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# National Security

- ✓ **What is the greatest threat to U.S. national security?**
- ✓ **Which poses the greater challenge to nuclear security: state actors or terrorist actors?**
- ✓ **How can the U.S. find a policy that is balanced toward both privacy and security?**

## 1. Intelligence Sharing

### Facts

#### **United States Intelligence Community.**

The Intelligence Community (I.C.) refers to the several agencies and organizations within the Executive Branch that help to gather, analyze and share information pertinent to national security interests. Intelligence is gathered from various source types, including human (documents, photographs, statements), signals (gathered from intercepted foreign communications) and open source (internet and media). The I.C. is headed by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which manages broad policy and coordination across the 17 agencies that fall under the umbrella of the community.

#### **International Intelligence Sharing.**

The U.S. maintains various bilateral and multilateral intelligence sharing arrangements. Notable multilateral cooperation includes the UKUSA Agreement between five close allies (the “Five Eyes”), those being the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Canada and New Zealand. NATO also serves as an important forum for enhanced intelligence sharing between member states. Transnational threats, and international terrorism especially, have led to a significant expansion of U.S. intelligence cooperation internationally, including, for instance, information-sharing efforts within the U.S.-led coalition against ISIS.

### Current U.S. Policies

#### **National Strategy for Information Sharing and Safeguarding.**

This strategy, developed by the Obama administration and adopted in 2012, builds on existing U.S. policy for intelligence gathering and sharing. It focuses on improving communication between all levels of government, the private sector and for-

eign allies, in order to manage intelligence for national security purposes. It seeks improved safeguards against intelligence intrusions. The strategy further identifies the protection of privacy, and civil rights and liberties, as one of five primary goals.

## Candidate Positions



**Hillary Clinton** calls for a regional “intelligence surge” to defeat ISIS in the Middle East. This would involve heightened electronic surveillance and aerial reconnaissance, and additional operations officers and linguists. Mrs. Clinton appeals for more effective information sharing between countries to dam the flow of Western recruits into Syria, and to impede terrorist financing and infrastructure. She notes that Europe should improve intelligence sharing systems to prevent attacks on its soil, and calls on the U.S. to provide assistance in this area.

“We must deny [terrorists] virtual territory, just as we deny them actual territory,” she said in an address to the Council on Foreign Relations. Mrs. Clinton favors cooperation between federal actors and private sector technology companies to monitor the online activity of potential terrorists. As a private citizen, she supported the Freedom Act in 2015, which dismantled the NSA’s controversial bulk data collection program. As a senator, she co-sponsored the Intelligence Reform and Prevention Act of 2004.



**Donald Trump** calls for expanded intelligence sharing to combat ISIS. His administration would place “new emphasis on human intelligence,” including the “capture of high value targets.” He supports monitoring mosques and Muslim communities domestically as a security measure against radical Islamic terrorism, and he favors bulk data collection by organizations like the NSA, both domestically and abroad. Mr. Trump has been ill-received by many in the intelligence community, and fifty of the nation’s top Republican national security officials recently signed a letter denouncing the candidate.

## 2. Cybersecurity and Terrorism

### Facts

#### **The Internet as a Terrorist Tool.**

Terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS utilize the Internet to advance their respective causes. These groups steal digital information—bank records, for instance—and use the resultant income to finance operations. They also employ the Internet for global recruitment purposes. Groups can use social media, email, web-

sites and computer viruses to launch attacks, disseminate propaganda, and recruit and organize followers, including Westerners. There is further concern that terrorist groups will become more adept at hacking into websites and mainframes. From here, they might launch cyberattacks against U.S. industries like financial services, or energy and utilities.

### **State and Commercial Actors.**

Foreign companies and governments also launch cyberattacks in pursuit of information. A recent hack of Democratic National Committee emails provides a prominent example. The theft is widely believed to have been perpetrated by Russian intelligence services. The stolen information was released to the public through the website WikiLeaks, resulting in the resignation of top DNC officials.

