fact is a feature, not a bug, as the saying goes.” – Robert Schlesinger, “The Maestros of Fake News,” *U.S. News & World Report*, July 7, 2017.
 - ✓ Blame sits at the corner of Morality Boulevard and Causality Way. It costs just a nickel to play.

The victim of the Special Operation will be informed who appears to have committed the ‘crime’ against them.

- ✓ “The use of Wagner for operations such as the one in early February shows how integral private mercenary groups are to the Russian military effort in Syria and else-

where, while giving the Kremlin ‘a thin patina of deniability,’ said Michael Carpenter, a former Pentagon and White House official who worked on Russia policy in the Obama administration. ‘More importantly,’ he said, ‘it allows Russian forces to take on the U.S.-backed SDF in a way that regular Russian forces wouldn’t dare do for fear of escalation.’” – Ellen Nakashima, Karen DeYoung, and Liz Sly, “Putin ally said to be in touch with Kremlin, Assad before his mercenaries attacked U.S. troops,” Washington Post, February 22, 2018.

It is up to the victim to determine the accuracy of the report. As before, the Concierge may adjust percentages based on the entire situation and upon their superior knowledge and divine wisdom. The chances of not being blamed may improve somewhat if the position executing the operation provides the Concierge with some kind of plausible deniability (see Merriam-Webster definition, previous page, *ut supra*) as to why the victim cannot blame them.

- ✓ “And a man who tells lies, like me, merely hides the truth. But a man who tells half-lies has forgotten where he put it.” – Mr. Dryden, in *Lawrence of Arabia* (1962).
 - [Narrator] “It’s not surprising we can’t be sure. Spies of all stripes shield the truth with lies.” – *The Spy Who Went into the Cold: Kim Philby, Soviet Super Spy* (documentary, 2013).
- ✓ “Already mourning her lost family and her lost position in the UMCP [United Mining Corporation Police], she also loses her faith in the institution when she learns that Nick [an infamous pirate] is actually a secret UMCP agent, whose thefts and murders are overlooked in exchange for deniable operations in alien space.” – from Wikipedia article, “The Gap Cycle,” (series of books by Stephen R. Donaldson).
- Liar’s Dice: The second roll is only necessary if the Special Operation – whether successful or not – was noticed. It is thus that players may later discover some little thing changed in their position data with no explanation. It is not an error.
 - ✓ Although the Black-ops rules are presented as position vs. position, requiring a significant number of steps for one position to act surreptitiously against another and possibly escape blame and detection; there is an alternate view (see *Player Generated Entropy and Resistance*, 1 Special Operations, pp. 1270-1271, *supra*) that much of what happens in Black-ops is as much a result of social entropy, stupid crap happens, and local political actors as it is the efforts of one position against another in strict game terms. The game is kind of fuzzy that way. Thus the ability to go undetected or to shift the blame for the acts to someone else, or some of the seeming impossibility of the missions could be viewed as a consequence of these forces, or general confusion.
 - ✓ The underlying message of the sandbox simulation, throughout GGDM and especially in *Plausible Deniability* is don’t be silly, don’t let the rules dictate and force upon the game absurdities, and don’t stick your head in the sand either in the game or in the real world. Focus on the ‘plausibility’ of the deniability.
 - Eve was not the first to sample the forbidden fruit, Adam was, then blamed it on Eve, who successfully transferred blame to the serpent who happened by just then. But suspicions lingered and Eve has been eternally tarnished while Adam has lorded over the Earth and the beasts.

