NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-0000

24 February 2000

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

Recently, many allegations have surfaced about activities conducted by the National Security Agency (NSA). We anticipate a continuation, if not an increase, in these allegations for the foreseeable future. In fact, a 27 February 2000 airing of a CBS "60 Minutes" newsmagazine report may feature adverse information about the National Security Agency (NSA). We are providing the attached documents on the oversight of NSA and some answers to frequently asked questions in an effort to answer some of your questions concerning the allegations.

We want to assure you that NSA's activities are conducted in accordance with the highest constitutional, legal, and ethical standards, and in compliance with statutes and regulations designed to protect the privacy rights of U.S. persons. Agency employees are trained to comply with these standards, and an extensive oversight system that includes internal and external reviews exists to ensure compliance.

As is the long-standing policy within the United States Intelligence Community, we must refrain from commenting on actual or alleged intelligence activities; therefore, we can neither confirm nor deny the existence of specific operations. However, we can tell you that NSA operates in strict accordance with U.S. laws and regulations in protecting the privacy rights of U.S. persons.

We invite you to review the NSA web site (http://www.nsa.gov) for additional information and answers to other frequently asked questions.

The Intelligence Authorization Act for FY00 required the Director of NSA to submit a report to Congress on the legal standards for electronic surveillance. If you would like a copy of the report, or if you have any other questions, please contact Karen Clark, in my office, on 301-688-7246.

KENNETH A. HEATH
Chief of Staff
Legislative Affairs Office

Encl:
a/s

Frequently Asked Questions

By its very nature, what we do as a key member of the Intelligence Community requires a high degree of confidentiality. We collect, process, and disseminate intelligence information from foreign electronic signals for national foreign intelligence and counterintelligence purposes and to support military operations. The requirements driving NSA's collection are set at the highest levels of the U.S. Government. NSA also is tasked with preventing foreign adversaries from gaining access to classified national security information.

We stand vigilant in our effort to preserve our nation's security, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We are often asked...

- What does NSA/CSS do? (General Overview of NSA/CSS)
- INFOSEC Facts
- SIGINT Facts
- Your Civil Rights & NSA/CSS
- Current Hot Topics
- Our Social Responsibilities
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    - Environmental Protection
    - Volunteering/Charity Work
- Employment Information
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NSA/CSS Overview

What does NSA do?

The National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSA/CSS) is the Nation's cryptologic organization. Our twofold mission is the **protection of U.S. information systems and the production of foreign intelligence information**. NSA/CSS is on the high-tech frontier of communications and data processing and is a major center of foreign language analysis and research within the Government.

What is "cryptology"?

According to legend, when Julius Caesar sent messages to his trusted associates, he didn't trust the messengers. So he devised a "cryptosystem" or "cipher" -- a method of disguising messages so that only certain people could see through the disguise -- and replaced (in terms of our alphabet) every A with a D, every B with an E, every C with an F, and so on. Only those who knew the "Shift by Three" rule could decipher his message (called a "cryptogram").

Like Caesar, if you are creating and using a cryptosystem, you are practicing "Cryptography." On the other hand, if you are trying to break an opponent's cryptosystem, you are practicing "Cryptanalysis." At NSA/CSS, we practice the science and art of "cryptology," which is the study of both cryptography and cryptanalysis.

When did the NSA/CSS become part of the U.S. Intelligence Community?

President Truman and the National Security Council issued a revised version of the National Security Council Intelligence Directive (NSCID) No. 9 on 24 October 1952, which resulted in the formation of NSA on 4 November 1952.

What organizations are included in the U.S. Intelligence Community?

There are 13 federal organizations in the Intelligence Community. They are:

- National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSA/CSS);
- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA);
- National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA);
- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI);
- Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA);
- National Reconnaissance Office (NRO);
- Department of Energy (DoE);
- Army Intelligence;
- Air Force Intelligence;
- Navy Intelligence;
- Marine Corps Intelligence;
- Department of Treasury;
- Department of State.

