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NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
CENTRAL SECURITY SERVICE  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 84683A  
2 June 2017

JOHN GREENEWALD  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is our final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 14 June 2016 for Intellipedia entries on SIGINT and/or Signals Intelligence as well as any search results pages. A copy of your request is enclosed. As stated in our initial response to you, dated 14 June 2016, your request was assigned Case Number 84683. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an "all other" requester. As such, you are allowed 2 hours of search and the duplication of 100 pages at no cost. There are no assessable fees for this request. Your request has been processed under the provisions of the FOIA.

For your information, NSA provides a service of common concern for the Intelligence Community (IC) by serving as the executive agent for Intelink. As such, NSA provides technical services that enable users to access and share information with peers and stakeholders across the IC and DoD. Intellipedia pages are living documents that may be originated by any user organization, and any user organization may contribute to or edit pages after their origination. Intellipedia pages should not be considered the final, coordinated position of the IC on any particular subject. The views and opinions of authors do not necessarily state or reflect those of the U.S. Government.

We conducted a search of all three levels of Intellipedia for the requested topics, and located three documents that are responsive to your request. These documents are enclosed. Certain information, however, has been deleted from the enclosure.

This Agency is authorized by statute to protect certain information concerning its activities (in this case, internal URLs) as well as the names of its employees. Such information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA, which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605). We

have determined that such information exists in this record, and we have excised it accordingly.

In addition, personal information regarding individuals has been deleted from the enclosures in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552 (b)(6). This exemption protects from disclosure information that would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. In balancing the public interest for the information you request against the privacy interests involved, we have determined that the privacy interests sufficiently satisfy the requirements for the application of the (b)(6) exemption.

Since these deletions may be construed as a partial denial of your request, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures. You may appeal this decision. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below.

- The appeal must be in sent via U.S. postal mail, fax, or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA/CSS FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132),  
National Security Agency  
9800 Savage Road STE 6932  
Fort George G. Meade MD 20755-6932

The facsimile number is (443)479-3612.

The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is [FOIARSC@nsa.gov](mailto:FOIARSC@nsa.gov).

- It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.
- NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving your appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at [foialo@nsa.gov](mailto:foialo@nsa.gov). You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. OGIS contact information is: Office of Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001; e-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); main: 202-741-5770; toll free: 1-877-684-6448; or fax: 202-741-5769.

Finally, regarding your request for a copy of the search results pages, please be advised that the FOIA only requires that this Agency search for records that already exist at the time the search is conducted. Since no search results pages existed for this case when it was received, we are not obligated to fulfill this portion of your request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul W. Chapman".

for  
JOHN R. CHAPMAN  
Chief, FOIA/PA Office  
NSA Initial Denial Authority

Encls:

a/s

# (U) Signals intelligence

UNCLASSIFIED

From Intellipedia

You have new messages (last change).

*This article is a stub. You can help Intellipedia by expanding it.*

**Signals intelligence** is derived from signal intercepts comprising -- however transmitted -- either individually or in combination:

- all communications intelligence (COMINT)
- electronic intelligence (ELINT)
- foreign instrumentation signals intelligence (FISINT)

This article is also on the SIPRNet Intellipedia with additional information.

The NSA is responsible for collecting, processing, and reporting SIGINT. The National SIGINT Committee within NSA advises the Director, NSA, and the DNI on SIGINT policy issues and manages the SIGINT requirements system.

Retrieved from [REDACTED]

Categories: Stub | Articles also on SIPRNet | Intelligence Disciplines | Signals Intelligence | ISR

UNCLASSIFIED

- This page has been accessed 8,753 times.
- 6 watching users
- This page was last modified 16:55, 4 August 2011 by [REDACTED] and others.

(b) (6)

Most recent editors: [REDACTED]

linipedweb7o

Use of this U.S. Government system, authorized or unauthorized, constitutes consent to monitoring of this system. Unauthorized use may subject you to criminal prosecution.

Evidence of unauthorized use collected during monitoring may be used for administrative, criminal, or other adverse actions.

