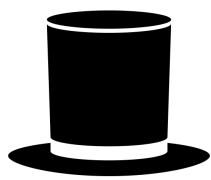


# Top administration officials support move to separate NSA and U.S. Cyber Command

## Details on the proposal and its implications



- Under the “dual hat” arrangement, a single official serves as the head of the NSA and commander of U.S. Cyber Command (currently Adm. Mike Rogers)
- Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Director of National Intelligence James Clapper are reportedly in favor of ending the dual hat organizational structure, separating NSA from U.S. Cyber Command and appointing separate officials to lead each division
- Designating U.S. Cyber Command as its own combatant command, rather than subordinate to U.S. Strategic Command, is said to also be part of the proposed reorganization
- U.S. Cyber Command has assumed a greater role in military operations since its establishment in 2010, particularly in the fight against the Islamic State
- Senior intelligence officials say the plan now awaits President Obama’s authorization

### “Complementary but distinct”

- The motivation for the split is based on the different missions and laws under which the NSA and U.S. Cyber Command operate: the former is geared toward intelligence gathering, while the latter takes part in combat operations
- A 2013 review panel convened after the Snowden revelations suggested the separation at the time, noting “because the two roles are complementary and distinct, the Director of the NSA and the Commander of U.S. Cyber Command...should not be the same person”
- The administration declined to follow the recommendation, but appears poised to make the change in the near future

### Another cyber reorganization still in the works

- In an effort to integrate defense against cyber and physical threats into a single working entity, DHS is seeking to replace the current cyber unit, the National Protection and Programs Division, with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Agency
- DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson called the proposal, awaiting further congressional action, “the number one priority”

Sources: Ken Dilanian and Courtney Kube, “Top officials want to split cyber command from NSA,” NBC News, September 9, 2016; Warren Strobel, “Obama prepares to boost U.S. military’s cyber role,” Reuters, August 7, 2016; The President’s Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technology, “The NSA Report: Liberty and Security in a Changing World,” December 2013; Mark Rockwell, “Johnson: cyber reorg should be priority for next Congress,” FCW, September 8, 2016; Image by Sylvain Amatoury, The Noun Project, September 12, 2016.