
FISA SECTION 702

Foreign Intelligence Mission Outcomes

702 has provided insights into espionage plots to obtain sensitive U.S. technological information, prevented weapon components from reaching hostile foreign actors, identified threats to U.S. troops, assisted in discovering sanction evasions, disrupted foreign cyberattacks, and stopped significant terrorist plots — saving American lives. More specifically, 702 has:

- FISA Section 702 has helped us to understand the strategic intentions of the foreign governments we are most interested in: the People’s Republic of China, Russia, Iran, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.
- Section 702-acquired information has been used to identify multiple foreign ransomware attacks on U.S. critical infrastructure. This intelligence positioned the Government to respond to and mitigate these events — and in some instances prevent significant attacks on U.S. networks.
- The IC used information from 702 to discover that a foreign adversary had used a cyberattack to acquire sensitive information related to the U.S. military.
- FISA Section 702-acquired information revealed that a foreign adversary had conducted a cyberattack against critical U.S. government systems and gained extensive access to non-public records and documents.
- FISA Section 702-acquired information enabled the IC's development of mitigations to protect critical U.S. Government systems compromised by a foreign adversary's cyberattack.
- FISA Section 702 has identified key economic security risks, including strategic malign investment by foreign actors in certain U.S. companies.
- FISA Section 702-acquired information related to sanctioned foreign adversaries was used in U.S. Government efforts to stop components for weapons of mass destruction from reaching foreign actors.
- FISA Section 702-acquired information helped the IC discover and interrupt a foreign adversary's plan to obtain sensitive technological information that could be used to undermine U.S. national security.
- The authority has been critical to the IC’s successful counterterrorism program. In 2009, it protected the nation from an al-Qaeda attack by Najibullah Zazi, who intended to detonate explosives on Manhattan subway lines; in 2014, Section 702 again prevented attacks by assisting in the removal of ISIS leader, Hajji Iman; and in 2022, 702 contributed to the USG operation against Ayman al- Zawahiri, a last remaining 9/11 architect.



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