



(U//FOUO) Early Results Look Good: Assessment Report Update

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(U//FOUO) *This year analysts may set a new record for producing SARs (SIGINT reports with added perspective and insight).*

(U//FOUO) Intelligence analysts: over the past several months the S2 leadership have asked you several times* - in this venue and elsewhere -- to consider adding more insight and perspective in your SIGINT reporting and, when appropriate, to write a SIGINT Assessment Report on your topic of expertise. I want to thank you for taking these appeals to heart -- I am happy to report that **you are producing SIGINT Assessment Reports at a potentially record-breaking pace.**

(U//FOUO) In calendar year 02, 03, and 04, the United States SIGINT System produced an average of 135 SIGINT Assessment Reports a year. In 2005, we produced 156. Through the first seven months of 2006, we have already produced 127 SIGINT Assessment Reports (SARs), and if we continue this pace we will produce about 220 SARs in 2006. That is a 63 percent increase above the 4-year average, and a 40 percent increase over last year. Well done!

(U//FOUO) I urge you to continue this excellent work, but must add a caveat: Over the past year we have often discussed moving away from "pounds of SIGINT" as a measure of our success. We also do not want to use "pounds of SAR's" as a unitary measure of success either. What I mean is this: don't "force" a report into the SIGINT Assessment Report format if it is ill suited for it. SARs are special vehicles; our customers have grown to expect that they will go beyond summary reports and do more than provide a collection of discrete facts. They should contain your perspectives and your expertise, and **care should be given before you determine whether your report really is a SIGINT Assessment.**

(U//FOUO) We should also bear in mind that we are stressing assessment reporting and sharing our expertise for the best reason of all: because our customers have asked us to. Recently a customer commented on a SIGINT Assessment Report:

- (U//FOUO) *"Kudos for producing this useful report! This assessment is particularly useful because it pulls together the various pieces of reporting and provides intangible insight as a result of NSA's first-hand access to the raw intel. Great job!!"*

(U//FOUO) This is typical of the positive feedback we receive on our SIGINT Assessments.

(U//FOUO) I have charged [REDACTED] the Chief of the S2 SIGINT Assessment Cell, to continue advocating for Assessment reporting, and many of you have already consulted him and his staff for guidance. He is currently forming a community of interest of assessment producers across the enterprise. I encourage all of you to contact him or check out [his website](#) if you have questions, ideas on how to continue to move this initiative forward, or just want to learn more about more about "SIGINT with more cowbell."

(U//FOUO) Again, I congratulate you all on this trend and encourage you to continue this excellent work!

*(U) Note: see the following articles for background:

[\(U\) SIGINT Reporting -- The Right Stuff](#)

[\(U\) No Comment \(by \[REDACTED\]\)](#)

[\(U\) Comment on COMMENTS: Analysts Weight In](#)

[\(U\) My Comment \(by Cindy Farkus\)](#)

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