**National Security Agency**

**From The Black Vault Encyclopedia Project**

NSA seal

The **National Security Agency /** [**Central Security Service**](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Central_Security_Service) **(NSA/CSS)** is believed to be the largest [United States](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States&action=edit&redlink=1) [government](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Government_of_the_United_States&action=edit&redlink=1) [intelligence agency](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=List_of_intelligence_agencies&action=edit&redlink=1). It is responsible for the collection and analysis of foreign [communications](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Communication&action=edit&redlink=1) and for the security of U.S. government communications against similar agencies elsewhere. Established by a U.S. presidential [executive order](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Executive_order&action=edit&redlink=1), the NSA works closely with the [Department of Defense](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/United_States_Department_of_Defense) and has always been directed by a three-star flag or general officer. [[1]](http://www.nsa.gov). NSA is a key component of the United States Intelligence Community headed by the [Director of National Intelligence](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Director_of_National_Intelligence&action=edit&redlink=1).

Its [eavesdropping](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Eavesdropping&action=edit&redlink=1) mission includes [radio](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Radio&action=edit&redlink=1) [broadcasting](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Broadcasting&action=edit&redlink=1), both from various organizations and individuals, the [Internet](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Internet&action=edit&redlink=1), and other intercepted forms of communication, especially confidential communications. Its secure communications mission includes [military](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Military&action=edit&redlink=1), [diplomatic](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Diplomacy&action=edit&redlink=1), and all other sensitive, confidential or secret government communications. Despite having been described as the world's largest single employer of [Ph.D.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Doctor_of_Philosophy&action=edit&redlink=1) [mathematicians](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Mathematician&action=edit&redlink=1), the owner of the single largest group of [supercomputers](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Supercomputer&action=edit&redlink=1), and having a budget much larger than that of the [CIA](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Central_Intelligence_Agency), it has had a remarkably low profile until recent years. For a long time its existence was not even acknowledged by the US government. It was often said, half-jokingly, that "NSA" stood for "No Such Agency" or "Never Say Anything".

Because of its listening task, the NSA/[CSS](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Central_Security_Service) has been heavily involved in [cryptanalytic](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Cryptanalysis&action=edit&redlink=1) research, continuing the work of its predecessor agencies which had been responsible for breaking many [World War II](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=World_War_II&action=edit&redlink=1) [codes](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Code_(cryptography)&action=edit&redlink=1) and [cyphers](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Cipher&action=edit&redlink=1) (see, for instance, [Purple code](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Purple_code&action=edit&redlink=1), [Venona](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Venona&action=edit&redlink=1), and [JN-25](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=JN-25&action=edit&redlink=1)).

Headquarters for the National Security Agency is at [Fort George G. Meade](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Fort_George_G._Meade&action=edit&redlink=1), [Maryland](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Maryland&action=edit&redlink=1), approximately ten miles (16 km) northeast of [Washington, DC](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Washington,_DC&action=edit&redlink=1). NSA has its own exit off the [Baltimore-Washington Parkway](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Baltimore-Washington_Parkway&action=edit&redlink=1) labeled "NSA Employees Only" which is usually guarded by two [Maryland](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Maryland&action=edit&redlink=1) State Police vehicles. The scale of the operations at the NSA is hard to determine from unclassified data, but one clue is the [electricity](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Electricity&action=edit&redlink=1) usage of NSA's headquarters. NSA's budget for electricity exceeds US$21 million per year, making it the second largest electricity consumer in the entire state of Maryland. Photos have shown there to be 18,000 parking spaces at the site, although most guesses have put the NSA's total workforce at around double that number as employees are sited worldwide.

Its secure government communications work has involved NSA in numerous technology areas including the design of specialized communications hardware and software, production of dedicated [semiconductors](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Semiconductor&action=edit&redlink=1) (there is a chip fabrication plant at [Ft. Meade](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Fort_Meade,_Maryland&action=edit&redlink=1)), and advanced [cryptography](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Cryptography&action=edit&redlink=1) research. The agency contracts with the private sector in the fields of research and equipment.