- Truer Lies: If the position has any remaining unused Enlightenment from the Black-op, there is a 50% chance that it can be applied to failed Plausible Deniability rolls at the discretion of the Concierge on what constitutes failure (see *Harsh Mistress*, 2 Colleges, p. 478, *supra*). Positions may in the Profile of the Black-op specifically elect that no Enlightenment will be used for the Black-op but that Enlightenment will be applied if possible to Plausible Deniability regardless of the results. This they might do if it is important to not be discovered.
 - ✓ Whether the defender can use Enlightenment to force a reroll is an open question for the Concierge to determine and apply consistently. It depends on whether the Plausible Deniability roll is considered an ‘opposing die roll’ (see *Army of Light*, 2 Colleges, p. 479, *supra*) or whether they are considered neutral game processes.
 - ✓ “You know, the very powerful and the very stupid have one thing in common. They don’t alter their views to fit the facts. They alter the facts to fit their views.” – Dr. Who, “The Face of Evil Part 4” (1977).
 - ✓ “As the late senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan famously said, everybody’s entitled to their own opinions, but they’re not entitled to their own facts. Even if they are called ‘alternative facts.’” – Editorial Board, “Credibility Gap: Our View,” *USA Today*, January 23, 2017.
- Soft White Bulbs: Though it may seem silly to be able to use Enlightenment in Black-ops on **alien colonies** and especially, in Plausible Deniability, it’s a fuzzy mechanism to cover a number of situations, including an equal lack of enlightenment in the leadership of the other side. For example, the Dreyfus Affair: Do you think the Germans did anything at all to dissuade the French from blaming Maj. Dreyfus? Do you think they would have actually – if they had the foresight – provided false evidence or assisted the French in persecuting Maj. Dreyfus? Or maybe they did. I have never seen a discussion of this aspect of the Dreyfus Affair, whether or not German intelligence did anything to push it along (but maybe they did), but there are always internal elements that have reasons to push back against or try to suppress certain facts or try to misdirect conclusions (for political, ideological or commercial reasons), and this provides a way to ‘account’ for it in GGDM, e.g.:
 - ✓ “US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) documents declassified in 2006 show that the [May 1960] capture of [Aldolf] Eichmann caused alarm at the CIA and West German *Bundesnachrichtendienst* (BND). Both organisations had known for at least two years that Eichmann was hiding in Argentina, but they did not act because it did not serve their interests in the Cold War to do so. Both were concerned about what Eichmann might say in his testimony about West German national security advisor Hans Globke, who had coauthored several antisemitic Nazi laws, including the Nuremberg Laws. The documents also revealed that both agencies had used some of Eichmann’s former Nazi colleagues to spy on European Communist countries.” – from Wikipedia article, “Adolf Eichmann,” citing to Julian Borger, “Why Israel’s capture of Eichmann caused panic at the CIA,” *The Guardian*, June 7, 2006 (available free online).⁸

The Israelis were, of course, not bound by such delicate considerations. They were thus the rogue actors who upset the system of hush-hush.
- Muddy Waters: The game mechanics of the blame game and plausible deniability exist only within the game; the Concierge will interpret that the result is what is believed by the *people on the ground* to be true or most likely and players must accept that within the game and act

accordingly – in good faith – within the game. It is of course possible for positions to contact each other outside the game, where the position that was blamed in the game will deny, player to player, that they did it (will they be believed?), or for a group to figure out who actually did it. The game cannot account for these communications, of course. Perhaps players could decide not to discuss Black-ops outside the game, accepting the game’s results of Black-ops without outside communication? A communication blackout of Black-ops?

- ✓ Alternatively: “Don’t ask questions when you fear the answers. Don’t make the water muddy by stirring it up. Be patient.” – Paulo Coelho (Paulo Coelho de Souza), Facebook posting, November 16, 2014.
- ✓ ““They believe that the U.S. and its allies in the region are fueling and exploiting internal discontent in Iran,’ [Ali Vaez] said. ‘The game will return to Iran’s comfort zone: indirect attacks against the United States and its allies in ways that would allow plausible deniability and minimal risks of reprisal.’” – Farnaz Fassihi and David D. Kirkpatrick, “Iran Cracks Down as Protests Over Downing of Airliner Grow,” New York Times, January 13, 2020.
- ✓ At the end of the movie *Anti Matter* (2017), Liv says that they need to find someone with a motive on which to blame the computer worm attack they used to steal server processing power from across the globe. The British government is investigating and someone could go to jail if convicted of the cyber-terrorism attack. She can hack the blame onto someone else if she has an email address. Ana (“Ana-matter,” as the blog *This is Berry* dubbed her⁹) coolly reaches into her pocket and produces an animal rights group handout on which the leader of the protestors had written his name and email address for contact. She hands the paper to Liv, who authored the worm attack without the slightest remorse, knowing full well that the man’s life will be ruined and he will go to jail for a crime he did not commit. The investigators are looking for a culprit and will look no further once they find someone to charge. The two women, and their boyfriend who has blood all over his shirt and coat from being grazed in the neck by a bullet (from “Ana-light,” *Id.*), then leave the lab to get dinner.

“Until then, everyone was convinced it must have been one of the laborers working on the barracks, but the sudden disappearance of Stauffenberg put things in an entirely different light. By that evening, Hitler knew that a clique of army officers had been responsible.”

– Operation Valkyrie: The Plot to Kill Hitler (documentary, 2008), young female voice reading from Gertraud Junge’s memoirs, Until the Final Hour (2002)¹⁰

Grasping at Straws: The conspirators in the July 20 Plot used ‘captured’ British plastic explosives and fuses, which they found to be the best after experimenting with various explosive devices. *Id.*, Philipp von Boeselager interview, see also his obituary in the Guardian, May 6, 2008.¹¹ Does that mean that he was an intelligence agent for the British or that the British were involved in the July 20 Plot?

