# ODNI FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions

## Part 1: About the Office of the Director of National Intelligence

a. **When was ODNI Established?**
b. **Who is the head of the ODNI?**
c. **What does the DNI do?**
d. **Who oversees the ODNI?**
e. **What is the significance of the ODNI seal?**
f. **Is the ODNI part of the CIA?**
g. **What is the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA)?**
h. **Does the ODNI offer tours?**

## Part 2: About the Intelligence Community

a. **What is the intelligence community (IC)?**
b. **Who are the members of the US IC?**
c. **What is the vision and mission of the IC?**
d. **What does the IC protect the United States against?**
e. **How is intelligence collected?**
f. **What is counterintelligence?**

## Part 3: Employment at ODNI

a. **Who works for ODNI?**
b. **How do I become an ODNI employee?**
c. **What are the application prerequisites?**
d. **Does the ODNI offer internships?**
e. **Can I volunteer to work at ODNI?**
f. **How long is the typical application process?**
g. **How long does the security clearance process take?**
h. **Where can I learn more about ODNI and IC jobs?**

## Part 4: About this Website

a. **What is RSS?**
b. **How can I use RSS?**
c. **Where can I get an RSS reader?**

d. **What are the ODNI RSS terms of use?**
e. **Can I use Director of National Intelligence News Feeds on my website?**
f. **What are ODNI's Privacy Act policies?**

## Part 5: General Questions

a. **What is the mailing address for the ODNI?Does the ODNI release information to the public?**
b. **How do I submit a FOIA/Privacy Act request?**
c. **Whom may I contact if I would like to invite someone to speak to my organization about the ODNI and/or Intelligence Community?**
d. **Whom do I contact to report a crime or suspected terrorist activity?**
e. **Whom should I call if I have a question that is not answered here?**

---

## Office of the Director of National Intelligence

### When was the ODNI established?

The ODNI began operations on April 22, 2005. However, the idea of a Director of National Intelligence (DNI) dates to 1955 when a blue-ribbon study commissioned by Congress recommended that the Director of Central Intelligence should employ a deputy to run the CIA so that the director could focus on coordinating the overall intelligence effort. This notion emerged as a consistent theme in many subsequent studies of the Intelligence Community commissioned by both the legislative and executive branches over the next five decades. It was the attacks of September 11, 2001, however, that finally moved forward the longstanding call for major intelligence reform and the creation of a Director of National Intelligence.

Post-9/11 investigations included a joint Congressional inquiry and the independent National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States (better known as the 9/11 Commission). The report of the 9/11 Commission in July 2004 proposed sweeping change in the Intelligence Community, including the creation of a National Intelligence Director. Very soon after the best-selling report was released, the federal government moved forward to undertake reform. President Bush signed four Executive Orders in August 2004, which strengthened and reformed the Intelligence Community as much as possible without legislation. In Congress, both the House and Senate passed bills with major amendments to the National Security Act of 1947. Intense negotiations to reconcile the two bills ultimately led to the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which President George W. Bush signed into law on

# ODNI FAQ

December 17.

In February 2005, the President announced that John D. Negroponte, ambassador to Iraq , was his nominee to be the first Director of National Intelligence and Lt. Gen. Michael V. Hayden, USAF, as the first Principal Deputy DNI, which earned him his fourth star. On April 21, 2005, in the Oval Office, Amb. Negroponte and Gen. Hayden were sworn in, and the ODNI began operations at 7:00 AM on April 22.

**Who is the head of the ODNI?**

The ODNI is headed by the Director of National Intelligence, or DNI, who is appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate. The current DNI is James R. Clapper.

**What does the DNI do?**

The Director of National Intelligence (DNI) serves as the head of the Intelligence Community (IC), overseeing and directing the implementation of the National Intelligence Program (budget) and acting as the principal advisor to the President, the National Security Council, and the Homeland Security Council for intelligence matters related to the national security. Working together with the Principal Deputy DNI (PDDNI), the Office of the DNI's goal is to effectively integrate foreign, military and domestic intelligence in defense of the homeland and of United States interests abroad.