**Agency history**

The origins of the National Security Agency can be traced to an organization originally established within the [Department of Defense](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Department_of_Defense), under the command of the [Joint Chiefs of Staff](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Joint_Chiefs_of_Staff&action=edit&redlink=1) as the Armed Forces Security Agency (**AFSA**), on [May 20](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=May_20&action=edit&redlink=1), [1949](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=1949&action=edit&redlink=1). The AFSA was to be responsible for directing the communications and electronic intelligence activities of the military intelligence units - the [Army Security Agency](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Army_Security_Agency&action=edit&redlink=1), [Naval Security Group](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Naval_Security_Group&action=edit&redlink=1) and the [Air Force Security Service](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Air_Force_Security_Service&action=edit&redlink=1). However, the agency had little power and lacked a centralized coordination mechanism. The creation of NSA resulted from a [December 10](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=December_10&action=edit&redlink=1), [1951](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=1951&action=edit&redlink=1), memo sent by [CIA](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Central_Intelligence_Agency) Director [Walter Bedell Smith](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Walter_Bedell_Smith&action=edit&redlink=1) to James B. Lay, Executive Secretary of the [National Security Council](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=National_Security_Council&action=edit&redlink=1). The memo observed that "control over, and coordination of, the collection and processing of Communications Intelligence had proved ineffective" and recommended a survey of communications intelligence activities. The proposal was approved on [December 13](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=December_13&action=edit&redlink=1), [1951](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=1951&action=edit&redlink=1), and the study authorized on [December 28](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=December_28&action=edit&redlink=1), [1951](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=1951&action=edit&redlink=1). The report was completed by [June 13](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=June_13&action=edit&redlink=1), [1952](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=1952&action=edit&redlink=1). Generally known as the "Brownell Committee Report," after committee chairman [Herbert Brownell](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Herbert_Brownell&action=edit&redlink=1), it surveyed the history of U.S. communications intelligence activities and suggested the need for a much greater degree of coordination and direction at the national level. As the change in the security agency's name indicated, the role of the NSA was extended beyond the armed forces.

The creation of the NSA was authorized in a letter written by President [Harry S. Truman](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Harry_S._Truman&action=edit&redlink=1) in June of 1952. The agency was formally established through a revision of National Security Council Intelligence Directive (NSCID) 9 on October 24, 1952, and officially came into existence on November 4, 1952. President Truman's letter was itself [classified](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Classified_information&action=edit&redlink=1) and remained unknown to the public for more than a generation.

**Involvement with non-government cryptography**

NSA has been involved in debates about public policy, both as a behind-the-scenes adviser to other departments, and directly during and after [Vice Admiral Bobby Ray Inman](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Bobby_Ray_Inman&action=edit&redlink=1)'s directorship.

The NSA was embroiled in controversy concerning its involvement in the creation of the [Data Encryption Standard](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Data_Encryption_Standard&action=edit&redlink=1) (DES), a standard and public [block cipher](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Block_cipher&action=edit&redlink=1) used by the US government. During development by [IBM](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=IBM&action=edit&redlink=1) in the 1970s, the NSA recommended changes to the algorithm. There was suspicion the agency had deliberately weakened the algorithm sufficiently to enable it to eavesdrop if required. The suspicions were that a critical component — the so-called [S-boxes](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=S-box&action=edit&redlink=1) — had been altered to insert a "backdoor"; and that the key length had been reduced, making it easier for the NSA to discover the key using massive computing power.

However, the public reinvention of the technique known as [differential cryptanalysis](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Differential_cryptanalysis&action=edit&redlink=1) suggested that one of the changes (to the [S-boxes](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=S-box&action=edit&redlink=1)) had actually been suggested to harden the algorithm against this -- then publicly unknown -- method of attack; differential cryptanalysis remained publicly unknown until it was independently reinvented and published some decades later. On the other hand the shortening of the [cryptographic key](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Cryptographic_key&action=edit&redlink=1) from 128 bits, as recommended in IBM submission, to an effective key of only 56 bits in length, can only be interpreted as an intentional weakening of the algorithm by the NSA, making possible an [exhaustive search](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Brute_force_attack&action=edit&redlink=1) for the key by those with sufficient computer power and funding.

Possibly because of previous controversy, the involvement of NSA in the selection of a successor to DES, the [Advanced Encryption Standard](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Advanced_Encryption_Standard&action=edit&redlink=1) (AES), was limited to [hardware](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Hardware&action=edit&redlink=1) performance testing (see [AES competition](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Advanced_Encryption_Standard_process&action=edit&redlink=1)).

