



The National Security Branch *of the* Federal Bureau of Investigation

*Integrating Intelligence
and Operations
to Protect America*

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Its Intelligence History

1908

Attorney General Charles Bonaparte ordered the creation of a Special Agent force in the Department of Justice (DOJ). His order reassigned a group of DOJ investigators and permanently hired some agents from the Treasury Department. This force would later become the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

1914

World War I began in Europe, placing additional responsibilities on the Bureau of Investigations (BOI), which was the forerunner of the FBI.

1917

Congress passed the Espionage Act of 1917—prohibiting espionage, interference with the draft, or attempts to discourage loyalty—which greatly increased the BOI's ability to deal with espionage and subversion in the war. In April 1917, Congress declared war on Germany and President Woodrow Wilson authorized the BOI to detain enemy aliens.

1935

In the 1935 Department of Justice appropriation, Congress officially recognized the Division of Investigation, formerly the BOI, as the FBI.

1936

At the request of President Roosevelt, the FBI began gathering intelligence on subversive activity in the United States, specifically related to the foreign influence exerted on domestic Nazi and communist groups.

1939

President Roosevelt issued a directive designating the FBI as the agency responsible for the coordination and dissemination of intelligence and national security information to other federal agencies. By doing so, he

authorized the FBI "to take charge of investigative work in matters relating to espionage, sabotage, and violations of neutrality regulations" outside of military facilities.

1940

FBI established the Special Intelligence Service, which worked to gather intelligence information by dispatching Special Agents to countries throughout the Western Hemisphere. These agents worked to gather intelligence and prevent Axis espionage, sabotage, and propaganda aimed against the United States and its allies.

Intelligence History

With a rich intelligence history, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has always used intelligence to solve cases. From gangsters in the 1930s, to intelligence threats during the Cold War era, to organized crime in the 1970s, to drug trafficking in the 1980s, we have accepted the nation's most pressing challenges and risen to the occasion. In our role as both an intelligence agency and a law enforcement agency, we are uniquely positioned to respond to the changing world with its new adversaries and threats.



Combining our national security workforce and mission under one leadership umbrella enhances our contribution to the national intelligence effort and provides us with the opportunity to leverage resources from our U.S. Intelligence Community (USIC) partners, as well as our federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement partners.

Mission

The FBI's national security mission is to lead and coordinate intelligence efforts that drive actions to protect the United States. Our goal is to develop a comprehensive understanding of the threats and penetrate national and transnational networks that have a desire and capability to harm us. Such networks include: terrorist organizations, foreign intelligence

While the FBI has always answered the call to combat threats to our national security, today we count on our national security personnel working hand-in-hand with colleagues around the country and around the world to collectively gather intelligence and develop a comprehensive understanding of our threats.

National Security Branch

The National Security Branch (NSB) was established on September 12, 2005, in response to a presidential directive to establish a "National Security Service" that combines the missions, capabilities, and resources of the counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and intelligence elements of the FBI under the leadership of a senior FBI official. In July 2006, the Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Directorate was created within the NSB to integrate WMD components previously spread throughout the FBI. The NSB also includes the Terrorist Screening Center, which plays a crucial role in providing actionable intelligence to state and local law enforcement.

services, those that seek to proliferate weapons of mass destruction, and criminal enterprises.

In order to be successful, we must understand the threat, continue to integrate our intelligence and law enforcement capabilities in every FBI operational program, and continue to expand our contribution to the Intelligence Community knowledge base.

Because national security and criminal threats are often intertwined, our ability to integrate intelligence and investigations makes us uniquely situated to address our nation's threats and vulnerabilities. We structure our investigations to maximize the intelligence that can be gained from them. Drawing on our intelligence and law enforcement tools, we deliberately and strategically decide where and when to disrupt and dismantle these threats. Intelligence, in turn, drives investigative strategies to ensure our resources are targeting the most pressing threats.

1945

Defections by a Soviet code clerk in Canada and an espionage courier in the United States led the FBI to greatly increase its investigations of Soviet espionage to identify communist penetrations in the U.S. government.

1946

The FBI launched the General Investigative Intelligence Program, its first national effort to gather intelligence on the criminal landscape of the country.

1947

The National Security Act of 1947 designated the FBI as a member

of the U.S. Intelligence Community (USIC) and authorized the FBI to collect, produce, and disseminate foreign intelligence. This act also established the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

1948

The FBI began a close liaison with the U.S. Army Signals Intelligence Service—the National Security Agency's predecessor—on the exploitation of Soviet messages that were being decrypted and decoded by military intelligence personnel, identifying hundreds of persons connected with Soviet intelligence work against the United States and its allies.

