

(S//SI) COMINT Collection System Installed on Finnish Aircraft

FROM: (S//SI) Country Desk Officer - Finland (DP11) Run Date: 07/21/2005

(S//SI) SNOWFLAKE (SN) is an airborne COMINT collection system featuring a HYPERWIDE frequency hopper. The SN system is an accommodation buy by the NSA Foreign Affairs Directorate and Radio Frequency Office (S331). The Finns contracted to purchase this system in 2002 for installation on an existing Finnish airframe, a Finnish Air Force Fokker F-27 SIGINT aircraft. The initial installation team arrived on site March 2, 2005, and worked continuously from that date until April 8, 2005.

(S//SI) The team alternately performed DF calibration of the aircraft platform between the Northrop Grumman system and the British Aerospace Engineering (BAE) system. This calibration was then followed by verification of the DF by using actual target radios. Twenty-three aircraft flights were required in order to complete a Full Operational Acceptance Testing.

(S//SI) The SNOWFLAKE system was designated to operate from 20 MHz to 3 GHz. It successfully operated at a frequency range of 20 MHz to 500 MHz during the site acceptance test, achieving DF measures and hearability results within the projected ranges. It did not, however, achieve the desired operational success from 500 MHz to 3 GHz. Finnish Intelligence Research Establishment (FIRE) will send equipment back to Northrop Grumman in early fall for correction.

(S//SI) On April 6, 2005, FAD re (Technical Liaison Manager Finla (RFO), and senior representative for Final Site Acceptance Test for experience an operational test fl 1/2 hours and flew within twelve hosted a celebratory dinner with	nd), es from Northrop r Project SNOW ight aboard the e miles of the Ru	Grumman an FLAKE at FIRE. Finnish aircraft Issian Border n	cer), along wit d BAE attended The highlight c. The flight too ear Lake Ladoo	h the ribbon cutting the ribbon cutting their visit was took approximately it is a. The Finns then
Northrop Grumman;	RFO; , DP11, r ride in the Fini		Q22/ SETA contract SIGINT aircraft	(FAD; tor in RFO, shown
(S//SI) Fi	nnish Air Force	Fokker-27 SIG.	INT Aircraft	

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