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Approved for Release by NSA on 06-02-2017, FOIA Case # 84683

6/14/2016

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

# (U) Signals Intelligence

~~SECRET~~

From Intellipedia

(U) **Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)** is a form of intelligence that refers to the information derived from foreign communications and electronic transmissions; additionally, it is the collection and processing of foreign communications passed by electromagnetic means and foreign non-communications electromagnetic radiation. Signals Intelligence is information comprised either individually or in combination with all Communications Intelligence (COMINT), Foreign Instrumentation Signals Intelligence (FISINT) or Electronic Intelligence (ELINT) and weapons related Command and Control Signals (PROFORMA). NSA is the controlling authority for all SIGINT.

## (U) US SIGINT System

(U) The organizations who play important roles in the United States SIGINT System are:

- NSA
- CIA
- NRO
- NASIC
- NGA
- DIA

(U) These organizations operate under the National SIGINT Requirements Process.

## (U) References

- Foundations of SIGINT [REDACTED]
- CIA's Siprnet Website [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- SOF SIGINT Collaboration and Reference Site [REDACTED]

Retrieved from [REDACTED]  
Categories: SIGINT | Intelligence | Intelligence Disciplines

Classified By: [REDACTED]  
Derived From: [REDACTED]  
Declassify On: November 30, 2037

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linipdwcb8s

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# (U) Signals intelligence

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From Intellipedia

You have new messages (last change).

(U) **Signals Intelligence** (SIGINT) is a form of Technical Intelligence and is derived from the exploitation of foreign electronic emissions. SIGINT can be in the form of the actual information content of a signal or in the form of its temporal and spectral characteristics called signal operating parameters. SIGINT includes both the raw data and the analysis product of that data. According to Joint Publication 2-0, SIGINT breaks down into three sub disciplines -- ELINT, COMINT, and FISINT.

(U) PROFORMA has, at times, been referred to as the fourth sub discipline of SIGINT.

However, according to NSACSS msg 161738Z AUG 04, (U) NEW DEFINITION FOR

PROFORMA, PROFORMA is "... formatted data **communications** ..." As such, it is one of many different general categories of communications that can be exploited as part of the sub discipline of COMINT. (In fact, the CLEON

course, "Introduction to Space-Based SIGINT Fundamentals," accurately breaks down SIGINT into three sub disciplines : ELINT, COMINT, and FISINT. PROFORMA is properly included as COMINT for that course.)



## Contents

- 1 SIGINT Overview
- 2 (U) Strengths
- 3 (U) Weaknesses
- 4 (U) Assessing SIGINT Sources
- 5 (U) United States SIGINT System
  - 5.1 (U) SIGINT Collectors
- 6 (U) Adversary SIGINT Capabilities
- 7 (U) Links
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## SIGINT Overview

(U) Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) is a category of intelligence comprising either individually or in combination all communications intelligence, electronic intelligence, and foreign instrumentation signals intelligence, however transmitted.<sup>[1]</sup> Types of SIGINT include:

- (U) **COMINT** is technical and intelligence information derived from foreign communications by other than the intended recipients.<sup>[1]</sup> COMINT includes data the intelligence derived from the content of communications and data derived from tracking communications patterns and protocols (traffic analysis), establishing links between intercommunicating parties or groups, and analyzing the meaning of communications.
- (U) **FISINT** A subcategory of signals intelligence, consisting of technical information and intelligence derived from the intercept of foreign electromagnetic emissions associated with the testing and operational deployment of non-US aerospace, surface, and subsurface systems. Foreign instrumentation signals include but are not limited to telemetry,

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beaconry, electronic interrogators, and video data links. <sup>[1]</sup>

- (U) **ELINT** is technical and geolocation information derived from foreign non-communications electromagnetic emanations from other than nuclear detonations or radioactive sources. <sup>[1]</sup> The most common form of ELINT signals are radar signals. <sup>[2]</sup>

## (U) Strengths

- (U) Access to otherwise inaccessible targets
- (U) Passive, non-detectable, stand-off collection
- (U) Accurate permanent record
- (U) Broad coverage
- (U) Electronic order of battle documentation
- (U) A window into communicated actions/decisions
- (U) Early-warning indicator <sup>[3]</sup>

