



Written by [Gary Benoit](#) on October 20, 2008

## NSA Wiretapped U.S. Soldiers' Intimate Conversations

This compelling video describes how NSA clerks were instructed to listen to all conversations between U.S. soldiers and their sweethearts back home. And when the conversation took an intimate tone, the prurient NSA clerks would pass the audio recording around the office to laugh at.

The *Nightline* video necessitates a different view of President Bush's [2006 explanation](#) of why the NSA is tapping international phone calls without the constitutionally required court warrant:

The NSA program is one that listens to a few numbers, called from the outside of the United States and of known al Qaeda or affiliate people. In other words, the enemy is calling somebody and we want to know who they're calling and why.



Either President Bush has a peculiar idea of who "the enemy" is, or his word is precisely as trustworthy as his December 10, 2005 [promise](#) that "law enforcement officers need a federal judge's permission to wiretap a foreign terrorist's phone or search his property." Six days later, the *New York Times* published a [major story](#) that brought to light the then-secret NSA warrantless electronic surveillance program authorized by Bush. "Months after the Sept. 11 attacks, President Bush secretly authorized the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on Americans and others inside the United States to search for evidence of terrorist activity without the court-approved warrants originally required for domestic spying," the *Times* reported, based on admissions of government officials.

And now two whistle-blowers within the NSA have told ABC that this eavesdropping extends to U.S. soldiers in Iraq having intimate conversations with their wives. To view the *Nightline* story, click [here](#).

— AP Images



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