



Message from the Deputy Director

Rick Ledgett, NSA Lead for Media Leaks Task Force

(U//~~FOUO~~) It has been almost three weeks since unauthorized leaks about NSA capabilities first appeared in the press. Across the intervening time, we set up an “Event team” to handle the various actions that naturally arise (assessment, mitigation, communication, restoration of lost capabilities, etc.) and have communicated with you and our various stakeholders in many and varied ways.

(U//~~FOUO~~) To date, Trum Soule has served as the event lead, performing superbly in leading our immediate efforts to respond to the multiple, simultaneous, and overlapping demands for information while driving all the proactive lines-of-effort we must undertake to assess damage, mitigate immediate harm, and rebuild and restore lost capabilities. As it becomes clearer that our work in response to these leaks will last for months, or longer, we must establish a sustainable and comprehensive effort to oversee execution of NSA’s response to the ongoing leaks, *and* develop a strategy to get ahead of them. To that end, General Alexander has appointed Rick Ledgett, formerly the Director of the NTOC, as the full-time lead for this effort effective immediately. Given that this appointment is a permanent change of assignment for Rick, Patti Ihnat will serve as the acting Director of the NSA/CSS Threat Operations Center (NTOC), pending Performance Review Board consideration and General Alexander’s decision regarding a permanent successor.

(U//~~FOUO~~) In his new capacity as the NSA Lead for the **Media Leaks Task Force**, Rick will report to General Alexander and be responsible for the overall strategy and its execution, and for strategic external engagement with the White House, ODNI, USD(I), other Executive Branch stakeholders, and Congress. While remaining dual-hatted as the NSA Deputy CoS, Trum Soule will continue as Rick’s deputy on the Media Leaks Task Force, overseeing the execution of the lines of effort internal to NSA by working with and through the leads for each.

(U//~~FOUO~~) There are a number of ongoing lines of effort that will comprise this activity -- assessment, near-term mitigation, restoration, and communications. You should expect an email from Rick later this week, outlining in more detail the Task Force and what you can do to help.

(U) Thank you for all that you do in support of our Nation and its allies.

Chris Inglis
Deputy Director