MUNEA'26

Study Guide

CIA

Agenda Item: 2001 Afghanistan War

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1. Letters

1.1. Letter from the Secretary General

Esteemed Participants;

My name is Mustafa Gürmeriç and I am serving as the Secretary General of MUNEA'26. It ıs a great honour to welcome you all to the 2nd edition of Ankara Erman Ilıcak Science High School's Model United Nations Conference, MUNEA'26.

This conference means a lot to me, not just because I helped organize it, but because I began my MUN career in 9th grade with MUNER'24, our school's mock MUN. Since then, I've continued to participate in conferences, and I've finally come back to where I started but this time not as a delegate, but as someone organizing it. This entire process has not only taught me a great deal but has also been a significant experience that has shaped who I am today.

As the MUNEA'26 community, we have dedicated ourselves fully to this process and worked tirelessly to bring you one of the best conferences possible. And I cannot conclude without thanking the entire academic community and the organizing team, especially my colleagues on the executive team for their contributions to this process.

And finally, dear delegates, I would like to thank you for joining us on this journey; it would not be complete without you. I hope you come to your committees well prepared and enjoy three days that are as academic and fun as possible. I look forward to seeing you all at our school from May 22–24. Debate. Collaborate. Make a Change.

Sincerely,

Mustafa Gürmeriç

Secretary General of MUNEA'26

1.2. Letter from the Co-Under Secretary-General

Greetings agents,

I am Berat Burak Okyar, the Co-Under Secretary-General of the Central Intelligence Agency committee, and I am proud to welcome all of you to MUNEA'26.

This guide is written in a typewriter format, so the letters are much bigger than they would be, so don't worry about how long the guide seems. This will be the second edition of this committee, and we will be simulating a war.

I would like to thank my brother, best friend and Co-Under Secretary-General Mehmet Ege Arpağ. I would also like to thank Umay Tamer for always being there for me, and establishing the idea of the committee of CIA with me in the first place. Furthermore, I would like to thank the Executive Team of the conference, Mustafa Gürmeriç, Hamza Taha Yılmazer, Yiğit Efe Koçak, Elif Aynacıoğlu and Esila Kara, and the person who invited me, Ceylin Özcan. Lastly, I would like to thank you for getting this further in my letter.

This guide is written in the form of a CIA report if they were to gather information regarding the US intelligence agencies, 9/11 and the Afghanistan War.

I hope you enjoy reading it, and you can reach me at any time via beratburakokyar@gmail.com.

Yours sincerely,

Berat Burak Okyar

Co-Under Secretary-General of the CIA Committee

1.3. Letter from the Co-Under Secretary-General

Hello,

I am Mehmet Ege Arpağ and I will be serving as an USG in this committee. It’s an honor to be a part of this conference so I would like to give my best regards to the Executive team. And my deepest thanks to my brother Burak for accompanying me in this committee.

While writing the necessary documents for the committee I was having a great time and I hope our delegates will share the same thoughts in this committee. We researched thoroughly to try to give our delegates the best research experience by just reading this guide thoroughly.

As almost all quotes on war written by famous generals carry an important message throughout history, I think this one has a special meaning:

“There is nothing impossible to him who will try.”

-Alexander the Great

This quote reminds me that no matter what the situation is, everyone is capable of doing great things when they concentrate. You do not have a difference from anyone. What sets people apart is their ambition, their desire to win, and their hard work.

So the most meaningful advice that I can give you is to speak, think, write, and express your thoughts freely. Do not be shy, do not get nervous. Everybody had their firsts on everything, even the best of the bests.

We hope you get informed and have fun while reading the documents we've written.

Sincerely,

Mehmet Ege Arpağ.

2. Intelligence in the United States (US)

The US relied on intelligence agencies for a long time, for different topics such as espionage (spying), analysis, covert action, and many more. Even though gathering intelligence was a key element since its independence (starting with George Washington's Culper Gang), the first intelligence bureau/office/agency was opened during the Civil War and only stayed open during that time.

More than 30 intelligence agencies were established throughout US's history, starting from the times of the Civil War. Some of them only stayed open for specific occasions such as wars, while some of them are still open and active today.

Currently, most of the intelligence agencies which are still active today are tied to Office of Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), which was changed from Director of Central Intelligence (DCI, who also is the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, CIA) in 2005 due to the DCI not being able to delegate all of the agencies and directing CIA at the same time. This topic is further explained within the ODNI title below.

Shortly explained below are all of the intelligence agencies, bureaus and offices that existed in the US in chronological order:

2.1. Bureau of Military Information (BMI)

Early 1863, the commander of the Army of Potomac, Major General Joseph Hooker. Hooker gave an order to his deputy provost marshal for the establishment of an intelligence unit. His deputy was a New Yorker lawyer named George H. Sharpe, who also did

intelligence work before. The establishment of the bureau was officially done on 11 February 1863.

As the first intelligence bureau within the US, Bureau of Military Information (BMI) had around 70-75 agents in the field (and more in the bureau). BMI mostly focused on gathering information through interrogation of refugees. However, they also inspected through gazettes from Confederate states and gathered information through going through the stuff within abandoned enemy sites.

Commanding General Ulysses S. Grant (who later became the 18th POTUS) knew how important intelligence is and stationed the BMI and Sharpe to his own command headquarters. The future President thought intelligence and the bureau were so important that he gave the order to parole Confederate soldiers and even their former leader, Robert E. Lee, to the BMI, not his own soldiers.

The BMI was later disbanded at the end of the Civil War, 1865, surviving around 2 years as a regular bureau.

2.2. United States Secret Service (USSS)

The United States Secret Service (USSS) was founded in 1865 as a branch of the US Treasury Department. Still misunderstood to this day, its sole purpose is not to protect the president, in fact, for the first 36 years of its existence, it had no direct ties to the POTUS.

The USSS's first and only mission was to try to stop counterfeiting of (fraud upon) US currency. One of the main reasons for its establishment was the estimations that 1/3 to 1/2 of the money in the market was counterfeit after the Civil War.

The protection of High-Valued Individuals (HVIs) such as the POTUS, the Vice President of the United States (VPOTUS) and many others became a task of the USSS after the assasination of President William McKinley (1897-1901) in 1901.

Today, the USSS still has 2 missions: the protection of HVIs, and "investigations into crimes against the financial infrastructure of the United States of America (USA).

The USSS is the oldest "intelligence" agency of the US still active to this day. (There are different opinions upon this due to it not being directly related to intelligence.)

2.3. Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI)

Established in 1882, the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) is the US's premier and primary maritime intelligence service. Even though most think that it is only used during the time of war, that is far from the actual case.

ONI is tasked with collecting, analyzing and producing maritime intelligence. Furthermore, they are tasked with using that intelligence quickly to come up with new tactics, regulations, and strategies for the American Navy and the Department of Defense (DoD) to use.

ONI does not only supply maritime intelligence for the act of war or tactics, but it also supplies information regarding the updates that other countries made to their naval forces, and it strategizes more upon the new discoveries of other countries.

The ONI is regarded by most as the longest-served US intelligence agency in its history and is still active to this day.