1950

British security agents arrested Klaus Fuchs, a German-born British atomic scientist who sold information about the atomic bomb to the Russians, after an investigation based on an FBI tip was derived from Soviet telegrams decrypted and decoded by the Army Signals Agency with FBI investigative assistance.

1951

Having identified and neutralized hundreds of Soviet intelligence assets in the United States, the FBI began a more intensive, proactive counterintelligence program aimed at penetrating and

controlling Soviet intelligence in the United States.

1957

Soviet illegal agent Rudolf Ivanovich Abel [William Fisher] was arrested in New York City following an intensive FBI investigation. He was convicted and sentenced to a 30-year term. In February 1962, Abel was traded to the Soviet Union for the return of U.S. pilot Francis Gary Powers who was shot down in a U-2 plane while surveilling Soviet territory.

1964

When Civil rights workers James E. Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and

Succeeding in our mission also requires us to enhance the information we share with our USIC and law enforcement partners and decision makers. To strengthen this collaboration with our partners, we set national strategy and standard operating procedures and enhanced training and preparation for responding to any wide-scale national security crisis.

Safeguarding Our Freedoms

The FBI and NSB carry out its mission while preserving the Constitutional and statutory rights of Americans. The FBI's long history of protecting civil rights and uncovering public corruption gives us a unique perspective that helps us maintain a proper balance between protection and privacy.

The support and understanding of the American people is our most effective weapon against the threats our nation faces today.

In this global era, we are all interconnected—law enforcement and intelligence agencies, private citizens, and multinational corporations. Everyone's role is vital when we share the common responsibility to stop foreign countries from stealing millions of dollars in corporate research and development, to disrupt those who seek to acquire and deploy chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological weapons, or to prevent local or international terrorist cells from carrying out coordinated attacks in the United States.

NSB Components

The NSB is composed of the Counterterrorism Division, Counterintelligence Division, Directorate of Intelligence, Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate, and Terrorist Screening Center.

The Counterterrorism Division (CTD) provides a centralized, comprehensive, and intelligence-driven approach to address both international and domestic terrorism-related matters. CTD works with its trusted

partners from the intelligence and law enforcement communities, and oversees the Joint Terrorism Task Forces, which are multi-agency task forces around the country that the FBI established to address terrorism.

The Counterintelligence Division (CD) is charged with the prevention and investigation of foreign intelligence activities within the United States. CD targets both traditional and emerging nontraditional, asymmetric threats, integrating both intelligence and law enforcement techniques, and investigating espionage activities.

The Directorate of Intelligence (DI) is the FBI's dedicated national intelligence workforce with responsibility for all FBI intelligence functions. The DI carries out its functions through embedded intelligence elements at FBI headquarters and in each field

division through the Field Intelligence Groups (FIGs). The FIGs also have personnel embedded in fusion centers around the country to share information with the FBI's federal, state, and local law enforcement and intelligence partners.

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate (WMDD) is charged with preventing and disrupting the acquisition of WMD capabilities and technologies for use against the U.S. homeland by terrorists and other adversaries, including nation-states. The WMDD integrates and links all the necessary counterterrorism, intelligence, counterintelligence, and scientific and technical components to accomplish the FBI's overall WMD mission.

The Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) consolidates the government's approach to terrorist screening and creates a single comprehensive watchlist of known or suspected terrorists. The TSC ensures that local, state, and federal terrorist screeners have ready access to information and expertise.

Michael Schwerner were murdered near Philadelphia, Mississippi, the FBI blanketed the region with agents to comprehensively gather intelligence about Klan activities in the area. Eight men were identified in the murder of the workers and many were eventually convicted. FBI intelligence efforts continued, successfully penetrating the Klan and effectively neutralizing its ability to act in the area.

1976
Attorney General Edward H. Levi, with input from the FBI, issued guidelines for FBI intelligence and domestic security activities.

1978
Congress passes the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), which was the first legislation on using electronic surveillance in national security matters.

1980
The Classified Information Procedures Act (CIPA) was passed providing the government the opportunity to protect classified information in criminal proceedings. The CIPA and FISA allowed for the successful prosecution of many more espionage cases.

1982
President Reagan designated the FBI as the lead agency for countering terrorism in the United States.

1985
The FBI conducted a series of high-profile arrests in the "Year of the Spy," including John Walker who betrayed naval cryptographic systems for two decades and William Pelton—a former National Security Agency employee who was arrested and charged with selling military secrets to the Soviets. Between 1975 and 1985, more than 80 spies were convicted based on FBI investigations.

1986
In Operation Famish, the FBI identified 80 Soviet intelligence agents operating under diplomatic cover to the State Department, which declared them persona non grata. This operation was aimed at dealing with the unprecedented escalation of Soviet intelligence operations within the United States in the previous decade.