According to Wikipedia article “July 20 Plot” – citing to a 1976 book by Princess Tatiana von Metternich-Winneburg, British radio broadcast names of possible conspirators *who were then arrested* by the Gestapo in addition to everyone else the Gestapo didn’t like (the Gestapo cast a

wide net, 99% of those arrested and executed had no involvement in or knowledge of the Plot). Clearly the Gestapo thought that the British might be involved or at least took the radio broadcasts as enough pretext to arrest more people in Germany; because the British cruelly broadcast their names over the radio, those people might have been considered British spies.

I am sure that there are and have been attempts to link British spies to the July 20 Plot, I am sure that if there were enough interest, the conspiracy theories would resurface on the internet. In the frantic, fanatical hysteria following the failed July 20 Plot, the Kaltenbrunner Report, November 29, 1944, also implicated the Pope in the 20 July Plot – remember that the next time you see an internet conspiracy theory. There are layers and people grasp at straws in the wind.¹²

- ✓ Not saying that the Germans wouldn't try the same thing: Allegedly, the German intelligence planned to kill Churchill, Stalin, and Roosevelt at the Tehran Conference in November 1943 (“Operation Long Jump”) and also they allegedly planned to kidnap the Pope in September 1943. Both stories are met with significant skepticism and are not entirely substantiated by evidence, whatever the case, neither seems to have progressed beyond being a fanciful, desperate idea for a single intelligence operation to turn the tide; the kidnapping plot doesn't even have an operational name.

However, these all have likely been inspiration for some fiction – because suspension of disbelief allows fiction to take some small liberties with logic and fact – and might be useful in GGDM: I have never understood why the matter transporters in Star Trek were not used much more creatively; what can be done with Tribbles can be done with people, bombs or bacteria, and it would “be no tribble at all!” (Scotty, ST:OS “Trouble with Tribbles” (1967)).

- ✓ An attempt to kidnap Prime Minister Winston Churchill in Norfolk village and deception about his departure for the Tehran Conference is the subject of the fictional movie *The Eagle Has Landed* (1976). Sort of a combination of the two ideas, above, and just as harebrained because it's not clear what expected effect it would have on the war. It was possibly also inspired by the actual Operation Pastorius (an Abwehr operation) in which the Germans landed two four-man teams of saboteurs from submarines off the coast of New York and Florida in 1942.¹³ They were betrayed, tried and six of them were executed in the nervous aftermath of the Duquesne Spy Ring (another Abwehr operation) arrests and convictions of 1941.¹⁴

“Counterterrorism intelligence is different. It requires identifying and thwarting threats before they happen. Analysis and operations go together in preventing an attack or neutralizing a threat. The United States cannot do this by itself – this effort relies heavily on intelligence cooperation from other countries....”

The information the United States collects via technical means can be frustratingly inconclusive and is often much more useful if paired with human intelligence. Partner nations are often better positioned to collect intelligence on their own soil and to act on that intelligence when necessary.... Partner intelligence services also often know the local language, including various dialects; share the ethnic and historical ties to intelligence targets, and understand the cultural terrain in ways most U.S. intelligence officers never could.... Local intelligence services are often the first line of defense when it comes to disrupting attacks...”

– Stephen Tankel, *The Washington Post*, May 16, 2017

CIT: Counter-Operations Missions (COMs) are different from Special Operations Missions (SOMs) in that they are recruited and operate only in friendly territory; they contain a mixture of police, intelligence, and other elements that constitute the security and law enforcement forces of the civilization they are protecting (e.g., SMERSH). Counter-Operations Missions, like Special Operations Missions, must be placed at or in a specific game unit, i.e. ship, colony, Ground Unit.