With this goal in mind, Congress provided the DNI with a number of authorities and duties, as outlined in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act (IRTPA) of 2004. These charge the DNI to:

- Ensure that timely and objective national intelligence is provided to the President, the heads of departments and agencies of the executive branch; the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and senior military commanders; and the Congress
- Establish objectives and priorities for collection, analysis, production, and dissemination of national intelligence
- Ensure maximum availability of and access to intelligence information within the Intelligence Community
- Develop and ensure the execution of an annual budget for the National Intelligence program (NIP) based on budget proposals provided by IC component organizations
- Oversee coordination of relationships with the intelligence or security services of foreign governments and international organizations
- Ensure the most accurate analysis of intelligence is derived from all sources to

support national security needs
- Develop personnel policies and programs to enhance the capacity for joint operations and to facilitate staffing of community management functions
- Oversee the development and implementation of a program management plan for acquisition of major systems, doing so jointly with the Secretary of Defense for DoD programs, that includes cost, schedule, and performance goals and program milestone criteria

**Who oversees the ODNI?**

The Intelligence Community is subject to external oversight from the Executive and Legislative branches. Within the Executive, the IC works closely with the National Security Council (NSC). Other Executive organizations involved in oversight include the following:

*President's Intelligence Advisory Board (PIAB):* The PIAB provides advice to the President concerning the quality and adequacy of intelligence collection, of analysis and estimates, of counterintelligence, and of other intelligence activities. The PIAB, through its Intelligence Oversight Board, also advises the President on the legality of foreign intelligence activities. Unique within the government, the PIAB traditionally has been tasked with providing the President with an independent source of advice on the effectiveness with which the intelligence community is meeting the nation's intelligence needs and the vigor and insight with which the community plans for the future. The PIAB consists of not more than 16 members selected from among distinguished citizens outside the government who are qualified on the basis of achievement, experience, independence, and integrity.

*President's Intelligence Oversight Board (IOB):* Once a separate organization under the President, the IOB was made a standing committee of the PIAB in 1993. The IOB consists of not more than four members of the PIAB appointed by the Chairman of the PIAB. The mission is to oversee the Intelligence Community's compliance with the Constitution and all applicable laws, Executive Orders, and Presidential Directives. In reviewing the legality and propriety of intelligence activities, the Board advises the President on intelligence activities that the Board believes may be unlawful or contrary to Executive Order or presidential directive; are not being adequately addressed by the Attorney General, the Director of National Intelligence, or the head of the department or agency concerned; or should be immediately brought to his attention.

*Office of Management and Budget (OMB):* OMB is part of the Executive Office of the President. It reviews intelligence budgets in light of presidential policies and priorities, clears proposed testimony, and approves draft intelligence legislation for submission to Congress.

# ODNI FAQ

Within the Congress, principal oversight responsibility rests with the two intelligence committees. By law, the President must ensure that these two committees are kept "fully and currently" informed of the activities of the Intelligence Community, including any "significant anticipated intelligence activities." Notice is also required to be provided to both committees of all covert action programs approved by the President as well as all "significant intelligence failures."

*Senate Select Committee on Intelligence (SSCI):* The membership of the SSCI has ranged from 13 to 17, with the majority party in Congress having one more member than the minority. Members of the SSCI serve 8-year terms. In addition to its role in annually authorizing appropriations for intelligence activities, the SSCI carries out oversight investigations and inquiries as required. It also handles presidential nominations referred to the Senate for the positions of DNI, Principle Deputy DNI, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, and Inspector General of CIA, and reviews treaties referred to the Senate for ratification as necessary to determine the ability of the Intelligence Community to verify the provisions of the treaty under consideration.

