

**TOP SECRET**

**File No.: 2800-175  
(TD R528)**

**CSIS'S**

**OPERATIONS**

**(SIRC STUDY 2012-07)**

**Security Intelligence Review Committee  
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**ATIP version**

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This review centered on efforts by

overseas

operations,

In addition, this review examined how CSIS is operating abroad with partner intelligence services or working independently

Overall, SIRC found that CSIS is taking a cautious approach

## 2 METHODOLOGY

This review examined CSIS's activities abroad.  
SIRC examined corporate and policy documents and reviewed the relevant operational messages,

SIRC held briefings with CSIS Headquarters (HQ) staff

SIRC also completed an on-site visit to the Toronto Region (TR), a video teleconference with British Columbia Region (BCR) and a briefing with Ottawa Region (OR).

The core review period was from January 1, 2010 to September 30, 2012, although SIRC did examine relevant documents outside that time period.

**3**

**OPERATIONS**

**3.1**

Working overseas is not new for CSIS,

Indeed, SIRC has also seen how Ministerial Direction and emerging issues such as kidnappings, illegal migration have placed demands on the Service to report on overseas activities.

Director Fadden noted in February 2013 that the Service is aware of “dozens” of Canadians to have travelled or attempted to travel to engage in terrorist activities.<sup>7</sup> CSIS is hoping that initiatives will help to close this information gap.

7 “Al Qaeda affiliates attracting Canadians, CSIS head says” CBC News. 11 February 2013.

**3.2**

**Operations**



## 4 TRAINING

In March 2012, the Service created a Unit to provide this training, in part because CSIS recognized that they were increasingly venturing into more dangerous areas

Incorporating a mechanism to provide feedback as a routine task is an excellent method of ensuring a better product. **SIRC found that the lessons learned and iterative approach to the development of the training modules to be a good practice.**

An important benefit of having the training modules is that it allows CSIS to take a critical look at the shortcomings, This is particularly important with overseas



operations in potentially dangerous environments

The training and evaluation can also provide a measure of objectivity  
help mitigate any differences of opinion when it comes to  
potentially dangerous operation.

**SIRC notes**  
**and supports this acknowledgement and recommends that the Service ensure that**  
**identified as a priority for training, receive it, particularly if**  
**they are operating in a dangerous environment.**

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**5 CHALLENGES OF OPERATIONS**

recommends

However, SIRC

**CSIS will need to draft a document similar  
which outlines acceptable and prohibited activities  
and corresponding levels of approval within and outside the**

Service.

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## 6 OPERATIONAL REALITIES



## 7 CONCLUSION

Overall, SIRC found that CSIS is taking a measured and cautious approach to safety continued to be paramount consideration was a point mentioned at all of SIRC's briefings, and SIRC saw no indication into the initiative if they felt they would be in jeopardy or would not meet with some measure of success. SIRC was also reassured that the primary focus of the Regions and Branches is the domestic threat and that such collection will not be sacrificed in order to collect abroad.