2.4. Military Intelligence Division (MID)

The Military Intelligence Division (MID) is considered as the first permanent peace-time intelligence agency of the US. It is also regarded as the fundamental base of the newer intelligence agencies.

MID was officially established in October 1885 by the order of Adjutant General Richard C. Drum with the name of "Division of Military Information (DMI)". Its mission upon establishment was just to collect, translate and archive the intelligence from foreign military.

In 1889, the Congress passed a law allowing the "Defense Attaché System". Used initially by the DMI, this system basically relied on sending agents to US embassies in other capitals for the agents to be able to be an inside spy within other countries—which was mostly done to spy on troops—during peace-time, which is a really common practice of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) today.

The division expanded exponentially during World War I, when Major Ralph Van Deman (who is also known as the “Father of American Military Intelligence) bypassed the Chain of Command and changed the way DMI worked.

Firstly, Deman renamed DMI to MID. He then made MID split its responsibilities into two: “positive intelligence” which was the collection of foreign data/intelligence and “negative intelligence” which was counterintelligence aiming to stop other countries or parties from getting intelligence from the US.

Deman also started the first domestic surveillance (as an intelligence agency). The MID monitored radical political groups, labor unions, possible troublemakers, and many more.

Despite Deman’s successful journey, many things changed afterwards. The agency changed its name to G-2 (not officially), and with the attack of Pearl Harbor, it was clear for the government that the MID (also known as G-2 at the time) cannot effectively cooperate with ONI and the State Department, which resulted bad for the MID.

The downfall of MID, however, comes with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS, 1942) and CIA (1947), which have made MID basically useless. It was formally removed on 1 August, 1961.

2.5. Coast Guard Intelligence (CGI)

Coast Guard Intelligence (CGI) is considered a key military intelligence branch of the US. It is also regarded as a fundamental component of the modern Intelligence Community (IC) specializing in maritime threats.

CGI was officially established in 1915 by the assignment of a “Chief Intelligence Officer” at Coast Guard Headquarters under Article 304 of the first set of Coast Guard Regulations. Its mission upon establishment was just to secure, archive, and disseminate information essential to the Coast Guard in carrying out its duties.

In 1919, the Congress passed the National Prohibition Act, creating a severe smuggling crisis. Used effectively by CGI, this crisis basically relied on deploying a small cadre of investigators to crack down on maritime bootleggers—which was mostly done to intercept clandestine ship-to-shore radio traffic—during peace-time, establishing a precedent of domestic maritime surveillance that mirrors the service’s current drug-interdiction operations today.

The division expanded exponentially during World War II, when the threat of axis subversion bypassed normal maritime protocols and changed the way CGI worked.

Firstly, CGI aggressively scaled its personnel and presence across critical ports. The agency then made CGI split its responsibilities into two distinct categories: “internal intelligence”, which focused on evaluating and identifying potential enemy agents or sympathizers within maritime commerce, and “personnel counterintelligence”, aiming to secure the service and the merchant marine from foreign sabotage and espionage.

CGI also expanded its domestic surveillance footprint. The agency monitored waterfront facilities, merchant vessel crews, harbor traffic, and many more.

Despite CGI's successful journey during the war, many things changed afterwards. The agency shifted its post-war focus primarily toward routine criminal investigations, and with a major post–World War II military drawdown, it became clear to leadership that the intelligence wing was losing its distinct strategic identity, which resulted bad for the specialized intelligence program as it was mostly treated as a standard law enforcement desk.

The transformation of CGI, however, came with a structural separation in 1986—which split the program into Coast Guard Intelligence and the Coast Guard Investigative Service (CGIS)—and the post-9/11 legislative landscape.

2.6. The Black Chamber (Cipher Bureau)

Early 1917, the head of Military Intelligence, Major Ralph Van Deman. Van Deman gave an order to a State Department code clerk for the establishment of a cryptologic unit. His pick was an Indiana native named Herbert O. Yardley, who also did code work before. The establishment of the section (initially MI-8) was officially done on 10 June 1917.

As the first peacetime national-level intelligence bureau within the US, the Cipher Bureau (later known as the Black Chamber) had around 50 civilians in the field. The Black Chamber mostly focused on gathering information through decryption of foreign diplomatic telegrams. However, they also inspected through copies of cables secured from local

telegraph operators and gathered information through going through the stuff within commercial communications.

The future government leaders thought intelligence and the bureau were so important that they gave the order to route entire diplomatic cable streams to the Black Chamber.

The bureau was later disbanded at the dawn of the Great Depression, 1929, surviving around 10 years as a regular bureau.

2.7. Marine Corps Intelligence (MCI)

Early 1920, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Major General John A. Lejeune, ordered the creation of a formalized intelligence section at Headquarters Marine Corps. He selected Major Earl “Pete” Ellis, a brilliant Pacific strategist, to guide the effort. The section was officially established in December 1920.

Operating as a highly specialized unit, this early intelligence wing relied on just a handful of officers in Washington and operatives in the field. They mostly focused on gathering information through the mapping of Pacific geography and foreign naval capabilities. However, they also gathered information by scouting Japanese-held island mandates with the disguise of civilian travelers.

He protected and funded these clandestine efforts, even dispatching Ellis on a high-stakes, covert reconnaissance mission across Micronesia with orders to report his findings directly to the Commandant rather than through standard military channels.

The unit is still active to this day and is named Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (MCIA).

2.8. Office of Coordinator of Information (COI)

In July 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of the Coordinator of Information (COI) to unify America's fragmented intelligence network before entering World War II. He appointed William "Wild Bill" Donovan, a prominent lawyer and war hero, to lead the new civilian agency.

The COI broke tradition by operating outside of the military, utilizing a diverse mix of Ivy League scholars, media experts, and covert agents. Instead of traditional scouting, the bureau specialized in analyzing foreign media, producing strategic maps, and launching America's first international propaganda broadcasts to counter Axis influence.

Roosevelt highly valued this centralized approach, giving Donovan direct access to the White House. The President granted the COI the unique authority to bypass military bureaucracy and pull data from any federal department to deliver unfiltered strategic reports directly to his desk.

The COI's existence was brief but impactful, lasting just under a year. In June 1942, it was dissolved and reorganized into the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), which established the blueprint for modern American espionage.

2.9. Office of Strategic Services (OSS)

Following the United States' entry into World War II, President Roosevelt realized that the nation needed a more robust, aggressive intelligence apparatus than the short-lived COI. In June 1942, he officially established the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), keeping Donovan at the helm. Its core mandate was to collect strategic information and conduct daring unconventional warfare behind enemy lines.

The agency grew rapidly to meet the demands of a global war, dramatically altering how America conducted intelligence operations. Donovan organized the OSS into distinct, highly specialized branches. This effectively split the organization's responsibilities: the Research and Analysis (R&A) branch focused on "positive intelligence" through scholarly data collection, while the Secret Intelligence (SI) and Operational Groups (OG) handled espionage, sabotage, and guerrilla warfare to disrupt Axis operations.

The OSS also broke new ground by venturing into global paramilitary actions and psychological warfare. Agents dropped into occupied Europe and Asia, embedding themselves with local resistance movements, decoding enemy traffic, and spreading black propaganda to demoralize enemy troops.

