



**(S//SI) Success Against Terrorists along Afghanistan/Pakistan Border**

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Deputy Division Chief, Afghan Shop at NSA/CSS Georgia (GS2A)  
Run Date: 02/24/2006

---

*(S//SI) The story of how SIGINT directly contributed to the targeting of terrorists in the Af/Pak border area.*

---

(S//SI) NSA's role as a leader in the Global War on Terrorism, particularly the campaign against Taleban extremists along the Afghanistan/Pakistan border, continues to experience great success. A recent victory came on 21-22 December 2005 when **SIGINT provided actionable information that led to the deaths of at least 35 terrorists.**

(TS//SI) On 21 December, NSA-Georgia intercepted COMINT revealing that [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] extremists planned to attack coalition forces along the border. NSA-Georgia immediately alerted warfighters in Afghanistan so that they could take appropriate force-protection measures.

(TS//SI) About five hours later, personnel in SID's Office of Target Reconnaissance and Survey ([OTRS - S316](#)) tipped NSA-Georgia to additional SIGINT which indicated that a coalition forward-operating base near Lwara, Afghanistan would most likely be the extremists' target. This and other threat warning information was tipped to Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force (CJSOTF) forces in Afghanistan, using zIRCon chat prior to and throughout the engagement.

(S) Just five minutes later, CJSOTF personnel informed NSA-Georgia that Lwara Firebase and Observation Post 1 were both under attack and that coalition forces there were fighting to repel the enemy.

(TS//SI//REL) In order to expedite the flow of SIGINT to the warfighters, NSA-Georgia mission leaders coordinated with OTRS and arranged for VHF communications from the region to be forwarded in real-time to NSA-Georgia. The site also focused [AIRHANDLER](#) (i.e. a SIGINT-collection package developed by OTRS that is installed on the Predator unmanned aerial vehicle, or UAV) on the area, to produce geo-locational information and pinpoint the whereabouts of the terrorists.



(TS//SI//REL) Within six minutes, the first AIRHANDLER cross-mission geolocation was tipped to CJSOTF via KLEIGHT reporting. **Subsequent geolocations were tipped forward as well, and COMINT was used to confirm the identity of the targets. With this information in hand, coalition air forces launched a series of effective bomb and missile strikes.** Aircraft dropped JDAMs (Joint Direct Attack Munitions) that resulted in the deaths of at least 12 extremists who were attempting to flee across the border into Pakistan. In addition, a Predator UAV fired Hellfire laser-guided missiles, killing more terrorists.

(S//SI) As this success demonstrates, the fusion of SIGINT from multiple sources, supplied in near real-time to warfighters, amounts to a potent weapon in the Global War on Terrorism.

(U//FOUO) If you have questions about this article, please contact [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]).

(U//FOUO) Note: these attacks were unrelated to the mid-January strikes--widely reported in press - aimed at al-Qa'ida #2 leader Al-Zawahiri.

**“(U//FOUO) SIDtoday articles may not be republished or reposted outside NSANet**

without the consent of S0121 ([DL sid comms](#))."

---

DYNAMIC PAGE -- HIGHEST POSSIBLE CLASSIFICATION IS  
TOP SECRET // SI / TK // REL TO USA AUS CAN GBR NZL  
DERIVED FROM: NSA/CSSM 1-52, DATED 08 JAN 2007 DECLASSIFY ON: 20320108