

GHOSTHUNTER Tasking Process

(██████████, Sept 09)

Written to understand how the current GHOSTHUNTER (GH) process works and how GCHQ should present tasking.

Note: APPARITION has been designed to provide global access for VSAT geolocation requirements in future and will have its own unique tasking process in place. Some requests which are assessed by the NAC may be put on the APPARITION system depending on the location of the modem and which system has best access.

Background/Current Formal Tasking

There is an Overhead task (362) which drives tasking requirements using GHOSTHUNTER. It includes both a US and GCHQ CRN. Despite its title of Multi-Country (stems from when a limited number of AOIs were included), the US CRN requests coverage of targets worldwide (GW). However, note that the GCHQ CRN only mentions Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Philippines, Lebanon, Mali, Kenya, Sudan and Somalia.

The task consists of two priorities:

1. **Pri 2/336** (336 is OH speak for a tipper). This priority is usually used for **actionable** requests using GH, that is when the decision has been made between the [Network Analysis Centre \(NAC\) at NSA](#) in liaison with Task Force commanders in-theatre (usually covert) to apprehend a specific target. This is likely to be a short suspense request.
2. **Pri 3**. There are two parts to this priority (both **non-actionable**):
 - routine daily VSAT search/survey performed by two OH resources and scheduled daily by Denver which will provide a lat/long for a VSAT dish (not GH);
 - the more dynamic GH tasking used in conjunction with Comsat assets to provide the timely location of an internet user. Tasking may consist of an attempt to locate a known target of interest or a VSAT survey type request. Locational data can be matched with imagery if required.

[Note: Overhead resources are requested on an adhoc basis to achieve geos].

GH tasking used at its non-actionable priority is to learn and establish pattern of life for known terrorists who use internet cafes to communicate. The whereabouts of such targets is established using known IP/MAC addresses in conjunction with the Comsat/OH accesses and the GH system at MHS (main GH hub) which resides in the New Mission Development Centre at site.

TOP SECRET//COMINT

There are formatted forms to submit tasking requests on email which I hold once we get the process running.

NAC POCs: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], [REDACTED].

The NAC is aware that not everyone has TK email and don't see this as a problem.

Once accepted by the NAC, tasking is forwarded to sites for execution.

Also, tasking can be discussed with MHS before submission (POC: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] to check whether it's a suitable).

Results

Will be input to Mastershake, be aware that all the data is replicated daily into the 2nd party Mastershake (ie the one GCHQ accesses) and at the very most will take 24 hours to populate.

In addition to this, klieglights are issued and can be found in the following db:
([REDACTED] [REDACTED] can help with forwarding these.
Imagery may also be requested, again I'd go through [REDACTED] if you need help.