

Chapter 6
A Matter of Time...



In the previous chapter I said that anyone who claims to be psychic will inevitably be asked to do one of two things—either predict the future, or find something or someone that is missing. If you read that chapter you now know the pros and cons of using remote viewing to find missing things or people. So now, let's look "into the future."

Can remote viewing really predict the future? The answer to that question partly depends on what you mean by "predict the future."

"How will the world end?"

"How will I die?"

"When and where will the next major terrorist attack occur?"

If you expect remote viewing to answer these or similar questions, you may be in for a disappointment. Those are questions about the "open future" of multiple possible outcomes triggered by actions taken in the present. If you smoke that first cigarette, your cause and time of death might be different than if you don't. If you chose to stay in high school, your employment future will be entirely different than if you drop out in your junior year instead.

Despite what you hear from store-counter tabloids, the jury is still out as to whether an "open future" event can be foretold with any degree of reliability. In fact, pretty good evidence exists that predicting events such as these is largely a futile enterprise, one more of imagination rather than of certainty.

Why do people persist in linking "predicting the future" with "being psychic" when there is so much evidence to the contrary? Maybe it is because being psychic has been linked to foretelling the future almost since before the dawn of history. The Oracle of Delphi are but one widely known example of ancient seers who were rumored to predict the future. But perhaps it is because many psychics themselves claim to be able to predict the future, and many of the hopeful believe them. If you look at the data though, you discover that predicting the future is one of the hardest things for a psychic to do. Yes, some have occasional success at it, but the vast majority of attempts fail.



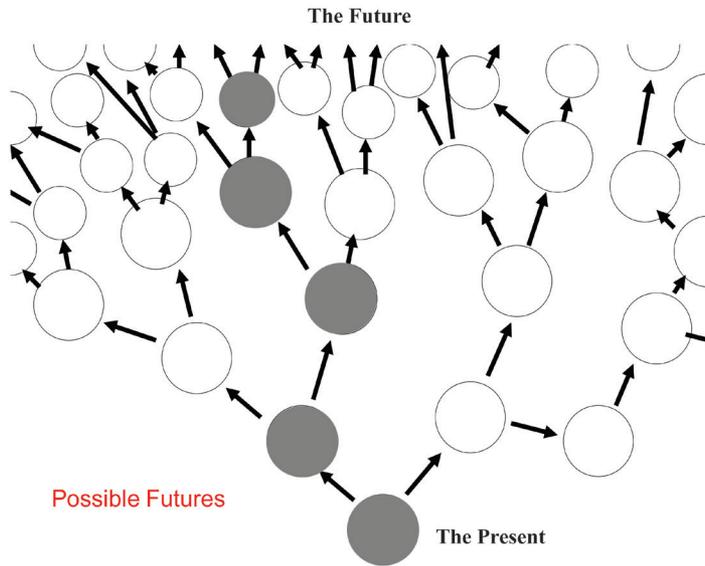
According to legend, the Oracle of Delphi (shown here in this 1891 painting by John Collier) was able to predict the future using her supernatural powers.

So why does the public in general still think being psychic and telling fortunes go together? Maybe it's because we tend only to remember the anecdotes of spectacular successes, while the much larger total of failed predictions gets forgotten. Some psychics themselves encourage this remembering on one hand and forgetting on the other because failure is bad for business. Remote viewing, as a so called "psychic" discipline, has to deal with the same problem, and some publicly well known remote viewers suffer from the same inclination to make predictions, then cover up their failures. Still, despite the shortcomings, there are ways remote viewing can predict certain future events with some confidence. I will get to one of these shortly.

People rightly ask how effective remote viewing is. There is for now no perfect way to answer that question, since the methods science has available can only give an approximate measure of accuracy. But a ballpark estimate based on my own research and experience says that about 70 to 80 percent of the time a well-trained, well practiced remote viewer will produce good evidence that he or she successfully accessed and described elements of an intended target. In roughly half of that 70 to 80 percent (or about 35-40 percent of the time), the results produced by a well trained, experienced viewer will not just show evidence of target contact, but will be of high quality. When the target is an "open future" event, however, these figures drop to perhaps five percent success, at best.

