



Stop the Coup 2025
a public education and mobilization campaign

CHAPTER 7. INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY. Author: *Dustin J. Carmack, former Chief of Staff to the Director of National Intelligence; Research Fellow for Cybersecurity, Intelligence, and Emerging Technologies in the Border Security and Immigration Center at The Heritage Foundation; with collective input from the 2025 Presidential Transition Project.*

The Intelligence Community (IC) is composed of 18 independent and Cabinet subagencies that monitor and assess intelligence and engage in counterterrorism -- i.e., spydom. Here, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) was set up post 9/11 by the Bush administration in 2004 as a small coordinating agency of the IC with a Cabinet-level intelligence officer. However, Carmack argues, there are historic interagency rivalries and chain of command conflicts, including with the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), that plague the IC. The author calls for the president to strengthen the role and authority of ODNI to make decisions. They call on future IC leadership to address the “woke” politics of “identity politics” and “social justice.”

One conservative priority is domestic terrorism. The authors call for the next president to:

Steps:

- ✓ Modify Executive Order 12333, the president’s direction for implementing the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (IRTPA). This legislation defines how sharing of terrorism information must adhere to legal standards relating to privacy and civil liberties
 - An IRTPA revision should address cyber communications among key US agencies, bioweapons threats, evaluation of open-source information, and make use of security clearances to support the president’s agenda
- ✓ Increase the power of the IC via Executive Order or suggested changes in the Counterintelligence Enhancement Act (CEA) of 2002
- ✓ At the CIA, the president-elect should choose a deputy director who, without requiring Senate confirmation, can immediately begin to implement the president’s agenda. He should prevent “burrowing in” of outgoing Biden CIA officials and hire more loyalists
- ✓ The new CIA Director should remove resources from any agency activities that promote “divisive cultural agendas” and “unnecessary and distracting social engineering” – references to gender and diversity reforms
- ✓ Refocus the CIA to an OSS-like culture that rewards applicants who take high-risk assignments
- ✓ Place experts in covert action in key NSC, CIA, ODNI, and DOD positions to consider expansion of covert action, for example, outside circumstances of armed conflict
- ✓ Remove IC employees who abuse their positions of trust – failing to align with the president and agency’s intelligence mission
- ✓ Investigate past politicization and abuses of intelligence information by IC employees and crack down on intelligence leaks to press or public



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- ✓ Support the IC's ability to seek records of unauthorized disclosures of classified information (whistleblowers) to the media and hire more staff to help on this
- ✓ Review the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) to assure it serves president's agenda
- ✓ Review China intelligence policy as a priority and the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)
- ✓ Engage corporate America, technology companies, research institutions, and academia to be willing, educated partners in the administration's needs related to intelligence and "not cave to the left-wing activists and investors who ignore the China threat"
- ✓ Amplify the National Counterintelligence and Security Center's authorities and roles
- ✓ Provide the FBI with significant additional resources and legal authorities as the lead operational counterintelligence agency
- ✓ Establish a real-time auditing system for sensitive intelligence across the 18 elements of the IC
- ✓ Transition IC to using more technology, including tools and services for managing Big Data, while keeping human expertise oversight
- ✓ Update, modernize, and improve resources and training for agents to operate clandestinely
- ✓ The incoming president should request an immediate study of the implementation of Executive Order 14086 and suspend any (EU) provisions that unduly burden intelligence collection

STC 2025 Commentary: The move to modify EO 12333 would expand the next administration's ability to carry out domestic intelligence gathering and surveillance while following possibly looser legal standards relating to American's privacy and civil liberties, especially given Project 2025's stated plans to crack down on illegal immigration and groups perceived as opposing the president's or the conservative movement's agenda.

Overall, Carmack calls for beefing up the US intelligence force and capacity, while streamlining the chain of authority to reduce agency turf wars with the CIA that result in muddled intelligence assessments. They seek more money and training to support (and reward) risk-taking agents and push for adoption of technology and new technology, including Big Data analysis, to improve the IC's work and make it state-of-the-art. They want the US to be less beholden to current rules that stipulate intelligence-sharing with the EU.

Chapter 7 - Key Points

- ✓ Revise the Executive Order related to the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to give the next administration expanded powers to conduct domestic intelligence activities that might infringe on civil liberties and privacy
- ✓ Beef up and expand the intelligence community's activities, including the FBI, and make greater use of technology to modernize and improve the IC's work, especially compared to China
- ✓ Focus on China's Communist Party as a major global threat; prioritize IC focus on China