

## Sample Focus Group

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M: Hello, welcome. My name is Ju-Ju Binks. You probably already know my younger brother, Ja-Ja Binks. Please, no *Star Wars* jokes—way too early in the morning for that! I am a technical engineering advisor for the Galactica IX, which is set to launch in Q2 '07. I am also a Woodson tech scholar based in Ohio where the new impetus of their scholar's program is to partner with agencies to make our research more applicable to the real world. This study is completely anonymous. My interest is purely research-based. There is no right or wrong answer. As you already know, these focus groups are conducted so we can get your input on how we can improve our program—tell us about your experiences, the good things, the bad things. All of these things are important to us. So, first, tell me about what you do in your specific area. Okay, you can go first.

P: Well, my official title is Technical II Engineer. I work at the National Security Space Platform in Florida, but will be transferring soon to the Intergalactic Security Space Platform in Utah. It's a big jump for me, not only because of the move, but it's a whole different world between National and Intergalactic.

M: What's the difference? How will it affect your transition?

P: The difference? National and Intergalactic...I mean, come on! First, as everybody knows, National and Intergalactic never agree on the same thing.

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- So if you're taught one thing one way, then the other agency will do it completely the opposite. It's funny how they even thought about bringing me on board from National to Intergalactic. Between you and me, I think they just want to know...is this confidential, by the way?
- M: Yes, completely confidential.
- P: Okay, well, then I think Intergalactic's trying to learn more about what goes on at National.
- P: Why would they want to do that? Intergalactic is the overall agency. They have a right to tell National what to do, change policies, etc.
- P: Not if you're National. See, that's the problem. One agency thinks it's the end-all be-all—National. And Intergalactic knows they are the final authority, but they don't want to work with the other levels. So in the end, everything gets bogged down—new security measures aren't implemented quick enough, there's chaos at the space terminals. I mean, it can get pretty hairy.
- M: Has anyone else experienced similar situations in their own agencies? You, how about you?
- P: I've never experienced anything that bad. I mean, we used to have...oh, I didn't tell you where I work. I work as a technical security assistant to Ambassador Gomachi of Indicia Endora. Been with him since '02.