



(U) CANSLOW Can't Slow Down!

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(U//FOUO) From August through December 2003, *SID today* published a series of articles on Second Party SIGINT Cooperation. Canada's Communications Security Establishment (CSE) had its turn in the limelight on August 27 ([see article](#)). However, the CSE article had a glaring omission: it didn't say anything about us! We're the **Canadian Special Liaison Office**, better known as CANSLOW, and we're right here at NSA HQ, on the seventh floor of Ops 2B -- next door to the [UK Liaison Office](#).

(U//FOUO) Articles about NSA's Second Party partners often start in the past, with a historical overview of the partnership. While we value CSE's shared history with NSA and believe that there is much to learn from it, CANSLOW's focus is on the future. The Chief of CSE has made CANSLOW accountable for the health of the CSE-NSA partnership, and that means not just keeping it alive and well today, but ensuring that it continues strong and productive for years to come.

(U//FOUO) But what is a healthy partnership? Another article in last year's *SID today* series mentioned "the continued effectiveness of cryptologic collaboration." Effective collaboration is definitely part of our healthy partnership, but we think there's even more to it. NSA is CSE's most important cryptologic partner, and we in turn want NSA to view CSE as an important partner -- not just historically, or anecdotally, but in real, current, and practical terms. CANSLOW is working with CSE HQ to develop a partnership framework which will entrench a corporate culture of always seeking opportunities to make valuable, tangible contributions to NSA.

(U//FOUO) And how **does** a liaison office keep a partnership healthy? In many ways, it's like keeping a person healthy. Just as a good doctor will know as much as possible about the person, CANSLOW gathers information on the most bilaterally relevant activities and plans at both NSA and CSE, through research and contact with subject-matter experts on both sides of the border. That's a tall order for a team of six! Currently our office comprises Senior Liaison Officer (LO) Michael Doucet, four Deputy LOs ([REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]), LtCol [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], and our office administrator [REDACTED].

(U//FOUO) We divide the load based on our respective expertise in SIGINT, INFOSEC, and enabling corporate functions. LtCol [REDACTED] is a recent addition to our team as CANSLOW's first-ever military liaison officer, allowing us to greatly increase our knowledge and understanding of the military aspects of our partnership. However, we still see room to improve, so over the next few months we will be taking a fresh look at our organizational structure, staffing, and division of effort, with a view to evolving a more strategically-focused CANSLOW.

(U//FOUO) Of course, CANSLOW may be the partnership's "general practitioner", but we don't pretend to be the expert authorities on all business lines. Just as your family doctor might consult with other physicians or even refer you to a specialist, CANSLOW is part of a network of CSE people and organizations who all have a part to play in keeping the partnership healthy. In fact, CSE employees and managers are encouraged to establish and maintain peer-to-peer partnerships with their NSA counterparts, and CANSLOW then supports them in these partnerships in myriad ways.

(U//FOUO) Another example of the team approach to partnership health is the annual **NSA/CSE SIGINT bilateral**, which this year was held at NSA on 15-16 November. The bilat brings our respective SIGINT leaders and counterpart managers together to discuss SIGINT issues that both agencies have identified as priorities, while CANSLOW plays a supporting role - helping with advance preparations, attending the meetings, and tracking follow-on actions. A

report on this year's NSA/CSE SIGINT bilateral will be posted on SID *today* soon.

(U//FOUO) There is much more going on in CANSLOW, but as a final example of how a liaison office keeps a partnership healthy (and to put this medical analogy out of its misery...), everyone needs to eat, and CANSLOW applies this prescription for health quite literally to our bilateral partnership! One of our most pleasant duties is to host hospitality events, which we see as an opportunity to thank our good NSA partners for their support and contributions. Even if you've never had a chance to attend one of our events, our door is always open, we'd love to hear from you, and you never know what kind of Canadian delicacies (see [somewhat-related article](#)) we might have in the office on any given day!



(U) The Canadian and CSE flags.

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