NSA was a major player in the debates of the mid to late 1990s regarding the [export of cryptography](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Export_of_cryptography&action=edit&redlink=1). Cryptographic software and hardware had long been classed with [fighter planes](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Fighter_plane&action=edit&redlink=1), [tanks](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Tank&action=edit&redlink=1), [cannons](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Cannon&action=edit&redlink=1), and [atomic bombs](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Atomic_bomb&action=edit&redlink=1) as controllable [munitions](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Munitions&action=edit&redlink=1).

The NSA/CSS has, at times, attempted to restrict the publication of academic research into cryptography; for example, the [Khufu and Khafre](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Khufu_and_Khafre&action=edit&redlink=1) block ciphers.

**Patents**

The NSA has the ability to file for a [patent](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Patent&action=edit&redlink=1) from the [US Patent and Trademark Office](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=USPTO&action=edit&redlink=1) under [gag order](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Gag_order&action=edit&redlink=1). Unlike a normal patent, the NSA's is never revealed to the public and never expires. However, if the Patent Office receives an application for an identical patent from a third party, they will reveal the NSA's patent and officially grant it to the NSA for the full term on that date.

**ECHELON**

*Main article:* [*ECHELON*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=ECHELON&action=edit&redlink=1)

NSA headquarters in Fort Meade, Maryland

NSA/CSS, in combination with the equivalent agencies in the [United Kingdom](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_Kingdom&action=edit&redlink=1) *(*[*Government Communications Headquarters*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Government_Communications_Headquarters&action=edit&redlink=1)*)*, [Canada](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Canada&action=edit&redlink=1) *(*[*Communications Security Establishment*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Communications_Security_Establishment&action=edit&redlink=1)*),* [Australia](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Australia&action=edit&redlink=1) *(*[*Defense Signals Directorate*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Defence_Signals_Directorate&action=edit&redlink=1)*)*, and [New Zealand](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=New_Zealand&action=edit&redlink=1) *(*[*Government Communications Security Bureau*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Government_Communications_Security_Bureau&action=edit&redlink=1)*)*, and otherwise known as the [UKUSA](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=UKUSA&action=edit&redlink=1) group, is believed to be responsible for, among other things, the operation of the [ECHELON](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=ECHELON&action=edit&redlink=1) system. Its capabilities are suspected to include the ability to monitor a large proportion of the world's transmitted civilian [telephone](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Telephone&action=edit&redlink=1), [fax](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Fax&action=edit&redlink=1) and data traffic. The system has as one of its most important bases at the nominally [RAF](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Royal_Air_Force&action=edit&redlink=1)-run station at [Menwith Hill](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Menwith_Hill&action=edit&redlink=1) [Template:Coor d](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Template:Coor_d&action=edit&redlink=1) near [Harrogate](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Harrogate&action=edit&redlink=1), [Yorkshire](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Yorkshire&action=edit&redlink=1). Another site, at [Sugar Grove, West Virginia](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Sugar_Grove,_West_Virginia&action=edit&redlink=1), intercepts all international communications entering the eastern U.S., while a site near [Yakima](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Yakima&action=edit&redlink=1), [Washington](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Washington&action=edit&redlink=1) intercepts traffic in the western U.S., according to a [December 25](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=December_25&action=edit&redlink=1), [2005](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=2005&action=edit&redlink=1) article in the [*New York Times*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=New_York_Times&action=edit&redlink=1).

Technically, almost all modern telephone, internet, fax & satellite communications are exploitable due to recent advances in technology and the 'open air' nature of much of the radio communications around the world. The NSA's presumed collection operations have generated much criticism, possibly stemming from the assumption that the NSA/CSS represents an infringement of Americans' [privacy](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Privacy&action=edit&redlink=1). However, the NSA's [United States Signals Intelligence Directive 18](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States_Signals_Intelligence_Directive_18&action=edit&redlink=1) (USSID 18) strictly prohibits the interception or collection of information about "...US persons, entities, corporations or organizations..." without explicit written legal permission from the [Attorney General](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Attorney_General&action=edit&redlink=1) of the United States. The [Supreme Court](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=US_Supreme_Court&action=edit&redlink=1) has ruled that intelligence agencies cannot conduct surveillance against American citizens. There are of course a few extreme circumstances where collecting on a US entity would be allowed without a USSID 18 waiver, such as with civilian distress signals, or sudden emergencies (such as 9/11; however, the [USA PATRIOT Act](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=USA_PATRIOT_Act&action=edit&redlink=1) has significantly changed privacy legality).

