



The History Behind NGIC

The National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) traces its origin to two highly respected Army organizations: the Foreign Science and Technology Center (FSTC) located in Charlottesville, Virginia, and the Intelligence and Threat Analysis Center (ITAC) located in Washington, DC. Both units were major subordinate commands of the United States Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM).

Prior to 1961, many intelligence and research and development functions were performed by each of the Army's technical service components. FSTC was formed upon the disestablishment of the Army technical intelligence service components in August 1962. These independent agencies were integrated to form a single technology center at Arlington Hall Station in Arlington, Virginia, for the production of scientific and technical intelligence (S&TI). FSTC spent 3 years in the Munitions Building on Constitution Avenue after leaving Arlington Hall Station and before going to T-7 at Gravelly Point near Reagan National Airport. In 1970, after a few short months at Gravelly Point, FSTC left the Washington, DC, area and moved to Charlottesville, Virginia.

ITAC originated with the Army Photo Interpretation Center (APIC) established at Fort Holabird, Maryland, in 1955 and evolved as part of INSCOM in October 1977. ITAC was organized with six elements from the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army, and Forces Command. Originally established with personnel at both Arlington Hall Station and the Washington Navy Yard, ITAC consolidated at the latter in 1985.

FSTC, ITAC, the Missile and Space Intelligence Center (MSIC), and the Armed Forces Medical Intelligence Center (AFMIC) were placed under the command and control of the newly formed Army Intelligence Agency (AIA), a field operating agency of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence (DCSINT), on 30 April 1985. In early 1991, FSTC and ITAC became major subordinate commands of INSCOM when AIA was disestablished. MSIC and AFMIC were resubordinated to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA).

On 8 July 1994, FSTC and portions of ITAC were combined to activate the National Ground Intelligence Center (Provisional). NGIC became fully operational in late FY95 with the deactivation of ITAC and the reassignment of its remaining personnel and mission to NGIC.

Effective 16 June 1998, the 203rd Military Intelligence Battalion (Technical Intelligence) was resubordinated from the 513th MI Brigade to NGIC. With the incorporation of the unit into NGIC's Foreign Materiel Directorate as a multi-component unit, NGIC has responsibility for deployable technical intelligence missions during crises and war as well as direct threat support to the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California.

In summer 2001, NGIC moved to the state-of-the-art Nicholson Building, a newly constructed facility approximately 8 miles north of Charlottesville, Virginia. The facility is dedicated to the memory of Lieutenant Colonel Arthur D. Nicholson, Jr., a U.S. Military Liaison Mission member killed in the line of duty in February 1982 in Potsdam, East Germany. After the events of 11 September 2001 and on the recommendation of the 9-11 Commission, the U.S. government increased the size of and funding for the Intelligence Community and the NGIC workforce. As a result of the 2005 United States Department of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions, Rivanna Station not only houses NGIC but also the Colonel James N. Rowe Building, at which NGIC, DIA, NGA, and others work in an environment of cooperation, integration, and synchronization across numerous interagency and government entities.