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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

"1984" BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING YOU

US widens surveillance to include 'homegrown violent extremists'



THOMSON
REUTERS

DUSTIN VOLZ Oct 25th 2017

In an article posted by Reuters© online, The U.S. government has broadened an interpretation of which citizens can be subject to physical or digital surveillance to include "homegrown violent extremists," according to official documents seen by Reuters. The change last year to a Department of Defense manual on procedures governing its intelligence activities was made possible by a decades-old presidential executive order, bypassing congressional and court review. The new manual, released in August 2016, now permits the collection of information about Americans for counterintelligence purposes "when no specific connection to foreign terrorist(s) has been established," according to training slides created last year by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI).

The slides were obtained by Human Rights Watch through a Freedom of Information Act request about

the use of federal surveillance laws for counter-drug or immigration purposes and shared exclusively with Reuters. The Air Force and the Department of Defense told Reuters that the documents are authentic.

Some privacy and civil liberties advocates who have seen the training slides say they were alarmed by the change because it could increase the number of U.S. citizens who can be monitored under an executive order that lacks sufficient oversight. "What happens under 12333 takes place under a cloak of darkness," said Sarah St. Vincent, a surveillance researcher with Human Rights Watch who first obtained the documents. "We have enormous programs potentially affecting people in the United States and abroad, and we would never know about these changes" without the documents, she said.

See and read entire article at:

<https://www.aol.com/article/news/2017/10/25/us-widens-surveillance-to-include-homegrown-violent-extremists/23255264/>