



**(U) Strengthening the Ties with NRO**

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Run Date: 06/22/2005

(U//FOUO) As the SID Account Manager for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), I've come to appreciate the importance of mutual understanding in strengthening our partnership and customer relationship. The mission and value of NRO to our SIGINT mission is not uniformly understood here at NSA and one of the goals that I've set for myself is to improve mutual understanding between the two agencies. I wrote this article as part of my efforts to that end.

(S//SI) As a major SIGINT partner, the NRO designs, builds and operates the nation's SIGINT and imagery surveillance and reconnaissance satellites, as well as the communications satellites and supporting communications infrastructure to support this critical effort. NRO-built resources provide a significant amount of data used by SID's Analysis and Production Directorate in the production of COMINT-based reports. NRO-built resources also provide a large portion of the ELINT data that gets pushed directly to customers through broadcast systems. F8, the designator for the **NSA community at NRO, plays an important part in the SIGINT mission both in the technical and the customer engagement arenas.**

(U//FOUO) For many years SID has enjoyed a strong relationship with NRO's SIGINT directorate and IAD has had a strong relationship with NRO's COMMS directorate. To improve on the existing integration between our two agencies, SID's Customer Relationships Directorate is now in the process of building a relationship with two NRO customer support organizations: Deputy Director for Military Support (DDMS) and Deputy Director for National Support (DDNS). On the heels of meetings this spring that resulted in a clear vision of how our two agencies can collaborate on customer engagement, F8 is assisting CRD by integrating an NSAer into the DDMS organization to enhance customer engagement and outreach strategies and processes of the two agencies.

(U//FOUO) The NRO DDMS organization consists of approximately 500 people with the mission of ensuring robust overhead collection support to combatant commanders and military services. DDMS has an aggressive customer outreach program that includes representatives in the field... if you've been assigned to an NCR at one of the combatant commands, you may very well have crossed paths with the NRO rep there.

(U//FOUO) The F8 initiative to partner with NRO's customer outreach program will also enhance our ties with the NRO DDNS organization in their relationship with non-military customers. If this is intriguing to you, you might consider a detail to F8. An assignment with F8 in Chantilly, VA offers you the opportunity to grow professionally by increasing your understanding of the overhead SIGINT mission and to experience the Extended Cryptologic Enterprise from the vantage point of an important partner. Additionally, you will be contributing to all customers who receive SIGINT derived from overhead.

(U//FOUO) Working at NRO provides you the opportunity to help NRO colleagues understand NSA. And upon your return to NSA, you will be well equipped to share with your NSA colleagues a richer understanding of NRO as a SIGINT partner.

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(U) For more information, see the [F8 homepage](#).

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DERIVED FROM: NSA/CSSM 1-52, DATED 08 JAN 2007 DECLASSIFY ON: 20320108