*House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI):* The membership of the HPSCI is currently set at 19 members and is proportional to the partisan makeup of the entire House of Representatives. Members may be appointed for terms up to eight years. Like its Senate counterpart, the HPSCI conducts oversight investigations and inquiries in addition to processing the annual authorization of appropriations for intelligence.

*Other Committees:* In addition to the intelligence committees, other congressional committees occasionally become involved in oversight matters by virtue of their overlapping jurisdictions and responsibilities. The armed services, homeland security, and judiciary committees of each House, for example, exercise concurrent jurisdiction over the Departments of Defense and Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence activities, respectively.

Through these interactions, the IC keeps policy and decision makers well informed of intelligence related to national security issues, and Congress maintains oversight of intelligence activities.

**What is the significance of the ODNI seal?**

The ODNI seal incorporates the DNI's charge to oversee and coordinate the foreign and domestic activities of the United States Intelligence Community. The nine elements depicted in the ODNI seal symbolize:

- 

American Bald Eagle - derived from the Great Seal of the United States , the eagle represents the sovereignty of the United States
- Escutcheon or shield - composed of 13 stripes, white signifying purity and innocence, and red signifying hardiness and valor
- Banner stating "E Pluribus Unum" - Latin for "out of many, one", signifies this new organization uniting the many organizations in the Intelligence Community
- Olive Branch - represents the power of peace
- 13 Arrows - represents the power of war
- Field of Blue (background of the seal) - signifying vigilance, perseverance and justice
- 50 White Stars - represent the 50 states of the United States
- Gold Lettering - spelling out "Office of the Director of National Intelligence" and " United States of America ", symbolize integrity and the highest ideals and goals

**Is the ODNI part of the CIA?**

No. The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 amended the National Security Act of 1947 to provide for a Director of National Intelligence who would assume some of the roles formerly fulfilled by the Director of Central Intelligence, with a separate Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, who serves as the head of the Central Intelligence Agency and reports to the Director of National Intelligence.

**What is the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA)?**

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (IRTPA) was approved by the Senate (bill 89-2), and President George W. Bush signed the Act on December 17, 2004, making it law. This act set into motion the reform of the US Intelligence Community. The Act is divided into eight Titles, as follows.

- "Reform of the intelligence community"
- "Federal Bureau of Investigation"
- "Security clearances"
- "Transportation security"
- "Border protection, immigration, and visa matters"
- "Terrorism prevention"
- "Implementation of 9/11 Commission recommendations"
- "Other matters"

In the words of President Bush, at the signing of the Act in 2004, "Under this new law, our vast intelligence enterprise will become more unified, coordinated and effective. It will enable us to

better do our duty, which is to protect the American people."

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 also established the National Counterterrorism Center, National Counterproliferation Center, National Intelligence Centers, and Joint Intelligence Community Council -- all with the single mission of protecting the United States of America 's people and interests from enemies both at home and abroad. Click here to review the IRTPA.

**Does the ODNI offer tours?**

No, the ODNI does not offer tours.

## About the Intelligence Community:

**What is the intelligence community (IC)?**

The IC is a federation of executive branch agencies and organizations that work separately and together to conduct intelligence activities necessary for the conduct of foreign relations and the protection of the national security of the United States. These activities include:

- Collection of information needed by the President, the National Security Council, the Secretaries of State and Defense, and other Executive Branch officials for the performance of their duties and responsibilities.
- Production and dissemination of intelligence.
- Collection of information concerning, and the conduct of activities to protect against, intelligence activities directed against the US, international terrorist and international narcotics activities, and other hostile activities directed against the US by foreign powers, organizations, persons, and their agents.
- Administrative and support activities within the US and abroad necessary for the performance of authorized activities.
- Such other intelligence activities as the President may direct from time to time.

**Who are the members of the US Intelligence Community (IC)?**

The IC is a federation of executive branch agencies and organizations that work separately and together to conduct intelligence activities necessary for the conduct of foreign relations and the protection of the national security of the United States. There are 17 federal organizations in the Intelligence Community.

