

Q7. How is NSA transparent?

A7. (I'm) often asked the question about, "How is NSA transparent?" Some might read that question to be, "Does NSA put all of its secrets in the public domain?" Of course we don't. There are secrets we hold that you would want us to keep, secrets that the President should know, that people who stand in harm's way should know, but that would be a danger if we released those to our adversaries. But at the same time, we must remain transparent. And the way we do that is we ensure that there is external oversight that is rich - some might say pervasive - across the National Security Agency, and that we are fully responsive to helping them understand what we do, how we've done it, and what the results are. And in that way, they then in turn can turn to the American public and say, "We know what they do, we know what resources they bring to bear, we know what authorities they bring to bear, and they have been transparent to those of us who have the authority and responsibility to ensure."