Despite its incredible success and legendary operations during the war, the geopolitical landscape shifted rapidly once peace was achieved. The agency ran into fierce bureaucratic opposition from the FBI and the military, who viewed Donovan's centralized empire as a threat. Believing that a peacetime global espionage agency was unnecessary, President Harry S. Truman abruptly dissolved the OSS in October 1945.

However, the downfall of the OSS was only temporary. The agency's blueprints, personnel, and operational philosophies ultimately triumphed; its legacy became the direct foundation for the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) when it was created in 1947.

2.10. Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR)

In the immediate aftermath of World War II, the Truman administration faced the massive challenge of managing foreign policy during the dawn of the Cold War. To ensure the State Department had its own independent analytical capabilities, Secretary of State James F. Byrnes moved to institutionalize a dedicated intelligence wing.

He utilized the remnants of the wartime Research and Analysis branch from the recently dissolved OSS, officially establishing the Interim Research and Intelligence Service in late 1945, which soon evolved into the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR).

Operating as a highly specialized, civilian-led bureau within the State Department, INR took a radically different approach than its military counterparts. Instead of deploying clandestine field agents or spies, INR focused on all-source intelligence fusion.

Its small, elite cadre of geographic and political experts meticulously analyzed diplomatic cables, foreign media, and academic data to provide objective, long-term strategic forecasts for American policymakers.

Secretary George Marshall and subsequent foreign policy leaders recognized the immense value of having an intelligence unit completely free from operational bias. They

integrated INR deeply into the diplomatic decision-making process, ensuring its analysts had direct access to the Secretary of State.

This unique positioning allowed the bureau to maintain a reputation for fierce independence, famously offering dissenting, highly accurate assessments during critical global flashpoints—such as the early stages of the Vietnam War and the run-up to the 2003 Iraq War—without having to filter their conclusions through larger military or centralized intelligence hierarchies.

While many early Cold War agencies were dissolved or heavily restructured, INR's distinct model proved remarkably resilient. It survived decades of bureaucratic shifts and remains an indispensable, highly respected pillar of both the State Department and the modern US Intelligence Community today.

2.11. Central Intelligence Group (CIG)

In early 1946, President Harry S. Truman faced a chaotic flood of competing military and diplomatic reports. To fix this, he ordered the creation of an interim coordinating body and tapped Rear Admiral Sidney Souers, a sharp naval reserve officer, to run it. The Central Intelligence Group (CIG) was officially established on January 22, 1946.

Operating as a lean transitional bureau, the CIG lacked the authority to run its own field spies. Instead, its small staff focused on organizing and evaluating data collected by other agencies. They mostly gathered information by analyzing global political trends and synthesizing raw reports into a unified "Daily Summary" for the White House.

President Truman heavily favored the group, granting its leaders direct presidential backing to shield them from military turf wars. This support allowed the CIG to expand rapidly, eventually absorbing foreign broadcast monitoring and covert collection capabilities before traditional departments could block them.

The CIG was never meant to last, surviving only about twenty months. It was officially dissolved in September 1947 when its framework was used to establish the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

2.12. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Short Explanation

In the wake of World War II and the rising threat of the Soviet Union, President Harry S. Truman realized that America's fragmented, peacetime intelligence network was entirely inadequate.

In September 1947, Truman signed the National Security Act, officially establishing the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as the nation's first permanent, independent civilian intelligence body. Its founding mission was to coordinate, evaluate, and disseminate national security intelligence to advise the president.

The agency expanded exponentially during the early years of the Cold War under leaders like Allen Dulles, who fundamentally changed how the CIA operated. He structured the agency into distinct directorates, effectively splitting its responsibilities:

The Directorate of Intelligence focused on "positive intelligence" through rigorous analysis of foreign data.

The Directorate of Plans (later the Directorate of Operations) handled “negative intelligence” and covert actions designed to counter and disrupt communist expansion globally.

The CIA also pioneered unprecedented domestic and global surveillance operations. To combat foreign espionage and influence, the agency monitored communications, tracked political dissidents, and launched highly classified global programs aimed at outmaneuvering foreign adversaries.

Despite decades of high-stakes successes during the Cold War, the geopolitical landscape shifted dramatically after the 9/11 attacks. Government investigations revealed that the CIA had struggled to effectively cooperate and share critical data with the FBI and other military intelligence bodies, which resulted in the agency’s undisputed monopoly over national security.

The restructuring of the CIA’s authority came with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. This legislation stripped the CIA director of the dual role of overseeing the entire intelligence community, passing that supreme authority to the newly created Director of National Intelligence (DNI).

While no longer the singular head of American intelligence, the CIA remains the premier independent agency for human espionage and covert operations today.

2.13. Sixteenth Air Force (Air Force Intelligence)

In October 1948, the Air Force established the Air Force Security Service (AFSS)—the ancestor of its modern intelligence wing—under Major General Roy H. Lynn to master electronic warfare and aerial reconnaissance.

This highly technical unit deployed radio operators and linguists to global listening posts. They gathered information by intercepting Soviet military communications, tracking missile telemetry, and monitoring atmospheric signatures for nuclear tests.

Recognizing its vital strategic value, Pentagon leadership heavily funded the unit with advanced reconnaissance aircraft and early spy satellites, allowing air intelligence to bypass ground limitations and harvest data from the edges of enemy airspace.

Though the command underwent multiple reorganizations over the decades, this framework survived. Today, its legacy is consolidated under the Sixteenth Air Force, which unifies global cryptology, cyber warfare, and aerial reconnaissance.

2.14. National Security Agency (NSA)

The National Security Agency (NSA) stands as the ultimate titan of global signals intelligence (SIGINT) and cybersecurity. While its roots trace directly back to the codebreaking breakthroughs of World War II, its official birth was born out of bureaucratic failure during the early Korean War.

By 1952, the United States found itself dangerously blind. The existing Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA)—a dysfunctional attempt to get the Army and Navy to share

cryptologic secrets—had utterly failed to coordinate intelligence or predict major communist movements. Recognizing this critical vulnerability, President Truman issued a top-secret directive on November 4, 1952, officially abolishing AFSA and establishing the National Security Agency. For decades, its existence was so fiercely classified that Washington insiders joked “NSA” stood for “No Such Agency”.

The agency expanded exponentially during the Cold War and the digital age. Unlike older entities that relied on human spies (HUMINT), the NSA focused entirely on the invisible world of data. Under early directors, the agency split its immense responsibilities into two massive, mirroring pillars: “signals intelligence”, which was the collection and decryption of foreign electronic data, and “information assurance”, which was defensive cybersecurity aiming to stop other countries from hacking or intercepting US communications.

The NSA also initiated unprecedented domestic and global surveillance operations. To combat terrorism and foreign threats in the digital era, the agency monitored global communications networks, tracked internet metadata, and processed bulk data streams, bypassing traditional field-collection limitations.

Despite decades of high-tech successes, the geopolitical landscape shifted dramatically in 2013. A contractor named Edward Snowden leaked a massive trove of highly classified documents, revealing that the NSA was routinely monitoring the phone and internet records of millions of ordinary US citizens, which resulted bad for the agency’s public trust and standing.