What is the Central Security Service?

The Central Security Service (CSS) was established by Presidential Directive in 1972 to promote full partnership between the NSA and the cryptologic elements of the Armed Forces. By combining NSA and CSS, we are able to provide a more unified Department of Defense (DoD) cryptologic effort. The CSS comprises all U.S. military elements — Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines. To further ensure joint operations, the Director of the NSA is also the Chief of the CSS.

Who are NSA/CSS' customers?

The NSA/CSS exists to protect the nation and serve others. We must work collaboratively and corporately to anticipate and meet our customers' needs. Our customers must know that they can count on us to provide them with what they need, when they need it, and in a form they can use. Specifically, we provide intelligence products and services to the White House, Executive Agencies (such as the CIA and State Department), Chairman and Joint

Chiefs of Staff (JCS), military Commanders-in-Chief (CINCs) and component commands, military departments, multinational forces, and our allies. In addition, we provide information assurance products and services to our government customers and to industry.

How many people work for the NSA/CSS and what is its budget?

Neither the number of employees nor the size of the Agency's budget can be publicly disclosed. However, if NSA/CSS were considered a corporation in terms of dollars spent, floor space occupied, and personnel employed, it would rank in the top 10 percent of the Fortune 500 companies. It is far from true that NSA/CSS has an unlimited "black" budget, unknown by other government entities. While the budget and size of NSA/CSS is classified, these details are known by the Office of Management and Budget, by both the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI), and by the Defense Subcommittees of the Appropriations Committees in both houses of Congress. Resources allocated to NSA/CSS are subject to rigorous examination and approval processes.

In 1997, the aggregate figure for all U.S. government intelligence and intelligence-related activities – of which NSA/CSS was one segment – was made public for the first time. The aggregate intelligence budget was $26.6 billion in fiscal year (FY) 1997 and $26.7 billion for FY98. The intelligence budget for FY99 has not been publicly released

What is the breakdown of the NSA/CSS workforce?

NSA/CSS employees are both civilian and military (from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines). The breakdown is approximately 50 percent civilian and 50 percent military. They represent a unique combination of specialties: analysts, engineers, physicists, mathematicians, linguists, computer scientists, researchers, security officers, data flow experts, managers, and administrative and clerical specialists.

Who is the head of NSA/CSS?

Our current Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service (NSA/CSS) is Lt Gen Michael V. Hayden, USAF. According to United States Code 201, the Director, NSA/CSS is appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Defense and approved by the President of the United States.

In accordance with the Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 5100.20, dated December 23, 1971, the Director of NSA/CSS is always a commissioned officer of the military services with at least a rank of three stars during the period of his incumbency. The Deputy Director is always a technically experienced civilian. The Secretary of Defense recommends an individual for the position of Director, NSA/Chief, CSS, and consults the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) for concurrence before the appointment is

approved by the President.

In addition to the Director, the Agency's Executive Leadership Team (ELT) guides the workforce. They are:

- The Deputy Director, currently Miss Barbara McNamara, the highest ranking civilian at NSA.
- The Deputy Director for Operations (DDO), the Deputy Director of Technology (DDT) and the Deputy Director of Information Systems Security (DDI), who are all civilians.

To see the biographies of the Director and the Deputy Director, please see the NSA Leadership pages.

What does the NSA/CSS insignia represent?

In 1965, LTG Marshall S. Carter, USA, Director, NSA ordered a device to be designed to represent the National Security Agency. The resultant insignia you see today is designed to represent the mission of NSA/CSS. In heraldry, the eagle is a symbol of courage, supreme power and authority. Use of the eagle in the NSA/CSS insignia symbolizes the national scope of the mission of the Agency. The Escutcheon, or Shield, placed on the breast of the eagle is a very ancient mode of bearing. A description of the Escutcheon, taken from that of the Great Seal of the United States explains that, "the escutcheon is composed of the chief and pale, the two most honorable ordinaries (common figures). The pieces (paly) represent the several states all joined in one solid compact entire, supporting a chief, which unites the whole and represents Congress." The key in the eagle's talons, representing the key to security, evolves from the emblem of St. Peter the Apostle, and his power to loose and to bind. The shape of the insignia, a circle, represents perpetuity of its continuance, the symbol of eternity.

