

- Agent H blister agent** Mustard bis-(2-chloroethyl)sulfide.
- Agent L** Lewisite: dichloro(2-chlorovinyl) arsine.
- Agent of influence** A person who does not directly work for an intelligence agency, but willingly acts on its behalf to influence public or political opinion.
- Agent orange** A defoliant; that is, a chemical that kills plants and causes the leaves to fall off the dying plants.
- Agent provocateur** An operative or agent who infiltrates a group or organization with the purpose of inciting its members to self-destructive acts.
- Agent Q** Sesquimustard, 1,2-bis-(2-chloroethylthio)ethane.
- Agent T** Agent T bis-(2-chloroethylthio ethyl)ether (potential mustard agent additive).
- Agent-in-place** An employee of one intelligence agency who, of his or her own initiative, offers services to a rival or enemy agency. The agent-in-place continues to work for the first agency, and feed information to the second one.
- AHFEWS** Army HF Electronic Warfare System AN/TLQ-33.
- AI** Army Intelligence.
- AIAI** Al-Ittihad al-Islami.
- AIIB** Anti-Imperialist International Brigade.
- Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI)** The principal investigative service of the United States Air Force.
- Air marshal** United States air marshals are the first police force of the federal government created solely to protect against air terrorism.
- Air plume** A layer of warm air that immediately surrounds a person's body. It has also been referred to as a human thermal plume.
- AIRES** Advanced Imagery Reqs & Exploitation System.
- AIRTAPS** Aerial Imagery Reconnaissance Tracking and Plotting System.
- Aleph** Aum Supreme Truth (Aum) Aum Shinrikyo, Aleph.
- ALG class key exchange** The CryptoAPI algorithm class for key exchange algorithms.
- Algorithm** A method for solving a mathematical problem by using a finite number of computations, usually involving repetition of certain operations or steps. Frequently used in computer science.
- ALIR** Army for the Liberation of Rwanda.
- Al-Qaeda** Responsible for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks upon the United States, Al-Qaeda (also known as Al-Qaida) was established by Osama bin Laden (also spelled Usama Bin Laden or Osama bin Laden) in the late 1980s to bring together Arabs who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union. Al-Qaeda helped finance, recruit, transport, and train Sunni Islamic extremists for the Afghan resistance. Al-Qaeda's current goal is to establish a pan-Islamic caliphate throughout the world and has declared the United States to be an enemy to be attacked by terrorist actions.
- AM-band** Amplitude Modulated (AM) radio carrier frequencies 535–1605 kHz assigned by the FCC in 10 kHz intervals.
- AM-band (maritime and aircraft navigation frequencies)** Amplitude Modulated (AM) radio carrier frequencies 30 to 535 kHz.
- AMU** Atomic mass units.
- ANNULET** Cryptologic maintenance system.
- ANO** Abu Nidal Organization.
- ANSI** American National Standards Institute.
- ANSIR** FBI Awareness of National Security Issues and Response Program.
- Anthrax** A disease that is caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. The bacterium can enter the body via a wound in the skin (cutaneous anthrax), via contaminated food or liquid (gastrointestinal anthrax), or can be inhaled (inhalation anthrax).
- Antibiotics** Agents that kill bacteria. Antibiotics act only on bacteria and are not effective against viruses.
- Antivirals** Compounds that are used to prevent or treat viral infections via the disruption of an infectious mechanism used by the virus.
- Anvil** Automated Target Recognition on Multi-Spectral Imagery.
- APF** Alliance of Palestinian Forces.
- APIS** The Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) is an electronic database system that stores information about airline travelers. The system, operated by the United States Customs Service, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), provides searchable biographical and security information on air travelers entering the United States from a foreign destination.
- Apogee** An orbital position where a satellite is farthest from Earth.
- Apogee Kick Motor (AKM)** Satellite rockets that boost a satellite from a temporary orbit to a geostationary (GEO) orbit.
- APS** Advanced Photon Source.
- ARAC** The Atmospheric Release Advisory Capability (ARAC) is an effort through which the United States Department of Energy (DOE) monitors and predicts the release of hazardous materials into the atmosphere.
- Area 51** The popular name of a secret military facility at Groom Lake, Nevada, approximately ninety miles north of Las Vegas. The six-by-ten mile rectangular air base lies within the Switzerland-sized boundaries of Nellis Air Force Base, and has served as a testing ground for "black budget" (top-secret) military prototype aircraft since the mid-1950s. Area 51 is also a well-known folk symbol of an alleged, but scientifically improbable, government conspiracy to cover up information on UFOs and extraterrestrial life.
- AREAS** Airborne Reconnaissance Evaluation and Analysis System.
- ARGUS** Army intelligence database.
- ARPANet** Early DARPA program that led to the development of the Internet.
- Array** A large group of hydrophones, usually regularly spaced, forming a SONAR net.