The restructuring of NSA's public footprint, however, came with subsequent legislative reforms like the USA Freedom Act, which curtailed bulk domestic data collection. Despite the massive fallout, the agency remains the premier superpower of global codebreaking and cyber warfare today, working in lockstep with US Cyber Command.

2.15. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)

In the wake of the 1960 US U-2 spy plane shootdown and the Bay of Pigs fiasco, President John F. Kennedy realized that the Department of Defense's fragmented intelligence branches were constantly producing conflicting data. To eliminate this costly duplication and unify military intelligence, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara directed the creation of a centralized hub.

The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) was officially established on August 1, 1961, under the leadership of its first director, Lieutenant General Joseph Carroll.

Operating as the primary military counterpart to the CIA, the DIA bypassed individual service rivalries by centralizing the collection and evaluation of foreign military capabilities. Instead of traditional civilian espionage, its staff focused heavily on analyzing global battlefields, assessing adversary weapon systems, and providing direct strategic support to combatant commands.

They mostly gathered information by synthesizing foreign logistics data, monitoring troop movements, and generating global threat assessments for the Pentagon.

President Kennedy and Secretary McNamara heavily favored this streamlined approach, as it finally gave the Joint Chiefs of Staff a single, objective source of military intelligence during intense Cold War flashpoints like the Cuban Missile Crisis.

The administration granted the agency the unique authority to consolidate the independent intelligence budgets of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, protecting the infant bureau from aggressive service turf wars and ensuring its analysts had direct access to the highest levels of military command.

While the DIA initially faced decades of bureaucratic friction from the individual military branches, its distinct model proved highly resilient. It survived numerous post-Cold War restructurings and expanded its footprint significantly after the September 11 attacks.

Today, the DIA remains an indispensable pillar of the defense establishment, operating as the nation's premier producer of foreign military intelligence.

2.16. National Reconnaissance Office (NRO)

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2.17. Military Intelligence Corps (MIC)

In June 1942, the War Department established the Military Intelligence Service (MIS)—the earliest ancestor of the unified modern corps—under the legacy of pioneer Major General Ralph Van Deman to master combat intelligence and tactical counterespionage.

This highly technical wing deployed specialized interrogators, linguists, and image analysts across global theaters. They gathered information by interrogating prisoners of war, translating captured enemy documents, and analyzing aerial photography to map adversary fortifications and troop movements.

Recognizing its vital tactical value, Pentagon leadership heavily prioritized the apparatus, officially establishing it as a basic branch of the Army in July 1962. This allowed the intelligence network to bypass standard operational delays and route critical threat assessments straight to frontline combat commanders.

Though the branch underwent multiple expansions to incorporate modern digital systems, its core framework survived. Today, its legacy is consolidated under the Military Intelligence Corps, which integrates global tactical human intelligence, electronic warfare, and aerial surveillance.

2.18. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) stands as the ultimate titan of global narcotics interdiction and illicit drug enforcement. While its roots trace back to early federal narcotics bureaus, its official birth was born out of bureaucratic failure and rising political urgency during the Nixon administration's self-declared War on Drugs.

By 1973, the United States found itself deeply fragmented in its approach to drug enforcement. The existing strategy—a dysfunctional system split between the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs and the Customs Service—had utterly failed to coordinate intelligence or stem the massive flow of illicit substances entering the country. Recognizing this critical vulnerability, President Richard Nixon issued an executive reorganization plan on July 1, 1973, officially abolishing the fractured entities and establishing the single, unified Drug Enforcement Administration.

The agency expanded exponentially during the drug epidemics of the 1980s and the subsequent rise of international cartels. Unlike older law enforcement entities that relied primarily on domestic policing, the DEA focused heavily on transnational pipelines, splitting its immense responsibilities into two massive, mirroring pillars: domestic enforcement, which targeted local distribution networks, and international interdiction, which embedded special agents in foreign embassies to disrupt cartels at the source.

The DEA also initiated unprecedented global intelligence operations to combat evolving trafficking organizations. To target the command structures of international networks, the agency monitored clandestine financial operations, tracked synthetic drug

precursors, and processed bulk communications data through specialized centers, bypassing traditional localized law enforcement limitations.

Despite high-profile successes, the landscape shifted dramatically with the arrival of the modern opioid crisis and changing state laws regarding marijuana, which forced the agency to redirect major resources toward synthetic opioids like fentanyl and dark-web marketplaces. Despite ongoing policy debates, the agency remains the premier superpower of global narcotics enforcement today, working in lockstep with international partners to disrupt criminal enterprises.

2.19. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM)

The US Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM) stands as a major hub of military intelligence, bridging the gap between national-level spy agencies and tactical soldiers on the battlefield.

Its creation was born out of the lessons of the Vietnam War and the rapid expansion of electronic warfare, which made it clear that the Army's tactical units and strategic security commands were operating in isolated silos.

To eliminate this fragmentation, military leadership sought to unify army intelligence across both localized battlefields and national networks. On 1 January 1977, the Department of the Army officially established INSCOM under the leadership of its first commander, Major General William I. Rolya.

Operating as a highly synchronized bridge, INSCOM bypassed traditional service barriers by merging the old Army Security Agency with the Army's staff intelligence wings. Instead of focusing solely on localized combat zones, its personnel operated at the intersection of national espionage and frontline tactics.

They mostly gathered information by intercepting adversary electronic emissions and translating sensitive foreign data streams. Additionally, they gathered intelligence by analyzing multi-source imagery to detect hidden hostile movements worldwide.

Pentagon planners and global combatant commanders heavily favored this integrated approach, as it finally gave the Army a single, cohesive command capable of feeding real-time data directly to national agencies like the NSA.

At the same time, the defense establishment granted the command unique authority to oversee a global network of intelligence brigades, protecting the new entity from localized command disputes and ensuring its analysts had direct pipelines to the highest levels of military leadership.

It survived the post-Cold War drawdowns and expanded its global reach exponentially during the Global War on Terrorism. Today, INSCOM remains an indispensable pillar of the defense establishment, operating as the Army's premier superpower for multidisciplinary intelligence and global security operations.

2.20. Office of Intelligence and Counterintelligence (DOE)

Following the Manhattan Project, the US government recognized that its atomic secrets required a dedicated protective shield against foreign espionage. To centralize technological security, President Jimmy Carter established the Department of Energy (DOE) in 1977, tasked with safeguarding the nation's nuclear weapons laboratories.

The department's intelligence arm was formalized to bridge the gap between technical laboratories and national policymakers, focusing on scientific threats rather than field espionage. Its specialized personnel mostly gathered information by analyzing nuclear proliferation, assessing foreign weapons, and monitoring threats to the electrical grid.

National security planners favored this approach, which drew directly from the expertise housed within institutions like Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore. Following the September 11 attacks, the office merged its intelligence and counterintelligence wings in 2006 to streamline capabilities, and today it remains the premier producer of technical nuclear intelligence.

2.21. National Drug and Intelligence Center (NDIC)

In the early 1990s, the US government realized that its fight against sophisticated drug cartels was severely hindered by fragmented data. To centralize drug intelligence, Attorney General Janet Reno established the National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) in 1993, tasking it with coordinating the collection and consolidation of domestic narcotics data.

