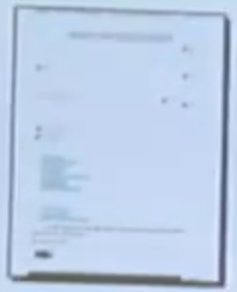
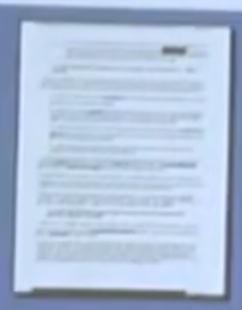
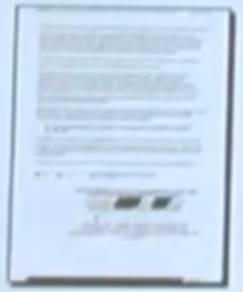
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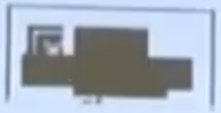
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**(U//FOUO) Interview with a SID "Hacker" -- Part 1: How Does TAO Do Its Work?**

FROM: Rich, the SIDtoday Editor

Run Date: 07/12/2012



[redacted] 9/20/2014

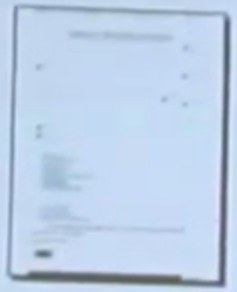


at Stonehenge

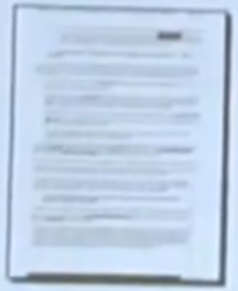
(S//REL) One organization that has grown substantially in recent years is Tailored Access Operations (S32), the group that hacks our targets' computers [redacted] (pictured), a counterterrorism subject-matter expert in TAO's Requirements and Targeting organization, spoke with SID*today* recently to explain how TAO carries out its work:

**1. (U//FOUO) What do TAO Requirements & Targeting analysts like you do? -- What's your role?**

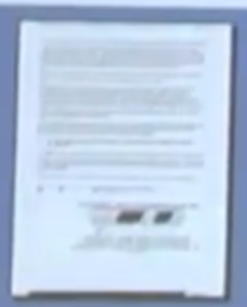
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interactive, real-time event when the target is up on the net. The latter happens quite a bit in CT. The operations might take place at 2AM or 6AM, since that is when the target is active. Some CT targets use really slow dial-up connections from remote places in the Pakistani tribal areas, and we have to move quickly when the opportunity presents itself.

(TS//SI//REL) Besides hacking a target's computer, we can also turn their Wi-Fi cards into beacons, so that NSA can do "geo ops" and find out with good accuracy where the computer or device is physically located. This has resulted in many terrorists being "rolled up" [captured].

**(U) ...Do you need linguists to participate in your operations, to translate the names of the files, etc?**

(S//SI/REL) Not as much as you might think. We don't evaluate the content of the data, we just collect it. Usually we have an idea of what types of files and information the TOPIs are interested in -- like text files -- and we try to grab all of it for analysis later. We don't take the time during the operation to sort out the good from the bad.

*(U) Stand by for the conclusion of this interview., appearing tomorrow.* [Editor's note: click HERE.]

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