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SECRECY & GOVERNMENT BULLETIN

To Challenge Excessive Government Secrecy and
To Promote Public Oversight and Free Exchange
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Non-Lethal Weapons

Secrecy is obstructing public awareness and discussion of the emerging field of so-called "non-lethal weaponry," a development that may have profound and possibly alarming implications for military strategy, law enforcement, and civil liberties.

Non-lethal weapons refer to systems that damage or disable enemy personnel or equipment, but stop short of killing people. For example, the non-lethal category would include technologies that incapacitate enemy forces by temporarily blinding or disorienting them, making them violently ill or putting them to sleep. "According to Army officials, at least seven non-lethal munitions programs are being pursued by service and national research facilities," including the Army's Harry Diamond Laboratories and Los Alamos National Laboratory (*National Defense*, October 1993, p.25). In addition, there are persistent reports of non-lethal weapons programs conducted on an unacknowledged, special access basis.

Janet Morris of the U.S. Global Strategy Council, a proponent of non-lethal weapons, believes that "We can better serve our national interests at home and abroad by projecting power without indiscriminately taking lives or destroying property." In a recent position paper, she has identified some two dozen non-lethal anti-personnel and anti-materiel technologies and called for the development of a national non-lethal policy and strategy to promote and guide their development.

But the articulation of such a policy, including its proper limitations, has been stymied, she says, by the rigorous secrecy imposed on the subject.

In many cases, the non-lethal approach merely involves minor modifications in existing weapons systems or in the manner in which they are used. On the other hand, in some of its more exotic variants, non-lethal weaponry includes behavior modification systems and even mind control devices.

Subtle influences of auditory and other stimuli on mental processes have long been recognized but are not well understood. "I also know," St. Augustine wrote, "that there are particular modes in song and in the voice, corresponding to my various emotions and able to stimulate them because of some mysterious relationship between the two." (*Confessions* X:33). Lately, a letter to *Nature* (10/14/93, p. 611) reported that after listening to a Mozart sonata, students performed significantly better on standard intelligence tests.

As if to develop such observations and turn them to military ends, U.S. defense and intelligence agencies are studying, among other things, Russian work on an "acoustic device allegedly capable of implanting thoughts in a person's mind without that person being aware of the source of the thought." (*Defense Electronics*, July 1993, page 17).

"The Russian capability, demonstrated in a series of laboratory experiments dating back to the mid-1970s, could be used to suppress riots, control dissidents, demoralize or disable opposing forces and enhance the performance of friendly special operations teams, sources say." (*Defense News*, January 11-17, 1993, page 4).

A preliminary report by Julianne McKinney of the Association of National Security Alumni on "Microwave Harassment & Mind-Control Experimentation" surveys the field and presents anecdotal accounts of alleged harassment. Since allegations of government harassment and mind control are also associated with some forms of mental disorder, these accounts are difficult to evaluate.

In any case, the potential for abuse of such research is self-evident. Yet there has been little or no discussion of the proper parameters for research, let alone application, because of the government's aggressive classification of the field. As so often seems to be the case, Congressional attention has been deflected by the secrecy surrounding the programs already underway in government laboratories. Meanwhile, even advocates like Morris are distressed by the degree of secrecy, which they believe is unwarranted and counter-productive.

The American Defense Preparedness Association will hold a symposium on Non-Lethal Defense at Johns Hopkins University on November 16-17. Topics for discussion include emerging technologies and "adoption and assimilation of these systems into the force structure." The conference is classified Secret.

Intelligence Agencies Race Against Obsolescence

As information flows faster, farther, and to an ever wider group of consumers, the Cold War secrecy system is proving to be a major handicap for U.S. intelligence agencies. If the CIA and other agencies are unable to relax their grip on information, they may soon become irrelevant to U.S. policymaking.

A January 1993 CIA report, entitled "Preparing US Intelligence for the Information Age: Coping with the Information Overload," addresses some of the challenges of the new era. For those who are not immediately concerned with the JFK assassination, the 1954 coup in Guatemala, or other purely historical matters, it is perhaps the most interesting document released by the CIA lately.

As acknowledged in the CIA report, a fundamental reality today is that vast quantities of information with potential intelligence significance are openly available, i.e. without requiring technical or human espionage. But U.S. intelligence agencies are not designed to cope with this reality.

"The collection of open-source information is inadequate to support the analyses expected of the intelligence community," the report states. Moreover, "We do not have sufficient time to read all the openly available

information that now is on hand. ... We need to figure out how analysts can benefit from information in documents they have never read."

While the collection of open-source information is neglected in favor of traditional classified sources, analysis and dissemination are compromised to an even greater extent by the fixation on secrecy.

"As the real-time nature of commercial news forces policymakers to respond more rapidly to foreign actions and statements, intelligence will be pressed to add its value more rapidly as well." But in practice, the ability of intelligence to contribute to the increasingly fast-paced decisionmaking process is diminishing due to indiscriminate controls on information that limit its utility and availability.

There seem to be many in the intelligence community who would prefer to go down with the ship of secrecy than to face new realities. Let them contemplate the fact that as the Russian parliament was under siege last month, the President was getting his information from Cable News Network. ("Like the masses, Clinton stays current with CNN," *Washington Times*, 10/5/93, p. A13).