Evidence strongly suggests that in practice, NSA/CSS implements an end run around legal restrictions on internal surveillance by having partner agencies in other countries spy on US citizens while the NSA returns the favor for these agencies, thereby avoiding illegal spying on their own citizens.

In the past, there have been alleged instances of improper violations of USSID 18 that occurred in violation of the NSA's strict charter prohibiting such acts. In addition, ECHELON is considered with indignation by citizens of countries outside the UKUSA alliance, with widespread suspicion that the United States government uses it for motives other than its national security, including [political](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Politics&action=edit&redlink=1) and [industrial espionage](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Industrial_espionage&action=edit&redlink=1). The chartered purpose of the NSA/CSS is solely to acquire significant foreign intelligence information pertaining to National Security or ongoing military intelligence operations.

**Phone taps**

On [December 16](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=December_16&action=edit&redlink=1), [2005](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=2005&action=edit&redlink=1), the [*New York Times*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=New_York_Times&action=edit&redlink=1) printed a story asserting that, under [White House](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=White_House&action=edit&redlink=1) pressure and with an [executive order](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Executive_order&action=edit&redlink=1) from President [George W. Bush](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/George_W._Bush), the National Security Agency, in an attempt to thwart [terrorism](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Terrorism&action=edit&redlink=1), had been conducting warrantless [phone-taps](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Telephone_tapping&action=edit&redlink=1) on individuals in the U.S. calling persons outside the country. According to the Times:

*The White House asked The New York Times not to publish this article, arguing that it could jeopardize continuing investigations and alert would-be terrorists that they might be under scrutiny. After meeting with senior administration officials to hear their concerns, the newspaper delayed publication for a year to conduct additional reporting. Some information that administration officials argued could be useful to terrorists has been omitted.*

News of tapping sparked an outcry from members of Congress and organizations which regard such actions as a violation of the law and an abuse of [constitutional rights](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States_Constitution&action=edit&redlink=1). [Senator](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States_Senate&action=edit&redlink=1) [Arlen Specter](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Arlen_Specter&action=edit&redlink=1) ([R](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States_Republican_Party&action=edit&redlink=1)-[PA](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Pennsylvania&action=edit&redlink=1)), the chairman of the [Senate Judiciary Committee](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=U.S._Senate_Committee_on_the_Judiciary&action=edit&redlink=1), said that "there is no doubt this is inappropriate" and "clearly and categorically wrong" and that he would hold hearings into the matter early in 2006. His call for investigations was echoed by [Congressman](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States_House_of_Representatives&action=edit&redlink=1) [Rob Simmons](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Rob_Simmons&action=edit&redlink=1) (R-[CT](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Connecticut&action=edit&redlink=1)), the chairman of the [House Homeland Security](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=U.S._House_Committee_on_Homeland_Security&action=edit&redlink=1) Intelligence Subcommittee. "Was the eavesdropping narrowly designed to go after possible terrorist threats in the United States or was it much, much more?" he asked in a statement. Like ECHELON (see above), some feel that the White House policy contradicts [United States Signals Intelligence Directive 18](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Foreign_Intelligence_Surveillance_Act&action=edit&redlink=1) which states: *Communications from, to, or about a U.S. person [1 line redacted] may not be intentionally collected without further authorities*. Surveillance to prevent terrorism is covered in [Title II](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=USA_PATRIOT_Act,_Title_II&action=edit&redlink=1) of the [USA Patriot Act](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=USA_Patriot_Act&action=edit&redlink=1).

White House press secretary [Scott McClellan](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Scott_McClellan&action=edit&redlink=1) refused to comment on the story on December 16, claiming "there’s a reason why we don’t get into discussing ongoing intelligence activities, because it could compromise our efforts to prevent attacks from happening." The next morning, [December 17](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=December_17&action=edit&redlink=1), the President gave an 8-minute live TV address instead of his normal weekly radio address and confirmed that he had authorized the warrantless searches and phone taps. Visibly angry, he defended his actions as "crucial to our national security" and that the American people expected him to "do everything in my power, under our laws and Constitution, to protect them and their civil liberties" as long as there was a "continuing threat" from [al-Qaida](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Al-Qaida&action=edit&redlink=1). The President also had harsh words for those who broke the story, saying they acted illegally. "The unauthorized disclosure of this effort damages our national security and puts our citizens at risk," he said.

