



# U.S. Intelligence Community Elements: Establishment Provisions

The concept of a U.S. Intelligence Community (IC) of integrated component departments and agencies began to take shape after World War II, in part through the establishment of the Central Intelligence Agency. Prior to that time, U.S. intelligence organizations existed within the military services and largely operated independently of one another. References to an *Intelligence Community* first appear in the mid-1950s. The components of the IC were first specified in statute by the Intelligence Organization Act of 1992 (Title VII of P.L. 102-496). The IC has since evolved into a federated community of 17 components spread across 2 independent agencies and 6 separate departments of the federal government.

**Table 1** summarizes dates and directives for the establishment of each of the 17 IC component organizations. In some cases, such as the Navy’s Office of Naval Intelligence, the intelligence organization predates the IC concept. Although not included in statute as a part of the IC, the establishment of the position of Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) (USD(I)) is included in this listing in reflection of the leadership the USD(I) exercises over Department of Defense intelligence programs in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence.

**Table 1. U.S. Intelligence Community Elements: Establishment Dates and Mechanisms**

Element <sup>a</sup>	Establishment Date	Mechanism of Establishment
<b>Established by Statute</b>		
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	September 18, 1947	50 U.S.C. §3035. See also P.L. 80-253 §102 (National Security Act of 1947).
Department of Energy, Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence (DOE/IN)	August 4, 1977	42 U.S.C. §7131. See also §201 of P.L. 95-91 (DOE Act of 1977). DOE merged its intelligence and counter-intelligence offices in 2006.
Department of Defense (DOD), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)	October 1, 1996	10 U.S.C. §441 and 50 U.S.C. §3045. The National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) was established by P.L. 104-201 (National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY1997). NIMA was renamed NGA in 2003 under §921 of P.L. 108-136 (FY2004 NDAA).
Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Coast Guard Intelligence (USCG/IN)	December 28, 2001	50 U.S.C. §401a(4)(H), later editorially reclassified as 50 U.S.C. §3003(4)(H). See also §105 of P.L. 107-108 (Intelligence Authorization Act (IAA) for FY2002). <sup>b</sup>
DHS, Office of Intelligence and Analysis (DHS/OIA)	November 25, 2002	6 U.S.C. §121. See also §201 of P.L. 107-296 (Homeland Security Act of 2002).
DOD, Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) <sup>d</sup>	December 2, 2002	10 U.S.C. §137. See also §901 of P.L. 107-314 (FY2003 NDAA).
Department of the Treasury, Office of Intelligence and Analysis (Treasury/OIA)	December 13, 2003	31 U.S.C. §312. See also §105 of P.L. 108-177 (FY2004 IAA) which establishes the OIA and the position of Assistant Secretary of Intelligence and Analysis within Treasury’s Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence.
Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and Director of National Intelligence (ODNI and DNI)	December 17, 2004	50 U.S.C. §3023-3026. See also §1011 and §3003 of P.L. 108-458 (Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004).
Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Intelligence Branch (FBI/IB)	December 17, 2004	28 U.S.C. §532 note and §2002 in P.L. 108-458, creating an FBI “Directorate of Intelligence [DI].” In 2005, the DI was incorporated into a newly created National Security Branch (NSB). As of July 2014, the DI was aligned under a newly established Intelligence Branch—a branch separate and distinct from the NSB. <sup>c</sup>

Element <sup>a</sup>	Establishment Date	Mechanism of Establishment
<b>Established by Department of Defense (DOD) Action</b>		
U.S. Navy Office of Naval Intelligence (USN/ONI)	March 23, 1882	HQ-level intelligence organization by order of the Secretary of the Navy, General Order No. 292. <sup>h</sup>
U.S. Army Office of the Adjutant General, Military Information Division (MID)	April 12, 1889	HQ-level intelligence organization, in accordance with confidential orders of the War Department, April 12, 1889. <sup>f</sup>
U.S. Marine Corps, Intelligence Section (USMC/MCISR-E)	April 21, 1939	HQ-level intelligence organization, in accordance with HQ Memo I-1939, Apr 21, 1939. <sup>g</sup>
[Army] Air Corps Air Staff (Intelligence) (ACAS/A-2)	June 20, 1941	Headquarters (HQ)-level intelligence organization, in accordance with (IAW) Army Regulation 95-5 (revised). Became HQ USAF/A-2 when the U.S. Air Force (USAF) was established as a separate department in 1947 (P.L. 80-253 §208). <sup>e</sup>
DOD, Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)	August 1, 1961	DOD Directive 5105.21—updated March 18, 2008.
DOD, National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)	September 6, 1961	DOD Directive 5105.23—updated October 29, 2015. See also §1035 of P.L. 111-84 (FY2010 NDAA).
<b>Established by Executive Action</b>		
Department of State, Intelligence and Research Bureau (DOS/INR)	October 1, 1945	E.O. 9621, “Termination of the Office of Strategic Services and Disposition of its Functions,” effective October 1, 1945. <sup>i</sup>
DOD, National Security Agency (NSA)	December 29, 1952	National Security Council Intelligence Directive (NSCID) 9 Revised, “Communications Intelligence,” Dec. 29, 1952, and NSCID 6, Feb. 17, 1972. See also 50 U.S.C. Ch. 47 §3601-3618. <sup>k</sup>
DOJ, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Office of National Security Intelligence (ONSI)	February 17, 2006 <sup>i</sup>	Joint DNI-Attorney General Memorandum. The DEA was established through E.O. 11727, “Drug Law Enforcement,” July 6, 1973.

