

Provocation or Psyop

Technical military/psychological term for deliberately provoking to test or manipulate their reaction:

- **Provocation** — deliberately provoking a reaction.
- **Baiting** — intentionally creating a situation designed to elicit a predictable response.
- **Reaction test** — informal term for testing how an adversary responds.
- **Probing action / probe** — testing an opponent's defenses, capabilities, or likely response.
- **Deception operation** — manipulating an adversary's perception or decision-making.
- **Psychological operation (PSYOP)** — influencing an adversary's attitudes, emotions, or behavior.
- **Provocation operation** — an action intended to induce an adversary to respond in a way that benefits the initiator.
- **False-flag provocation** — when an action is deliberately attributed to another actor to provoke a response or create a pretext.

Deliberately creating an irritating or seemingly absurd situation to see whether the target loses composure, “provocation”, “reaction test,” or “probing action” are probably the closest technical concepts.