The center's intelligence arm was formalized to bridge the gap between law enforcement agencies and national policymakers, focusing on strategic threat assessments

rather than field operations. Its specialized personnel mostly gathered information by analyzing drug trafficking trends, assessing the economic impact of illicit substances, and monitoring the diversion of pharmaceuticals.

The agency gets data from federal, state, and local law enforcement networks. Following the September 11 attacks, the center increasingly shifted its focus to tracking the financial networks used by cartels, operating as a vital piece of the counter-narcotics community until its functions were absorbed by the DEA in 2012.

2.22. National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)

Following the Gulf War, the U.S. government recognized that its military operations required a more unified approach to satellite imagery and mapping. To centralize imagery intelligence, President Bill Clinton established the National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA) in 1996, which was later renamed the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) in 2003 to reflect its broader mission.

The agency's intelligence arm was formalized to bridge the gap between advanced satellite technology and national policymakers, focusing on geospatial data rather than traditional field espionage. Its specialized personnel mostly gathered information by analyzing satellite imagery, mapping physical terrain, and monitoring global security threats through overhead surveillance.

National security planners favored this approach, which drew directly from the technical data housed within advanced aerospace systems and surveillance networks. Following the September 11 attacks, the NGA expanded its capabilities to provide real-time

battlefield tracking and counterterrorism support, and today it remains the premier producer of global geospatial intelligence.

2.23. Post-2001 Intelligence Agencies

2.23.1. DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A)

Following the September 11 attacks, the U.S. government recognized that its domestic security required a unified shield to protect the homeland from cascading transnational threats. To centralize threat security, the Homeland Security Act of 2002 established the Department of Homeland Security, creating a dedicated internal intelligence arm that was later structurally formalized as the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) in 2007.

The office was designed to bridge the gap between national intelligence agencies and state, local, tribal, and local law enforcement. Its specialized personnel focus on domestic threat analysis rather than foreign espionage, mostly gathering information by analyzing open-source data, tracking domestic extremism.

I&A uses the data housed within regional fusion centers to create a synchronized defensive network. Following its post-9/11 integration into the Intelligence Community, the office streamlined its data-sharing capabilities, and today it remains the premier producer of homeland security intelligence and threat warnings for local first responders.

2.23.2. Treasury Office of Intelligence and Analysis (OIA)

Following the September 11 attacks, the U.S. government recognized that cutting off terrorist financial lifelines was as vital as military action. To centralize these efforts, Congress passed the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, creating the Treasury

Department's Office of Intelligence and Analysis (OIA) to integrate economic expertise into the broader Intelligence Community.

Designed to bridge global banking systems and national policy, the OIA focuses on financial networks rather than traditional field espionage. Its specialized personnel track terrorist financing, dismantle international money laundering schemes, and monitor the economic behavior of sanctioned regimes.

Today, the OIA remains the premier producer of financial intelligence, providing policymakers with a critical non-kinetic weapon to disrupt transnational criminal enterprises.

2.23.3. Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI)

After 9-/11, the U.S. government recognized that its vast array of spy agencies operated in dangerously isolated silos. To centralize national security, Congress passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, establishing the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) in 2005 to oversee and integrate the entire Intelligence Community.

The office was designed to bridge the gap between seventeen disparate intelligence agencies and the President, focusing on community management and strategic synthesis rather than conducting independent field espionage. Its specialized personnel focus on interagency synchronization, mostly gathering information by consolidating raw data from

across the government, managing the National Intelligence Council, and producing the President's Daily Brief.

The ODNI draws intelligence directly from the collective assets housed within agencies like the CIA, NSA, and FBI to forge a unified national strategy. Following its post-9/11 creation, the office streamlined its oversight capabilities, and today it remains the premier head of the Intelligence Community, ensuring a synchronized defensive front against global adversaries.

2.23.4. FBI Intelligence Branch (IB)

Following the structural failures highlighted by the 9/11 Commission, the U.S. government recognized that its domestic law enforcement apparatus needed to transition from a purely reactive investigative agency into a proactive, intelligence-led organization. To centralize domestic threat security, FBI Director Robert Mueller established the Intelligence Branch (IB) in 2005, unifying the Bureau's various intelligence capabilities under a single executive authority.

The branch was designed to bridge the gap between traditional criminal investigations and national security initiatives, focusing on strategic threat analysis rather than conventional field arrests. Its specialized personnel focus on threat tracking, mostly gathering information by synthesizing field office case files, managing human intelligence assets, and monitoring domestic terrorism networks.

The IB draws directly from the vast investigative data housed across fifty-six field offices and global legal attaché posts. Following its post-9/11 evolution, the branch

streamlined its information-sharing pipelines, and today it remains the premier producer of domestic threat intelligence, driving the Bureau's dual mission as both a law enforcement agency and a core member of the Intelligence Community.

2.23.5. Space Force Intelligence (S2)

Following the rapid militarization of the orbital domain, the U.S. government recognized that its burgeoning space assets required a dedicated shield against sophisticated extraterrestrial threats. To centralize orbital security, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 established the United States Space Force, creating a specialized internal intelligence wing that was formally designated as Space Force Intelligence (S2).

The branch was designed to bridge the gap between traditional aerospace defense and national policymakers, focusing on the orbital frontier rather than conventional terrestrial espionage. Its specialized personnel focus on space domain awareness, mostly gathering information by tracking foreign anti-satellite weapons, analyzing orbital debris fields, and monitoring electromagnetic interference targeting military communications.

This was a special approach that gets intelligence from advanced radar networks, ground-based optical sensors, and space-tracking assets. After its integration into the U.S. Intelligence Community in 2021, the wing streamlined its technical data pipelines, and today it remains the premier producer of space intelligence, safeguarding the nation's critical orbital infrastructure.

2.23.6. National Space Intelligence Center (NSIC)

Following the rapid rise of competitive space superpowers, the U.S. military realized its orbital surveillance required a sharper, highly dedicated analytical edge. To centralize space-specific threat tracking, the Department of the Air Force established the National Space Intelligence Center (NSIC) in 2022, activating it at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to serve as the nation's premier field operating agency for space intelligence.

The center was designed to bridge the gap between scientific engineering data and frontline space operators, focusing on deep technical analysis rather than broad strategic espionage. Its specialized personnel focus on foreign counterspace capabilities, mostly gathering information by reverse-engineering adversary satellite designs, assessing directed-energy weapons, and evaluating emerging threats to American orbital architecture.

This agency gets information via advanced telemetry systems, space-surveillance radars, and scientific research labs. Working in tandem with Space Force Intelligence, NSIC streamlined the flow of technical threat data to the Pentagon, and today it remains the premier producer of scientific and intelligence analysis regarding foreign space and counterspace forces.

2.23.7. Office of Analytic Outreach

Recognizing that closed-loop government data often breeds cognitive bias, federal planners realized that traditional spy agencies risked blind spots by ignoring external scholarship. To counter this insularity, the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research formally structured the Office of Analytic Outreach (AO) to systematically inject unconventional, unclassified expertise directly into the secret world of national security.

The office serves to bridge the gap between classified war rooms and global civilian networks, prioritizing intellectual diversity over covert field collection. Its specialized personnel focus on collaborative intelligence, executing this mission by hosting rapid-response seminars, administering the Intelligence Community's broader Analytic Exchange Program, and synthesizing cutting-edge research from think tanks, NGOs, and academia.

