

By Ray McGovern

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Though the NSA says its mass surveillance of Americans targets only “terrorists,” the spying may turn up evidence of other illegal acts that can get passed on to law enforcement which hides the secret source through a ruse called “parallel construction,” writes ex-CIA analyst Ray McGovern.

Rarely do you get a chance to ask a just-retired FBI director whether he had “any legal qualms” about what, in football, is called “illegal procedure,” but at the Justice Department is called “parallel construction.”

Government wordsmiths have given us this pleasant euphemism to describe the use of the National Security Agency’s illegal eavesdropping on Americans as an investigative tool to pass on tips to law enforcement agencies which then hide the source of the original suspicion and “construct” a case using “parallel” evidence to prosecute the likes of you and me.



NSA Director James Clapper, Jr. testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee on June 12, 2014. He stated that the NSA has a "significant" role in the criminal justice system, particularly in the area of cybercrime. He mentioned that the NSA has provided information to the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, which has led to the prosecution of several individuals. He also noted that the NSA has a "significant" role in the investigation of terrorism, and that it has provided information to the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, which has led to the prosecution of several individuals. He mentioned that the NSA has a "significant" role in the investigation of terrorism, and that it has provided information to the FBI and other law enforcement agencies, which has led to the prosecution of several individuals.