



NSA/CSS employees are authorized to share the following points with family and close friends.  
22 November 2013

**1. NSA's mission is of great value to the Nation.**

- NSA provides timely, actionable intelligence to political and military customers who use that information in a range of activities from decisionmaking to military operations.
- *Warfighter Support.* NSA has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our military and coalition partners, providing timely and actionable data so they could 'see' and take action against the threats they faced.
- *Counterterrorism.* NSA programs protect Americans and our Allies. As an example, they have helped to understand and disrupt 54 terrorist events since 9/11: 25 in Europe, 11 in Asia, and 5 in Africa. Thirteen of those had a homeland nexus.
- *Cybersecurity.* NSA directly supports the defense of Department of Defense (DoD) networks by translating actionable intelligence into signatures and instructions that can be used to actively defend the DoD networks (.mil).

**2. NSA performs its mission the right way – lawful, compliant, and in a way that protects civil liberties and privacy.**

- NSA analysts do not decide what topics to work. They respond directly to requirements driven by the President's Intelligence Priorities, documented in the National Intelligence Priorities Framework and managed by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- NSA does not target U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens unless that targeting is premised on a finding of probable cause to believe that the person is a foreign power or the agent of a foreign power. NSA's activities are governed and constrained by law and policy. We operate under oversight by all three branches of government: legislative, judicial, and executive.
- NSA does not and will not steal industry secrets in order to give U.S. companies a competitive advantage.
- NSA does not and will not demand changes by any vendor to any product, nor does it have any authority to demand such changes.

**3. NSA performs its mission exceptionally well. We strive to be the best that we can be, because that's what America requires as part of its defense in a dangerous world.**

- Signals intelligence improves our knowledge and understanding of terrorist plans and intentions. It is one of the most powerful tools we have to protect our citizens, soldiers, and allies.

- Fundamentally, NSA and partner foreign intelligence agencies work together to protect the world's citizens from a range of threats like terrorism, weapons proliferation, and cyber attacks. Terrorists and weapons proliferators use the same technology many of us do, such as e-mail. That is why the U.S. Government compels providers to provide webmail for these carefully identified threats.
4. **The people who work for NSA are loyal Americans with expert skills who make sacrifices to help protect the freedoms we all cherish.**
- NSA brings together the best linguists, analysts, mathematicians, engineers, and computer scientists in the United States to tackle some of the hardest problems in the world. These employees -- civilian, military, and contractors -- are public servants who do their work knowing that their innovation and achievements serve the Nation but will never be publicly recognized.
  - More than 6,000 NSA cryptologists have deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Twenty have died in the line of duty helping our troops accomplish their missions.
  - The men and women of NSA take an oath to the Constitution. As private citizens themselves, NSA employees are acutely aware of the importance of upholding the Fourth Amendment, and they uphold it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
5. **NSA is committed to increased transparency, public dialog, and faithful implementation of any changes required by our overseers.**
- We are committed to the protection of our people, our allies, and civil liberties and privacy. We will be more transparent in discussing the business of NSA, the work that we do, the authorities under which we operate, and the governance over them to ensure that Americans understand NSA.
  - The President and senior Administration officials are reviewing NSA's programs, and we stand ready to execute their policy guidance with our full support.
  - We encourage the American public to work with us to define the way ahead in balancing transparency and national security. We embrace public dialogue.