



(U) Deep in the Heart of Texas with Cindy Farkus and 'Party'

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(U//FOUO) On 23-25 May I had the opportunity to visit NSA/CSS Texas in San Antonio. Traveling with me was my Executive Assistant, [REDACTED] (i.e. "party").

[REDACTED]

(U//FOUO) I spent four years at "MRSOC"* in the late nineties, so I definitely feel a sense of pride when I see how far the MRSOC has come in its transformation into a Cryptologic Center (CC). And, I was certainly reminded on our first afternoon just how warm it can get in San Antonio in May! (It got up to about 96 degrees F.)

(U//FOUO) We were welcomed by [REDACTED], Texas S2 Chief of Staff and [REDACTED], NSA/CSS TX protocol officer. Seeing [REDACTED] (and her smile) made me feel as though I were coming home! MAJ [REDACTED] Deputy Director of Texas Security Operations Center (TSOC - their extension of NSOC) gave us an executive overview and update of all the changes at Texas. During our courtesy call, Col Jim Marrs, Commander of NSA/CSS TX, teed up issues to discuss over lunch. Topics included:

- the Strategic Future Mission List and how we respond as an enterprise, to include the best use of the 10% of resources left to the discretion of each mission manager,
- the GCM (Global Capabilities Manager) role in mission governance, and
- the strategic theme for NSA/CSS TX.

(U//FOUO) I met with the SID Leadership, Col Rick Marcinowski (TX SID), Bill Edinger (TX D/SID), [REDACTED] (TX Homeland Security Director), and [REDACTED] (TX SID Chief of Staff) to discuss the latest information on Transformation 3.0, the on-going budget planning cycle and potential implications for NSA/CSS Texas. They share the same concerns and face the same challenges as we do.

(U//FOUO) I spent some time with [REDACTED], Acting NSA/CSS TX S2 and newly designated Assistant Intelligence Authority (AIA) for Texas. Topics included current S2 missions and personnel assignments, the hiring program, the IADP* and opportunities for professional development of his current analytic workforce. [REDACTED] will take the knowledge he's gained throughout this military and civilian career, and in particular what he has learned in his time in Texas, to establish the AIA/TX structure. While the acronym AIA means something else to many in San Antonio -- Air Intelligence Agency -- I am confident [REDACTED] will make his mark with an additional meaning for AIA.

(U//FOUO) Texas took me up on my offer to hold a town meeting with the SID workforce. You never quite know how these sessions will go or where the questions will take you; however, I always learn something. This time was no exception. Questions focused on:

- Homeland Security/Defense and the role for NSA HQ and NSA/CSS Texas;
- the meaning of governance for an S2 site;
- Human Resources processes and how it effects the enterprise with regard to assignments and home basing;
- the hiring situation, budget/resource impacts of Transformation 3.0, what it means to plans already in progress and what it means to the enterprise, mission build-out and to Texas in particular.

We have several initiatives under way to address these and other items of interest to all of us and we'll be getting details out on them in the near future.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- SSgt [REDACTED]
- PO2 [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- CTICS [REDACTED]
- SFC [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Maj. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- SCPO [REDACTED]
- MSgt [REDACTED]

(U//FOUO) No trip to San Antonio is complete without fresh-made tortillas. We managed to stop by "Alamo Café" on the way to the airport, and I know I made some people very happy with my 4-dozen tortillas!

(U//FOUO) When in San Antonio you can't help but think of history - Spanish missions are located throughout the city. Our hotel was situated right next to the Alamo...



San Antonio and the Alamo played a critical role in the Texas Revolution. We're confident that NSA/CSS TX will play as critical a role in the mission build-out "revolution" and how we adapt and change to meet the challenges of the future.

Hasta luego!
Cindy



(U//FOUO) Aerial view of NSA/CSS Texas

*(U//FOUO) Notes:

MRSOC = Medina Regional Security Operations Center (the old name for NSA/CSS Texas)
IADP = Intelligence Analysis Development Program
LACN IMT = Latin America/International Crime and Narcotics Issue Manager Team
ADET = Associate Directorate for Education & Training
MARSOC PMO = Mission Alignment & RSOC Build-Out Program Management Office
AMOC = the Alaska Mission Operations Center
MOC = Meade Operations Center

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