

# REMOTE PERCEPTION

Authored by  
**mohammad looti**

October 24, 2025

## RECOMMENDED CITATION

mohammad looti (2025). *REMOTE PERCEPTION*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES. Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=55472>

## REMOTE PERCEPTION

**Primary Disciplinary Field(s):** Parapsychology, Cognitive Science, Psychology

### 1. Core Definition

**Remote Perception**, most commonly operationalized and studied as **Remote Viewing (RV)**, is a parapsychological activity wherein a subject attempts to acquire verifiable descriptive information about a distant location, scene, or event that is spatially or temporally separated from them. The key defining characteristic of this activity is that the acquisition of information occurs without the use of any known sensory modality or technological aids, relying instead on purported forms of **extrasensory perception (ESP)**, such as clairvoyance or travel clairvoyance.

The practice involves the subject mentally studying a remote target location, a place at which they are not, and have never been, physically present. The resulting output is typically a written description, a sketch, or a combination of both, detailing the geographical features, colors, structures, and emotional atmosphere of the target. For a session to be deemed successful in parapsychological research, the information gathered must be significantly detailed and accurate enough to be judged as matching the concealed target, exceeding the likelihood of chance guessing.

While the term **Remote Perception** is often used interchangeably with Remote Viewing in psychological literature concerning psychic phenomena, the broader definition can sometimes overlap with technological concepts. The inclusion of sensory input derived from distant technological proxies--such as observing an object or place via a robot-mounted video camera--aligns the concept with telepresence. However, the core academic and operational interest in remote perception centers exclusively on the purely mental acquisition of data, divorced from conventional technological mediation.

### 2. Etymology and Historical Development

The systematic study of remote perception, particularly under the name **Remote Viewing**, originated in the early 1970s. The term was formally coined by researchers Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff while conducting experiments at the Stanford Research Institute (SRI). This research was notably sponsored by various U.S. government agencies, including the CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), seeking to explore potential psychic capabilities for intelligence gathering purposes during the Cold War era.

This government initiative was formalized under various code names, most famously Project Stargate. The historical development of the practice involved moving away from unstructured claims of clairvoyance toward standardized, methodologically rigorous protocols. Key figures such

as Ingo Swann were instrumental in developing structured techniques designed to minimize cognitive noise and analytical interference, thus supposedly improving the accuracy and repeatability of the remote perception sessions.

Despite its government origins and formalization, the underlying idea of distant mental observation draws on much older traditions within occultism and parapsychology, where phenomena like astral projection or clairvoyance have long been hypothesized. The 20th-century innovation was the attempt to adapt these phenomena into a measurable, trainable, and operationally useful skill, subjecting it to quasi-scientific testing and standardized documentation.

### 3. Key Characteristics and Methodologies

Remote perception research employs specific protocols intended to maximize blinding and reduce the likelihood of fraud or cueing. These methodologies have evolved over time but share several key characteristics essential to distinguishing the practice from simple guessing or fantasy.

**Target Seclusion and Blinding:** In a proper remote perception experiment, the target (site, object, or event) is known only to a designated 'target coordinator' or is identified solely by coordinates or a numerical designation. The viewer is completely shielded from any sensory or contextual information about the target to ensure the purity of the extrasensory input.

**Structured Data Collection:** Viewers are typically trained to report information in a layered fashion, moving from broad, aesthetic impressions (the "AOL" or Analytical Overlay stage) to more specific, verifiable data points such as shapes, dimensions, and materials. This systematic approach is codified in techniques like Coordinate Remote Viewing (CRV).

**Focus on Raw Perception:** A critical instruction is to report only the raw sensory data received, without engaging in logical deduction or analysis. Researchers hypothesize that the analytical mind tends to interfere with the subtle incoming signal, replacing accurate psychic impressions with incorrect rationalizations, a process known as 'analytical overlay.'

**Independent Judging:** After the session, the viewer's transcription and drawings are evaluated by independent judges who compare the output against a pool of potential targets (only one of which is the correct target). The judges, who are also blinded to the correct target, assign scores based on the degree of correspondence, providing a quantitative metric for assessing success.

### 4. Significance and Impact

The primary significance of remote perception lies in its challenging implications for the materialist view of consciousness. If demonstrated to be reliable, remote perception would confirm the existence of non-local consciousness, requiring a profound restructuring of fundamental physics and biology regarding how information is transferred across space and time.

Historically, its most impactful application was within the U.S. government's intelligence programs.

Although these programs were ultimately declassified and disbanded due to a lack of consistent operational utility, they represented the most significant state-sponsored investment into parapsychology, lending the concept a degree of legitimacy that few other psychic claims have received. This governmental endorsement secured its place in the history of Cold War scientific exploration of unconventional warfare and intelligence.

Culturally, remote perception has maintained a powerful influence. The declassified history of Project Stargate generated widespread public fascination, leading to the proliferation of training manuals, commercial viewing services, and media depictions. This enduring popular interest ensures that **Remote Viewing** remains the benchmark example when discussing the potential practical applications of extrasensory phenomena.

## 5. Debates and Criticisms

Remote perception is subject to intense scientific skepticism, primarily due to issues surrounding repeatability and methodological rigor outside of proponent-led laboratories. Critics argue that despite decades of research and millions of dollars invested, no conclusive, replicable evidence has emerged that definitively proves the existence of a psychic ability capable of reliable information acquisition.

Key criticisms levied against remote perception studies include:

**Methodological Flaws:** Critics often highlight the potential for sensory leakage, where subtle, unconscious cues may be passed from the coordinator to the viewer, or where procedural lapses break the strict blinding required for a true ESP test.

**Statistical Manipulation:** Disputes frequently arise concerning the subjective nature of the scoring process. Because the data is qualitative (descriptions and drawings), the judging process can be highly susceptible to confirmation bias, where judges unconsciously inflate the correspondence score between the viewing transcript and the target photo.

**Lack of Operational Utility:** The termination of Project Stargate was largely based on the conclusion that while some viewers produced compelling data, the overall success rate was too inconsistent and the signal-to-noise ratio too low for the resulting information to be reliably actionable for military or intelligence purposes.

The consensus view among mainstream cognitive scientists and organizations like the National Academy of Sciences asserts that the positive results reported in remote perception studies can be better explained by psychological factors, statistical chance, and methodological errors rather than by the operation of an actual psychic phenomenon.

## Further Reading

[Remote viewing \(Wikipedia Entry and Historical Overview\)](#)

[Parapsychology: Overview of Research and Methods](#)

[CIA Archive: Remote Viewing at SRI \(Operational Note and Analysis\)](#)

[The Psychological Science Perspective on Extrasensory Perception](#)

ARABPSYCHOLOGY.COM