

FISA SECTION
702

TOP HEADLINES
UNCLASSIFIED

Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act authorizes the Intelligence Community to collect critical foreign intelligence information about foreign targets located outside the United States with the compelled assistance of U.S. communications service providers. In the fifteen years since its enactment, Section 702 has proven indispensable to U.S. national security. Every day it helps protect Americans from a host of new and emerging threats — such as terrorist plots, weapons of mass destruction, malicious cyber activity, and hostile state behavior from China and Russia.

**NORTH KOREAN
IT FRAUD EXPOSED**



FISA Section 702 data was vital in warning the international community, the private sector, and the public about efforts to deploy information technology workers to commit fraud against a global industry, including against U.S. businesses, to generate revenue for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea nuclear program.

**TERRORIST PLANS
FOILED, TERRORIST
LEADERS REMOVED**



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. In 2022, 702 contributed to the U.S. Government operation against Ayman al-Zawahiri, a last remaining 9/11 architect.

**CYBERATTACKS
REVEALED,
MITIGATIONS
DEVELOPED**

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.

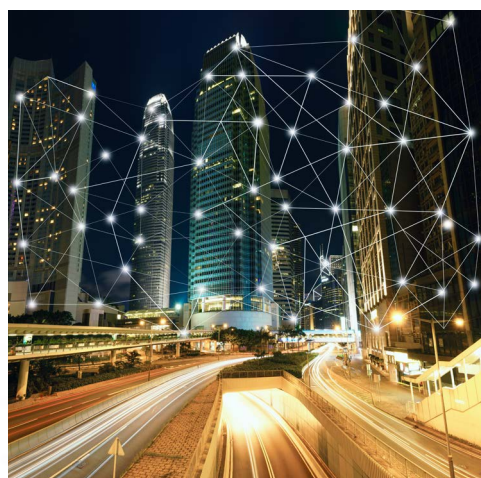
FISA Section 702-acquired information enabled the IC's development of mitigations to protect critical U.S. Government systems compromised by a foreign adversary's cyberattack.

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.

**MALIGN ACTIVITIES
INTERRUPTED**

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.

FISA Section 702 has identified key economic security risks, including strategic malign investment by foreign actors in certain U.S. companies.



**702
FAST FACTS**

100%

of the President's intelligence priorities topics reported on by NSA were supported by FISA Section 702 information in 2022.

70%

of successful weapons and counterproliferation disruptions supported by CIA from 2018 to 2022 were supported by FISA Section 702 collection.

65%

of all FBI raw technical reporting came from Section 702 in the first half of fiscal year 2023.

59%

of articles in the President's Daily Brief contained 702 information reported by NSA in 2022.

40%

of products in CIA's World Intelligence Review daily analytic publication relied on FISA Section 702 information in 2022.

20%

of NSA's intelligence reports in 2022 contained FISA Section 702 information, 85% of which were sourced only to Section 702.



FISA SECTION 702 TOP HEADLINES, CONTINUED

UNIQUE INSIGHTS ON FOREIGN CARTELS, DRUG TRAFFICKING



FISA Section 702-acquired information revealed:

Foreign actors’ illicit plans to smuggle methamphetamine across the U.S. border.

The quantities and potency of drugs, including fentanyl, destined for illegal transfer to the United States, as well as specific smuggling techniques used to avoid detection.

The involvement of a foreign official in one foreign narcotics trafficker’s scheme to transport fentanyl pills within the United States.

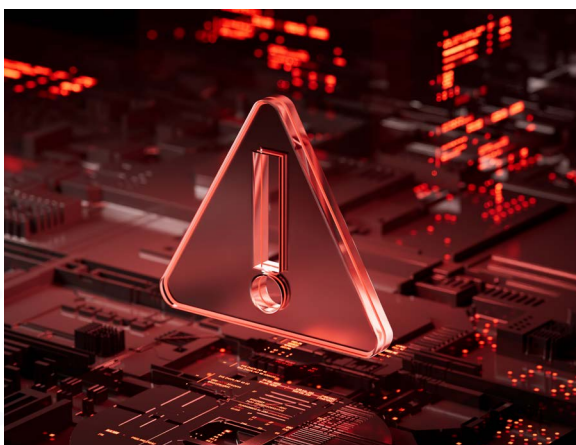
A different foreign narcotics trafficker’s purchase of a vast quantity of pills for transfer to the United States.

Insights that have informed the U.S. Government’s understanding of the Chinese origins of a chemical used to synthesize fentanyl.

RANSOMWARE ATTACKS MITIGATED & PREVENTED

FISA Section 702-acquired information successfully identified and mitigated an Iranian ransomware attack against a non-profit organization’s systems in 2022. Within one week, this intelligence enabled the U.S. Government to respond to, mitigate, and ultimately recover the organization’s information without paying the ransom.

FISA Section 702-acquired information has been used to identify multiple foreign ransomware attacks on U.S. critical infrastructure. This intelligence positioned the U.S. Government to respond to and mitigate these events — and in some instances prevent significant attacks on U.S. networks.



COLONIAL PIPELINE RANSOM RECOVERED

FISA Section 702 played an important role in the U.S. Government’s response to the cyberattack on Colonial Pipeline in 2021. Using FISA Section 702, the Intelligence Community acquired information that verified the identity of the hacker, as well as information that enabled U.S. Government efforts to recover the majority of the ransom.

DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS BOLSTERED

In 2021, information derived from FISA Section 702 enabled U.S. diplomats to demarche a Middle Eastern country over its efforts to monitor and track dissidents abroad, as well as dissidents here in the United States.

FISA Section 702 data helped expose efforts by foreign powers, including the People’s Republic of China, to coerce nations to oppose international responses to human rights violations. This reporting enabled U.S. diplomats to assist countries in shielding themselves from coercion and influence.



WMD PROLIFERATION COUNTERED

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.

Without FISA Section 702 collection, the State Department’s ability to hold nations accountable for adhering to international obligations regarding weapons of mass destruction would be significantly degraded. For example, FISA Section 702 information is a critical input to and provides some of the most meaningful reporting in the classified portion of the 2023 Annual Report on Compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

