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**NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE**

**(U) CLASSIFICATION GUIDE FOR  
THE NSA/CSS TARGET EXPLOITATION (TAREX) PROGRAM  
2-52**

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**CLASSIFIED BY: //s//**



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**CLASSIFICATION GUIDE TITLE/NUMBER: (U) NSA/CSS Target Exploitation (TAREX) Program, 2-52**

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**OFFICE OF ORIGIN: (U//FOUO) S35093, Target Exploitation Program**

**POC: (U//FOUO) [REDACTED], S35093, Target Exploitation Program, [REDACTED]**

**ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY: (U//FOUO) Teresa H. Shea, Signals Intelligence Director**

(S//NF) The NSA/CSS Target Exploitation (TAREX) Program conducts worldwide clandestine Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) close-access operations and overt and clandestine Human Intelligence (HUMINT) operations in direct support of the United States Cryptologic System (USCS). TAREX Program activities are executed under dual NSA/CSS SIGINT authority and U.S. Army HUMINT authority. NSA/CSS establishes, funds, and directs TAREX activities, and these activities are only conducted in response to validated NSA/CSS requirements. The HUMINT community is responsible for executing TAREX operations.

(U//FOUO) This classification guide only addresses the SIGINT portion of the TAREX Program. Refer to the U.S. Army HUMINT Classification Guide, dated 8 February 2008, for guidance on TAREX HUMINT activities. Contact this guide's POC for a copy of the U.S. Army HUMINT Classification Guide.

Description of Information	Classification/Markings	Reason	Declass	Remarks
<b>A. (U) Program Information – General</b>				
A.1. (U) The association of NSA/CSS with the term Target Exploitation, its abbreviation TAREX, and/or the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM)	UNCLASSIFIED	N/A	N/A	(U) Details may require protection or classification, and may be compartmented. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
A.2. (U) The fact that TAREX is an NSA/CSS program that provides direct support to the United States Cryptologic System (USCS)	UNCLASSIFIED	N/A	N/A	(U) Details may require protection or classification, and may be compartmented. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
A.3. (U//FOUO) The fact that TAREX conducts intelligence operations to provide unique collection of telecommunication- and cryptologic-related information and material in direct support of NSA/CSS and/or the USCS	UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	N/A	N/A	(S//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) Details may require classification and may be compartmented. For example, in accordance with the U.S. Army HUMINT Classification Guide, the fact that TAREX conducts <i>overt</i>

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				HUMINT collection on behalf of NSA/CSS is protected as UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. The fact that TAREX conducts <i>clandestine</i> HUMINT collection on behalf of NSA/CSS is classified SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS,CAN, GBR,NZL. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
A.4. (U) The fact that INSCOM is the NSA/CSS executive agent for TAREX	UNCLASSIFIED	N/A	N/A	(U) Details may require protection or classification, and may be compartmented. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
A.5. (U//FOUO) The fact that TAREX only responds to collection requirements validated and tasked by NSA/CSS	UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	N/A	N/A	(U//FOUO) The NSA/CSS Global Access Operations organization (S35) provides mission tasking and reporting instructions to the TAREX Program in accordance with USSID SE5350.
A.6. (U) The fact that TAREX obtains Consolidated Cryptologic Program (CCP) funding from NSA/CSS	UNCLASSIFIED	N/A	N/A	(U) Details of funding should be handled in accordance with the Finance Classification Guide, 07-01.
A.7. (U) The fact that TAREX traces its historical roots to the WWII Target Intelligence Committee (TICOM)	UNCLASSIFIED	N/A	N/A	(U) This fact has been revealed in multiple Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) disclosures.
<b>B. (U) Operational Activities and Reporting</b>				
B.1. (U//FOUO) The <i>specific</i> SIGINT operational methodologies used in a <i>specific</i> TAREX Program operation	SECRET at a minimum	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details may require higher classification and/or compartmentation depending on methodology. Foreign releasability will be determined by TAREX on a case-by-case basis.  (U//FOUO) Information concerning a specific TAREX operation may not be releasable to

