Beat: News

Director of GCHQ

Valedictory Speech

London, 21.10.2014, 16:05 Time

USPA NEWS - Sir Iain Lobban will retire from GCHQ on 24 Oct 2014 after six-and-a-half years as Director and 31 years as intelligence professional. The new Director of GCHQ is Robert Hannigan., Sir Iain plans to take a few months rest, walk the Cotswold Way and learn Spanish properly.

On Tuesday 21 Oct, Sir Iain Lobban delivered his final speech as Director GCHQ at the Churchill War Rooms.

An invited audience of officials, commentators and representatives from industry and academia were invited to hear his reflections on the profession to which he has devoted the past 31 years. Sir Iain spoke of how the challenges have evolved over a career, which spans from the darkest days of the Cold War to the world today, which “continues to be a dangerous and unpredictable place“. Drawing on the constants which connect today´s GCHQ with the past, he emphasised that the work we do today remains as challenging as at any point in our history and can often be about life and death.

He also talked about the “enormous exodus“ to the internet and how this new domain, although presenting new and unprecedented opportunities, has equally become a place where the less appealing aspects of human nature can flourish and cause harm, “alongside the blessings“¦there are the plotters, the proliferators and the paedophiles.“

He spoke of how this presents new complex challenges for GCHQ, and the ongoing need to “dissect“ with surgical precision fragments of information from the noise; vital information that our country needs to remain safe ““ but always within the law. “The people who work at GCHQ would sooner walk out the door than be involved in anything remotely resembling “˜mass surveillance´.“

Sir Iain asserted that “the public interest is served by some things remaining secret“. He pointed to the quiet resolve of the men and women at GCHQ, who, although recently have had their integrity repeatedly questioned, have responded with quiet determination to continue serving their country. Drawn from the population, they share their values with the nation, ““¦they are normal decent human beings ““ people who spend their lives outside work shopping at Sainsbury´s or the Co-op“¦worrying about their kids, the weather, the football, cricket and rugby and what to have for tea. My staff are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job.“

He concluded by cherishing his choice of career in the intelligence services and saluting the ongoing resolve of the intelligence profession to protect others from those that would do them harm. He said that this passion remains undiminished for him, alongside his pride of the ordinary men and women at GCHQ who made the same career choice and who he will now, as he moves on, sadly leave behind.

Source: Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ)

Article online:
https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-2824/director-of-gchq.html

Editorial office and responsibility:
V.i.S.d.P. & Sect. 6 MDStV (German Interstate Media Services Agreement): Daren Alexander-Frankish - Crown Copyright

Exemption from liability:
The publisher shall assume no liability for the accuracy or completeness of the published report and is merely providing space for the

submission of and access to third-party content. Liability for the content of a report lies solely with the author of such report. Daren Alexander-Frankish - Crown Copyright

Editorial program service of General News Agency:
UPA United Press Agency LTD
483 Green Lanes
UK, London N13NV 4BS
contact (at) unitedpressagency.com
Official Federal Reg. No. 7442619