National conversation on the defense of our nation and protecting civil liberties and privacy

A technical perspective

General Keith B. Alexander
Commander, U.S. Cyber Command | Director, National Security Agency | Chief, Central Security Service
Khobar Towers Bombing
19 dead
372 injured

9/11
2,966 dead
More than 6,000 injured
11 dead
39 injured

WTC bombing
9/11
Embassy Bombings in Tanzania & Kenya
223 dead
More than 4,000 injured
USS Cole
17 dead
39 injured
“At 8:46 on the morning of September 11, 2001, the United States became a nation transformed…”

9/11

2,966 dead
More than 6,000 injured
...the Intelligence Community failed to connect the dots.
- 9/11 Commission

9/11 bombing
2,966 dead
More than 6,000 injured

9/11 Commission
Embassy bombings in Tanzania & Kenya
USS Cole
WTC bombing
Khobar Towers bombing
Never Again

INTERNATIONAL

93 94 95 96 97 98 99 00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 13

UNITED STATES

WTC bombing

Embassy bombing

9/11

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More than 6,000 injured

9/11

9/11

Khobar Towers bombing

Embassy bombings in Tanzania & Kenya

USS Cole

9/11
Foreign Intelligence – Saving Lives

NSA developed and deployed Real Time Regional Gateway (RTRG) to Iraq and Afghanistan as part of our mission to support our military.

RTRG uses metadata from hundreds of sensors to enable tactical users to rapidly identify adversaries and IEDs in billions of lines of data.
• Virtually all democracies have lawful intercept programs
• The U.S., however, operates its program under a strict oversight regime with oversight by the courts, Congress and the Administration

_U.S. companies put energy, focus and commitment into protecting the privacy of their customers around the world, while meeting obligations under the laws of the US and other countries in which they operate_.

The government created two programs.

**Section 215** _AUTHORITY_  
Business Records FISA  
Telephone metadata only; used for counterterrorism purposes only.

**Section 702** _AUTHORITY_  
Content of Communications; may only target foreign persons reasonably believed to be overseas.

U.S. and our allies benefit
For counterterrorism purposes - a program designed to identify the communications of persons suspected to be associated with terrorist organizations communicating with individuals inside the U.S.

 NSA obtains:

- Date/Time of call
- Calling number (from address)
- Called number (to address)
- Duration of call (length)
- Origin of metadata record (site/source)

Focused on defending the homeland

 NSA does NOT obtain:

- Content of calls
  - NO voice communication
  - NO SMS/text messages
- Subscriber information
  - NO names
  - NO addresses
  - NO credit card numbers
- Locational Information
Section 702 Authority

FISA Amendment Act

For foreign intelligence purposes, and applies only to communications of foreign persons who are located abroad, and requires a valid documented foreign intelligence purpose such as counterterrorism.

May NOT target any U.S. person anywhere in the world.

Under the 702 program, the U.S. government does not unilaterally obtain information from the servers of U.S. companies

Industry is compelled to comply this program

Focused on counterterrorism globally
These programs helped disrupt a plot to bomb the New York City subway system.

It would have been the biggest terrorist attack since 9/11 on U.S. soil.

These programs disrupted what would have been the biggest terrorist attack since 9/11 on U.S. soil.

Section 215 AUTHORITY
NSA entered Zazi’s telephone number into the business records data, identifying and passing additional leads back to FBI for investigation.

One of the leads revealed a previously unknown number for Adis Medunjanin highlighting his connection to Zazi as a co-conspirator in the plot.

Both Zazi and Medunjanin were subsequently arrested and the attack thwarted.

FBI had seven days to use this information to stop the attack.

Section 702 AUTHORITY
NSA intercepted an email from a terrorist in Pakistan who was communicating with Najibullah Zazi in Denver, Colorado about a recipe for explosives.
These programs have protected us and our allies.
And have helped us understand and disrupt 54 terror-related activities.
Times Square bombing fails

Christmas day bomber fails

Benghazi attack

Embassy bombings in Tanzania & Kenya

USS Cole

9/11

WTC bombing

9/11

Khobar Towers bombing

Embassy bombings in Tanzania & Kenya

USS Cole

9/11

Madrid train bombing

London train / bus bombing

Bali bombing

Car bombings kill 800 in Iraq in one day

Mumbai hotel shootings

Bombing of CIA post near Khost, Afg

Boston Marathon bombing

Benghazi attack
What Will the Future Be?

Terrorist will continue to pose a threat and they are changing their tactics.

Conditions that may shape the next decade:

- Arab Spring
- Conflict in Syria
- Drawdown of troops in Afghanistan
- Continued violence in Iraq
- Instability in Libya
- Upheaval in Egypt
- al-Qaeda continued focus on attacks

25 in Europe
13 in U.S.
11 in Asia
5 in Africa
54 attacks thwarted
What Will the Future Be?

Terrorists will continue to pose a threat and they are changing their tactics.

We welcome your ideas on how we can better protect our civil liberties and privacy while defending our nation and allies from attacks.

How can we do this better?

Let’s start the discussion. Questions?