This system is used to challenge institutional groupthink during fast-moving geopolitical crises. By routinely connecting senior diplomats and Intelligence Community analysts with global private-sector specialists, the office has fundamentally shifted how Washington evaluates foreign trends, cementing itself as the premier producer of collaborative, outside-the-box strategic insights.

3. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

3.1. Establishment

On June 18, 1941, Franklin Roosevelt (the President of the United States, POTUS, of 1933-45) sat reading through a short memo submitted to him by Colonel William "Wild Bill" Donovan—a military hero of World War I who got into a senior position during the Roosevelt administration.

Roosevelt, despite his campaign "your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars", knew that the US was going in the direction of joining the war. The US and its allies' territory were under threat by Imperial Japan, and British forces were already using American material on the field of war. What he also knew was that the US and its citizens were not

ready for such a war (World War II), described as the “deadliest conflict in human history” at the time.

Donovan’s memo looked at the things from a different perspective. He requested the president to open a new position, “Coordinator of Strategic Information”, which should be responsible for gathering information regarding the war in Europe and Asia. Such information was crucial for the war effort.

Even though intelligence was already gathered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and several groups within the Army and Navy, Donovan thought having a separate agency would benefit the war efforts of the US and its allies. Roosevelt agreed, and responded Donovan saying “Please set this up confidentially.” After the budget was set, the US had its first civilian agency for national intelligence.

A short while later, Donovan was named the first Coordinator of Information, within an “organizational structure” created by an executive order. A short time after this, the exigencies of war would see the new Office of the Coordinator of Information (OCI) subsumed into the new Office of Strategic Services (OSS), US’s sabotage and wartime espionage. Donovan was requested to run the whole office.

The looming threat of the Cold War and the searing memory of Pearl Harbor convinced Truman that the US needed a centralized approach to intelligence. However, the path from Donovan’s wartime OSS to a permanent peacetime agency was fiercely contested by existing departments.

Yielding to early political pressure and fears of an “American Gestapo”, Truman initially dissolved the OSS in September 1945. This move backfired, leaving the President bombarded with uncoordinated, contradictory intelligence reports from competing military and diplomatic bureaucracies.

To remedy this, Truman established the Central Intelligence Group in 1946. However, this interim group was weak by design, lacking an independent budget and being actively starved of high-quality information by rival agencies protecting their own turf.

This bureaucratic gridlock was finally broken by the National Security Act of 1947. This sweeping legislation established the Central Intelligence Agency as the nation’s first permanent, peacetime civilian intelligence body, specifically designed to correlate and evaluate national security data.

To appease powerful domestic rivals like the FBI, the Act explicitly denied the CIA any law enforcement or domestic security functions. This restriction was intended to keep the new agency’s primary focus strictly on foreign intelligence analysis.

While the CIA was born to prevent another surprise attack through centralized analysis, the Act contained a vaguely worded clause. It allowed the agency to perform “other functions and duties related to intelligence” as directed by the National Security Council.

This single, ambiguous loophole would shape the future of the agency. It ultimately allowed the CIA to expand far beyond mere analysis, morphing it back into an organization optimized for the same covert action, sabotage, and espionage Donovan had championed.

3.2. Early–Cold War Era

By 1948, the ink on the National Security Act was barely dry when the Central Intelligence Agency faced its first true operational test. President Truman, despite his initial desires for a strictly analytical shop, realized that the Soviet Union's aggressive maneuvers in Eastern Europe required an aggressive American response.

The Cold War had begun in earnest, and the United States needed a weapon to fight a new kind of shadow war. What the CIA lacked in formal, statutory operational authority, it quickly made up for with political opportunity and executive backing.

Recognizing the imminent Soviet threat to the upcoming 1948 Italian general elections, the National Security Council bypassed the CIA's strictly analytical mandate. They issued executive directive NSC 4-A, and shortly thereafter NSC 10/2, to address the crisis.

These secret directives officially authorized the young agency to conduct covert psychological and political warfare. In doing so, the executive branch effectively weaponized the ambiguous "other functions" clause of the CIA's founding 1947 charter.

With millions of dollars funneled secretly into Italy to defeat communist candidates and buy media influence, the CIA achieved a stunning, quiet victory. This early success fundamentally and permanently altered the agency's trajectory.

The Italian operation proved to Washington policymakers that covert action was a viable, low-cost alternative to overt military intervention. Almost overnight, the CIA's

primary identity began shifting from a centralized information clearinghouse to an activist arm of American foreign policy.

This operational shift was supercharged by the arrival of Allen Dulles, who became the Director of Central Intelligence in 1953. Dulles, a veteran of Donovan's wartime OSS, possessed a deep, romantic faith in espionage and a total disdain for bureaucratic red tape.

Under his leadership, and with the complete backing of the Eisenhower administration's "New Look" national security strategy, the CIA entered what historians consider its golden age of covert intervention. The agency operated with immense autonomy.

Dulles capitalized on a powerful Washington foreign policy consensus focused on the total containment of communism. This political consensus meant that external overseers in Congress were content to look the other way, granting the agency unchecked freedom.

In 1953, the CIA orchestrated Operation Ajax, a covert coup that overthrew the democratically elected Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. This came after Mossadegh nationalized the country's oil industry, threatening Western corporate interests.

The operation successfully restored the pro-Western Shah to power, securing American geopolitical interests in the Middle East with a minimal public footprint. It cost relatively little money and did not require a single American soldier on the ground.

Flush with success in Iran, Dulles and the CIA duplicated this exact interventionist model just one year later in Central America. Operation PBSUCCESS successfully targeted the democratically elected President Jacobo Árbenz of Guatemala.

Árbenz's aggressive land reform policies had threatened the holdings of the American-owned United Fruit Company. This move stirred deep fears in Washington of a Soviet communist beachhead being established in the Western Hemisphere.

By utilizing radio propaganda, intense psychological warfare, and a small mercenary army, the CIA forced Árbenz into exile. The operation cemented the CIA's reputation within the executive branch as an omnipotent and highly efficient global actor.

However, these early Cold War victories created a dangerous illusion of easy success. By operating in total secrecy, the CIA built an impenetrable wall of information asymmetry between itself and the rest of the United States government.

The agency could easily tout its triumphs to the President while completely concealing the long-term geopolitical blowback and democratic erosion caused by its actions. This set a hazardous precedent of unchecked executive power.

This period established a pattern where the CIA used its control over information to insulate itself from any real accountability. It was a dynamic of unchecked autonomy that would run completely unhindered until it eventually collapsed on the shores of the Bay of Pigs.

3.3. Collapse of Cold War

By 1961, the impenetrable wall of secrecy that the Central Intelligence Agency had built around its operations began to crack. The agency's long run of easy, covert victories had bred a dangerous culture of overconfidence within its headquarters at Langley.

Newly inaugurated President John F. Kennedy inherited a highly classified plan to overthrow Cuban leader Fidel Castro. The CIA, relying on its previous successes in Iran and Guatemala, assured the young president that a small force of US-trained Cuban exiles could spark a popular revolution.