Does NSA/CSS offer tours of its facilities?

For security reasons, we cannot provide tours of our secure facilities to the general public. We do, however, provide tours of our National Cryptologic Museum.

What is the National Cryptologic Museum?

NSA/CSS is very proud of its National Cryptologic Museum, located on Colony 7 Road, just off Rte. 32 in Maryland. The museum collection contains thousands of artifacts, which collectively serve to illustrate the history of the cryptologic profession. The use of SIGINT is believed to have directly contributed to shortening World War II by at least one year. During the Cuban Missile Crisis, SIGINT was the only window through which senior policy makers and military officials could see the drama unfolding on the high seas.

Providing and protecting sensitive information has been of vital importance in both peace and war throughout the history of our nation. Within the museum is a copy of NSA/CSS's Memorial Wall, which honors over 150 cryptologists who have been killed in the line of duty since 1945. Just outside the museum, you

will find the "National Vigilance Park" and the "Aerial Reconnaissance Memorial." This memorial honors the many aerial reconnaissance crews who lost their lives in the performance of their duties. We encourage you visit this memorial dedicated to those who have served our nation in the cryptologic field.

The museum is open to the public and school groups and civic organizations are welcome. Hours of operation are from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday-Friday and from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM on Saturday.

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INFOSEC Facts

What is meant by "protection" of U.S. information systems?

The INFOSEC mission is to provide the solutions, products and services, and to conduct defensive information operations to achieve *information assurance* for information infrastructures (for example, network or communication backbones) critical to U.S. national security interests.

Does that mean NSA/CSS prosecutes computer hackers?

We are not a law enforcement agency and, therefore, do not prosecute hackers. All hacking events detected during the course of NSA's SIGINT or INFOSEC activities are turned over to the FBI for investigation and to the Department of Justice for prosecution.

My company needs someone to test its systems for security or protect some of its information. Can NSA/CSS help?

The NSA/CSS INFOSEC mission provides leadership, products, and services to protect classified and unclassified national security systems against exploitation from interception, unauthorized access, or related technical intelligence threats. If your company provides support to defense or national security, you may qualify for help. Check the Information Systems Security Organization's (ISSO) portion of our Web page.

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SIGINT Facts

What do you mean by production of foreign intelligence information?

The NSA/CSS SIGINT mission is to intercept and analyze foreign adversaries' communications signals, many of which are protected by codes and other complex countermeasures. We collect, process, and disseminate intelligence reports on foreign intelligence targets

in response to intelligence requirements set at the highest levels of government.

Executive Order 12333 authorizes agencies of the intelligence community to produce foreign intelligence and foreign counterintelligence consistent with applicable U.S. law and with full consideration of the rights of United States persons. The Order defines "foreign intelligence" and "counterintelligence" as follows:

Foreign intelligence means information relating to the capabilities, intentions, and activities of foreign powers, organizations or persons.

Counterintelligence means information gathered and activities conducted to protect against espionage, other intelligence activities, sabotage, or assassinations conducted for or on behalf of foreign powers, organizations or persons, or international terrorist activities.

NSA/CSS' Responsibility to Uphold Your Civil Rights

Does NSA/CSS unconstitutionally spy on Americans?

No, we do not unconstitutionally "spy on" or target Americans. The NSA/CSS performs SIGINT operations against foreign powers or agents of foreign powers. We strictly follow laws and regulations designed to preserve every American's privacy rights under the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution. The Fourth Amendment protects U.S. persons from unreasonable searches and seizures by the U.S. Government or any person or agency acting on behalf of the U.S. Government.

I believe that as a U.S. person that I am safe in the United States. But what happens when I travel abroad? Can you spy on me then?

