RAMPART-A
Project Overview

1 October 2010
This briefing is classified
TOP SECRET//COMINT//NOFORN
RAMPART-A Overview

- Covername for NSA’s unconventional special access program to gain access to high-capacity international fiber-optic cables that transit at major congestion points around the world.

- Program started in 1992 with the establishment of the National Fiber Optic Program Fund
  - Four initial global congestion points identified
  - Extended Bi-lat partnerships w/FAD to new compartmented efforts

- General agreements negotiated:
  - Foreign Partners provide access to cables and host US equipment
  - US provides equipment for transport, processing, & analysis
  - No US collection by Partner and No Host Country collection by US
  - Shared tasking & collection

- Today....
  - 5 on-going relationships
  - 2 cooperative relationship (w/ RAM-T)
  - 2 emerging relationships
**Project Description**

- **(TS//SI)** RAMPART-A’s accesses target long-haul leased communications through international gateways. Circuit-Switched and Packet-Switch signals are enabled by foreign partners. Collection and Processing assets reside on foreign soil and traffic is exfilled back to NSA.

- **(TS//SI)** Access Types: International Gateway Switches; End-Point GSM Switches; Leased Internet Circuits; Internet Backbone Routers; Call Records.

- **(S//SI)** Every Country Code in the world is seen at one or more RAMPART-A collection accesses.
SSO/RAMPART-A Site Operations Model

Mission Program Manager

PMD

ETS

Site Engineer

ODD

Collection Manager
Engineering and Technical Services (ETS)

(U//FOUO) Integrate corporate and commercial solutions
  In compliance with differing Third-party architectures

(C) Test end-to-end integrated solutions to meet SSO & Third-party operational requirements

(C) Deploy and support new systems to Third-party controlled facilities
Operations and Discovery Division (ODD)

- (C) Responsible for the tasking of the collection systems
- (C) Coordinates system resources with the RAMPART-A partners
- (C) Analyzes communications links to optimize collection resources
- (C) Monitors the performance of the collection systems
RAM- A Projects

- US-3237/SMOKYSINK (no 3rd party partner/joint RAM-T)
  - DNR & DNI
- US-3127/AZUREPHOENIX
  - DNR & DNI
- US-3180/SPINNERET
  - DNR & DNI
- US-982/TRANQUIL – Retired June 2010
  - DNR & DNI
- US-3145/MOONLIGHTPATH
  - DNI & DNR (September 2010)
- US-3190/FIREBIRD
  - DNR & DNI
- US-3153/FALCONSTRIKE
  - DNR & DNI
- US-3178/DULCIMER
RAMPART-A Typical Operation

USA

E

 NSA Network

D

Country X

B

Processing Center

C

Partner Analysts

A

Access Point

International Cable

SECRET//COMINT NETWORK

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Sensitivity Factors

(TS//SI//NF//ECI) Compartmentalization

- REDHARVEST/RDV
  - Who is the partner
  - Where is the access
  - What is the access

(TS//SI//NF) Cover

- Most RAMPART-A Third-party partners work the fiber projects under the cover of an overt Comsat effort
Capabilities

(TS//SI) Capabilities:

- Automated, Continuous, High-Speed Survey of Circuit and Packet Switched Traffic
- Packet-Switched selection & session collection
- Dial Number Recognition of Circuit-Switched telephony

(S//SI) Deploy, and continually upgrade Circuit and Packet Switched collection architecture to all RAMPART-A sites
**SIGINT Value Added**

- **(TS//SI) Product Lines:** All A&P product lines use collection from RAMPART-A for SIGINT reporting.

- **(TS//SI) Productivity/Intelligence gains:** Over 9,000 SIGINT Product Reports written last year with ~49% being Single Source Reports.

- **(TS//SI) Targets within Accesses:** International voice & fax telephony; Users of “web services” (e.g. –Port 80 e-mail; Chat; VoIP); GSM; Calling Card users.
SMOKYSINK

(TS//SI) SMOKYSINK is in "steady state" mode

(TS//SI) Continuous TU upgrades
AZUREPHOENIX

(S) Site Physical Plant Upgrade 2010-2011
(TS//SI) TU deployment earliest Spring 2012?
(TS//SI) Partner working on additional accesses
SPINNERET

- (TS//SI) Cables upgrading with additional capacity – RAM-A deploying additional resources to accommodate
- (TS//SI) 60 Gbps LPT – October 2009
- (TS//SI) Additional 60 Gbps LPT scheduled for late 2010
MOONLIGHTPATH

- (S) DNI system deployment – April 2009
- (TS//SI) New Cable access survey – May 2009
- (S) Site B rehab – Winter 2009
- (TS//SI) New access in Sept. 2010
- (TS//SI) New DNR/DNI system deployment – first phase (DNR) in May 2010. DNI to follow TU deployment schedule
TRANQUIL

(TS//SI) TRANQUIL shut down in June, 2010
FIREBIRD

(TS//SI) Unique 3rd party enabled access – no NSA processing systems

(TS//SI) Collection System IOC – February 2010

(TS//SI) Working to establish an NSA to 3rd Party partner collection system translation
FLASHMARK

(TS//SI) Access same as FIREBIRD, but allowing US Collection Systems

(TS//SI) Survey – March, 2010

(TS//SI) FIREBIRD/FLASHMARK issue to be resolved this month.
FALCONSTRIKE

- (TS//SI) Survey – September 2009
- (TS//SI) Pilot System Deployment – January 2010
- (TS//SI) Secure Comms Deployment – January 2010
- (TS//SI) Two Track Future
  - Sustained system – mid 2012
  - Pilot System upgrade completed – December 2010
DULCIMER

(TS//SI) Survey – November 2010

(TS//SI) Expected traffic should be large international internet pipes
CONDOR SPEAK

(TS//SI) Discussions with Partner – October, 2010

(TS//SI) Expected initial traffic will be metadata from target cable
In Summary

- RAMPART-A has access to international communications from anywhere around the world
- SSO/RAMPART –A stands ready to support your intelligence gathering needs