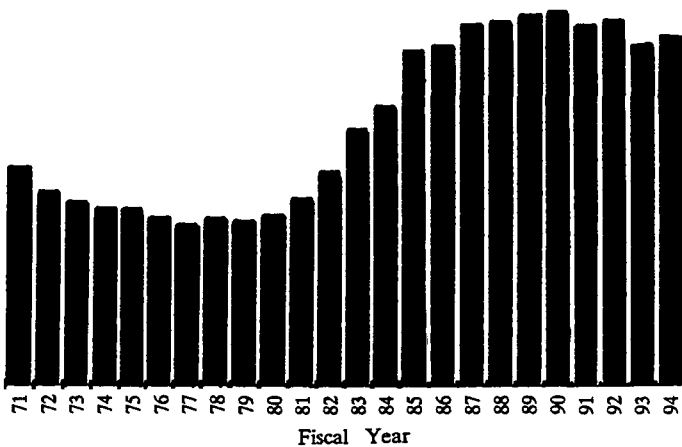
Open Source Solutions, Inc. of Falls Church, VA, will sponsor a symposium November 2-4 in Washington on the use of open source information for national security and private enterprise.

Intelligence Budget

The principal argument against publishing even the aggregate budget for intelligence is that unwelcome scrutiny would be focused on the incremental changes in the total from year to year, and that the conclusions drawn would be damaging to national security.

Few people genuinely believed that anyway, but now the House Appropriations Committee has highlighted the hollowness of the argument by publishing the relative annual budgets for the National Foreign Intelligence Program in constant dollars for the last thirty years (partially reprinted below from H. Rep. 103-254, p. 14). Tactical military intelligence budgets are not included and dollar figures, which are still classified, are deleted.

National Foreign Intelligence Program



The 100 percent growth in secret intelligence spending over recent decades is startling. It is only fair to ask: Has the quality of U.S. intelligence doubled along with its budget? But under the current classification system, U.S. citizens are not entitled to an official answer.

Air Force Seizes More Land Around Secret Base

With the end of the Cold War, one would think that the Air Force might relax its security procedures accordingly. One would be wrong.

Security is being massively increased around the secret "Area 51" site in Nevada, where the Air Force will "withdraw" an additional 3900 acres of public land adjacent to the site for 2 years. (*Federal Register*, 10/18/93, page 53745). The land seizure includes key vantage points like Freedom Ridge and White Sides that are used by

members of the public to view the secret, unacknowledged military base and test range at Groom Lake.

According to Air Force Secretary Sheila E. Widnall, the seizure of public land "is necessary for the safe and secure operation" of the nearby facilities. The curious implication is that even the extravagant security measures of the Cold War era are now somehow deficient.

Glenn Campbell, author of the "Area 51 Viewer's Guide" (see *S&GB* 26), notes that under the Open Skies Treaty, foreign nations will be permitted to fly over and photograph the Groom Lake site, a liberty that is denied to American citizens.

"The primary reason for the continued secrecy and official nonexistence of Groom Lake is to conceal it from the American taxpayer, not from foreign enemies," Campbell avers.

The White Sides Defense Committee, a Nevada citizens group, held a camp-out and marshmallow roast on a hilltop overlooking the secret base on the weekend of October 16-17, before the seizure was to take effect.

Aurora

"Surely you have heard of it?... It has been the most jealously guarded of all Government secrets." Citing that apt quotation from the Sherlock Holmes "Adventure of the Bruce-Partington Plans," veteran aerospace writer Bill Sweetman recapitulates and updates the story of *Aurora: The Pentagon's Secret Hypersonic Spyplane* (Motorbooks International, 1993). Despite considerable circumstantial evidence, the existence of Aurora still cannot be regarded as a demonstrable fact. But Sweetman presents his case with authority and verve. The new booklet also includes a good capsule history of hypersonic aircraft and lots of neat photos and illustrations. Maniacal readers will regret the lack of footnotes.

Draft Executive Order Still in Review

The initial draft of a new executive order on classification, leaked in September, was circulated among executive branch agencies for comment that was due by October 15. A new draft is to be prepared and submitted to the National Security Council "as early as possible in November." Final approval of a draft could be delayed for at least several months if allowance is made for Congressional and public comment, as anticipated. And, under an existing executive order on executive orders, the draft must also be subjected to yet another round of interagency reviews.

DOE Secrecy

The Energy Department recently released its *Classification Policy Study*, dated July 4, 1992. The 200 page report seems to be based on the novel premise that secrecy is not an end in itself, but rather a means to help achieve some worthy purpose, such as preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Information not pertinent to achieving that purpose, the authors suggest, should not be classified. Therefore the *Study* concludes, for example, that "The fact of all nuclear tests and their yields should be unclassified." Likewise, "there seems little reason for continued classification of most data on nuclear weapons production rates and stockpiles at this time." The authors recommend abolishing the classification category Formerly Restricted Data, eliminating the provision for classifying privately-generated information, and a number of other more or less reasonable steps.

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