No - you are still covered by the same rules, regulations, and oversight procedures, regardless of where you are in the world.

Who is considered a U.S. Person?

Federal law and executive order define a U.S. Person as:

- a citizen of the United States;
- an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence;
- an unincorporated association with a substantial number of members who are citizens of the U.S. or are aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or,
- a corporation that is incorporated in the U.S.

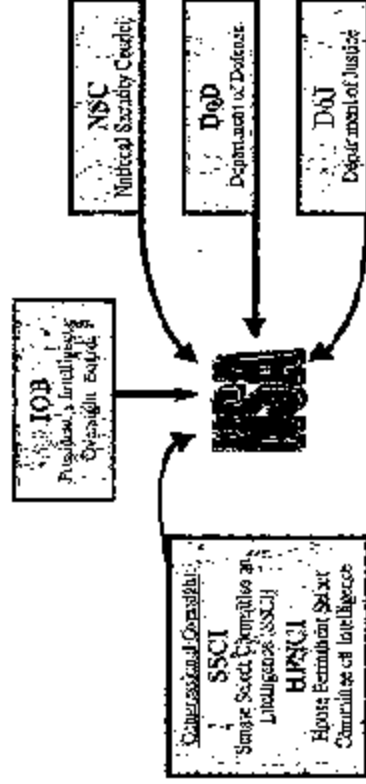### How are the activities of NSA/CSS regulated?

The U.S. Constitution, federal law, executive order and Executive

Branch and Department of Defense regulations, govern NSA/CSS activities. They are designed to balance the government's need for foreign intelligence information and individual privacy rights in a reasonable way. The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI) ensures adherence by the Agency to laws and regulations, especially with regard to protection of U.S. citizens' right to privacy (including military and civilian Agency employees -- who are all U.S. citizens).

How is compliance with the regulations monitored?

An effective oversight process involving the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches is in place to ensure that NSA/CSS complies with the regulations. At the very top, the President's Intelligence Oversight Board (IOB) and the Congressional Oversight Committees (both Senate and House of Representatives) keep fully informed of our intelligence activities. In addition to those entities, the National Security Council (NSC), the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Department of Justice also provide oversight.

Who Provides Oversight?

- NSC — National Security Council
- DoD — Department of Defense
- DoJ — Department of Justice
- IOB — President's Intelligence Oversight Board
- Congressional Oversight: SSCI — Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI); HPSCI — House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
- NSA

Who verifies the legitimacy of the regulations?

The regulations are approved by the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General and are vetted with the HPSCI and SSCI.

How does NSA/CSS ensure that its employees are aware of and abide by the regulations?

NSA/CSS conducts extensive training of its employees to ensure that the workforce is aware of and understands the regulations governing NSA/CSS activities. The portion of the NSA/CSS workforce charged with foreign intelligence production receives very specific training reminding them of their responsibility to protect the privacy of U.S. persons. Access to intelligence information is contingent upon the completion of such training

sessions. To ensure that everyone at NSA remains sensitive to such responsibilities, each employee must read the regulations and sign that they have read and will abide by them each and every year.

Couldn't the Agency simply ask its allies to provide them with information about U.S. persons?

We have been prohibited by executive order since 1978 from having any person or government agency, whether foreign or U.S., conduct any activity on our behalf that we are prohibited from conducting ourselves. Therefore, NSA does not ask its allies to conduct such activities on its behalf nor does NSA do so on behalf of its allies.

Does NSA/CSS have internal oversight?

NSA/CSS has its own internal oversight process within the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The OIG has the authority to conduct inspections, audits and investigations to ensure that NSA/CSS operates with integrity, efficiency and effectiveness. The OIG is authorized access to all information, records, reports, documents, electronic systems/material, personnel and physical areas at NSA/CSS HQ and at all field sites. The OIG has several areas of responsibility. With regard to oversight, the OIG is responsible for overseeing compliance with Executive Order 12333 and related implementing directives and regulations to ensure the lawful execution of intelligence operations. Results of their oversight efforts are reported to the Department of Defense and the President's IOB.