- ✓ On December 22, 2019, the New York Times reported that the popular ToTok chat app was a spying tool of the United Arab Emirates (Mark Mazzetti, Nicole Perlroth and Ronen Bergman, “It Seemed Like a Popular Chat App. It’s Secretly a Spy Tool”).
- **Black ICE:** Although framed in terms of operatives, Counter-Operations Missions can be more than just sneakers on the ground (e.g., agents protecting vital computer hubs from physical compromise or staff infiltration, e.g., p. 1321, *ut supra*), they can include virus protection and active security programs (e.g., the ‘black ICE’ popular in cyberpunk stories):
 - ✓ “As with all security programs of any type, they can only be designed to counter known or anticipated threats. In the realm of measure, counter-measure, counter-countermeasure, counter-counter-countermeasure, there is always a small window of opportunity for the latest system. ... Like any living creature, the virus only wanted to be fruitful and multiply.” – Dave Nilsen, “When Empires Fall II,” Challenge Magazine, Issue 69, February 1993 [referencing the Genesis Mandate].
 - ✓ “As the [AI] viruses preyed on each other, they developed ever more sophisticated self-defense security systems and sub-viruses, many times more effective than the man-made security systems they had defeated during the Collapse.” *Id.*
 - Though I do not know the inside details, it is fair to speculate that the Eurisko experience at the 1981 and 1982 Traveller Trillion Credit Squadron Tournaments (see Imperial Admiral Eurisko, 4 Colleges, p. 512, *supra*) hovers in the background leading to the creation of the Virus and of Traveller RPG: The New Era setting.
- **Training Day:** An activation of the Special Operations Power for the purpose of Train Counter Operations Missions allows the Recruiting and Lodging of Counter-Operations Missions on a sovereign colony and friendly ships currently at a sovereign colony by the owner, *in one step*: ‘Train’ in this sense is used as a one-word substitute for two actions, like a cutter pitch in baseball.
 - ✓ Train Counter Operations Missions activation on a sovereign colony requires a Scene at the colony and is thus subject to possible Power Activation failure (see Making a Scene, 1 Special Operations, p. 1274, *supra*); whereas, as mentioned in Acting Lessons, 1 Special Operations, p. 1274, *supra*, training Counter-Operations Missions (COMs) on a friendly ship at a sovereign colony may use either an Act or a Scene at that colony.
 - ✓ Training Counter-Operations Missions is automatically successful (in the sense of Recruiting and Lodging), it is just a matter of cost and time. Each Counter-Operations Mission trained will cost 1 to 3 RPs, and the position submitting Actions to train Counter-Operations Missions must specify either a number of Counter-Operations Missions (at variable cost) or a max budget for new Counter-Operations Missions (however many you can get) *at each location*.

- ✓ Newly trained Counter-Operations Missions do *count against* the GDP of the target colony on that Regular Turn.

Thus, the structure of GGDM Special Operations gives the speed advantage to the defense: Black-ops require three Power Activations to Recruit, Lodge, and use Missions, whereas, Counter-Operations require just one step to Recruit and Lodge Counter-Operations Missions (through the police power of the State). The difference between one step Recruiting and Lodging of COMs and two-step Recruiting and Lodging of SOMs represents the difficulty of projecting Special Operations Power into *alien cultures* and across interstellar distances.

- Quartermaster Act: Unlike Special Operations Missions, Counter-Operations Missions may only be Lodged in a sovereign unit that is or is at the location where they were Recruited on the Regular Turn in which they were Recruited. This includes sovereign ships and Ground Units that *begin* the Regular Turn at the colony where the Counter-Operations Missions were Recruited, e.g., in the movie *Cargo: Space is Cold* (2009) an intelligence operative was added to the crew just before departure to protect them from Neo-Luddite ‘terrorists.’ New ships that are finished in the same Regular Turn do not ‘begin’ the turn at the colony. On the same turn that Counter Operations are ‘trained’ *they must also be assigned to* either Target Protection (the defense) or Counter-Operations (the offense of the defense) at that location.
 - ✓ Though not entirely realistic, GGDM makes no distinction between being on a surface colony or on Orbital Cities over the colony, unless it is necessary for play (for example, different Native Population Types). Thus a Mission Lodged on a Colony is also possibly on any Orbital Cities, Defense Bases or Shipyard, as necessary, because those are not ‘game units’ but rather, ‘colony enhancements’ in GGDM.

Counter-Operations Missions assigned to Target Protection must stay with their target, wherever it goes, and cannot be ‘re-Lodged.’ If the target is moved to a ship, the missions assigned to Target Protection move with it (this does not count as re-Lodging); if their target protection assignment is a ship or a colony, they stay there ‘til retirement. Only COMs assigned to Counter-Operations may need to be re-Lodged occasionally.

