

TOP SECRET

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REVIEW OF STATIONS
(SIRC STUDY 2013-08)

Security Intelligence Review Committee
June 17, 2014

ATIP version

dated: FEB 28 2019

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1 INTRODUCTION

In recent years, CSIS has become much more active abroad as part of efforts to support a robust increase in overseas collection requirements.

This activity has brought new challenges and opportunities,

In this review, SIRC examined Station ; to gain a better appreciation of CSIS's operational activities overseas.

SIRC also found some additional challenges regarding and with relations with domestic partners, in particular concerning their relationship with DFATD.

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2 METHODOLOGY

This study examined all relevant documentation

In addition, SIRC
looked at all relevant electronic documents and information contained in operational
databases.

SIRC staff visited

Stations

SIRC would like to note the extremely courteous and generous hospitality offered by
CSIS personnel as well as their efforts in ensuring that SIRC staff were
well-prepared in terms of security awareness prior to their departure.

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3.1 Security at Post

During the on-site review
security

SIRC took note of
to the protection of a

communication network.

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As a result, SIRC recommends that CSIS update its security procedures to include the additional guidelines for the relevant equipment, and that CSIS inform of the solution it has implemented to resolve the technical problem.

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CSIS's expansion of overseas intelligence collection has brought about a predictable increase in the number of overseas intelligence collection activities. This review provided greater insight into the opportunities and challenges created by these activities.

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CSIS cannot reasonably be expected to
employ abroad the range of options it has at its disposal domestically

**SIRC found that CSIS is not utilizing as many of these
techniques as it can and should when operating in more secure overseas
locations.**

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During the on-site visit, Station personnel were of the opinion that most validation techniques at CSIS's disposal could in fact be employed

Furthermore, SIRC also questioned the reasons for the continued limited use of validation tools abroad :

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Ultimately, SIRC believes that CSIS is not employing validation techniques to the extent that it should. The Service is relying heavily on a technique that may fall short of confirming the information's veracity,

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**SIRC recommends that CSIS enhance its validation process
by making more use of the tools and techniques it employs for
domestic**

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5 RELATIONSHIP WITH DFATD

5.1 GSRP Program

For several years now, SIRC has noted the evolution at DFATD, of the Global Security Reporting Program (GSRP), which was created post 9/11 to generate increased reporting on terrorism, non-proliferation and other security issues. GRSP officers, who are not intelligence officers, collect information on security and stability issues, assess the evolving threat and risk environment at missions and work with whole-of-government reaction teams during crisis situations.

On the surface, there should be little overlap between the work of GSRP officers and CSIS officials: the former is looking for information concerning foreign developments, regardless of their connection to Canada, whereas the latter is collecting information that is always connected to a Canadian threat nexus. Nonetheless, there is a latent and real potential for conflict between the two programs:

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Another complication can arise from both CSIS and DFATD “fishing in the same pool” for sources of information, and the possibility of running information-gathering programs with a similar focus

While at Station, SIRC was told by both the GSRP and CSIS officials that they frequently discuss

Both described the working relationship as cooperative, useful, professional, and complimentary to their own roles. **While the relationship between the GSRP and CSIS officials at Station appeared productive and positive, SIRC remains mindful of the fact that the GSRP’s program goals and methods may lead to conflicting and overlapping initiatives with CSIS.**

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5.3 Continued Breakdown of Communication and Partnership at Station

in a systematic way; many CSIS foreign officers have cited positive and productive relationships with their local DFATD counterparts,

Nonetheless, SIRC's overall impression of the relationship between CSIS and DFATD counterparts was not positive.

and there was little awareness or support of each other's priorities. the breakdown in communication resulted in months of frustration, miscues and reduced information exchanges

Recent SIRC reviews have made similar observations. In SIRC's review of CSIS's relationships partners, we found strong limitations on the exchange of information concerning foreign operations at Station and recommended that CSIS adopt a broader interpretation of its disclosure commitments in regards to the CSIS-DFAIT MOU.

observations **In light of SIRC's**
comprehensive examination of this relationship in the coming year. **we will be taking a**

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6 CONCLUSION

Foreign Station reviews offer SIRC the unique opportunity to witness, first-hand, the day-to-day work of CSIS personnel posted abroad. These visits provide SIRC with valuable insight

and provide context for the operational strategies developed on the ground, as well as the policy discussions that take place at HQ.

As CSIS's foreign collection program continues to evolve,

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