## (U) Weaknesses

- (U) Target must be active
- (U) Subject to deception, encryption, and/or sophistication of signals
- (U) Costly
- (U) Requires highly trained personnel
- (U) Supplementary information required
- (U) Technical sensors limitations <sup>[4]</sup>

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## (U) Assessing SIGINT Sources

(U) To assess the quality and credibility of COMINT reporting, users should consider the following:

- (U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]
- (U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]
- (U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]
- (U//~~FOUO~~) How fluent is the translator in the subject matter under discussion?
- (U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]
- (U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]
- (U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]
- (U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]
- (U//~~FOUO~~) Is the producer a subject matter expert?
- (U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

## (U) United States SIGINT System

(U) The organizations who play important roles in the United States SIGINT System are:

- (U) NSA
- (U) CIA
- (U) NRO
- (U) NASIC
- (U) NGA
- (U) DIA

(U) These organizations operate under the National SIGINT Requirements Process

## (U) SIGINT Collectors

- (U) NRO SIGINT Directorate
- (U) Category: Airborne Platforms
- (U) Category: Shipborne Platforms
- (U) Category: Satellite Platforms
- (U) Category: Land Platforms

## (U) Adversary SIGINT Capabilities

- (U) Iran SIGINT

## (U) Links

- (U) The beginnings of a **SIGINT Terms** glossary can be found here.
- (U) NSA Product Reports [redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

## Daily SIGINT Updates

- (U//~~FOUO~~) NSA Global SIGINT Highlights [redacted] click here
- (U//~~FOUO~~) NSA Global SIGINT Highlights [redacted] to request a GSH account
- (U//~~FOUO~~) NSA Global SIGINT Highlights [redacted] (Intelink Edition)
- (U//~~FOUO~~) NSA Global SIGINT Highlights [redacted] (also available on Intelink [redacted] (RSS feed available!))
- (U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted]

## Useful Links



Intelligence History Portal

- (U) Center for Cryptologic History [redacted]
- (U) CIA History & Heritage Web Site [redacted]
- (U) Intelligence History [redacted]
- (U) Center for the Study of Intelligence [redacted]
- (U) IC History on DNI Connections [redacted]
- (U) CIA Museum [redacted]
- (U) Studies in Intelligence [redacted]
- (U) Intelligence Community Oral History [redacted]

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

## (U) References

1. ↑ 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 [redacted]
2. ↑ U.S. National Intelligence Overview 2013 [redacted]
3. ↑ JIVU. "Introduction to Collection Management," as of 9 January 2008
4. ↑ JIVU. "Introduction to Collection Management," as of 9 January 2008

5. † (U) Defense Intelligence Agency, (U) *Sourcing Defense Intelligence Analysis*, 3 January 2011 .

Retrieved from [REDACTED]

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Categories: INT | SIGINT | Intelligence gathering disciplines

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c2linipdweb3j

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**From:** donotreply@nsa.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016 4:49 AM  
**To:** donotreply@nsa.gov  
**Subject:** FOIA Request (Web form submission)

Title: Mr.

Full Name: John Greenewald

email: john@greenewald.com

Company: The Black Vault

Postal Address: [REDACTED]

Postal City: [REDACTED]

Postal State-prov: Ca [REDACTED]

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Country: United States of America

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Records Requested: To whom it may concern,

This is a non-commercial request made under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 5 U.S.C. S 552. My FOIA requester status as a "representative of the news media" however due to your agency's denial of this status, I hereby submit this request as an "All other" requester.

I prefer electronic delivery of the requested material either via email to john@greenewald.com or via CD-ROM or DVD via postal mail. Please contact me should this FOIA request should incur a charge.

I respectfully request a copy of the Intellipedia entry (from all three Wikis that make up the Intellipedia) for the following entry(s) (Or whatever similar topic may pertain if it is slightly worded differently):

SIGINT

and/or

Signals Intelligence

I also ask that you include a copy of the search results page, when inserting the above words / phrases into the Intellipedia search engine.

Thank you so much for your time, and I am very much looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]