

ODNI Review Group Comments

Steve M.

Thank you for your solicitation of public comment on the subject of surveillance technologies and the US government.

I believe the most important thing I can say is this: while the debate is often framed as a "balance" between security and privacy, this is in fact a false dichotomy. Our national security is best served by the strongest respect for privacy and liberty. When we are once again the first among nations in respect for the privacy and liberty of all people, we will once again enjoy security, prosperity and respect.

In particular, (1) the recently-revealed activities of various US government entities in secret surveillance and monitoring activities; (2) the "warehousing" of vast amounts of data against some ill-defined future need; and (3) the effort to undermine encryption technologies are all in gross violation of the Fourth, Ninth and Tenth Amendments to the Constitution as well as completely beyond bounds of civilized behavior. The FISA court, operating as it does in virtually complete secrecy, can in no way be considered a meaningful oversight. All these programs should be immediately terminated, those responsible should be prosecuted, and the agencies should be placed under probationary 3rd-party oversight or possibly disbanded altogether.

Thank you for your time.