In addition, the Deputy Director, NSA, chairs an NSA Intelligence Oversight Board consisting of the Deputy Director, the Inspector General, and the General Counsel. The Board conducts oversight reviews of NSA activities. The NSA General Counsel as well as an office within the Directorate of Operations conduct oversight activities as well.

How can I find out if the government has records on me or records which might refer to me?

Both the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act establish procedures for individuals to seek access to Agency records.

The Privacy Act is a statute which regulates the collection, maintenance, use and dissemination of personal information by federal agencies. It allows U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens access to records which are maintained by that individual's name or personal identifier. Typical Privacy Act records at this Agency would include the personnel, security, training, and medical records of Agency employees, applicants, and affiliates.

The Freedom of Information Act, on the other hand, is an access statute which allows anyone the right to seek access to government records. Since NSA is authorized by law to collect only foreign intelligence information, we would not ordinarily expect to find

responsive information about U.S. individuals in other than the Privacy Act type files.

You may submit a request under the Freedom of Information Act by visiting our web page or by writing to NSA/CSS at:

The National Security Agency
FOI/PA Services (N5P51)
9800 Savage Road, STE 6248
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6248

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Current Items of Interest

Why can't you talk about something after it's been in the newspaper?

NSA/CSS has a responsibility to the citizens of the United States not to disclose our sources or methods of intelligence, as we could potentially lose vital information, with dire consequences to the United States. For this reason, the long-standing policy within the United States Intelligence Community is that we refrain from commenting on intelligence issues, alleged or otherwise.

What do you think about the recent change in legislation related to encryption export?

NSA/CSS fully supports the Administration's encryption export policy. We believe that it is a balanced approach that addresses vital national security needs while allowing U.S. companies to export encryption hardware and software more broadly.

Lately, I've seen NSA/CSS a lot in movies and on TV. Do you assassinate people? Do you secretly perform experiments on us?

Because we work with highly sensitive information, we are frequently the subject of speculation – and highly imaginative and creative fictious pieces in the media. However, it is important to distinguish fiction from fact. The fact is that the Executive Order 12333 (EO 12333) strictly prohibits any intelligence agency from conducting these unethical activities, and we strictly abide by the Order.

To specifically answer your two questions, here are excerpts from EO 12333:

Regarding human experimentation: "No agency within the Intelligence Community shall sponsor, contract for or conduct research on human subjects except in accordance with guidelines issued by the Department of Health and Human Services. The subject's informed consent shall be documented as required by those guidelines."

Regarding assassination: "No person employed by or acting on behalf of the United States Government shall engage in, or conspire to engage in, assassination."

My company and its products and services can help NSA/CSS with its mission. How can I get a contract?

The Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office (SADBU) may be able to help. You can contact them on (301) 688-6678. If you are a larger business, try (301) 688-7544.

Our Social Responsibilities

I've heard that you are one of Maryland's largest employers. Do you take any social responsibility towards your community?

NSA/CSS is the largest single employer in Anne Arundel County. Our employees provide helpful support and make contributions to the local community in a variety of ways:

For the Health of the Community:

- NSA/CSS' on-site Blood Donor Program has been operating in partnership with the American Red Cross (ARC) for over a quarter of a century. Agency employees donate the largest amount of blood (approximately 500 units per month) to the Chesapeake/Potomac region. Recently, when the regional ARC was scheduled to ship emergency blood supplies to Africa in the wake of the embassy bombings (it was the only chapter scheduled to ship blood in the U.S.), NSA/CSS employees provided an overwhelming response to ensure that the local supply didn't run out.

- The C. W. Bill Young Bone Marrow Center in Bethesda and NSA/CSS co-sponsor bone marrow screenings twice a year. A total of 4,110 names of Agency employees and military assignees have been added to the National Bone Marrow Registry, nearly 900 in 1998 alone. To date, 19 people have been asked to be donors...a relatively small percentage, perhaps, but a beacon of hope for those who receive a successful match and transplant.

