



Obama's "Stasi-like" Program for Federal Workers is Based on Quack Profiling Techniques

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President Obama's federal employee internal spying program is using unscientific, unproven, behavioral profiling techniques, McClatchy reports. "The techniques are a key pillar of the Insider Threat Program, an unprecedented government-wide crackdown under which millions of federal bureaucrats and contractors must watch out for high-risk persons or behaviors among co-workers," McClatchy reports. "Those who fail to report them could face penalties, including criminal charges."

Under the Stasi-like program launched by Obama in 2011 (See ["Obama Revives Truman 'Loyalty Program.'" \[1\]](#) in the Dec. 7, 2012 *EIR*, security investigations can be launched when government workers report suspicious behavior among co-workers, or when "suspicious user behavior" is detected by monitoring of computer networks. Federal workers and contractors are asked to pay particular attention to lifestyles, attitudes, and behaviors of co-workers; some agencies are asking their employees to watch fellow workers for stress, divorce, and financial problems, as ways to predict that they might do "harm to the United States."

An FBI insider threat detection guide warns private security personnel and managers to watch for "a desire to help the 'underdog' or a particular cause," a "James Bond Wannabe" or "divided loyalty." A report by the Deloitte consulting firm identifies "several key trends that are making all organizations particularly susceptible to insider threat today." These trends include an increasingly disgruntled workforce, and the entry of younger, "Gen Y" employees who were "raised on the Internet" and are "highly involved in social networking."

The profiling techniques being used have not been shown to have any predictive value. "There is no consensus in the relevant scientific community nor on the committee regarding whether any behavioral surveillance or physiological monitoring techniques are ready for use at all," concluded a 2008 National Research Council report on detecting terrorists. Government officials and experts call these methods over-zealous and simplistic, and warn that they could lead to baseless and discriminatory accusations.

"Anyone is an amateur looking at behavior here," said Thomas Fingar, a former top State Department intelligence official, who chaired the National Intelligence Council from 2005 to 2008. Fingar said that co-workers should be attentive to colleagues' personal problems in order to refer them to counseling, not to report them as potential security violators.

"It's simply because they are colleagues, fellow human beings," he said.

Eric Feldman, a former inspector general of the NRO (National Reconnaissance Office), said that relying on workers to report colleagues' suspicious behaviors to security officials can create "a repressive kind of culture," and "Stasi-like response."

Links:

[1] http://www.larouchepub.com/eiw/public/2012/eirv39n48-20121207/39-40_3948.pdf

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