

ODNI Review Group Comments  
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Our NSA is an agency out of control. It is acting in very Un-American and dangerous ways.

The heads of the NSA and DNI only seem to view their mission of identifying threats (and other missions) as being important without balancing that versus American ideals. History has shown us that when a government spies upon its own citizens the potential for a detrimental society is quite large. East Germany, the Soviet Union, and Communist China are not ideals of free societies and instead are representative of repression. When our NSA spies upon its own citizens, it results in our country being less free. Can we call ourself the Leader of the Free World when our communications are all monitored and recorded by our government? Such actions are anti-thetical to what the US stands for.

The NSA has lost its way and needs to be fully disbanded. It has grown too large and has too much disregard for our constitution and laws to be allowed to continue to exist. Let the FBI spy domestically. The NSA is for foreign intelligence, but their nature just wont let them accept such a limit. Repeatedly they have crossed over into domestic surveillance, even though they know it is wrong. They try and justify their illegal and unconstitutional actions with word twisting and pocket lawyers who put a spin on anything to try and justify their Un-American actions.

While our FISA court was set up to keep a limit on the NSA, in reality it has now been exposed as a rubber stamp court without objectivity. When over 30000 cases are approved by the FISA court with none rejected you can see it is not doing its job to limit the NSA. When a FISA warrant is approved requesting all business communication from Verizon both foreign as well as domestic to domestic calls you can see that FISA has no regard for our Constitution. Such a warrant is clearly unconstitutional, yet FISA still issued and approved it. So FISA is no real check on the NSA and is instead a rubber stamp court worthy of a third world country, rather than the USA.

While the NSA likes to spout that all is fine since it has Congressional oversight, such oversight is meaningless when Congress is lied to and lacks the power to shut down objectionable NSA programs. While the NSA may inform a small committee about its actions, that committee seems powerless to stop blatant Constitutional violations. Its members are not even able to talk about what they have learned, due to all the information being classified. Wyden is awesome and for years he has wanted to reign in the NSA abuse, but was unable to. And he was gagged from stating what he knew. Congressmen outside of the Intelligence committees were clueless of the NSA going ons. When the NSA was publicly asked about some programs they blatantly lied to Congress without criminal repercussions. Wyden is my Senator and represents my state in the Senate.

To catch terrorists the NSA does not need to collect and store all internet and phone

information. American perception is that the NSA shall start collecting information on targets once they have been alerted to that target. No one expects them to be able to go into the past and look up everything that target has said. But the NSA likes this ability, and to accomplish it they have to store everything said by anyone, anywhere. That is totally bogus and not what the public expects from them. This extra ability to look into the past, while useful for the NSA's mission, is extremely detrimental to the US and the world. Its benefits come nowhere near to its costs.

There are so many disasters related to the NSA, I'll touch on a few more.

When Clapper directly lies to Wyden, Clapper needs to be arrested and charged with lying to Congress. He needs to be removed from office and barred from working in the government and any related industry (no Booz Allen super job for him in the future).

Alexander has also directly lied to Congress. He needs to be dishonorably discharged, removed from his position, and charged with his crimes.

When Obama wants to restore faith in the NSA and states he shall appoint a panel of outsiders to oversee it, he needs to appoint people from the ACLU and the EFF, not insiders like former directors of the CIA. He needs to make sure that the reports don't flow through Clapper, who is the one who is doing all the unconstitutional activities and committing crimes. Such actions don't restore any faith and instead just remove faith in the process.

Just 5 months ago the US was frothing at the mouth at China electronically spying on American companies. Now it turns out that the NSA has spied on Petrobras and likely countless other companies. It shows the US is two-faced and disingenuous. What is worse is that Brazil is not an enemy, they are a friendly nation. Brazil and Mexico are just countries that documents have shown were spy targets from the NSA, but it is likely similar corporate espionage is happening to every country (except maybe the Five Eyes). While Americans expect us to spy upon Cuba, North Korea, Russia, and Iran we do not expect us to be spying on our friends. When our friends find out they shall be much less likely to remain our friends and America loses position in the world. This is the harm the NSA has done. This harm is greater than the harm it may have prevented in stopping terrorist actions.

When the NSA spies on the communication of the President of Brazil that is atrocious. Brazil is not an enemy, though such spying may turn them into one. America loses portions of its Geo-Political dominance when the NSA acts in such a fashion.