- A partnership with the Walter Reed Army Medical Center enables employees to donate white cells or platelets through hemapheresis extraction, on site. Sixty people donate on a regular basis, accounting for over 2,100 extractions since 1995.

Partnership with Education:

- NSA/CSS' Project OUTREACH provides excess computers and laboratory equipment to non-profit educational

institutions to support mathematics and science education. Since its inception, NSA/CSS has donated thousands of pieces of equipment to public schools, colleges, universities, and boards of education in 25 states and Washington, D.C. In FY98 alone, equipment with an initial purchase price valuation of over $13 million was donated to 68 schools in seven states and the District of Columbia.

• NSA/CSS' "Partners in Education" program is a collaboration between NSA/CSS and three local schools. Now in its sixth year, the "Partners in Education" program has over 250 volunteers who help repair school equipment, install and maintain computers, mentor and tutor students, and sponsor a variety of clubs and special programs. During the 1997-1998 school year. NSA/CSS employees contributed more than 1,800 hours at these three schools.

• The High School Work Study (HSWS) Program at NSA/CSS has existed for more than 30 years. HSWS participants are given many career opportunities and responsibilities as clerical assistants and computer aides, and become part of the NSA/CSS team. More than 2,800 high school seniors from local area high schools have participated in the HSWS Program to date, and over 1,630 of them have accepted employment with NSA/CSS following graduation.

• The Mathematics Education Partnership Program (MEPP) is an Agency outreach program to promote math and science education. It works with nearly 100 local schools and is designed to encourage the learning of math and the use of technology in the classroom.

• NSA/CSS has a Gifted and Talented Program for local area high school students who are in the top ranks of their high school and show an interest and aptitude in electrical engineering or computer science. The students work part time at NSA/CSS during the summer following their junior and senior years of high school. With a mentor's assistance, they engage in research and developmental projects relating to real work applications in electrical engineering or computer science.

• One of NSA/CSS' oldest educational programs is the Cooperative Education Program (Co-op). This nationally recognized program allows college students to integrate classroom study with practical work experience at NSA/CSS in the areas of computer science, engineering, and selected foreign languages. NSA/CSS currently employs 163 Co-ops from 50 colleges and universities.

• NSA/CSS has been a leader in supporting historically black colleges and universities and minority institutions. To increase the opportunities for these institutions to participate in and benefit from federal programs, and to assist in strengthening their ability to provide quality education, NSA/CSS provided $3 million in FY98, with $950 thousand being disbursed locally.

Environmental Protection:

- Each year, the NSA/CSS recycles over 2,300 tons of aluminum, cardboard, toner cartridges, classified aluminum platters, paper and lead acid batteries.

- NSA/CSS' Secure Paper Conversion Services Work Center declassifies and recycles all water-soluble paper through the operation of a wet vat and baler system. After paper is converted to pulp, it is transported to the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office (DRMO), sold to paper companies and converted into various paper and cardboard products such as pizza boxes, clothing boxes, and wrappings for food products.

- The revenue generated from the recovery of precious metals in the debris left over from declassifying the NSA/CSS' film and printed circuit boards goes to the US Treasury. Over the past ten years, NSA/CSS has returned over $7.8 million to the Treasury Department from its recycling efforts.

- Since developing a partnership with a private electronics recycler in February 1997, the NSA/CSS has generated over $1 million in revenue through its computer recycling operation.

- To keep mercury out of Maryland's landfills, NSA/CSS recycles its fluorescent bulbs.

Volunteering and Working for Charity:

- Approximately 26 percent of the total contributions received by the Combined Federal Campaign of Central Maryland (which distributes monetary contributions to charity) come from Agency employees. Contributions made in 1999 enabled NSA/CSS distinction as a member of the "Million Dollar Club" to continue for a 13th year in a row.

- NSA/CSS' "VolunteerLink" Program connects NSA/CSS employees with volunteer service opportunities in their communities.