What does "open future" mean? Picture yourself at a restaurant, trying to decide between the shrimp and the steak. If you were to choose the shrimp, this would be the day you would discover you were allergic to shell fish. You'd end up in the hospital where you met your future spouse, the doctor who saves your life. Instead, you choose the steak and your future turns out very differently—maybe you wind up marrying your server instead. Essentially, the decision you made on what menu item to choose made one potential future outcome a reality, and canceled out the other from ever becoming real.

Similarly, in one possible future the terrorist cell plotting the next big atrocity is infiltrated by the FBI and stopped, while in another possible future the cell is not infiltrated by the FBI, not stopped, and one of the people killed in the attack would have found



Evidence suggests that “the future” consists only of not-yet-realized possibilities. This illustration shows a simple diagram of possible futures. The circles are events that, depending on how they turn out, will decide which direction the future takes from that point. The possible future pathway (in gray) is an example of just one way the future might go.

the cure for the common cold. How a particular event unfolds in the present decides which one future gets realized, and which of uncounted other futures don’t.

There are many branches of the future that are “possible.” This is because events about to occur and decisions about to be made right now each almost always have multiple possible outcomes. But only one of these can actually come to pass once the event occurs or the decision is made. That means that all other possible futures attached to that event or decision will never come to be. And since which single future that will happen hasn’t yet been determined before the event or decision is final, we can’t know for certain which one that is and which ones will simply never occur, even if we *are* psychic. In other words, there is no actual future to “psychically predict” or remote view. It becomes a crapshoot as to what you perceive when you try to predict the future. You can see why remote

viewing accuracy falls off dramatically when you try to “look” ahead.

This open array of future possibilities is what I call the “open future.” Most of the events people want remote viewers to predict lie somewhere out in the vast collection of future potential events. Right now all of these events are still “open,” in that for us here in the present they remain mere potentials. Eventually, all but one will be eliminated as possibilities, and a relatively small number following on from it become more likely. When someone tries to remote view an event in the “open future,” it is often done under the belief either that there is such an event to be found (for example, that there might actually be a “future major terror attack”) or that the manner and nature of a future event that is certain (such as when, where, and how one’s death will occur) has already been decided and can be known. But the dismal record of people trying to predict these and other “open future” events shows how unpredictable such events usually are.

A few exceptions occur, of course. Some events are so certain to happen that their part of the future probably does “exist,” at least as a highly-probable potential. But these are relatively rare. Because these exceptions are rare, they serve to confirm the uncertainty of most events in the potential future.¹

Does this mean that remote viewing can never predict a future event with any success? Fortunately, it turns out that there is a way that it can. “Open future” remote viewing successes are relatively rare; at the end of this chapter I will tell you about one such rare but spectacular success that happened to me. But for now I will tell you about a way of “seeing” the future that turns out to be just as accurate as remote viewing the present or past. An added bonus is that it is easy for even novices and amateurs to do. More exciting still, this remote viewing mode can be (and often is) used to turn a profit.

1. Most of the cases I have in mind involve future events that include a significant amount of human intentionality, such as “the next terrorist attack.” People can and do change their minds, intend things that they never ultimately carry out, or are thwarted by decisions made by still other people. Because of this, the vagaries of human intentionality make how an event turns out (or even whether it actually happens) highly variable. So any time human intentionality (free will, decision making, etc.) gets involved, uncertainty of outcome increases proportionately. (This involves a number of sometimes controversial philosophical issues that are too technical to get into here.)

“So if you’re psychic, why aren’t you rich?” This a favorite question frequently asked of psychics by skeptics, who for some reason seem to think they were the first to ever come up with this ancient witticism.

