



# 2010-2011 Ministerial Authorization Requests

Briefing to the Minister of National Defence  
November 2010

*Safeguarding Canada's security through information superiority  
Préserver la sécurité du Canada par la supériorité de l'information*

Canada



## Briefing Summary

- CSEC is seeking Minister's approval of 7 new Ministerial Authorizations (MAs) for 2010-2011
- These MAs are intended to replace the 7 now in effect:
  - 5 SIGINT MAs: All expire **22 December 2010**
  - 2 Information Protection MAs:
    - Active Network Security Testing expires **3 December 2010**
    - Cyber Defence Operations MA expires **10 March 2011**
- Approval of new MAs needed before current ones expire, or CSEC would have to suspend operations
- Seeking early approval of MAs is related to proposed new MA cycle



## Ministerial Authorizations: Overview

- MAs shield CSEC from criminal liability when engaged in activities where there is a risk of incidental interception of private communications
- The MA regime enables CSEC to conduct operations consistent with its mandate and Government of Canada security and intelligence priorities
- Protection of Canadians' privacy a key element
- All MAs are reviewed by the CSE Commissioner. All reviews to date have confirmed CSEC's lawfulness



# SIGINT Ministerial Authorizations: Activities

SIGINT MAs being requested by CSEC are:

1. [REDACTED]
2. [REDACTED]
3. Support of Canadian Forces (CF) Operations in Afghanistan: Tactical support and strategic intelligence to CF, Government of Canada, and allies
4. [REDACTED]
5. [REDACTED]



# Information Protection

## Ministerial Authorizations: Activities

Information Protection MAs being requested by CSEC are:

1. Protection of Government of Canada Computer Systems and Networks: Active Network Security Testing (ANST): Upon request, CSEC actively attempts to penetrate a Government client's networks to assess the effectiveness of its defences, uncover vulnerabilities, and evaluate client reactions to unauthorized activities
2. Protection of Government of Canada Computer Systems and Networks: Cyber Defence Operations (CDO): Upon request, CSEC detects and mitigates malicious cyber activity directed at Government networks



## Proposed Changes

- No major substantive changes proposed to this year's MAs and scope of MAs remains unchanged
- Some minor changes to update information related to the conduct of operations under each MA, or for clarity. Notable changes include:
  - Malicious Activity Detection has been added to the activities to be conducted under the ANST MA
  - Addition of *respond* to activities to be undertaken under the CDO MA to correspond with dynamic defence capabilities
  - Improved wording respecting CSEC's process for using selectors that more accurately aligns the MAs with the *Act*. This change reflects the CSE Commissioner's views on this issue.
- Improved, synchronized annual process to seek Ministerial Authorizations (next slide)

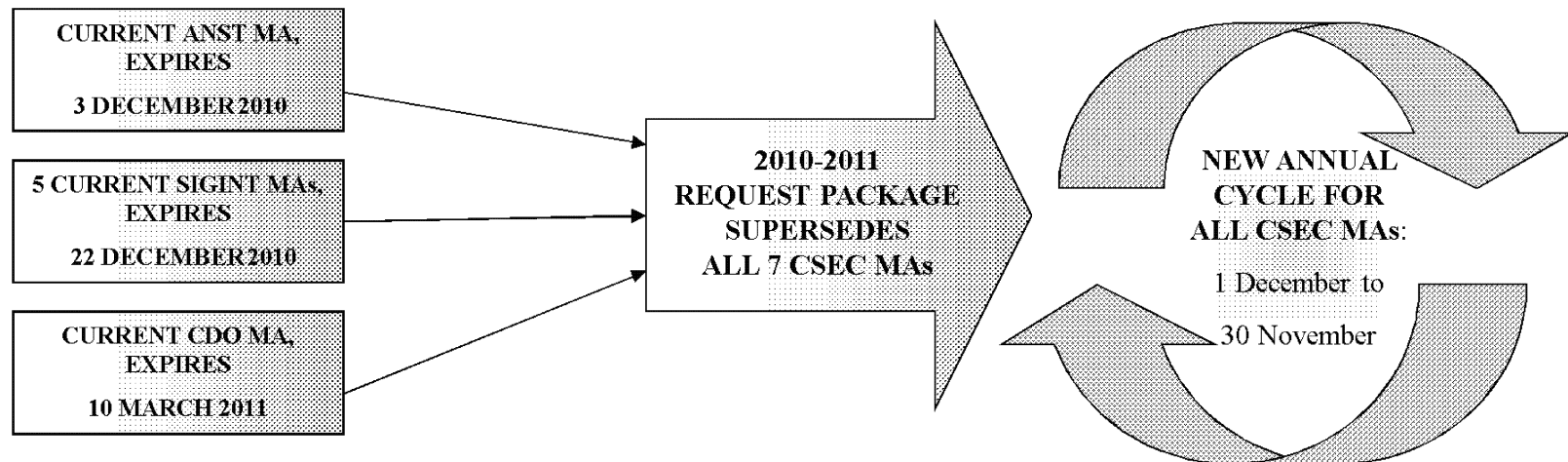
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## New Annual MA Cycle

- Will bring planning efficiency by having a single consistent calendar period of effect for all CSEC MAs
- Once authorized, new MAs will supersede current MAs as means to implement new synchronized MA cycle
- Neither the meaning nor authority of the MAs is altered





## Recommendation

- The National Security Advisor concurs with CSEC's recommendation that the Minister of National Defence approve the MA package
- The Deputy Minister of National Defence has been informed of this recommendation
- It is recommended you approve the MA package for 2010-2011