Senator [Russ Feingold](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Russ_Feingold&action=edit&redlink=1) ([D](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=United_States_Democratic_Party&action=edit&redlink=1)-[WI](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Wisconsin&action=edit&redlink=1)) called the president's remarks "breathtaking in how extreme they were" in a telephone interview with the [Associated Press](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Associated_Press&action=edit&redlink=1). The 2008 Presidential hopeful added, "If that's true, he doesn't need the Patriot Act because he can just make it up as he goes along. I tell you, he's President George Bush, not King George Bush. This is not the system of government we have and that we fought for." Feingold was just as harsh in an interview with [CNN](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=CNN&action=edit&redlink=1). "We have a president, not a king," he said. Senator [Patrick Leahy](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Patrick_Leahy&action=edit&redlink=1) (D-[VT](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Vermont&action=edit&redlink=1)), the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, added later, "The Bush administration seems to believe it is above the law."

Critics of the NYT disclosure claim that the President has the authority to order such action by virtue of [Executive Order 12333](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Executive_Order_12333&action=edit&redlink=1) signed by [President Reagan](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=President_Ronald_Reagan&action=edit&redlink=1) in 1981.

The United States Department of Justice opened an investigation in late December 2005 to try to determine the source of the leak to the New York Times.

[Template:Wikinews](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Template:Wikinews&action=edit&redlink=1)

**Staff**

**Directors**

* 1952–1956 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Ralph J. Canine](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Ralph_J._Canine&action=edit&redlink=1), USA
* 1956–1960 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [John A. Samford](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=John_A._Samford&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* 1960–1962 [V. Adm.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Vice_Admiral&action=edit&redlink=1) [Laurence H. Frost](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Laurence_H._Frost&action=edit&redlink=1), USN
* 1962–1965 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Gordon A. Blake](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Gordon_A._Blake&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* 1965–1969 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Marshall S. Carter](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Marshall_S._Carter&action=edit&redlink=1), USA
* 1969–1972 [V. Adm.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Vice_Admiral&action=edit&redlink=1) [Noel A. M. Gaylor](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Noel_A._M._Gaylor&action=edit&redlink=1), USN
* 1972–1973 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Samuel C. Phillips](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Samuel_C._Phillips&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* 1973–1977 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Lew Allen, Jr.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lew_Allen,_Jr.&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* 1977–1981 [V. Adm.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Vice_Admiral&action=edit&redlink=1) [Bobby Ray Inman](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Bobby_Ray_Inman&action=edit&redlink=1), USN
* 1981–1985 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Lincoln D. Faurer](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lincoln_D._Faurer&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* 1985–1988 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [William E. Odom](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=William_E._Odom&action=edit&redlink=1), USA
* 1988–1992 [V. Adm.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Vice_Admiral&action=edit&redlink=1) [William O. Studeman](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=William_O._Studeman&action=edit&redlink=1), USN
* 1992–1996 [V. Adm.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Vice_Admiral&action=edit&redlink=1) [John M. McConnell](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=John_M._McConnell&action=edit&redlink=1), USN
* 1996–1999 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Kenneth A. Minihan](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Kenneth_A._Minihan&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* 1999–2005 [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Michael V. Hayden](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Michael_V._Hayden&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* 2005–Present [Lt. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Lieutenant_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [Keith B. Alexander](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Keith_B._Alexander&action=edit&redlink=1), USA

*USA*, *USAF*, and *USN* are the United States Army, United States Air Force, and United States Navy, respectively.

**Deputy Directors**

* Dec. 1952–Nov. 1953 [R. Adm.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=R._Adm.&action=edit&redlink=1) [Joseph Wenger](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Joseph_Wenger&action=edit&redlink=1), USN
* Nov. 1953–June 1956 [Brig. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Brigadier_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [John Ackerman](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=John_Ackerman&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* June 1956–Aug. 1956 [Maj. Gen.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Major_General&action=edit&redlink=1) [John A. Samford](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=John_A._Samford&action=edit&redlink=1), USAF
* Aug. 1956–Sep. 1957 Mr. [Joseph H. Ream](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Joseph_H._Ream&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Oct. 1957–Jul 1958 Dr. [H. T. Engstrom](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=H._T._Engstrom&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Aug. 1958–Apr. 1974 Dr. [Louis W. Tordella](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Louis_W._Tordella&action=edit&redlink=1), USN
* Apr. 1974–May 1978 Mr. [Benson K. Buffham](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Benson_K._Buffham&action=edit&redlink=1)
* May 1978–Apr. 1980 Mr. [Robert E. Drake](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Robert_E._Drake&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Apr. 1980–July 1982 Ms. [Ann Z. Caracristi](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Ann_Z._Caracristi&action=edit&redlink=1)
* July 1982–June 1985 Mr. [Robert E. Rich](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Robert_E._Rich&action=edit&redlink=1)
* June 1985–Mar. 1988 Mr. [Charles R. Lord](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Charles_R._Lord&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Mar. 1988–July 1990 Mr. [Gerald R. Young](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Gerald_R._Young&action=edit&redlink=1)
* July 1990–Feb. 1994 Mr. [Robert L. Prestel](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Robert_L._Prestel&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Feb. 1994–Oct. 1997 Mr. [William P. Crowell](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=William_P._Crowell&action=edit&redlink=1)
* Oct. 1997–June 2000 Ms. [Barbara A. McNamara](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Barbara_mcnamara&action=edit&redlink=1)
* June 2000–present Mr. [William B. Black, Jr.](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=William_B._Black,_Jr.&action=edit&redlink=1)