Occasionally, though, the question comes from someone who really wants to know. Whenever I hear the question, whether from skeptic or honest inquirer, I suspect the person asking it doesn’t understand what real psychics are able to do. Since (as I explain in the previous chapter) psychic impressions in general and remote viewing in particular don’t provide much in the way of names or hard numbers, it can be difficult to use the ability to make a profit. However, there is one means of leveraging remote viewing that has promise in the financial arena. I’m talking about associative remote viewing, or ARV for short.

Unlike controlled remote viewing (CRV) or extended remote viewing (ERV—both to be explained later), which are remote viewing methods, associative remote viewing is not a method as such. Instead, it is simply a strategy for tasking remote viewers against a target that won’t be revealed until the future. You can use any remote viewing method to do ARV.

But there is a catch: Only certain kinds of future events are predictable by ARV. It has to be an event with a limited set of possible outcomes. Though in principle you can use ARV against an event with several such outcomes, the easiest are what I call “binary” events. A binary event has two possible outcomes, one or the other of which will certainly occur. Typical binary events include the closing price of a stock (two possible outcomes: the price will have either gone up or down in relation to the open); team sporting events (one team will win, the other lose); or the price movement of a commodity (the commodity price will either go up or down).²

Unfortunately, as early remote viewing researchers quickly discovered, you can’t just ask a remote viewer whether IBM stock will close up or down, whether the Celtics or the Lakers will win, or whether pork belly futures will sell high or low. If you were to ask such a question of a remote viewer, the response you got would

2. Clever readers will note there is often a third option: for example, a stock price will stay the same or a game will end in a tie. Those are the exceptions, not the rule. There are ways of dealing with these exceptions, but for simplicity of explanation I ignore those possibilities here.

amount to little better than a guess. This is because the viewer's conscious mind ("left brain hemisphere") will weigh in, and despite the viewer's best efforts will begin speculating as to what the correct answer might be. The result will be a prediction that will rarely be any better than what would be guessed by chance.

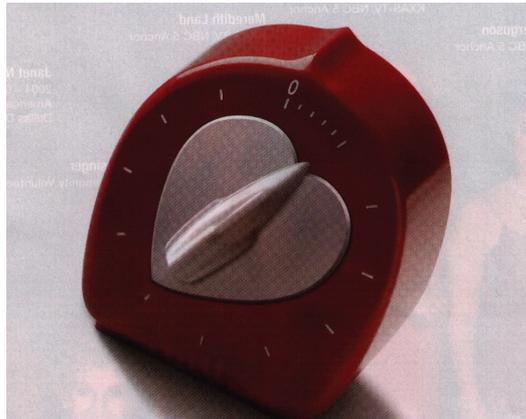
Pioneering remote viewing scientists such as Stephan Schwartz, Hal Puthoff, Russell Targ, and Dale Graff recognized this problem. They soon realized that they could leverage remote viewing's real strength—describing a target verbally and with sketches—in a way that allowed greater likelihood of success in predicting future outcomes.

The ARV mode works like this: In advance of the event taking place, the tasker picks two objects, say a pencil and an apple, without disclosing to the remote viewer what they are. The tasker then decides that, if the stock price is higher at the close of the trading day, the remote viewer will be shown (for example) the pencil; in contrast, if the price is down, the viewer will be shown the apple. The viewer is then asked to describe what he or she will be shown after the market closes on the selected trading day. It's alright to let the viewer know the nature of the experiment—that he or she is attempting to predict up or down movement of a specific stock, or the outcome of a sporting event—as long as he or she is blind to what the specific objects were that were selected to represent winners and losers.

The viewer uses his or her preferred remote viewing method to describe the object that will be revealed several hours later, after the event's outcome is known. Let's suppose the viewer says "I see something that is round, red, sweet smelling, and reminds me of a red rubber ball." Since this sounds more like the apple than the pencil, this indicates the viewer will be handed the apple after market close. Since the apple is the signal for the stock going down in price, the tasker now knows to take action before the stock price drops. No matter what object the viewer describes, the tasker must remain true to the original plan and show him or her the object that corresponds to the actual outcome.