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Employment Information

How can I become an employee at NSA/CSS?

NSA/CSS offers great job opportunities and is an organization committed to providing our employees with the best possible workplace in terms of finding a balance between work and life. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer and we are committed to cultural diversity in the workplace. At a minimum, you will need to be a U.S. citizen.

Because of the nature of our work -- and because our application structure is detailed (physical, psychological and polygraph exams, interviews, and background checks for your security clearance) -- we suggest you apply at least six to eight months in advance of the date you wish to begin work.

What are the kinds of skills NSA/CSS needs?

Currently, the NSA/CSS has limited opportunities in the following career fields: Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Foreign Languages (Slavic, Middle Eastern, Asian and other exotic or low density languages or dialects). For more employment information, visit our employment site.

Our Jargon and Acronyms:

CIPHER -- A system for concealing plain text by transposing the letters or numbers or substituting other letters or numbers according to a key. Also called a "cryptosystem."

CODE -- A system for replacing words, phrases, letters or numbers by other words or groups of letters or numbers for concealment or brevity.

COMINT -- Communications Intelligence - Information obtained for intelligence purposes from the intercept of foreign communications (by other than the intended recipient).

COMPUSEC -- Computer Security -- The protection of computers from exploitation by foreign intelligence services and "hackers."

COMSECCRYPTOLOGY -- The science and art of making and breaking codes and ciphers.

CRYPTOGRAPHY -- The science and art of making codes and ciphers.

CRYPTANALYSIS -- The conversion of encrypted messages into plain text without having the initial knowledge of the key used in encryption.

CSS -- Central Security Service - The CSS comprises all U.S. military elements -- Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines and works to ensure a full partnership between NSA/CSS and the military.

DDO -- The Deputy Director for Operations, NSA/CSS.

DDI -- The Deputy Director for Information Systems Security, NSA/CSS.

DDT -- The Deputy Director for Technology, NSA/CSS.

DECODE -- To convert from an encoded message to equivalent

plain text.

DIRNSA – The Director, NSA/Chief, CSS

DoD – The Department of Defense.

ENCODE – To replace plain text words with code groups.

ENCRYPT – To conceal plain text by use of a code or cipher.

ELINT – Electronic Intelligence – Information obtained for intelligence purposes from the intercept of foreign electromagnetic noncommunications transmissions (by other than the intended recipient). The most common sources of this type of information are foreign radar signals.

ELT – The DIRNSA's Executive Leadership Team.

FOIA – The Freedom of Information Act.

HPSCI – The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, which provides oversight on NSA/CSS' intelligence activities.

INFOSEC – Information Systems Security – provides a wide variety of services to protect classified and unclassified national security systems. The organization within NSA/CSS charged with this mission is called the ISSO – the Information Systems Security Organization.

INTERCEPT – The acquisition of electromagnetic signals such as radio or radar by using electronic equipment for the purpose of gathering intelligence information on foreign entities. The material collected is itself sometimes referred to as intercept.

IOB – The President's Intelligence Oversight Board, which is charged with oversight of all U.S. foreign intelligence activities.

JCS – The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff.

MEPP – NSA/CSS' Mathematics Education Partnership Program.

OMB – The President's Office of Management and Budget.

OPSEC – Operations Security – The process of denying potential adversaries any information about capabilities and/or intentions by identifying, controlling and protecting generally unclassified evidence of the planning and execution of sensitive activities.

NSA/CSS – The National Security Agency/Central Security Service.

NSC – The National Security Council.

NSCID – The National Security Council Intelligence Directive.

SADBU – NSA/CSS' Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Office.

SIGINT – Signals Intelligence – the generic term for COMINT plus ELINT.

SECDEF – The U.S. Secretary of Defense.

SSCI – The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which provides oversight on NSA/CSS' intelligence activities.

USA – United States Army.

USAF – United States Air Force.

USMC – United States Marines Corps.

USN – United States Navy.

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