## Current U.S. Policies

### **Cybersecurity National Action Plan.**

In his last State of the Union address, President Obama touched upon the need for Congress to devise a comprehensive cybersecurity bill that would help the U.S. combat a growing threat. Shortly thereafter, he announced a new Cybersecurity National Action Plan, which includes a substantial increase in the budget directed toward national cybersecurity. It also creates a commission dedicated to combating cyberthreats, and fosters partnerships among the various levels of government and with the private sector.

## Candidate Positions



**Hillary Clinton's** cybersecurity policy exists within a broader Initiative on Technology and Innovation. She plans to expand President Obama's Cybersecurity National Action Plan, emphasizing the modernization of federal IT and government cybersecurity, and the empowerment of a federal Chief Information Security Officer. She would further invest in cybersecurity technologies; encourage information sharing and innovative strategies to counter cyberthreats; and preempt attacks by enforcing known standards and strengthening government red teams that find and address vulnerabilities. She favors public-private sector collaboration in matters of national security, and supports the idea of a national commission on encryption to balance security and privacy concerns.

Recently, Mrs. Clinton accused Russia of leaking stolen Democratic National Committee emails to the public in an effort to assist the Trump campaign. Experts widely believe that Russian intelligence services were behind the hack, but no official accusations have been levelled.



**Donald Trump** says that the U.S. government should “close” sections of the Internet in order to defend national security interests. His intention, apparently, would be to deal blows to infrastructure such as fiber-optic cables and cellular towers in areas perceived to pose a threat, like Syria or Iraq. “I sure as hell don’t want to let people that want to kill us and kill our nation use our Internet,” he explained during a primary debate.

Mr. Trump favors strengthened U.S. cyber capabilities for defensive purposes. He accuses the Chinese government of allowing and supporting “rampant cybercrime” against the U.S., an issue he frames in relation to trade. He appeared to invite Russia to hack into Mrs. Clinton’s email in the wake of the Democratic National Committee leak. He later called those remarks sarcastic.

## 3. Nuclear Security and Terrorism

### Facts

#### **Number of Nuclear Weapons by Country.**

Russia: 7,300. U.S.: 7,000. France: 300. China: 260. UK: 215. India: 120. Pakistan: 130. Israel: 80. North Korea: <10.

#### **Nuclear Terrorism.**

While many still fear the prospect of nuclear war between two or more state powers, there is also a real concern that groups like ISIS might threaten the West with “dirty bombs” or small-scale explosives capable of releasing nuclear radiation. Officials believe that ISIS, which has already employed chemical weapons, is attempting to gain nuclear materials from areas in Libya and Syria.

### Current U.S. Policies

#### **Nuclear Security Summit.**

President Obama hosted the first Nuclear Security Summit in 2010 as part of an effort to combat the threat of nuclear terrorism. Meetings have since been held biennially. The summits are intended to enable development of effective security measures against potential threats from nuclear terrorism. President Obama has made nuclear security and disarmament main priorities as he looks to combat not only the possibility of nuclear-armed terrorist groups, but also threats posed by Iran and North Korea.

## Candidate Positions



**Hillary Clinton** is a vocal supporter of President Obama’s nuclear non-proliferation agenda. In a statement outlining her global counterterrorism policy, she said, “Let’s not lose sight of the global cooperation needed to lock down loose nuclear material, and chemical and biological weapons—and keep them out of the hands of terrorists.” Mrs. Clinton claims credit for advancing the New START treaty as secretary of state. This agreement between the U.S. and Russia limits, among other things, the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads. Her tenure also saw the implementation of multi-lateral sanctions regimes against Iran and North Korea.



**Donald Trump** does not rule out the “nuclear option” in matters of national defense. Mr. Trump indicates that he would be open to employing nuclear weapons in a hypothetical military conflict in Europe. He maintains that nuclear proliferation may be acceptable in some cases. He has suggested that South Korea and Japan should be allowed to acquire nuclear weapons to relieve U.S. regional defense burdens related to the North Korean nuclear threat, and has also indicated that acquisition of nuclear weapons by Saudi Arabia could be tolerated.

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