You can think of ARV as the viewer "looking into the future" to get some news from his or her future self—the news being the features and appearance of the object he or she will be shown after market close. By having the pencil "stand for" one outcome and the

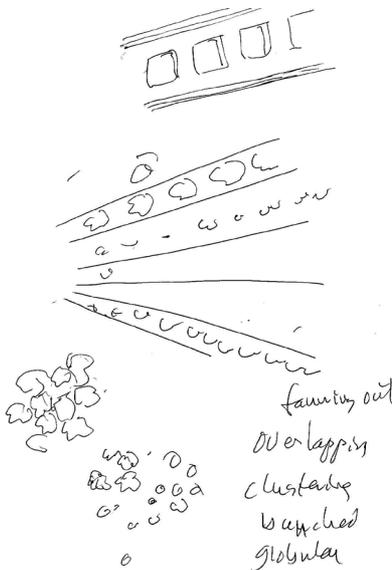
apple “stand for” the other, you have “associated” each object with one or the other of the possible future outcomes. The viewer is not being asked to predict an “open future” event that is under no one’s control, such as the movement of the stock market. Instead, the viewer is seeing something that can be controlled with nearly absolute certainty, which is the act of a partner handing over an apple or a pencil.



ARV targets don’t always have to be objects. They can also be photos, as long as they are different enough from each other. Here are the two target-pool photos used to predict the 2005 Superbowl the day before the game was played. The image on top stood for the New England Patriots winning.

One great thing about ARV is that you don't have to be an expert remote viewer to be successful with it. You just have to be able to remote view well enough that someone who compares your remote viewing results with the two possible target objects can determine which of them you have come closest to describing.³ As I tell my ARV classes, associative remote viewing at its simplest is a "duet" between the viewer and the judge. If both of them are in harmony, they cannot help but win.

Associative Remote Viewing can also be used to predict events that have more than two possible outcomes. It has been used to predict horse races and state "pick-3" lotteries successfully, and people are always trying to think of new events on which to use ARV. But predicting events with more than two outcomes requires adding another target object to the set for each new possible outcome.⁴ A seven-place horse race would require seven targets in the pool, for example. Thus each additional possible outcome increases the complexity of an ARV project.



Sketch produced during the 2005 Superbowl ARV session that led to a correct prediction.

3. In ARV we call this person the "judge."

4. Though I have talked here about using objects such as a pencil or an apple as targets, most often these days ARV projects instead use photos that markedly differ from each other.

An active community of associative remote viewers pursues this discipline. One of the more prolific over the past few years has been a retired physicist named Marty Rosenblatt, who has experimented with a number of different approaches to ARV. Another, Greg Kolodziejzyk, whom I mentioned in Chapter 5, did thousands of ARV trials over a period of 13 years, with considerable success. Still, while it is successful, ARV is no more successful than is remote viewing the present or past—about 70 percent, give or take. So what keeps ARV from being 100 percent successful?

Let's return to our previous example. What happens if the stock price goes up instead of down, yet the viewer nonetheless described the apple instead of the pencil? First, in order to keep the protocol clean, the viewer must be shown the pencil as the pre-selected symbol of the up market, even though he or she apparently described the apple. The standard ARV protocol requires that the viewer only be shown the associated item that matches the correct outcome, and should never even become aware of what the other object might be.

Why, then did the viewer describe the apple? The culprit in this case may be something called "displacement," which is the occasional tendency of viewers to perceive and describe the wrong associated target. Displacement occurs often enough that it can be a hindrance in some ARV projects (and lead to losing money if the project involves an investment).

Sometimes we know why displacement happens. Maybe the viewer subconsciously dislikes one target or finds the other more inviting. For example, perhaps the person choosing the targets selects a scary vampire mask to stand for one outcome and a cuddly stuffed animal to stand for the other. In that case the viewer might be subconsciously attracted to one and repelled by the other, no matter what the correct associated outcome turns out to be. Sometimes inexperienced taskers will select targets that differ dramatically in interest level from each other. An example here might be a photo of a dull, flat desert plain paired with a photo of colorful food display.

