

To: Cyril Tuschi <tuschi@me.com>
From: John Young <jya@pipeline.com>
Subject: Re: Snow?!
Cc:
Bcc:
Attached:

Why Brian Snow?

Somebody advised Poitras on what to make of Snowden's overtures. She was suspicious of entrapment. Somebody had sufficient experience to authenticate samples of material Snowden provided to Poitras. Somebody advised Poitras on communications security of the strength Snowden demanded.

While some of this assistance to Poitras, such as comsec, could have been provided by others such as Appelbaum and Merrill, likely only Brian Snow had the capability to authenticate the material or could arrange for confidential review by others who had even better capabilities..

Poitras had difficulty convincing Greenwald of Snowden's legitimacy for he too was suspicious of entrapment. A person like Snow could have been convincing in a unique way.

Also Snow would have wanted to protect deepest NSA secrets or he would be placed in jeopardy of prosecution for violating lifetime NSA secrecy vows, the same position taken by ex-NSA Binney, Wiebe and Drake -- and Snowden.

If you interviewed Nick Merrill he might have been willing to share more on this, or he too may be under non-disclosure about this part of the Snowden saga, or reticent for his own protection. Same goes for Appelbaum, Poitras, Greenwald, and others who may have been involved in arranging security for communications, documents, travel, lawful compliance, publishers and such (then and subsequently).

Perhaps coincidental, the page listing Calyx Institute advisors was first archived by The Wayback Machine on 11 May 2013, five days after the first Snowden reports appeared.

Then there is the Barton Gellman prong: who authenticated

Snowden and his material for that parallel operation, in particular when The Guardian and The Washington Post were skeptical (then and subsequently, other media like The New York Times, still hoarding The Guardian's stash of indeterminate size).

Involvement of Snow would also account for why the full Snowden releases to outlets have not been published, the so-called pact to avoid harm to the US and to slowly dribble release of material. It is a common spy tradecraft tactic to brag of having much more than can be teasingly released to the public, under guise of national security restrictions.

This message will be published on Cryptome.

Regards,

John

At 11:42 AM 10/12/2014, you wrote:
What is assumption re Snow?

Best wishes from Prague,

Cyril

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