# ODNI FAQ

**What is the vision and mission of the IC?**

The United States Intelligence Community must constantly strive for and exhibit three characteristics essential to our effectiveness. The IC must be integrated: a team making the whole greater than the sum of its parts. We must also be agile: an enterprise with an adaptive, diverse, continually learning, and mission-driven intelligence workforce that embraces innovation and takes initiative. Moreover, the IC must exemplify America's values: operating under the rule of law, consistent with Americans' expectations for protection of privacy and civil liberties, respectful of human rights, and in a manner that retains the trust of the American people.?

**What does the IC protect the United States against?**

The threat to the United States that the Intelligence Community must mitigate takes several forms. In addition to conventional military threats that have challenged us in the past, new transnational problems involve the possibilities of:

*Terrorism*: Terrorism means premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets by subnational groups or clandestine agents, usually intended to influence an audience – violence as evidenced in the US on 11 September 2001.

*Proliferation*: Proliferation refers to the provision of nuclear weapons and/or technology by states that possess them to states that do not.

*Chemical Warfare*: Chemical Warfare can be considered the military use of toxic substances such that the chemical effects of these substances on exposed personnel result in incapacitation or death. It is the impact of chemical effects instead of physical effects that distinguishes chemical weapons from conventional weapons, even though both contain chemicals. A chemical weapon comprises two main parts: the agent and a means to deliver it. Optimally, the delivery system disseminates the agent as a cloud of fine droplets. This permits coverage of a broad amount of territory evenly and efficiently.

*Biological Warfare:* Biological Warfare is the use of pathogens or toxins for military purposes. BW agents are inherently more toxic than CW nerve agents on a weight-for-weight basis and can potentially provide broader coverage per pound of payload than CW agents. Moreover, they are potentially more effective because most are naturally occurring pathogens – such as bacteria and viruses – which are self-replicating and have specific physiologically targeted effects, whereas nerve agents are manufactured chemicals that disrupt physiological pathways in a general way.

*Information Infrastructure Attack:* Political activism on the Internet has generated a wide range of activity, from using e-mail and web sites to organize, to web page defacements and denial-of-service attacks. These computer-based attacks are usually referred to as hacktivism, a marriage of hacking and political activism.

*Narcotics Trafficking:* Drug dependence is a chronic, relapsing disorder that exacts an enormous cost on individuals, families, businesses, communities, and nations. Addicted individuals frequently engage in self-destructive and criminal behavior. Along with prevention and treatment, law enforcement is essential for reducing drug use. Illegal drug trafficking inflicts violence and corruption on our communities. Law enforcement is the first line of defense against such unacceptable activity. The Intelligence Community must support this defense to the extent feasible and allowable by law.

**How is intelligence collected?**

There are six basic intelligence sources, or collection disciplines:

- Signals Intelligence (SIGINT)
- Imagery Intelligence (IMINT)
- Measurement and Signature Intelligence (MASINT)
- Human-Source Intelligence (HUMINT)
- Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT)
- Geospatial Intelligence (GEOINT)

*SIGINT:* Signals intelligence is derived from signal intercepts comprising -- however transmitted -- either individually or in combination: all communications intelligence (COMINT), electronic intelligence (ELINT) and foreign instrumentation signals intelligence (FISINT).

The National Security Agency 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.

*IMINT:* Imagery Intelligence includes representations of objects reproduced electronically or by optical means on film, electronic display devices, or other media. Imagery can be derived from visual photography, radar sensors, and electro-optics.

NGA is the manager for all imagery intelligence activities, both classified and unclassified, within the government, including requirements, collection, processing, exploitation, dissemination,

archiving, and retrieval.

*MASINT:* Measurement and Signature Intelligence is technically derived intelligence data other than imagery and SIGINT. The data results in intelligence that locates, identifies, or describes distinctive characteristics of targets. It employs a broad group of disciplines including nuclear, optical, radio frequency, acoustics, seismic, and materials sciences.