Many viewers might be subconsciously attracted to the colors and other enticements of the food image and bored by the desert scene, even if the desert photo was the correct target. Sometimes the tasker might choose objects that are too similar - for instance, where the targets selected are a donut and an automobile tire. In

that case, even if the viewer's results were accurate the judge might have a hard time deciding which target had been matched. As you can see, care in choosing and matching targets is essential for ARV success.

Still, there are times when the viewer displaces to the wrong target and there is no clear explanation why. In those cases, you just have to take the loss and move on.

Other complications can get in the way of ARV success. Sometimes the judge may make a mistake in analyzing the viewer's data and choose the wrong target, even if the viewer performs well. The best way to avoid this is to make sure the judge is competent and experienced in the judging procedure.

The ARV process is very simple in concept, but can be rather complicated in execution. Nevertheless, for those who want to put the necessary work and commitment into it, ARV can be rewarding. In the previous chapter I briefly mentioned some students who more than doubled their investment using ARV. That success involved my son Christopher and his fellow classmates who, while undergraduates in a course in parapsychology at the University of Colorado, took what they had learned about ARV and, with a \$10,000 contribution in seed money, invested in the stock market. With only a bare introduction to remote viewing skills, the students predicted seven correct trades in a row and turned their seed money into \$26,000. In the associative remote viewing project he carried out over thirteen years, Greg Kolodziejzyk netted almost \$150,000 in the futures market in his spare time.

In the course of a two-week period a few years ago, a student of mine named Nancy Jeane concentrated on the Texas Pick-3 lottery using ARV. During those 14 days, she got two out of three numbers in the correct order eight times, which in itself is statistically significant. But in those 14 tries she also won the full Pick-3 twice. By chance, one should win the Pick-3 only once in a thousand tries, and win twice in a row only once in a million times. The fact that she won it twice in 14 attempts is more likely than winning it twice in a row. But it still has huge odds-against chance of approximately 1 in over 71,000 tries. (Think about it this way: If you only relied on chance each time you played the Pick-3, you would have to buy 71,000 one-dollar tickets in any 14 game sequence just by guessing. In other words, pay \$71,000 to earn \$2,000 back. But Nancy bought a total of 14 tickets, and won the Pick-3 twice.)

Since money is on the line, it is even more important to stick close to the correct principles and protocols in using remote viewing as an investment tool. Straying from the protocol can mean you lose big money on your investment. However, when done properly ARV remains a relatively unexplored avenue for investing that has, I believe, great potential.

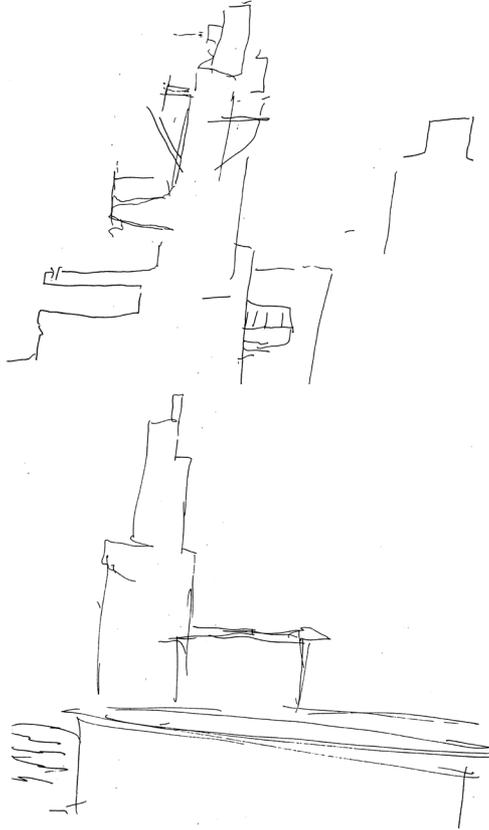
A word of caution here: Don't think that making a fortune with associative remote viewing is going to be easy. Doing ARV right involves careful preparation and a fair amount of work for it to be successful. It takes hours to do a competent job in a full-scale ARV project. And you have to be prepared to take the losses with the gains. In general ARV, the success rate is at best between 60 and 80 percent, even with a crew competent in ARV. And ARV is not easy to do by yourself; in most cases you will need someone to assist you. Before you risk real money in an ARV project, make sure you and any people you are working with understand the process and its idiosyncracies.

