



(U//FOUO) SIGINT for NATO

FROM: [REDACTED], FAD's NATO Affairs Officer (DP16) and
[REDACTED], SID NATO Account Manager (S112)
Run Date: 05/02/2005

(U//FOUO) Ever wonder how NATO gets its SIGINT? NATO has no organic SIGINT collection or processing capability, and thus is dependent upon Alliance members for such support. Here's an explanation of how this works, with an emphasis on NSA's role:

SIGINT Coordination Among NATO Members (U//FOUO)

(C) In order to facilitate and coordinate support to NATO, the SIGINT authorities in 24 NATO nations participate in an organization known as the NATO Advisory Committee on Signals Intelligence (NACSI). NACSI also sets NATO's SIGINT Policies and recommends improvements to the NATO SIGINT handling system. NACSI is chaired by an NSA senior, who is also dual-hatted as the SIGINT Advisor to the NATO ACOS/J2* at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) located in Mons, Belgium. NSA representation to NACSI is provided by the Foreign Affairs Directorate.



(U) Supreme HQ Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Mons, Belgium

NSA Resources (U)

(U//FOUO) NSA provides direct, sustained support to both the political and the military arms of NATO through a number of NSA personnel in theater.

- Five (5) full time augmentees in theater (NATO Headquarters, Brussels; SHAPE; and Joint Forces Command - Naples) directly supporting these headquarters and commands.
- Three (3) full time augmentees in theater (NATO Headquarters, Brussels; SHAPE; and Joint Forces Command - Naples) providing national SIGINT support to U.S. policy-makers within NATO.
- Two (2) Foreign Affairs Directorate employees dedicated to providing representation to NATO SIGINT committees and working groups and coordination of overall SIGINT-related support to NATO.
- One (1) Signals Intelligence Directorate (SID) employee dedicated to maximizing NSA SIGINT reporting to NATO.
- One (1) NSA SID employee to serve as senior level advocate for NATO issues within SID.

SIGINT Reporting (U)

(C) NSA provides a variety of reporting and technical services to NATO, to include Write-to-Release, TACREP/KL Reporting, RFI's and ELINT, in support of NATO forces deployed in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq. A NATO SIGINT policy known as the No-Feedback rule prohibits any nation from knowing the nature of any other nation's SIGINT contributions to NATO, so the exact percentage of SIGINT reporting provided to NATO from NSA cannot be ascertained. However, it is clear that NSA provides the "lion's share" of SIGINT reporting, with estimates ranging from 80 to 90 percent. NSA also supports NATO headquarters with reporting on counterterrorism and other transnational targets.

Training (U)

(C) NSA is far ahead of most of its NATO partners in the development of innovative SIGINT reporting techniques, such as sanitization and Write-to-Release. In order to improve the quality and utility of SIGINT reporting from the other NATO nations, NSA routinely provides an instructor at the NATO SIGINT course conducted semi-annually in Ede, the Netherlands. In

addition, NSA has developed a sanitization course that it provides to individual NATO nations upon request.

Exercise Support (U)

(C) NSA routinely supports NATO exercises such as CMX, Courageous Bat, and Allied Action by providing scripted SIGINT reports as well as exercise participants. A dedicated NSA NATO exercise coordinator from S132 pulls together that support. NSA also intends to support the upcoming Trial Hammer SEAD demonstration by sending several of its most experienced ELINT analysts to the demonstration in Germany in April 2005.

Other Support (U)

(C) In addition to direct SIGINT support, NSA has provided NATO with an expandable, deployable, shelter (known as "Quick Van") designed to house the NATO Signals Intelligence/Electronic Warfare (SEWOC) capability. Developed by NSA at a cost of over \$450K, QuickVan is housed at NATO's ACE Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in Rheindahlen, Germany, but is deployed operationally at the behest of the SHAPE ACOS/J2.

(C) NSA's European Technical Center (ETC) also has been a critical player in providing support to NATO SIGINT operations. ETC provided the communications infrastructure for the NATO Deployed SHED Facility (DSF), a multinational SIGINT analysis cell in Naples that directly supported NATO military operations in the Balkans beginning in 1993. In addition, ETC provided most of the technical and engineering support that enabled SHAPE to stand up the multinational NATO Special Intelligence Facility in Mons, Belgium, as the successor to the DSF. Finally, ETC provided the QuickVan shelter with upgrades required to meet NATO standards, and transported the shelter to its first official assignment at the NATO Allied Action exercise in Naples in 2004.

*(U) Notes:

ACOS/J2 = Assistant Chief of Staff/Director of Intelligence

"(U//FOUO) SIDtoday articles may not be republished or reposted outside NSANet without the consent of S0121 ([DL sid comms](#))."