The resulting Bay of Pigs invasion in April 1961 was an unmitigated disaster. Castro's forces crushed the invasion within three days, publicly humiliating the United States and shattering the myth of the CIA's operational infallibility.

For the first time, the agency's control over information failed them. Kennedy, furious at being misled by faulty intelligence and flawed assumptions, famously threatened to "splinter the CIA into a thousand pieces and scatter it to the winds".

The disaster marked the beginning of the end for the early Cold War consensus. Over the next decade, public and political trust eroded further as the United States became deeply mired in the Vietnam War, a conflict where the CIA's pessimistic intelligence assessments often clashed with the military's optimistic public reports.

By the early 1970s, the fragile political protection the agency enjoyed completely collapsed under the weight of the Watergate scandal. Journalists began unearthing a web of illegal domestic operations conducted by the agency, directly violating its 1947 charter.

Fearing a total loss of control, the Director of Central Intelligence, James Schlesinger, ordered the compilation of an internal report detailing all past illegal activities. This highly sensitive dossier became known within the agency as the “Family Jewels”.

The final blow landed in late 1974, when investigative journalist Seymour Hersh published a massive exposé in The New York Times. The article revealed that the CIA had conducted massive, illegal domestic spying operations against American anti-war activists.

The public outcry was immediate and unprecedented. The breakdown of the foreign policy consensus meant that Congress was no longer willing to look the other way or accept the agency’s standard appeals to national security.

In 1975, a period later dubbed the “Year of Intelligence”, Congress seized control of the narrative. The Senate established the Church Committee, led by Senator Frank Church, while the House formed the Pike Committee to aggressively investigate the executive branch’s secret arm.

The committees breached the CIA’s information monopoly, forcing the agency to turn over classified documents and exposing decades of hidden abuses to the American public.

The investigation revealed shocking programs, including MKUltra—a covert mind-control experiment using unwitting human subjects—as well as illegal opening of domestic mail and targeted assassination plots against foreign leaders like Cuba's Fidel Castro and the Congo's Patrice Lumumba.

The findings permanently altered the landscape of American intelligence. The era of unchecked executive autonomy and total information asymmetry was officially over, replaced by a new, permanent system of strict congressional oversight committees designed to keep the agency on a leash.

3.4. Post-9/11 Reforms

On the morning of September 11, 2001, the structural foundation upon which the Central Intelligence Agency had operated for over half a century was completely shattered. The devastating terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon exposed deep, systemic vulnerabilities across the entire United States national security apparatus.

The tragedy instantly transformed the political landscape in Washington, obliterating the remaining remnants of the post-Cold War foreign policy consensus. Policymakers, alongside a traumatized American public, demanded to know how the world's most sophisticated and well-funded intelligence network had failed to connect the dots.

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, the initial defense mounted by the CIA relied heavily on its historical playbook. Leadership tried to leverage the agency's unique control over information to protect its bureaucratic independence and insulate itself from radical structural changes.

Agency officials argued to the White House and Congress that the catastrophic failure was not structural, but rather tactical. They maintained that the agency simply lacked sufficient resources, human intelligence assets on the ground, and the specific pieces of data necessary to disrupt the complex al-Qaeda plot.

However, this traditional wall of information asymmetry began to crumble with the creation of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, famously known as the 9/11 Commission. This independent, bipartisan panel was granted unprecedented political momentum and wide-ranging subpoena power.

The commission successfully breached Langley's walls, gaining access to highly classified files, communication logs, and internal agency briefings. For the first time in decades, the agency completely lost its monopoly over the narrative surrounding its own operational performance.

The Commission's final report, released to the public in 2004, delivered a stinging, comprehensive indictment of the CIA and its sister agencies. It concluded that the primary failure leading to 9/11 was a systemic lack of information-sharing, plagued by deep-seated institutional rivalries.

The report highlighted a culture of bureaucratic "stovepiping", where agencies guarded secrets like currency. The CIA, which had been created in 1947 to serve as the central coordinator of national intelligence, was found to have become just another aggressive competitor in a fractured marketplace of secrets.

Specifically, the CIA had actively withheld critical operational data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and defense agencies due to mutual distrust. With the foreign policy consensus completely unified around the new global War on Terror, Congress possessed the rare legislative willpower to override the CIA's fierce bureaucratic resistance.

This culminated in the passage of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. This sweeping piece of legislation enacted the most radical, disruptive restructuring of the United States intelligence community since its foundational dawn in 1947.

To permanently strip the CIA of its historical monopoly on intelligence coordination, the Act created the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. This new office was designed to sit entirely above the CIA and all other intelligence entities.

The newly established DNI was designated as the true, statutory head of the entire intelligence community. The Director of the CIA was officially demoted from their dual historical role as head of the community, losing direct authority over the multi-billion-dollar national intelligence budget.

Furthermore, the 2004 reforms established the National Counterterrorism Center. The center was mandated to serve as a shared, interagency hub for analyzing threats, specifically designed to force collaboration and break down the CIA's tightly guarded information stovepipes.

Despite these massive statutory changes and the loss of its apex position in Washington, the CIA quickly adapted to the post-9/11 landscape. While it lost its formal role as the top coordinator, the agency aggressively expanded its operational footprint abroad to regain its bureaucratic preeminence.

Under the banner of counterterrorism, the CIA leaned heavily back into its wartime roots of direct covert action. It shifted massive resources away from traditional geopolitical analysis and toward global paramilitary operations, secret detention programs, and targeted drone strikes.

By dominating the physical battlefield and providing the high-value, actionable intelligence that wartime presidents desperately craved, the CIA effectively maintained its autonomy. It proved that even the most aggressive legislative reforms can be reshaped by an agency's control over operational execution.

4. September 11th, 2001

On September 11th, 2001, 19 members of Islamic terrorist organisation al-Qaeda (founded by Osama bin Laden), hijacked 4 commercial airplanes at 3 different airports and committed suicide attacks to World Trade Center in New York City, and Pentagon in Virginia. While 3 of those attacks succeeded, in the fourth plane passengers fought back and the plane crashed in a field in Pennsylvania, also unfortunately killing everyone on board.

Approximately 3000 people were killed in this series of attacks, while injuring more than 5000 people in the best scenario.

As a response, President of the United States of America, George W. Bush declared the Global War on Terrorism. War on Terrorism included a series of wars and conflicts in multiple countries like Iraq, Libya, Pakistan and Yemen. This led to the death of approximately 1 million people directly, and another 3.5 million deaths indirectly. 38 million people were displaced because of the major operations carried out.

Al-Qaeda (AQ)

Al-Qaeda (AQ) is a Sunni Islamist terrorist organization with a network of affiliates. The group rose to global prominence after perpetrating the September 11, 2001, attacks (9/11) in the United States. Since then, sustained counter terrorism (CT) efforts by the United States and its partners have weakened the group, particularly in its historic base in Afghanistan.

In 1988, Osama bin Laden established Al Qaeda from a network of Arab and other foreign veterans of the US-backed Afghan insurgency against the Soviet Union, with the aim of supporting Islamist causes in conflicts around the world. After the 1991 Gulf War, citing opposition to Saudi Arabia's decision to host US troops and other grievances,the group made the United States its primary target. Bin Laden left his native Saudi Arabia that year for Sudan, until the Taliban took power in Afghanistan in 1996 and offered refuge to AQ members and other armed Islamists.