Examples of this might be the distinctive radar signatures of specific aircraft systems or the chemical composition of air and water samples. The Directorate for MASINT and Technical Collection (DT), a component of the Ddefense Intelligence Agency, is the focus for all national and Department of Defense MASINT matters.

*HUMINT:* Human intelligence is derived from human sources. To the public, HUMINT remains synonymous with espionage and clandestine activities; however, most of HUMINT collection is performed by overt collectors such as strategic debriefers and military attaches. It is the oldest method for collecting information, and until the technical revolution of the mid to late twentieth century, it was the primary source of intelligence.

*OSINT:* Open-Source Intelligence is publicly available information appearing in print or electronic form including radio, television, newspapers, journals, the Internet, commercial databases, and videos, graphics, and drawings. While open-source collection responsibilities are broadly distributed through the IC, the major collectors are the DNI's Open Source Center (OSC) and the National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC).

*GEOINT:* Geospatial Intelligence is the analysis and visual representation of security related activities on the earth. It is produced through an integration of imagery, imagery intelligence, and geospatial information.

**What is counterintelligence?**

Counterintelligence (CI) is the business of identifying and dealing with foreign intelligence threats to the United States and its interests. Its core concern is the intelligence services of foreign states and similar organizations of non-state actors, such as transnational terrorist groups. Counterintelligence has both a defensive mission - protecting the nation's secrets and assets against foreign intelligence penetration - and an offensive mission - finding out what foreign intelligence organizations are planning to better defeat their aims.

As defined in Executive Order 12333, "counterintelligence means information gathered and activities conducted to identify, deceive, exploit, disrupt, or protect against espionage, other

intelligence activities, sabotage, or assassinations conducted for or on behalf of foreign powers, organizations, or persons, or their agents, or international terrorist organizations or activities."

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center (NCSC), under the leadership of the National Counterintelligence Executive (NCIX), was created to serve as the head of national counterintelligence for the USG and provide strategic direction to the counterintelligence community.

NCSC coordinates counterintelligence outreach efforts and the dissemination of warnings to the private sector on intelligence threats to the U.S. Visit the NCSC website at www.ncsc.gov for an in-depth look into the counterintelligence vision and mission for preserving our national security.

## About ODNI/IC Employment:

### Who works for ODNI?

The ODNI is a senior-level agency that provides oversight to the Intelligence Community. ODNI is primarily a staff organization that employs subject-matter experts in the areas of collection, analysis, acquisition, policy, human resources, and management.

### How do I become an ODNI employee?

Jobs available with the ODNI are posted on the USAJobs website . Interested applicants should apply to specific vacancy listings.

### What are the application requisites?

Please review each vacancy announcement for the specific application requirements for each position.

### Does the ODNI offer internships or scholarships?

No, the ODNI does not offer internships or scholarships. However, some IC agencies do provide internships and scholarships. You may visit www.intelligence.gov for additional information on available opportunities.

### Can I volunteer to work at ODNI?

Because so much of the ODNI's work involves classified material and requires security

clearances involving an extensive background investigation, there are no volunteer opportunities available with the ODNI.

**Do you have to be a US citizen to work for ODNI?**

Yes.

**How long is the typical application process?**

The total process can take up to six to eight weeks (not including the security clearance process). Vacancy announcements are typically advertised for two weeks. Once the vacancy closes a hiring manager receives the applications within three to five business days for the initial screening. Then, interviews are usually conducted, followed by the hiring manager's submission of the "Request to Hire" form, then a conditional offer is made to the applicant.

Please note that our recruiting office will contact job applicants within 45 days regarding the status of their application, and additional information will not be provided in response to phone calls.

**How long does the security clearance process take?**

The security clearance process can take up to four to six months, but will vary per applicant.