- ✓ It is of questionable value in most cases to recruit COMs assigned to Counter Operations on ships using an Act to avoid the possibility of a Power Activation failure, then on subsequent turns, re-Lodging those COMs to a colony, which requires a Scene.
- ✓ “[Ned] Price and others say [Gordon] Sondland’s July 26 [cell phone] call [from a restaurant in Kiev] with Trump raises red flags for another reason: It was likely a highly compromising security breach, and illustrates how lax Sondland was about following State Department protocols to protect sensitive information. ‘The president is the most lucrative intelligence target throughout the world,’ Price said. ‘When the Russians presumably heard that he [Sondland] was connected to the president of the United States, they knew they had hit the jackpot.’ ... Conducting a cellphone call with the president in a public place in Ukraine’s capital, ‘it just doesn’t get any worse than that,’ said Clint Watts, a research fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute... Watts said Ukraine is ‘ground zero’ for Russian espionage campaigns, and Moscow almost certainly intercepted Sondland’s conversation with Trump on a major foreign policy issue of keen interest to Russian President Vladimir Putin.” – Bart Jansen and Deirdre Shesgreen, “Gordon Sondland, who flaunted Trump access, may offer first-hand account of Trump’s Ukraine aims,” USA Today, November 17, 2019.

- **Police Pensions:** Like Special Operations Missions, Counter Operations Missions ‘age-out’ at the end of each Regular Turn (or Turn Cycle if Regular Turn Actions are not submitted or processed); there is a 50% chance that each Counter Operations Mission will be lost at the end of each Regular Turn. Unlike Special Operations Missions, Counter Operations Missions are not ‘expended’ or lost during the defense against *any* operation.
 - ✓ Old policemen never die, they just cop out!¹⁵ (boos, hisses, eye rolls)☺
- **The COM-ing of The Virus:** It was said in Mubarak’s Egypt that if five men sat down to a café table to plan something, the fifth person wrote a report to Mubarak afterwards, so thoroughly had the police and counterintelligence infiltrated the opposition groups. Still, it didn’t save him from a spontaneous uprising facilitated by the ultras sports fan social networking.
 - ✓ **In science fiction:** “After a number of furtive and urgent meetings, they decided that they would try to carry warning of this project to the heads of the other factions, one to Margaret’s faction, one to Ilelish, one to Deneb, one to Gushemege, one to Vland, and one to Daibei. They planned their departures to coincide with a conference they could all arrange to attend without attracting undue attention to themselves. Unfortunately, one of their number was a plant loyal to Lucan, one of many assigned undercover to Imperial Research Stations to ensure their reliability. This plant arranged for them all to be followed and murdered, but the emissary to Iklisk, Jean Milakhad, was able to turn the tables on his assassin and escape.

However, he did not know that he had been betrayed from within, and continued his mission as planned, although now aboard a patrol cruiser, commandeered with the help of his Imperial Navy reserve status. But as the plant knew of the scientist’s ultimate destination, he was able to position naval units to intercept the craft, and even insert an assassin at the destination, should the patrol cruiser get through. ... As a result of ‘tomb-tapping’ (the psionic probing of the residual brainwaves of a dying brain) tests conducted on Mibkhad, Dulinor learned that the man was bringing warning of one of Lucan’s superweapons, a virus that was being perfected at a research station in Core sector.” – Dave Nilsen, “When Empires Fall II,” Challenge Magazine, Issue 69, February 1993 (this story would be a great fan-made short video subject).

In the case of Emperor Lucan’s Imperial Research Station Omicron, it was seven people who sat down to plan the escape, and the seventh one was a spy for the Emperor....

“Having been involved in many counterintelligence cases in the past, I know what the(y) try to do. They try to suborn individuals, and they try to get individuals, including [citizens], to try to act on their behalf, either wittingly or unwittingly.”

– John Brennan, former CIA Director, testimony before Congress

Counter Operations: Counter-Operations Missions must be assigned to either Target Protection or to a Counter Operation on the Regular Turn they are either Trained or Lodged (previous page, *ut supra*). This occurs automatically as a step of Recruiting Counter-Operations Missions.