Spying and tapping into the UN offices and communications is totally unacceptable. Spying on France and Germany is reprehensible.

When the NSA spies upon Brazil there is no terrorist justification. When our government says it is all about the terrorists, they are lying. When our government says they are only listening to foreigners they are lying. When they try and tell us OK, maybe we spy on

Americans if they communicate with a foreigner that allows much greater spying than it sounds like. If I make a FaceBook post and just 1 of my friends is non-American then such a justification would allow the NSA to spy on all my Facebook posts. That is Spying on Americans, not foreigners, so the NSA is in violation of its purpose.

The USA is a country of ideals. The NSA is an organization which is not following those ideals. Government actions supporting the NSA also are against American fundamental beliefs.

When our government goes crazy and chases after Snowden like he is the worst person on the planet it shows that we are a bad country. Snowden is a patriotic whistle-blower exposing UnConstitutional and Illegal government actions. Yet our government chased him across the planet applying undue pressure to many countries for just one man. If Snowden was a Russian exposing Russian abuses the US would hail him as a hero. He is a Hero and should be recognized as such, not hounded across the earth.

When our government pressures other countries to not allow the plane of the President of Bolivia to cross their airspace it shows we are not freedom loving and instead are bullies, especially when it turns out Snowden was not even on that plane. Good job pissing off yet another country due to the NSA and poor US government behavior in support of the NSA.

When it was exposed that Bush was warrantlessly wiretapping Americans Obama was opposed to such actions. But when it was revealed that the NSA was still abusing its mandate, Obama supported the NSA. This led to a huge decrease in support for Obama. 3 weeks before the Snowden revelations I wrote a FaceBook post praising Obama and considered myself an Obama supporter (I have 2 of his T-Shirts). After Obama came out with support for the NSA I wrote a FaceBook post asking for Obamas impeachment. NSA spying on Americans is not only illegal and Un-Constitutional it is immoral and bad for our country. I can no longer wear my Obama T-Shirts. They make me ashamed.

When a government has significant information on its citizens, history has shown that the government can become a repressive regime, unpleasant to live in. Having the NSA maintain all our internet and phone communications leaves the US ripe for falling down the hole of repression and authoritarianism.

National Security Letters come with built in gag orders preventing the recipient from even mentioning that they received them. This also is Un-American and seems to be Un-Constitutional as well, in direct violation of our First Amendment. The Gag order aspect of NSLs needs to be removed. They are bad for our country and are the actions of a repressive regime, not the Leader of the Free World.

When the NSA coops our American businesses it hurts us economically. Citizens of the World shall now be less likely to use Google, Microsoft, and Yahoo when they know the NSA is listening and can tap into their communications and transactions. So our US companies shall lose money, due to NSA overreach. When Brazil finds out the NSA is

tapping all its Google info, they shall force Google to build servers on Brazilian soil, raising the cost of doing business for Google.

When the NSA secretly weakens Internet encryption standards they are hurting everyone. Weakened standards may help the NSA break encryption by bad guys, but it also allows other bad guys or repressive countries to also break that encryption. Having the NSA corrupt the NIST processes shall lead to a lack of faith in NIST recommendations. Anything the NSA touches becomes polluted and hurts our country it seems, rather than helps. It is an organization out of control and acting against the country and its ideals.

The NSA and GCHQ seem to be attacking TOR, an anonymity service partially funded by the US government. TOR is used to get around Chinese censorship. The NSA should be making it stronger and stronger instead of trying to attack or break, or dilute it. While TOR can be used for bad services and terrorist communication it is also used for good. Again the NSA is doing more harm than good.

The NSA has lost its way. Its sole focus seems to be spying on everything it can and it has no regards for limitations or American ideals. We are the country of Freedom, Justice, and Liberty. But the NSA acts as if Security is paramount. It is not. The damage the NSA has caused is greater than the terrorist damage it has prevented.

The NSA has shown itself incapable of persistent reform. It needs to be disbanded and the whole organization shut down. Such an action may again restore confidence in the US. Minor alterations shall likely prove ineffectual. The NSA has shown it has the will and pocket lawyers to reinterpret any legislation into whatever fashion allows it to continue doing what it wants regardless of what the law or Constitution actually say.

Shut down the NSA and arrest Clapper and Alexander. Have Obama apologize to the world for our poor behavior.