

A Few Important Dates in History

- 1909 The Security Service (MI5), a domestic intelligence service, and Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), a foreign intelligence service, are formed.
- 1919 Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), a signals intelligence organization, was formed. This organization was later renamed to Government Communications Headquarters (GCHQ).
- 1930s MI5's importance rapidly increases to counter Soviet espionage.
- 1936 Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) forms. JIC is primarily responsible for intelligence assessment.
- 1940-1945 Despite being initially unprepared, MI5's mission played a key role in countering espionage tactics during World War II. MI6's human intelligence (HUMINT) efforts are complemented by MI5.
- 1951 Operation Gold, a joint operation by the Central Intelligence Agency and MI6 begins. The operation was created to tap into a Soviet Army communications line (via a tunnel system) to steal critical intelligence.
- 1956 Operation Gold is compromised.
- 1964 Defence Intelligence (DI) organization forms. DI is responsible for gathering and analyzing military intelligence.
- 1996 New legislation passes to enable MI5 to extend their security services (i.e., signals intelligence/surveillance) to other intelligence agencies.
- 2001 After the terrorist attacks in September 2001, MI5 begins collecting bulk telephone records (bulk personal datasets, or BPDs) as per the powers granted to them under the Security Service Act of 1989 and Intelligence Services Act of 1994.
- 2013 Andrew Parker takes the position as Director General of the Security Service (MI5).

A Few Important Dates in History (cont)

- 2014 Alex Younger begins his role as Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6).

GCHQ Mission



Signals intelligence (SIGINT), somewhat similar to the National Security Agency (NSA). "Using our expertise and experience GCHQ is part of the team which protects the UK, along with law enforcement and the other intelligence agencies. Working with HMG and industry, we defend Government systems from cyber threat, provide support to the Armed Forces and strive to keep the public safe, in real life and online."

Security Service (MI5) Mission



Domestic intelligence. "The role of MI5, as defined in the Security Service Act 1989, is the protection of national security and in particular its protection against threats such as terrorism, espionage and sabotage, the activities of agents of foreign powers, and from actions intended to overthrow or undermine parliamentary democracy by political, industrial or violent means."

Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) Mission



Foreign intelligence. "We work secretly overseas, developing foreign contacts and gathering intelligence that helps to make the UK safer and more prosperous. We help the UK identify and exploit opportunities as well as navigate risks to our national security, military effectiveness and economy. We work across the globe to counter terrorism, resolve international conflict and prevent the spread of nuclear and other non-conventional weapons."



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Published 14th March, 2018.
Last updated 14th March, 2018.
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GCHQ Leadership



Jeremy Fleming, head of the British Government Communications Headquarters.

MI5 Leadership



Andrew Parker, Director-General of the British Security Service.

MI6 Leadership



Alex Younger, Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service.

