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**(S//SI//REL) To Nab Afghan Nemesis, German Forces Launch Rare  
Take-Down Operation; U.S. SIGINT Provides Key Support**

FROM: NSA Georgia's SIGINT Directorate (FGS)

Run Date: 06/12/2009

(S//SI//REL) German and Afghan forces conducted an  
unprecedented take-down operation of narcotics

 (U) Soldiers of the  
German

trafficker, [IED](#) facilitator, and Taleban commander on 7 May. The target, ██████████ was responsible for the death of several German soldiers over the past year. This successful operation was a direct result of SIGINT reporting by NSA Georgia (NSAG) on ██████████ over the previous eight months, as well as near real-time support during the operation itself.

(U) Soldiers of the German Bundeswehr operate in the

### (U) Reporting Lays Groundwork

(S//SI//REL) As a result of NSAG's reporting, ██████████ was placed on the Joint Priority Effects List, or JPTEL, on 10 April 2009. According to the Germans, besides being responsible for the death of several German soldiers, ██████████ IED attacks had led to the gradual erosion of popular support for the Afghan government in general, and specifically for the Afghan National Security Forces in the region (Badakhshan Province in northern Afghanistan).

### (S//SI//REL) Operation PITCH BLACK Gets the "Green Light"

(S//SI//REL) German forces, frustrated with IED attacks by this nemesis, coordinated with Afghan Special Narcotics Forces (with British mentors) to action the target, after receiving special permission from the German Minister of Defense. (German forces rarely deploy from their bases in Afghanistan.) NSAG provided pre-operation target packages and linguistic and analytic operational support prior to and during the operation, working through the Interagency Operations Coordination Center (IOCC).

### (U) SIGINT Locates the Elusive Target

(S//SI//REL) At day break on 7 May, approximately 50 German troops and 15 Afghan soldiers arrived at ██████████ compound in the village of Bashun. German HUMINT had cited this location as belonging to ██████████. However, as a result of a tip-off from a spotter nearby, ██████████ was able to flee the area. Over the next 5 hours, NSAG monitored communications related to ██████████, including those of several narcotics traffickers linked to ██████████ and his insurgent activities.

(S//SI//REL) Near-real-time locational data on ██████████ was passed from NSAG to the Germans via the Coalition's CENTER ICE system.\* A German SIGINTer then passed coordinates via radio communications directly to the troops on the ground, within seconds of receiving the information from NSAG. ***This locational data allowed the German and Afghan troops to track and detain ██████████*** despite a lack of [Predator/AIRHANDLER](#) (tactical collection) coverage.

(S//REL)  
██████████

(S//SI//REL) Initial confirmation of ██████████ identity was made by the Germans via photo identification, followed by IOCC confirmation of his cell phone, which was seized at the time of his arrest. Afghan forces reported that ██████████ was in possession of an AK-47 rifle when he was detained. ██████████ was then transported by the Germans to Kabul, and subsequently turned over to the Afghans.

### (U) Wrap-Up

(S//SI//REL) The use of CENTER ICE was critical to the success of this operation. At NSAG, CENTER ICE was manned by a Canadian integree within the Coalition Support Cell. Of note, this was the first time that CENTER ICE has been used at NSAG to support a live operation, in addition to the first time the Germans have used CENTER ICE for coordination such as this. The Germans noted that our support via CENTER ICE was "worth more than gold" and the "best they've ever had."

(U//FOUO) POC: [REDACTED] NSAG, SW Asia Narcotics  
(FGS2F)

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(U) Notes:

\* (U//FOUO) For background on CENTER ICE, see an [earlier SIDtoday article](#).

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