- Secret Services: Counter-Operations Missions assigned to Target Protection will attempt to block or ‘soak off’ Special Operations Missions which are committed to a Black-op against their target. The base chance of each Counter-Operations Mission intercepting a Special Operations Mission is (surprise!) 50%. The Concierge will adjust the base chance based on several factors, including comparing the *loci* of the Special Operation and the Target Protection.
 - ✓ For example, if Counter Operations Missions were assigned to Target Protect the colony, and a Black-op targeted the Ground Bases at the colony, the *loci* overlap, but are not exactly the same; that is, the Black-op is aimed at a specific target installation, whereas, the Counter-Operations Missions assigned to Target Protection must defend the entire colony. As a result, the Counter-Operations Missions assigned to Target Protection must have a slightly lesser chance of blocking the Special Operations Missions targeting the Ground Bases. Conversely, if the Target Protection assignment was Ground Bases, then it would be a head-on collision between Special Operations Missions and Counter Operations Missions doing Target Protection during the Black-op, with Counter Operations having the legitimate authority/police power advantage in blocking in their home territory.
 - Note that there is no provision within the GGDM system for learning whether there are **alien** Special Operations Missions Lodged at any specific location. The system provides for only passive Target Protection and active Counter Operations to purge a location.¹⁶ It is possible that players may learn (or be fooled) about the existence of Special Operations Missions through informal player diplomacy which is, as noted previously, beyond the GGDM system. A little paranoia goes a long way...
- Spy vs. Spy: Activation of the Special Operations Power for the purpose of Counter-Operations is the counter-offensive, the attempt to purge (discover and eliminate, sweeping up the garbage) enemy Special Operations Missions Lodged at their location (presumably to disrupt a future Black-op). For inspiration, see the MAD comic series.☺

Consistent with the previous rules, each Counter-Operations Mission will have a 50% chance of eliminating a Special Operations Mission, if any exist at that location. And the Concierge may adjust the base percentage based on factors known only to the Concierge (on the advice of a 6’ 3½” tall invisible rabbit named Harvey). The owner of the Special Operations Missions, whether or not any are eliminated, *may or may not be informed* of the Counter Operation (that is, may think they simply ‘aged out’); likewise, the position conducting the Counter Operation *may or may not be informed* of any Special Operations Missions eliminated, in fact, may receive false positive results (by use of a Concierge Intervention). Only your hair stylist knows the true color of your hair, and he won’t tell anyone ... really.

- ✓ Despite the brilliant stroke of propaganda attributed to his famous last words, the adult table version of the story of Nathan Hale’s misadventure in 1776 showed that he was a very poor spy, an inept operative. Like John Brown and Sara Jane Moore, he was idealistically deluded, he expected to find immediately in British-occupied New York City an organized, receptive and active network of Revolutionary underground resistance and was open and careless in his attempts to locate contacts. He had no realistic plan or understanding. He was easily outed by the British counterintelligence and hanged. Though many statues of Nathan Hale may exist (I do not know), the

only one I have personally seen (I was a bit surprised even) was located for a short time in the entryway to the Duquesne Club in Pittsburgh. Any statue of Nathan Hale is thus a statue to ideological bravery and uncommon stupidity.

- The Great Pretender: The possibility of ‘flipping’ opposition SOMs and COMs to work as ‘double agents’ is, as always, intriguing but also difficult in the interstellar environment of GGDM. If we assume that SOMs are most likely from the native population of wherever they are Lodged or at the least, of a ubiquitous alien species resident at that location, then flipping them to COMs is possible. In other words, a human on Earth who is a SOM for aliens who are spying on us, might be taken to Area 51 and made into a double agent.

- ✓ [Interview] “No agent can be trusted completely. He had to be checked all the time...” – Col. Mikhail Lyubimov, former KGB officer, *The Spy Who Went into the Cold*: Kim Philby, Soviet Super Spy (documentary, 2013).

In flipping COMs to SOMs as double agents, one has to ask why the COM would prefer an **alien master**. There are, of course, many possible answers mostly relating to be dissident or having dissident sympathies, based on hopes and promises of what will happen when the **aliens** conquer the colony. And never underestimate greed and promises of power...

- ✓ [Interview] “He was just like two different people in one body.” – Richard Beeston *The Spy Who Went into the Cold*: Kim Philby, Soviet Super Spy (documentary, 2013).
- ✓ Within sci-fi tropes, there are many other possible answers. You know, the usual: mind control, intelligent alien parasites, alien religion and revelation, the desire to get off the colony planet, two people occupying one body at the same time, time travel ... *is Louise Banks in Arrival (2016) a Lodged SOM for the heptapods?* You know...

Flipped COMs and SOMs would still ‘age out’ naturally, and that likely puts a wet towel on the effectiveness of flipping Missions. If COMs can be flipped to SOMs at a location, then a sort of chaining effect may happen, without the necessity for Recruiting and Lodging. Game mechanically, since Black-ops and Information Operations (see 2 Special Operations, p. 1297, *supra*, and 2 Information p. 1349, *infra*, respectively) require Mission Profiles, flipping could be attempted via the Profile. On the Counter-Operations side, there is no profile, but it is possible that other means may be developed in game, such as technologies or Writ activations, that would target flipping SOMs instead of eliminating them during Counter-Operations or even when blocking during Target Protection.