**Where can I learn more about ODNI and IC jobs?**

You may visit USAJobs.com, or click on any of the links under the "Careers" tab on this website.

## About this Website:

**What is RSS?**

RSS stands for "Really Simple Syndication." It is a standard format used to share content on the Internet. Many websites provide RSS "feeds" that describe their latest news and updates.

**How can I use RSS?**

You can use RSS to review updates from your favorite websites without having to visit each site. Using an RSS reader, you subscribe to the feed from a website, then scan headlines to find articles of interest. If you find an article you like, click the headline to read the complete

article. You always have the latest headlines because your RSS reader periodically retrieves the RSS feeds. You can also use Director of National Intelligence news feeds directly on your website. (See "Can I use Director of National Intelligence News Feeds on my Web site?" below.

**Where can I get an RSS reader?**

You can use an online RSS reader, which works from any web browser, or you can download software that runs on your computer. Some RSS readers are free, and some are available for a fee.

**What are the ODNI RSS terms of use?**

Director of National Intelligence RSS feeds are provided free of charge for commercial or non-commercial use by individuals and organizations.

**Can I use Director of National Intelligence News Feeds on my website?**

Yes, Director of National Intelligence headlines and stories may be displayed on your Web site using RSS. Your own technical staff is your resource for implementation. We encourage the use of ODNI news feeds as part of a website, however, we do require that the proper format and attribution is used when Director of National Intelligence content appears. The attribution text should read " US Director of National Intelligence" or www.dni.gov as appropriate.

**What are ODNI's website Privacy Act policies?**

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence website (DNI.GOV or ODNI.GOV) is provided as a public service by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on behalf of the Director of National Intelligence. This website will not collect personal information about you unless you choose to provide the information to us. The contents of this website may be browsed anonymously. The Office of the Director of National Intelligence Website automatically logs visitor information concerning the pages read, photographs viewed, and information downloaded for statistical purposes. This information does not identify you personally . The information gathered helps us to assess the content most interesting to visitors and to determine technical design specifications for identifying system performance issues.

## General Questions:

**What is the mailing address for the ODNI?**

# ODNI FAQ

Office of the Director of National Intelligence Washington , DC 20511

**Does ODNI release information to the public?**

ODNI frequently releases items of general public interest on this website. The site includes general information about ODNI , unclassified current reports/publications , speeches , congressional testimonies , and press releases. Some ODNI publications are classified, however, and are not publicly available.

Information is also released via the Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act (statutes which give US citizens access to US government information or US government information about themselves, respectively). ODNI handles numerous cases each year and maintains an online Electronic Reading Room to release this information to the public and to provide guidance for requesting information.

**How do I submit a FOIA/Privacy Act request?**

The goal of the ODNI's Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act office is to keep the public better informed about the ODNI's efforts to ensure US security through the release of as much information as possible. But because of the ODNI's need to comply with the national security laws of the United States, some documents, or portions thereof, cannot be released to the public. Nonetheless, a substantial amount of ODNI information has been or can be released following review.

If you would like to submit a FOIA or Privacy Act request, please mail your request to:

Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Washington , D.C. 20511

Or fax to: 703-275-1299; or e-mail to: dni-foia@ugov.gov

For the status of a current FOIA request, please contact the ODNI FOIA Customer Service Center at 703-275-2210. Additional information on the ODNI FOIA process may be found by visiting the FOIA page on this website.

**Whom may I contact if I would like to invite someone to speak to my organization about the ODNI and/or Intelligence Community?**

You may contact the ODNI Public Affairs Office at 703-275-3700.

# ODNI FAQ

**Whom do I contact if I want to report a crime or suspected terrorist activity?**

You should contact your local police department and/or FBI Field Office.

**Whom should I call if I have a question that is not answered here?**

Please check our site navigation on the left to locate the information you seek. If you are unable to find the answer to your question on our website then you may contact the ODNI operator at 703-733-8600 for further assistance.