Still, the next time someone says "If you're psychic, why aren't you rich?" maybe you will be able to answer, "As a matter of fact, I am working on that right now—using associative remote viewing."

I promised you an example of when an open future predictive session actually worked. One such case took place in the Fort Meade remote viewing unit on Friday, 15 May 1987, and I was the viewer. A few minutes after I had settled into my chair in the remote viewing room in the operations building, my monitor, Ed Dames, gave me the tasking. "369147, 312200." I repeated the number verbally as I wrote it down.

My mind rapidly formed the impression of a large, grey, metallic structure moving through water. Immediately, the thought of a warship came into my head. This idea of "warship" quickly solidified into the impression of an American Navy destroyer sailing at night in the middle of a large, open body of water. The water was bounded by three shores of flat sandy land. By the time I had reached the eighth page of the transcript, I was recording perceptions of an aircraft in the distance with some relation to the ship. There was an impression of a "guttering, rumbling sound...steady" and a flying object that was long, thin and cylindrical with short, stubby wings. (The words in quotes are taken verbatim from the

original official transcript.) The aircraft seemed to have “dropped and left” this object, which began to fly around a little aimlessly at first, and then headed directly towards the ship.

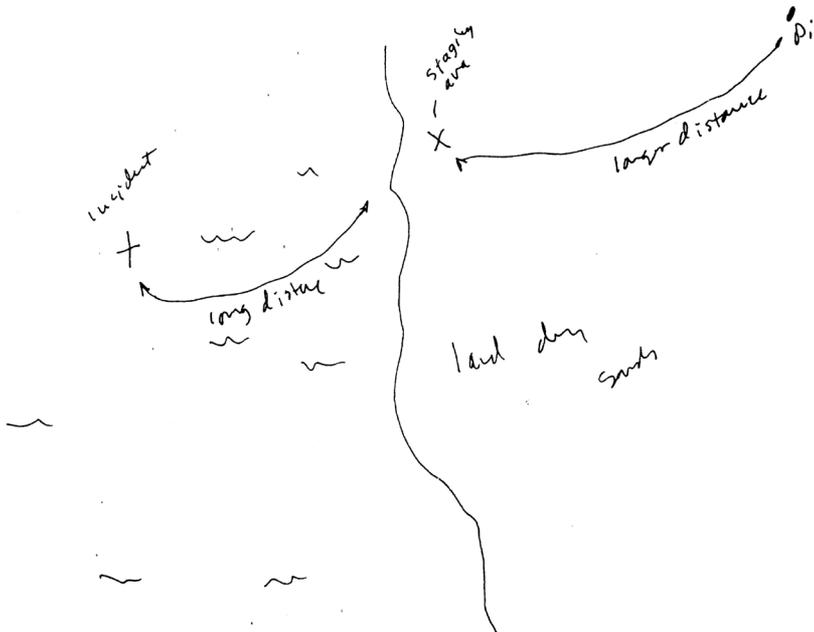


Two sketches from the May 15, 1987 remote viewing session showing the viewer's impression of a warship. Two days later, the *USS Stark* was attacked by an Iraqi fighter bomber and nearly sunk.

People on the ship became aware of the object's approach and were transfixed, as if they “can't believe this is going on.” There was a collision, a “chang” kind of sound, and a “screech, metallic squeal” that “set [my] teeth on edge.” The structure on the vessel “shivers, shakes, quivers,” then “cants, tips, goes out of line, sags,

twists." Perceptions invaded my mind of people lying on the deck, of metal, debris, fire hoses, and yelling. I had a "mental noise" impression that it was like the Exocet missile attacks on British ships during the Falklands War five years prior.