**Notable cryptanalysts**

* [Agnes Meyer Driscoll](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Agnes_Meyer_Driscoll&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [William F. Friedman](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=William_F._Friedman&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Solomon Kullback](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Solomon_Kullback&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Frank Rowlett](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Frank_Rowlett&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Abraham Sinkov](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Abraham_Sinkov&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Louis W. Tordella](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Louis_W._Tordella&action=edit&redlink=1)

**NSA encryption systems**

*Main article:* [*NSA encryption systems*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=NSA_encryption_systems&action=edit&redlink=1)

NSA is responsible for the encryption-related components in these systems:

* [EKMS](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=EKMS&action=edit&redlink=1) Electronic Key Management System
* [FNBDT](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=FNBDT&action=edit&redlink=1) Future Narrow Band Digital Terminal
* [Fortezza](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Fortezza&action=edit&redlink=1) encryption based on portable crypto token in [PC Card](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=PC_Card&action=edit&redlink=1) format
* [KL-7](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=KL-7&action=edit&redlink=1) ADONIS off-line rotor encryption machine (post-WW II to 1980s)
* [KW-26](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=KW-26&action=edit&redlink=1) ROMULUS electronic in-line teletype encryptor (1960s–1980s)
* [KW-37](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=KW-37&action=edit&redlink=1) JASON fleet broadcast encryptor (1960s–1990s)
* [KY-57](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=KY-57&action=edit&redlink=1) VINSON tactical radio voice encryptor
* [SINCGARS](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=SINCGARS&action=edit&redlink=1) tactical radio with cryptographically controlled frequency hopping
* [STE](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=STE&action=edit&redlink=1) secure telephone equipment
* [STU-III](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=STU-III&action=edit&redlink=1) older secure telephone unit

**Past and present SIGINT activities**

* [Ultra](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Ultra&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Magic (cryptography)](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Magic_(cryptography)&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Purple code](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Purple_code&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [VENONA project](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=VENONA_project&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Gulf of Tonkin Incident](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Gulf_of_Tonkin_Incident)
* [USS Liberty incident](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=USS_Liberty_incident&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [USS Pueblo (AGER-2)](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=USS_Pueblo_(AGER-2)&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [ECHELON](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=ECHELON&action=edit&redlink=1)

**In fiction**

*Main article:* [*NSA in fiction*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=NSA_in_fiction&action=edit&redlink=1)

Since the existence of the NSA has become more widely known in the last few decades, and particularly since the 1990's, the agency has regularly been portrayed in spy fiction. Most such portrayals probably grossly exaggerate the organization's involvement in the more sensational activities of intelligence agencies. An indication of the agency's increased "fame" is its named appearance in the Bond franchise in [*Die Another Day*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Die_Another_Day&action=edit&redlink=1), with a Bond Girl portrayed by [Halle Berry](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Halle_Berry&action=edit&redlink=1) working for them. The NSA has been featured in many other films and books, including [Dan Brown](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Dan_Brown&action=edit&redlink=1)'s [*Digital Fortress*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Digital_Fortress&action=edit&redlink=1). It's also portrayed in [*Splinter Cell*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Splinter_Cell&action=edit&redlink=1), a series of very popular video games written by author [Tom Clancy](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Tom_Clancy&action=edit&redlink=1) specially for [Xbox](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Xbox&action=edit&redlink=1) and [PC](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Personal_computer_game&action=edit&redlink=1), starring [Sam Fisher](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Sam_Fisher&action=edit&redlink=1), an agent working for [Third Echelon](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Third_Echelon&action=edit&redlink=1) (a fictional sub-agency of the NSA).

