

The logo for the DARPA Shredder Challenge is centered at the top. It consists of a black square containing the text 'DARPA' in white, bold, sans-serif font at the top. Below it, the words 'SHREDDER' and 'CHALLENGE' are stacked vertically in a smaller, white, bold, sans-serif font, separated by a thin white horizontal line.

# DARPA SHREDDER CHALLENGE

## Overall Theme

The following page contains spoiler information on the theme that spans all five Puzzles.

# Overall Theme

Q: What was the common theme amongst all five Puzzles?

A: Antonio Prohías, creator of the comic strip *Spy vs. Spy*

**Puzzle 1:** Tovarich was the title of one of Prohías' early works.

**Puzzle 2:** Prohías won the Juan Gualberto Gomez Award. Note that "awarded" is circled twice in the document. (Try googling *Tovarich* and Gomez together...)

**Puzzle 3:** Prohías was born in Cienfuegos, Cuba.

**Puzzle 4:** The letter is written as if composed by Prohías to the 5 authors/artists that worked on *Spy vs. Spy* after he retired. For example, Duck Edwing and Bob Clarke worked together as a team and ghost wrote a few of their early strips based on work left uncompleted by Prohías. George Woodbridge only authored two strips. DAVE Manak is an artist who specializes in drawing animal cartoons. Peter Kuper is the current author of the strip. There is also a reference to "black and white" as well as mentioning that Prohías occasionally returned to author strips. (We used initials and capitalization in case you were catching on already.)

**Puzzle 5:** The log is written to approximate a *Spy vs. Spy* storyline. One spy is dressed in black and the other in white. One is trying to complete a mission while the other attempts to thwart him. Ultimately, one is defeated in comical fashion. Furthermore, if the three message fragments are aligned and segmented properly they spell out "signed 'by Prohías'". Prohías signed his comic strips in Morse code with "by Prohías". (We fragmented the message and added quotation marks so that each individual fragment would appear like gibberish in case you were really catching on).