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(U//~~FOUO~~) DIRgram-250: "TRAILBLAZER Announces Award of Technology Demonstration Platform (TDP) Contract"

Distribution: Director's Message to the Work Force

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(U) I am pleased to announce the selection of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) as the industry partner in delivering the NSA Technology Demonstration Platform (TDP). This marks a significant shift in the TRAILBLAZER Program from a planning to a development activity. The TDP is the first large-scale industry system integration contract awarded under the TRAILBLAZER acquisition program. It represents a significant step forward in NSA's transformation.

(U) I would like to thank all who supported and participated in the selection process. They deserve the Agency's gratitude for the commitment they demonstrated in completing this demanding task.

(U) The TDP will play a critical role for the Agency in understanding and managing risk associated with large-scale integration and the acquisition of a complete, integrated SIGINT capability. It will serve as a stepping stone, during which the team will focus on mastering the highest technological and system integration risks in a limited environment before scaling to the entire mission. The four key TDP risks are: (1) Framework Implementation, (2) Enterprise Integration, (3) Information Assurance, and (4) Knowledge Management and Discovery.

(U//~~FOUO~~) The TDP project is a component of the transformation initiative to deliver capabilities, which will improve the analytic process. The TDP will provide the framework [redacted]

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(U//~~FOUO~~) The SAIC team, facilitated through the TRAILBLAZER Program Office, will leverage partnerships across almost every element of NSA to include ITIS, IAD, SIGINT Directorate Analysis & Production, Data Acquisition, and Customer Relationships to ensure a successful TDP delivery. While the contract is managed through the TRAILBLAZER Program Office, this is a corporate initiative and success will require the continuous engagement of customers and developers. The TDP will refine, establish, and exercise corporate processes that

are critical to NSA's future. I have directed a rapid roll out of the TDP and will hold the leadership team accountable for its success. This is an exciting opportunity for all who are called upon to support this activity in helping to deliver the foundation of a transformed SIGINT system.

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(U) Over the next several months SIGINT Programs, TRAILBLAZER, and its Enterprise Partners will continue to keep both you and me apprised of the plans and progress of the TDP. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, please contact [redacted] Acting Chief, TRAILBLAZER, or [redacted] TDP Program Manager.

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Michael V. Hayden
Lieutenant General, USAF
Director

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