**Source:** CRS

**Notes:**

- IC elements are defined in 50 U.S.C. §3003, which also includes a provision for admitting additional elements to the IC by a decision of either the President or jointly by the DNI and the head of a department of agency concerned.
- See also Kevin Wirth, *The Coast Guard Intelligence Program Enters the Intelligence Community*, Occasional Paper 16 (Washington D.C.: NDIC Press, May 2007) at [http://ni-u.edu/ni\\_press/pdf/The\\_Coast\\_Guard\\_Intelligence\\_Program%20.pdf](http://ni-u.edu/ni_press/pdf/The_Coast_Guard_Intelligence_Program%20.pdf).
- The FBI’s DI can be traced back to the FBI’s Bureau of Investigation (established January 26, 1908). December 17, 2004 reflects the first of a number of changes to integrate the FBI’s intelligence-related activities with those of the IC. See also George W. Bush, *Memorandum on Strengthening the Ability of the Department of Justice To Meet Challenges to the Security of the Nation*, June 28, 2005; and FBI Organization Chart, July 15, 2014, at [https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/images/2014/09/26/ag\\_signed\\_fbi\\_org\\_chart.jpg](https://www.justice.gov/sites/default/files/pages/images/2014/09/26/ag_signed_fbi_org_chart.jpg). In March 2006, §506 of P.L. 109-177 created the National Security Division (NSD) within the DOJ headed by an Assistant Attorney General for National Security. DOJ’s Office of Intelligence (OI) is part of the NSD. The DOJ/OI is not an IC element.
- The Office of the USD(I) is not formally recognized as a component of the IC.
- National Archives, “Records of Army Air Forces” at <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/018.html>. On November 4, 1947, HQ USAF Directive HOI 20-12 placed intelligence within the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations. See “Records of Headquarters United States Air Force (Air Staff)” at <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/341.html>. On July 1, 1957, a HQ reorganization reestablished the A-2 as a separate entity within the Air Staff. See Air Force Historical Studies Office, *Key Personnel*, January 2013, p. 38, footnote 21, at <http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-130410-035.pdf>.
- The MID originated *informally* in 1885 within the Office of Army Adjutant General. See James Finley, ed., *U.S. Army Military Intelligence History: A Sourcebook*, Ft. Huachuca, AZ: U.S. Army Intelligence Center, 1995, pp. 63 and 91, at [http://huachuca-www.army.mil/files/History\\_MIRReader.pdf](http://huachuca-www.army.mil/files/History_MIRReader.pdf). Prior to 1889, Army intelligence units were established by army commanders on an *ad hoc* basis.
- Historical Division, HQ USMC, *A Brief History of Headquarters Marine Corps Staff Organization*, Marine Corps Historical Reference Pamphlet, Revised 1970, footnote 59, provided to CRS by the USMC Intelligence Division, December 2, 2016. Prior to 1939, USMC intelligence units were established by commanders on an *ad hoc* basis.
- General Order 292 (March 23, 1882) “Establishment of Office of Intelligence,” Naval History and Heritage Command, at <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/library/online-reading-room/title-list-alphabetically/g/general-orders/general-order-no-292.html>. Prior to 1882, maritime intelligence units were established by commanders on an *ad hoc* basis.
- February 17, 2006 marks the date the Office of National Security Intelligence (ONSI) was established as a component of the IC by means of a joint agreement between the DNI and Attorney General. See ODNI News Release 6-06, February 17, 2006, at [https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Press%20Releases/2006%20Press%20Releases/20060217\\_release\\_content.htm](https://www.dni.gov/files/documents/Newsroom/Press%20Releases/2006%20Press%20Releases/20060217_release_content.htm).
- E.O. 9621 transferred several functions of the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) to other departments. The OSS’s Research and Analysis Branch was relocated within the State Department and became State’s Intelligence and Research Bureau.
- See also “The Origins of NSA” at [https://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic-heritage/historical-figures-publications/publications/misc/assets/files/origins\\_of\\_nsa.pdf](https://www.nsa.gov/about/cryptologic-heritage/historical-figures-publications/publications/misc/assets/files/origins_of_nsa.pdf).

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