Al-Qaeda conducted terrorist attacks against US and allied targets prior to 9/11, including the 1998 bombings of USembassies in Kenya and Tanzania (after which the United States launched airstrikes against targets in Afghanistan and Sudan) and the 2000 attack on the USS Cole in Yemen. The United States designated Al Qaeda as a Foreign Terrorist

Organization (FTO) in 1999. After 9/11, the United States launched military operations to topple the Taliban government in Afghanistan and expanded its CT efforts worldwide. Some AQ leaders fled to Pakistan, where USforces killed Bin Laden in 2011. AQ attacks against US and Western targets worldwide continued in the years after 9/11, but the group has not successfully carried out a major attack inside the United States since then.

September 11 Attacks

Flight 11

American Airlines Flight 11 was a domestic flight from Massachusetts to California. The aircraft was a Boeing 767 built in 1987. Capacity of the aircraft could reach 158 passengers but on the day of September 11, there were 81 onboard passengers with 11 crew members.

By 07:40, 5 hijackers were able to successfully board the plane as disguising normal passengers.

Aircraft Departed at 08.00. Approximately 15 minutes after the departure, hijackers gained the control of the aircraft and barricaded themselves to the cockpit.

At 08:24, by a mistake caused by the hijackers inexperience, a speech given to the passengers was heard by the Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center (Boston ARTCC) and the hijacking of the flight became obvious. But at that point there was nothing to do.

At 08:46 a.m., a Boeing 767 loaded with 20,000 gallons of jet fuel crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City.

The impact left a gaping, burning hole near the 93rd and 99th floors of the 110-story skyscraper, instantly killing hundreds of people and trapping hundreds more on higher floors. The collision caused a massive explosion that showered burning debris over surrounding buildings and onto the streets below.

Flight 175

United Airlines Flight 175 was a domestic flight from Massachusetts to California. It was also a Boeing 767 with the same features as the Flight 11.

Aircraft departed at 08.14 from Logan Airport.

28 minutes after the departure 5 hijackers started their attack and forced their way into the cockpit, killing both pilots.

Unlike the other team on the flight 11, hijackers did not turn off the transponder of the aircraft. This delayed the realisation of hijacking by the ATC.

Then, 18 minutes after the first plane hit, Flight 175 appeared in the sky, sharply turned toward the World Trade Center, and sliced into the south tower between the 77th and 85th floors.

Flight 77

American Airlines Flight 77 was a domestic flight from Northern Virginia to Los Angeles. The Aircraft was a Boeing 757.

Aircraft Departed from Dulles International Airport at 08.20, 31 minutes after the departure, hijackers got into the action and took over the control of the cockpit. Because Indianapolis ATC did not get informed about the flight 11 and flight 175, flight 77 looked like an accident at the start.

At 09.37 hijackers crashed the airplane to the west side of the Pentagon.

Jet fuel caused a devastating inferno that led to the structural collapse of a portion of the giant concrete building. The fire caused by this took several days to extinguish.

4.1. Involvement of Intelligence Agencies

The FBI's investigation of the attacks of 9/11—code-named "PENTTBOM", short for Pennsylvania, Pentagon, and Twin Towers Bombing—was our largest case ever. At its peak, more than half of agents worked to identify the hijackers and their sponsors and, with other agencies, to head off any possible future attacks. In the process, the FBI followed more than half a million investigative leads, including several hundred thousand tips from the public. The attack and crash sites also represented the largest crime scenes in FBI history.

In the declassified reports of CIA and US Government, there is no document about any CIA involvement in the attack, or CIA knowledge before the attack happened.

But 9/11 led to serious questions about the US capability of gathering intelligence and preventing such incidents before it even happens.

5. 2001 Afghanistan War

Just after one day following the September 11, NATO approved and launched at jet speed the Article 5 for
the first time in its history which was referring that an attack on one of its allies would be considered an
attack on all members and multinational organizations, including the UN, placed counterterrorism at the top of their security agendas.

Having the international community at the back, the US's first military response to these terrorist attacks targeted the Afghan
government because if al-Qaeda terrorists were to be caught, the Afghan government had to be overthrown and made a "safe place for democracy".

After the Taliban, ruled Afghanistan until 2001, refused to hand over Osama bin Laden after the 9/11 attacks, the US-led coalition forces, with the help of the Northern Alliance, invaded Afghanistan and overthrew the regime. Within almost a month, the Taliban regime had been overthrown and the Taliban retreated to the mountainous regions of Afghanistan along the Pakistani border.

From this date on, the work of establishing a new administration in Afghanistan was undertaken. According to American leaders, Afghanistan had to be

transformed into a Western-style democracy with a constitution, elected leaders and a legal system that protected human rights, because the formation of a democratic Afghanistan that would be friendlier to the West would bring greater security to the United States and its allies.

Operation Neptune Spear

This operation's aim was to kill Usame Bin-Laden, the world's most wanted terrorist. Operation Neptune Spear was the last step of the global manhunt for Bin-Laden, by eliminating him in the operation.

Since the September 11, CIA, US Army and other intelligence agencies looked for Bin-Laden, tried to gather every possible intel of his whereabouts, even the least importants. The manhunt lasted for 10 years.

Eventually with the intel gathered by the CIA, Operation Neptune Spear started. Bin-Laden was hiding in a compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, with his courier Abu Ahmad al Kuwaiti.

For legal purposes, every participant in the operation was temporarily transferred to the command of the CIA.

Two specially stealth modified Black Hawk helicopters carried 23 Navy SEAL's, 1 interpreter, and a K9 dog. SEALs were from the famous Navy SEAL Team 6.

On May 1 2011, at 10:30 p.m. operation started.

Inside the compound's walls, several SEALs approached the guesthouse where one of Osama bin Laden's couriers lived. The SEALs found the door locked and were preparing to blow it open when they were fired upon through the door. The SEALs returned fire.

Soon, the door opened, and a woman came out carrying a child, followed by other children. Beyond her, lying dead, was her husband, Abu Ahmad al-Kuwaiti, bin Laden's primary courier.

In the main building, SEALs killed the second courier and his wife on the first floor and bin Laden's son, Khalid, who was armed, on the second-floor landing. They killed Osama bin Laden in his third-floor bedroom, where he was found with at least one weapon nearby.

With Osama bin Laden dead, the SEALs collected documents, electronics, and other materials for intelligence exploitation.

As a backup helicopter arrived, they blew up the downed helicopter to destroy its stealth technology. Locals gathered outside the compound, and Pakistani authorities began to mobilize a response to the late-night disturbance.

After about 45 minutes on the ground, the SEALs boarded the helicopters, taking with them the collected materials and bin Laden's body.

In Afghanistan, law enforcement and intelligence officers analyzed bin Laden's DNA and took his fingerprints. Facial recognition analysis, together with the biometric information, ultimately confirmed his identity.

American forces then flew bin Laden's body to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson in the Arabian Sea. After religious funeral rites, Osama bin Laden was buried at sea so his gravesite would not become a shrine for his followers.

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