**Notes**

1. [**↑**](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/National_Security_Agency#ref_NSACreated#ref_NSACreated)  [Memorandum on Communications Intelligence Activities](http://www.nsa.gov/truman/truma00001.pdf) (October 24, 1952)
2. [**↑**](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/National_Security_Agency#ref_NYTBushSpying#ref_NYTBushSpying)  [James Risen](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=James_Risen&action=edit&redlink=1) & [Eric Lichtblau](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Eric_Lichtblau&action=edit&redlink=1) (December 16, 2005), [Bush Lets U.S. Spy on Callers Without Courts](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/16/politics/16program.html), [*New York Times*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=New_York_Times&action=edit&redlink=1)
3. [**↑**](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/National_Security_Agency#ref_McClellanRefusesToAnswerQuestions#ref_McClellanRefusesToAnswerQuestions)  [Press Briefing by Scott McClellan](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2005/12/20051216-1.html), December 16, 2005, Whitehouse Press Briefing.
4. [**↑**](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/National_Security_Agency#ref_BushHarshWords#ref_BushHarshWords)  ["US eavesdropping program 'saves lives': Bush"](http://www.smh.com.au/news/world/us-eavesdropping-program-saves-lives-bush/2005/12/18/1134840729456.html?page=2) (December 18, 2005), [*Sydney Morning Herald*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Sydney_Morning_Herald&action=edit&redlink=1)
5. [**↑**](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/National_Security_Agency#ref_FeingoldOnBush#ref_FeingoldOnBush)  ["Executive decision to spy"](http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/nation/ny-usbush184556913dec18%2C0%2C2472110.story?coll=ny-nationalnews-print) (December 18, 2005), [*Newsday*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Newsday&action=edit&redlink=1)

**See also**

* [Central Intelligence Agency](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Central_Intelligence_Agency)
* [Central Security Service](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Central_Security_Service)
* [Counterintelligence Field Activity](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Counterintelligence_Field_Activity&action=edit&redlink=1) (DoD - CIFA)
* [Defense Signals Directorate](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Defence_Signals_Directorate&action=edit&redlink=1) (DSD) of Australia
* [Defense Intelligence Agency](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Defense_Intelligence_Agency&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Department of Homeland Security](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Department_of_Homeland_Security&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [ELINT](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=ELINT&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Espionage](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Espionage&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Federal Bureau of Investigation](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Federal_Bureau_of_Investigation&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [Government Communications Headquarters](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Government_Communications_Headquarters&action=edit&redlink=1) (GCHQ) of the UK
* [National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=National_Geospatial-Intelligence_Agency&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [National Security Whistleblowers Coalition](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=National_Security_Whistleblowers_Coalition&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [SELinux](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=SELinux&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [SIGINT](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=SIGINT&action=edit&redlink=1) (and COMINT)
* [Skipjack (cipher)](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Skipjack_(cipher)&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [TEMPEST](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=TEMPEST&action=edit&redlink=1) prevention of compromising emanations
* [Type 1 encryption](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Type_1_encryption&action=edit&redlink=1)

**NSA computers**

* [FROSTBURG](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=FROSTBURG&action=edit&redlink=1)
* [HARVEST](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=HARVEST&action=edit&redlink=1)