- ✓ It is not necessary that a position know that there are enemy COMs or SOMs at a location to attempt to flip them. This is a game of double blind; Lodged COMs and SOMs were generally only ‘discovered’ or ‘appear’ at the moment of execution of a Special Operations Power activation. Sort of like ‘wave function collapse’....
- ✓ It is also possible that flipping may sometimes occur randomly ... err, by Concierge Intervention. Just for the fun of it. Or maybe the COMs and SOMs just revolt against their current masters and cause an incident.

“So what? The time for covert operations and secret maneuvers is gone. If we strike, the government will know what’s going on anyway. We may as well strike right now.” – Col. Gallagher, Nydenion (2010)

Endnotes.

¹ Commentary & Citation: The special mission or desperate black-op in the middle of a conventional battle is the staple of adventure fiction. The battle scene over Antarctica in Stargate SG-1 “Lost City, Pt. 2” (2004) is essentially the same as the Battle of Naboo (assault on Theed) in Star Wars: The entire balance of the battle depends on a small team action (the good guys), under pressure, to master the situation before disastrous defeat by the bad guys.

² Commentary: Consider that company commanders are now usually Captains (or a 1st Lt. in line for promotion), which requires a four-year college degree, completion of OCS, commissioning as a 2nd Lt. and two promotions within about 6 or so years afterward. Thus, most Captains in the Army and Marines (not to be confused with the naval Captain) are in their late 20s with about four years of college and six or more successful years’ experience as an officer. Thus, most company commanders now are about 10 years older than Eugene was when he asked Louis XIV to grant him command of a company in the French army, and all have actual military training and experience.

³ Commentary: The Affair of the Placards (1534) – nailing Zwinglian Protestant, anti-Catholic placards to the door of King Francis’ bedchamber while he was sleeping – was a schoolboy prank (if ever there was one) that changed the course of French and European history in a single night. People were arrested, tortured, tried and executed (some burned at the stake as witches for being Protestant) as a result of the investigation and France abandoned conciliation and tolerance of Protestants, culminating in the Edict of Fontainebleau in 1540 (Protestants were again granted rights by the Edict of Nantes in 1598, but they were rescinded again by a second Edict of Fontainebleau (1685)) and France became a continental Catholic bastion in natural geopolitical opposition to England and Germany. From this boundary arises much of the next 500 years of European conflict.

- ✓ The same cannot be said, for example, of *Kristallnacht* (November, 1938) four hundred years later, as the German government was both complicit and involved, and because the course of history was not arguably changed, rather, it sped forward to the conclusion we all know. *Kristallnacht* publically confirmed what many people already suspected and outraged and alienated public opinion of Nazi Germany in other countries, especially the United States and England.

⁴ Commentary: For the record, the screenplay writers changed the story a bit, especially the ending. The novel was difficult material to translate into a screenplay. As usual, there were angry comments and recriminations on this among the actors, writers, directors and producers as to who did or said what during the process.

⁵ Commentary: The bombing of the Greenpeace vessel *Rainbow Warrior* was a particularly petty jerkass act by the French government, more so because it was authorized at the very top. This is sort of like setting the neighbor’s backyard doghouse on fire because their dog barks too much. But governments do those things, they are exactly like the people who populate them.

- ✓ “A Jerkass is a character who is so completely obnoxious that it is unbelievable anyone would willingly interact with them. ... What makes them entertaining is the fact that you don’t have to deal with them yourself in real life. ... The single factor that pushes a merely annoying character over the line into full-time Jerkass status is their absolute obliviousness to other people’s perceptions of them. Nothing they do ever strikes them as out of proportion; they never realize that anything they are doing might ever be considered inappropriate, excessive, or cruel; in fact, they believe they are actually right and everyone around them is in the wrong. If anyone ever does call them out on their Jerkassery, expect them to just rationalize it or shrug the accusation off.” – from TVTropes.org, “Jerkass,” captured July 6, 2019.
- ✓ The trope above almost perfectly describes Adolf Eichmann, see 1 Special Operations, EN 9, pp. 1282-1283, *supra*. Hence, Jerkass behavior might relate, in a literary sense, to Banality of Evil.

⁶ Commentary: I was on the island of Okinawa, Japan on July 10, 1985, preparing for a FSMAO (pronounced “phase-mo”) Inspection which amounts to an official Marine Corps terrorist act (as Reddit user WellDweller said in response to a 2018 FSMAO question, “Prepare your anus for early days and long nights.”) in conjunction with an admin paperwork inspection and a series of command inspections in three consecutive months. So I had nothing to do with the sinking of the *Rainbow Warrior*! **Plausible. Deniability.** I have never been south of the equator.

