



(U//FOUO) Chef's Choice: Database Access by Tactical Units

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(U//FOUO) One thing SID has taken to heart over the years is that we must not let obstacles stand in our way when sharing information with those who need it. About a year ago, as we geared up to support the approaching war in Iraq, SID made a commitment to provide tactical elements involved in the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan with access to four national SIGINT databases. Although we have fulfilled that pledge, the approval process has sometimes taken longer than it needed to. MG Quirk believes that we should be able to provide a "yes" or "no" response to database access requests within seven working days, and has laid out a process to make that happen.

(U//FOUO) How will it work? The Customer Relationships and Analysis & Production organizations have set up a single process to handle such requests efficiently. The new process is not another hoop for SIGINTers to jump through; rather, it simplifies the process by providing a single point of entry (Customer Gateway's [SIGINT Contact Center - SCC](#)) and making use of a "template" to collect the necessary information. Although requests from tactical SIGINT units drove the creation of the process - and the initial template reflects that - templates will be designed to handle the special circumstances of other enterprise analytic activities, too.

(U//FOUO) The decision whether to grant the requested access will be made by whichever SID Deputy Director has purview over the mission involved. (They are authorized to assign or delegate new missions - and the associated database access - to both SIGINT producers and certain other elements, such as Cryptologic Service Groups.) Last week, MG Quirk sent a message to the SCE's (Service Cryptologic Elements) and NSA field sites to provide them with details of how the new process works.

(U//FOUO) We want to expand this success and are presently looking at granting accesses beyond the four databases promised in December 2002. We envision that other databases will be considered, as appropriate for each delegated mission. As you can see, we are making strides in implementing the Director's Transformation 2.0 strategy for greater sharing of information. Watch for these efforts to continue in future!

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