(S//SI) Collection Survey Closes Intelligence Gaps in Pakistan

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(TS//SI) MUSKETEER LECTER was a joint survey carried out by CES and Special Collection Services (SCS) in Lahore and Karachi, Pakistan, targeting signals (HF/VHF/UHF) emanating from Afghanistan and Pakistan. The team's primary mission was to determine whether hearability from the Lahore/Karachi sites would allow collection to be transferred to them from SCS sites in Islamabad and Peshawar. The Islamabad/Peshawar sites had experienced a loss of reliable HF collection, creating intelligence gaps.

(S//SI) The team successfully compared the NM5 (commercially available system) environment of Lahore and Karachi to those in Islamabad and Peshawar, and found them all similar. Either site would be an excellent alternative location for sustained collection.

(U//FOUO) US Consulate in Lahore, Pakistan.

(S//SI) Survey members were most surprised by the fact that the sites' automated collection systems were collecting no NM5 phone patching at all. It is currently undetermined whether this is due to a localized method of transmission such as directional antennas and near-vertical incidence sky wave, or due to the hit-or-miss nature of the collection systems paired with the sparse transmissions.

(S//SI) Through manual recognition, the team found the underlying NM5 protocol in this region had changed from what was originally understood: call signs and phone numbers are being sent in varied order.

(S//SI) The team provided local support for the sites, as well. This included scanning the VHF/UHF spectrum for police frequencies during the Lahore marathon, recovering a previously unknown Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) system and pointing out Pakistan Navy communications and frequencies.

(S//SI) The MUSKETEER LECTER team also verified the extensive use of Third Generation (3G) Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region. The team noted 38 frequencies carrying 3G ALE, some with heavy usage. Follow-on activity indicated that the users were Pakistani and Chinese. It is expected that more targets will migrate to this technology due to the many advantages it offers over existing NM1-based radios, such as faster linking time, better security, and better link quality assessment.

(U) All concerned were very pleased with the results of the survey.

(U//FOUO) US Consulate in Karachi.