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				foreign entities if/when certain HUMINT methodologies are used. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
B.2. (U//FOUO) The targets, locations, and/or timing/schedule of planned, future, or ongoing TAREX Program operations	SECRET//NOFORN at a minimum  See Remarks	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details may require higher classification and/or compartmentation.  (U//FOUO) Details may be downgraded on completion of an operation unless such details warrant additional or continued protection for up to 25 years*.  (U) Contact guide POC for further guidance.
B.3. (S//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) The fact that TAREX conducts clandestine SIGINT collection	SECRET//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(S//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) Details of TAREX <i>collection</i> should be classified in accordance with applicable SIGINT classification guidance. Some details on the <i>execution</i> of clandestine SIGINT collection fall under the purview of INSCOM. Consult the guide POC and refer to the U.S. Army HUMINT Classification Guide for guidance.  (S//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) The TAREX program does not conduct overt SIGINT collection.
B.4. (S// REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) Identification of NSA/CSS individuals involved in TAREX clandestine SIGINT operations	SECRET//NOFORN	1.4 (c)	25 years*	
B.5. (S//SI//NOFORN) The fact that TAREX performs physical subversion, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close access-enabling, exploitation, or operations;</li> </ul>	SECRET//SI// NOFORN	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details may require higher classification and/or compartmentation. Contact guide POC for further guidance.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Off net-enabling, exploitation, or operations;</li> <li>• Supply chain-enabling, exploitation, or intervention operations; and/or</li> <li>• Hardware implant-enabling</li> </ul>				
<b>D. (U) Locations</b>				
D.1. (U//FOUO) The fact of a TAREX Program presence in a broad geographical area (e.g. Europe or Middle East)	UNCLASSIFIED// FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	N/A	N/A	(U) A greater degree of geographic specificity may require classification and may be compartmented. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
D.2. (U//FOUO) The fact of a TAREX Program presence at NSA/CSS Washington	UNCLASSIFIED	N/A	N/A	(U) Details, e.g., unit name, SIGINT Activity Designator (SIGAD), etc., are classified and may require compartmentation. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
D.3. (U//FOUO) The fact of a forward-based TAREX Program presence collocated with the NSA/CSS Cryptologic Centers in Hawaii, Texas, and Georgia	UNCLASSIFIED// FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	N/A	N/A	(U) Details, e.g., unit name, SIGAD, etc., are classified and may require compartmentation. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
D.4. (C//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) The fact of a forward-based TAREX presence collocated in Germany with NSA/CSS Europe (NCEUR)	CONFIDENTIAL// REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details, e.g., unit name, SIGAD, etc., may require higher classification and/or compartmentation. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
D.5. (C//REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) The fact of a forward-based TAREX presence in South Korea	CONFIDENTIAL// REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details, e.g., unit name, SIGAD, etc., may require higher classification and/or compartmentation. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
D.6. (S//NF) The fact of a forward-based TAREX presence in Beijing, China	SECRET//NOFORN	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details, e.g., unit name, SIGAD, etc., may require higher classification and/or compartmentation. Contact guide POC for further guidance.

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D.7. (S//NF) The fact that TAREX personnel are assigned to <i>specified</i> or <i>unspecified</i> U.S. embassies	SECRET//NOFORN	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details may require higher classification and/or compartmentation. Contact guide POC for further guidance.  (S//NF) TAREX personnel who are assigned to U.S. embassies operate under cover.
D.8. (S//NF) The fact that NSA/CSS TAREX personnel are permanently stationed at other <i>specified</i> or <i>unspecified</i> overseas locations	SECRET//NOFORN	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details may require higher classification. and/or compartmentation. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
<b>E. (U) Association With Other Intelligence Organizations</b>				
E.1. (U//FOUO) The fact that the NSA/CSS TAREX Program collaborates with HUMINT Community collectors	UNCLASSIFIED// FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	N/A	N/A	(U) Details may require classification and may be compartmented. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
E.2. (U//FOUO) The fact that the TAREX Program acts as the NSA/CSS representative to the HUMINT and Technical Intelligence (TECHINT) communities for handling, exploiting, and reporting Foreign Cryptologic Information (FCI) and related material and/or equipment	UNCLASSIFIED// FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	N/A	N/A	(U) Details may require protection or classification, and may be compartmented. Contact guide POC for further guidance.
E.3. (C// REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL) The fact that NSA/CSS has TAREX personnel integrated into the HUMINT operations at CIA, DIA/DoD, and/or FBI	CONFIDENTIAL// REL TO USA, AUS, CAN, GBR, NZL	1.4 (c)	25 years*	(U) Details may require higher classification and may be compartmented. Contact guide POC for further guidance.

**25 years\*:** Declassification in 25 years indicates that the information is classified for 25 years from the date a document is created or 25 years from the date of this original classification decision, whichever is later.

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