1987
After analyzing intelligence on Fawaz Younis, who hijacked a Jordanian plane carrying two Americans, the FBI arrested Younis, making him the first suspected foreign terrorist arrested for a crime perpetrated



Successes

- On November 23, 2001, Fei-Ye and Ming-Zhong were arrested at San Francisco International Airport with stolen trade secret information in their possession. Both Ye and Zhong Ye and Zhong stole trade secrets belonging to Sun Microsystems, Inc., and Transmeta Corporation. Ye and Zhong had formed a company in the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) called Supervision Inc. to manufacture and market a computer microprocessor based on stolen trade secret technology. The City of Hanzhou and the Province of Zhejiang in the PRC were government entities that had agreed to provide funding and share in the profits of the enterprise benefiting from the stolen technology. Ye and Zhong pleaded guilty in Northern District of California to violations of Title 18 Section 1831 Economic Espionage. These guilty pleas represent the first convictions obtained for violations of the Economic Espionage Act of 1996.
- In 2003, the FBI's "Virginia Jihad" investigation dismantled a radical jihad training cell operating in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area under the inspiration of the Pakistan-based group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET). The cell was a well-trained and violently anti-American Islamic network, some of whose members joined the LET in Pakistan after the 9/11 terrorist attacks with the intention of entering Afghanistan to fight against U.S. forces. Members of the Virginia Jihad conspiracy returned to the United States and continued to provide material support to the LET until the FBI dismantled it. This investigation resulted in the conviction of 10 people on terrorism charges, the largest number of terrorism convictions in the United States since September 11, 2001. The case also led to the apprehension and conviction of two terrorist subjects in London, contributed to the arrest of three terrorist subjects in Australia, and supplemented a terrorist investigation in France.
- California Highway Patrol contacted the FBI's Terrorist Screening Center (TSC) for screening assistance with an individual engaged in a traffic stop for speeding in Newhall, California, in December 2005. A query of the NCIC produced a terrorism-related lookout instructing the officer to contact the TSC for assistance in identifying the subject, who was confirmed by the TSC to be a positive identity match to the

individual listed in the NCIC lookout, and was the main subject of an FBI San Francisco international terrorism investigation. Traveling with the subject were two additional individuals who were fully identified. The subject was arrested for possession of methamphetamine and a female passenger was arrested on two outstanding warrants.

- On March 23, 2006, Howard Hsy, of Bellevue, Washington, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Thomas S. Zilly to two years of probation and a \$15,000 fine in the U.S. District Court in Seattle for conspiracy to violate the Arms Export Control Act. Hsy conspired with others to export night vision goggles and camera lenses to a contact in Taiwan. Exporting those items required a license and written approval from the Department of State, which Hsy did not have. The military equipment was later shipped to the People's Republic of China. Hsy conspired with others in the Seattle area and Taiwan to purchase the military gear for export. The military equipment was primarily used by military pilots to fly and navigate at night. In October 2005, a Seattle-area co-conspirator, Donald Shull, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate the Export Administration Act and was sentenced in February 2006 to two years of probation and a \$10,000 fine.

Please contact your local FBI office and ask to speak with a staff member who works national security matters.

You may also contact the FBI's national headquarters at 202-324-3000, or write to us at:

National Security Branch
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535



against Americans on foreign soil. The Bureau made the arrest under provisions of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984, which assigned certain extraterritorial authority to the FBI.

1998

An FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) gathered intelligence on the terrorist bombing attacks on U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that killed hundreds of U.S., Kenyan, and Tanzanian citizens.

1999

The FBI added Osama Bin Ladin to the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted

Fugitives" list for his connection with the U.S. embassy bombings in East Africa.

2000

The intelligence an FBI JTTF gathered during the "Borderbom" investigation helped lead to the indictment of Mokhtar Haouari and Abdel Ghani Meskini for conspiring with Ahmed Resdsam to bomb American sites during the January 1, 2000, millennium celebrations.

2001

Following the massive terrorist attacks against New York and Washington, DC, the FBI worked with its intelligence and law

enforcement partners to analyze intelligence and investigate these attacks.

2003

The FBI established Field Intelligence Groups in every field office to coordinate, manage, and execute FBI intelligence functions in the field.

2004

President Bush signed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, reforming theUSIC and outlining directives to enhance the FBI's intelligence capabilities.

2005

The FBI established the Directorate of Intelligence and the

National Security Branch (NSB), strengthening the FBI's intelligence and investigative mission.

2006

The Weapons of Mass Destruction Directorate was created within the NSB to integrate WMD components previously spread throughout the Bureau.

2006

In June 2006, all FBI field offices began dedicating Special Agent and Intelligence Analyst personnel to the leading fusion centers within their territory.