- ✓ In preparation for the FSMAO inspection, it was discovered that our Motor T shop had too many parts, more than was allowed by the supply spec sheets. There is a sort of horse trading that goes on between various units and sections for parts and small tools so that the stuff eventually goes where needed; but this would not have been any consequence to the hard-nosed inspectors. So a Staff NCO loaded the extra stuff in his car trunk and took it back to his room at the Staff NCO barracks, some of it, he had to bring up to the room to empty his trunk for more stuff that had to be hidden. Then he had to hurry to bring it all back the night after the inspection because they were having a Staff NCO barracks room inspection the next day.

⁷ Citation: “This is what is known as plausible deniability. As in, senior leadership in any campaign never get too close to the truly explosive (or potentially explosive) material that is peddled in the dark channels of opposition research so that – if ever it actually blows up – they can honestly say they never knew about it.” – Chris Cillizza, “Steve Bannon is 100% right about Russia and the Trump campaign,” CNN Politics, January 3, 2018.

⁸ Commentary & Citation: Waffen SS soldiers were used as guards at the Nuremberg Trials. They were from the Estonian and Latvian Legion Waffen SS divisions (15th and 20th Waffen SS Grenadier Divisions) and considered ideologically neutral (though Dr. Felton disputes this somewhat) and displaced persons after the war. See “Waffen-SS Soldiers Guarded the Nuremberg Trials,” Mark Felton Productions YouTube Channel, April 29, 2020.

⁹ Citation: “Worm /Anti Matter (2017): Movie Plot Ending Explained,” This is Berry (thisisberry.com), September 22, 2017.

¹⁰ Commentary: Frau Junge was Hitler’s last personal secretary and had died in 2002 at 81 years old.

¹¹ Citation: Obituary: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/may/06/secondworldwar.germany>.

¹² Citation: “Every president for whom I have worked has wished that intelligence can say things that it can’t. Right, you wish that some piece of truth existed that would allow you to justify.” – Susan Gordon, CNN interview, December 3, 2019 (video available on YouTube).

¹³ Citation: See, Harvey Ardman, “World War II: German Saboteurs Invade America in 1942,” World War II Magazine, February 1997, available free on historynet.com.

¹⁴ Commentary: The Duquesne Spy Ring was a technical intelligence operation that delivered huge amounts of blueprints and technical documentation to Germany *before* WWII, which appears to have been adapted by the Germans and appeared in later German military equipment designs. Some members also distributed propaganda, reported ship movements, defenses of the Panama Canal, stole government contracts, coastal sea charts, and acted as couriers of money, platinum, instructions, photographs – they even had a honey-trap agent in New York’s social circles named Lilly Stein – remarkably, she was a Jewish woman, but I guess that was the perfect cover for a Nazi spy.

- ✓ The fact that the entire ring was rounded up (‘busted’) by the FBI in 1941 does not make it a failed operation. The date of the ‘bust’ – April 1941, before the Pearl Harbor attack and formal declaration of war on Germany – by the FBI and the fact that the FBI had double agents in the ring who controlled one of the Ring’s short-wave radios also does not make it a failure of counterintelligence in the United States. This is a situation example where both sides might be considered successful to a degree in a GGDM Black Op.

¹⁵ Commentary: The origin of the word ‘cop’ in reference to police is filled with many imaginative, but incorrect, folk etymologies; when I was young, I used to see “Community Oriented Policing” on patrol cars and thought that was what ‘cop’ meant (a backronym, false etymology?). Centuries ago, to cop (v.) meant to seize or grab, and is still present in the current misogynic phrase, ‘cop a feel’ (as in former President George H.W. Bush’s joke about his favorite magician) or by a more twisted meaning, ‘copping out’ as in taking yourself out of some commitment, while to ‘cop to’ something is to confess or admit. By the mid-19th century, cop had become slang for a policeman in the sense of one of who seizes and arrests, takes into police custody (i.e. a person who was arrested has been copped by the police, otherwise, it is *kidnapping or abduction* if not legitimate). This is typical of English where verbs become nouns denoting the doer of the action, e.g., a person who regularly cops out is labeled a cop-out.

¹⁶ Commentary: Game design process: I asked myself, well how would you know if there were an enemy Special Operations Mission lodged in one of your locations. Answer: There is no way to know within the current game rules. Question: Is that bad for the game? Answer: No, an attempt to execute a Black-op requires at least three Regular Turns, and a little paranoia isn’t a bad thing.

- ✓ Oddly, the Special Operations rules in GGDM inadvertently reflect the nature of crime and policing in the real world.