**Further reading**

* [Bamford, James](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=James_Bamford&action=edit&redlink=1), [*Body of Secrets*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Body_of_Secrets&action=edit&redlink=1), Doubleday, 2001, [ISBN 0-385-49907-8](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Special%3ABookSources/0385499078).
* [Bamford, James](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=James_Bamford&action=edit&redlink=1), [*The Puzzle Palace*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=The_Puzzle_Palace_(book)&action=edit&redlink=1), Penguin Books, [ISBN 0-14006-7485](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Special%3ABookSources/0140067485).
* [Levy, Stephen](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Stephen_Levy&action=edit&redlink=1), [*Crypto: How the Code Rebels Beat the Government Saving Privacy in the Digital Age*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Crypto:_How_the_Code_Rebels_Beat_the_Government_Saving_Privacy_in_the_Digital_Age&action=edit&redlink=1) — discussion of the development of non-government cryptography, including many accounts of tussles with the NSA.
* [Radden Keefe, Patrick](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Patrick_Radden_Keefe&action=edit&redlink=1), [*Chatter: Dispatches from the Secret World of Global Eavesdropping*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Chatter:_Dispatches_from_the_Secret_World_of_Global_Eavesdropping&action=edit&redlink=1), Random House, [ISBN 1400060346](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Special%3ABookSources/1400060346).
* [Liston, Robert](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Robert_Liston&action=edit&redlink=1), [*The Pueblo Surrender: a Covert Action by the National Security Agency*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=The_Pueblo_Surrender:_a_Covert_Action_by_the_National_Security_Agency&action=edit&redlink=1), [ISBN 0871315548](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Special%3ABookSources/0871315548).
* [Kahn, David](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=David_Kahn&action=edit&redlink=1), [*The Codebreakers*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=The_Codebreakers&action=edit&redlink=1), 1181 pp., [ISBN 0-684-83130-9](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Special%3ABookSources/0684831309). Look for the 1967 rather than the 1996 edition.
* [Tully, Andrew](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=Andrew_Tully&action=edit&redlink=1), [*The Super Spies: More Secret, More Powerful than the CIA*](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=The_Super_Spies:_More_Secret,_More_Powerful_than_the_CIA&action=edit&redlink=1), 1969, LC 71080912.
* [Bamford, James](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=James_Bamford&action=edit&redlink=1), [New York Times](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php?title=New_York_Times&action=edit&redlink=1), December 25, 2005; The Agency That Could Be Big Brother.

**External links**

* [NSA official site](http://www.nsa.gov/)
* [History of NSA](http://history.sandiego.edu/gen/20th/nsa.html)
* ["The Origins of the National Security Agency, 1940-1952"](http://www.thememoryhole.org/nsa/origins_of_nsa.htm) —newly declassified book-length report provided by [*The Memory Hole*](http://www.thememoryhole.org/).
* ["Outsourcing Intelligence"](http://montages.blogspot.com/2005/01/outsourcing-intelligence.html)
* [The National Security Archive at George Washington University](http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/)
* [Cryptome](http://cryptome.org/)
* [NSA Watch](http://www.nsawatch.org) —The ACLU's page on domestic spying activities of the NSA. Features a white paper: "What Can the NSA Do?" and a map of how "the NSA Octopus" ensnares the nation.
* [CRYPTOME.org - USSID 18 DECLASSIFIED](http://cryptome.org/nsa-ussid18.htm)
* [Federation of American Scientist](http://www.fas.org/)
* [NSA Headquarters](http://maps.google.com/maps?ll=39.108735,-76.771098&spn=0.006069,0.010664&t=k&hl=en)
* [“FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION: It comes bundled with the software,” by Al Massey](http://www.hal-pc.org/journal/nov99/Column/caught/caught.html)
* [NSA: Bibliography Compilation and research by Jean-Pierre H. Coumont](http://users.skynet.be/terrorism/html/usa_nsa.htm)
* [New York Times NSA Phone Taps Article](http://news.google.com/url?sa=t&ct=:ePkh8BM9E8JmB4cWm3t-fnpOqhCnFrtbZlFqWn6FELcWZ3hmdmZBakpmohC7FqtjQUFOKtw5GXDnpMKcYyTwZm2YcJaVutyqHkHuxqTDkgC4khjJ/0-0&fp=43a2707b2130f79b&ei=aS-iQ6WUCsrIaNnwyOwB&url=http%3A//www.nytimes.com/2005/12/16/politics/16program)
* [Wiretaps said to sift all overseas contacts (Boston Globe)](http://www.boston.com/news/nation/washington/articles/2005/12/23/wiretaps_said_to_sift_all_overseas_contacts?mode=PF)
* Kurt Nimmo. [NSA snoop story: Tell me something I don’t already know](http://kurtnimmo.com/?p=169), *Another Day in the Empire*, December 24, 2005.
* [The Agency That Could Be Big Brother](http://www.nytimes.com/2005/12/25/weekinreview/25bamford.html): Dec. 25, 2005 New York Times article by James Bamford, on NSA's Sugar Grove, WV monitoring site
* Kevin Zeese. [NSA mounted massive spy op on peace group, documents show](http://rawstory.com/news/2005/National_Security_Agency_spied_on_Baltimore_0110.html), *Raw Story*, January 10, 2006.

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[Category](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Special%3ACategories): [Government](http://www.theblackvault.com/wiki/index.php/Category%3AGovernment)