The following is an interview with a former US operative, now in Australia, of America’s National Security Agency...

Why does NSA want to remain secret? The interception of telephone conversations violates the legal laws of most countries and causes massive transatlantic traffic violates Geneva conventions.

How big is NSA? We’ve heard it has about 13,000 staff.

It depends on what you count. There are about 40 percent military and 20 percent civilian personnel. The services group works directly with NSA, though they belong to the services and are on their own. They are the Army Security Agency, the Naval Security Agency, the Air Force Security Agency, and a few others.

Second, there is a training school within NSA known as J-2, along with a few others. It deals with Soviet military intelligence agencies, everything about communication theory and in atmospheric physics.

The Fourth, and the biggest, is the Goodell-Allen force base at Natick, Texas. And it has the main training center for professional signals intelligence. The goodell Allen force base is about a year ago (August 1972) had been training for the people who deal with radio intelligence techniques and traffic analysis as well as of the radio without electronic means.

The Ramaprace area was clearly within the radio traffic analysis, and he found a lot of manpower goes into that, exaggerates the role of this work. A number of NSA people have special tasks for this.

The NSA in Canberra houses an important coordinating centre for the Pacific in wartime and navies guarded by US marines.

You were trained in some of these places? Yes, in a couple of them, for about ten months.

The National Security Agency, controls, and coordinates the national network of electronic interception stations.

What happened next? Like every army man, I went through a short course of basic training and was shipped off to the Defense Language Institute at Monterey, California. I finished that course in a very short time, and then I was sent to the European Command, which is located in Germany.

Do the Russians know about the NSA? It’s very complicated. Is NSA intelligence stations in the US? We don’t know. We’ve heard that the NSA is in operation.

Why do you think so many people prefer NSA along with their other functions?

Do the Russians do the interception thing to the US? Yes, but the USSR also does it. Also, you know, it’s not the same.

How does NSA work? It’s very secret. We’ve heard that the NSA is in operation.

What is the secret of NSA? The NSA is not very secret. We’ve heard that the NSA is in operation.

Unidentified objects

Full article from which a file was excerpted: http://cryptome.org/jya/nsa-40k.htm

overhead on the telephone, and our men went in with remott and filled out the gip behind the steel door they had rewired.

What were you listening for in Germany? Berlin monitors the high echelon Soviet military traffic and the East German internal traffic. We were interested in East German party policy, popular discontent, typical anecdotes and complaints made by party officials to headquarters.

Who told you what to look for? Each unit has a given task. Apart from that, the NSA circulates TECHNICS (technical instructions), which are policy papers, given to people and the need to know. By the way, this is one place the Japanese article went wrong. It talked about TECHNIKS as the bible of the NSA. TECHNICS are basically installments of an operating manual, which list signals and frequencies of the other side's communication system.

You've mentioned the British a couple of times: Are they just freezing for the US, or do they have their own electronic operations? The British maintain a much lower profile. Under GCHQ (General Communications Headquarters) they've had the British government communications for some time now. The British government headquarters is in London and its Special Signals Division, which is the army organisation under GCHQ, is responsible for electronic communications. The British government headquarters is based in London and its Special Signals Division, which is the army organisation under GCHQ, is responsible for electronic communications.

And Australia, where we started our talk? Beaumaris Gulf intercepts traffic in the Sunda Straits and the Indian Ocean. You know the Sunda Straits quite common for the British naval installations to be used by other traffic, for instance in the Indian Ocean. They are used by the British navy and merchant shipping for communications.

What do you mean by ship's traffic? What's there to see on the wave? The wave has its own limitations for ships, no matter how big the boats are. The ships are built for specific tasks and have limitations, just like the wave has limitations.

Are Australian ISD personnel trained in the places where you were trained? Are Australian ISD personnel trained in any of these places, not even the British. Also, the Australian ISD has a term - NOFRON - which means no foreign hands are allowed to even look at them, even those allowed elsewhere on the installations. The ISD work is done in restricted areas of the stations. It deals with information that is kept to itself, technically or politically.

What about Canberra? For their kind of work, like cryptanalysts, they need a large amount of equipment and they don't need big outside equipment. The lightweight equipment is being sent by air to the incoming station. NSA too is often accommodating to NSA around the world.

Does NSA do any local spying? Every country looks into the embassy traffic of every other country and tries to decode it. That's just routine.

A strike over what? The NSA personnel in Berlin were part of the strike by the Great Britain service, which extends to the US army administration for discipline. About 60 or 70 percent of NSA were involved in the strike. The army did not strike, only some of them while on duty. It's very sad, particularly the strike by British and US or Eastern European or Russian traffic that is coming through.

The army didn't like that? Well, it did. The army in charge, called Hamilton, who came from Army Airborne, was very involved in the strike. A person that was the DIDSRA, the NSA of India, has led the effort in Peine, and sent a message saying that the colonel should do anything that would endanger the security of the country, meaning he should lay off. During those days, NSA Berlin brought out an alternative newspaper called Up against the wall. A congressional inquiry followed with a senator and two generals on it, but it didn't become public. NSA did go on strike over just one part. No. This was for a lot of articles for complaints about personnel and for anti-war sentiment.

What happens to people who leave the NSA? Many live travelling around the world. They can get jobs in electronics industry, using their skills and talents, which is a fairly good line of work.

And their intelligence skills? There are half a dozen or so in Australia in the electronics industry.

Glossary: CBNC: Canadian Intelligence Group to NSA, ISD and GCHQ.
COMINT: Communications interception – a separate section of NSA, testing vulnerability of US communications systems.
CSS: Communications Security – a separate section of NSA, testing vulnerability of US communications systems.
ELINT: Electronic Intelligence. Part of SIGINT: Collects data on characteristics of foreign radio, radar, data systems; and foreign signals. Also monitors its own global satellites.
GCOS: General Communications Headquarters – the official name of the British intelligence agency.
MB: Military bureaucracy controlling British electronic intelligence activities, including the military Special Signals Division.
NASA: NSA's global network in various countries.
NASAC: National Airborne and Space Administration, the main unit of the US government concerned with space travel, space station, space travel. Cooperates with NASA in launching ELINT satellites and, occasionally, other projects.
SIGINT: Signals interception – the largest section of NSA. SIGINT incorporates COMINT and ELINT.
TARE: Target Exploitation – a special section of NSA which undertakes travel into the Soviet Union for technical data collection, including technical data from eastern Europe, USSR and elsewhere.

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