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□ JUNE 29, 2017

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# **(U) Message from the Director: Independence Day**

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Team,

On Tuesday, our nation will mark 241 years since the Second Continental Congress ratified a resolution, submitted by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia, declaring independence from the tyranny of a distant monarch. Lee and his band of brothers understood the moment, and they understood that good intelligence would be indispensable to their cause. George Washington, an adroit spymaster, used espionage, deception, and double agency to choose his time to strike at his more powerful British adversaries. And at Yorktown, the battle that secured America's freedom, an African-American patriot named James Armistead Lafayette infiltrated the British command and furnished reports that were critically important to Washington's victory.

Today, good intelligence remains just as important to our freedom, and you carry on that proud tradition of service to our country. Gina, Brian, and I deeply appreciate the awesome skill and dedication that you devote to our mission, and we wish you a safe and joyful holiday with family and friends.

Happy Fourth of July!

Mike

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