The aircraft that had dropped the flying object seemed to have come from a base in the flat, sandy land near the water, but was under control of a military in a city much farther inland, in a desert-like setting and relatively primitive by Western standards. The military personnel seemed less professional than one would expect of a Western military organization.



Map sketched during remote viewing session prior to the attack on the *Stark*.

Shortly after this, the monitor, Ed Dames decided it was time to quit. "I'm afraid you're off," he said. I was not reporting anything like what he had expected me to get. We were done viewing for the day. I learned later that the target number he had given me to start the session stood for something along these lines: "Describe the most important event for the United States that will take place in the next few days." So it was a tasking against a future event.

Ed had in mind a different event that he anticipated happening in the next day or two, so he thought I had “missed.” Unexpectedly, though, it turned out that it was Ed who was off, and that I was surprisingly, unexpectedly, completely “on.”

The work day was soon over, and it was time to go home for the weekend. Early the following Monday morning as I was getting my kids off to school, the phone rang. It was Fred Atwater. “Paul, where’s the session you did on Friday?” I replied that it was in my safe drawer at the office. “Well, get in here and dig it out. We want a detailed summary of it as soon as possible!” I wanted to know what all the excitement was about. He told me to look on the front page of the morning’s *Washington Post*. There in black and white was the headline: “Iraqi Missile Sets U.S. Frigate Ablaze, Causing Casualties.”

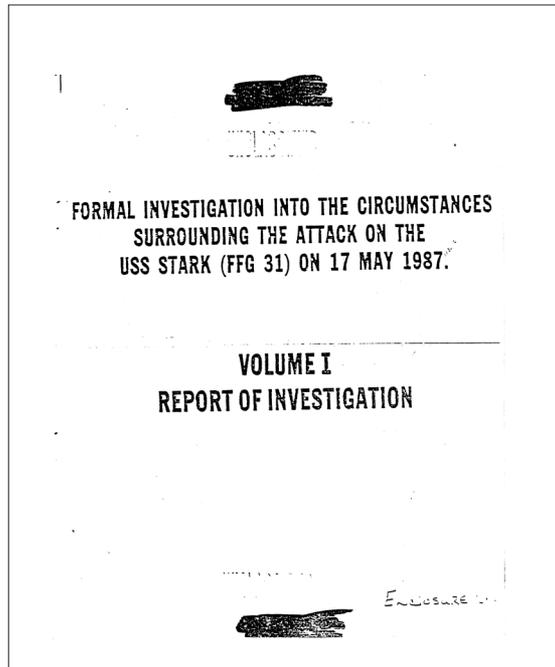
The details began to pour in. A little over two days—a total of 50 hours—after I did my session, an Iraqi fighter jet had fired two Exocet missiles into the *USS Stark*, an American frigate (a destroyer-type vessel) on patrol at night in the Persian Gulf. The attack was unprovoked, but suspicions were that someone at Iraqi air force headquarters in Baghdad had made a mistake. The ship was severely damaged. It listed to one side, the superstructure was bent, tilted, and thoroughly mangled. Crew members were still fighting the fires below decks. Thirty-seven American sailors died.

A comparison with the official Navy after action report a year later showed that my session was virtually 100 percent correct in the details and description of the event.

I still shake my head at this experience. Though it was arguably the best remote viewing session I ever had, I’m almost reluctant to take credit for it, since to this day I have no real idea how it turned out so accurately. But I can’t argue with the facts. Once again, the pedigree of the report is impeccable; the transcript was among those declassified by the CIA when it made the Star Gate archives widely available to the public in 2004.



The *USS Stark* on fire and adrift after the Iraqi attack. (US Navy photo.)



The US Navy's after-action report on the *Stark* incident.

