

# The Intelligence Community's "Insider Threat Program"

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Region: [USA](#)

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*The US intelligence community has established its own procedures to deal with whistleblowers. The program described as the Insider Threat Program has been documented in a detailed article by Marisa Taylor and Jonathan S. Landay of McClatchy News Service:*

"Even before a former U.S. intelligence contractor exposed the secret collection of Americans' phone records, the Obama administration was pressing a government-wide crackdown on security threats that requires federal employees to keep closer tabs on their co-workers and exhorts managers to punish those who fail to report their suspicions.

President Barack Obama's unprecedented initiative, known as the Insider Threat Program, is sweeping in its reach. It has received scant public attention even though it extends beyond the U.S. national security bureaucracies to most federal departments and agencies nationwide, including the Peace Corps, the Social Security Administration and the Education and Agriculture departments. It emphasizes leaks of classified material, but catchall definitions of "insider threat" give agencies latitude to pursue and penalize a range of other conduct.

Government documents reviewed by McClatchy illustrate how some agencies are using that latitude to pursue unauthorized disclosures of any information, not just classified material. They also show how millions of federal employees and contractors must watch for "high-risk persons or behaviors" among co-workers and could face penalties, including criminal charges, for failing to report them. Leaks to the media are equated with espionage. ..."

To consult the complete article:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2013/06/20/194513/obamas-crackdown-views-leaks-as.html#>

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