CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SITES TO SEE
INTRODUCTION

The Central Intelligence Agency is a unique US Government Agency.

Here you can find art exhibits, museum galleries, statues, and even a memorial wall and garden dedicated to the remarkable Agency men and women who have given their lives while advancing our mission. Because CIA Headquarters is accessible only to our CIA family, this publication is intended to give you a special look into the buildings, campus, and sites that make up our compound.

We hope you enjoy learning about our history and mission.
In the 1950s, the same firm that designed the United Nations Headquarters building designed OHB to reflect former DCI Allen Dulles’s vision of a secure and secluded location for intelligence officers to work. President Dwight D. Eisenhower laid the cornerstone on November 3, 1959, and officers began moving into the building in the fall of 1961. Containing nearly 1.5 million square feet of space, OHB, along with the companion New Headquarters Building, occupies the 258-acre campus.
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MEMORIAL WALL

With the words that sculptor Harold Vogel inscribed in July 1974, “In honor of those members of the Central Intelligence Agency who gave their lives in the service of their country, “this wall—with one star carved for each honored officer—stands as a silent, simple memorial.
This glass-encased book sits on a marble shelf below the Memorial Wall—a small gold star represents each fallen officer. Many lines in the book are blank, indicating that even in death some names must remain secret. This memorial is a constant reminder of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and of the risks inherent in the intelligence profession.
On the floor of the OHB lobby entrance, this 16-foot-diameter inlaid granite seal has been the CIA emblem since it was approved by President Harry Truman in 1950. The seal has three main features: an American bald eagle, our national bird and a symbol of strength and alertness; a shield, the standard symbol of defense; and a 16-point compass rose, representing intelligence from around the world, converging at a central point.
A single star carved into the wall represents the 116 officers who lost their lives while serving in the OSS during WWII. The names of the fallen are listed in the glass-encased OSS Book of Honor that sits on a marble pedestal.
During WWII, Major General William J. Donovan directed the OSS, the CIA’s predecessor. Although he never officially held the title of “Director of Central Intelligence,” the CIA considers him the first DCI because of the importance he placed on intelligence. His leadership and legacy ensured the US would have an intelligence-gathering agency that operated during peacetime as well as war.
In the early 1980s, it was clear that the Agency needed more office space. The New Headquarters Building was uniquely designed to complement OHB by blending the styles of the two buildings. NHB comprises two six-story office towers built into a hillside behind OHB. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on May 24, 1984. The building was completed in March 1991.
NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING (NHB)

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NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING LOBBY

The NHB Lobby hosts a collection of sculptures representing core Agency values to motivate, guide, and inspire the CIA workforce. The collection includes *The Day the Wall Came Down*, Veryl Goodnight’s horses breaking through the rubble of the Berlin Wall to freedom (pictured below).
NEW HEADQUARTERS BUILDING ATRIUM

Suspended from the ceiling of NHB’s glass-enclosed atrium are one-sixth-scale models of the U-2, A-12, and D-21 photoreconnaissance aircraft. CIA developed the U-2 to collect imagery of the former Soviet Union, and it was transferred in 1974 to the US Air Force where it remains in operation today. The supersonic A-12, built by CIA to replace the U-2, holds speed and altitude records unbroken to this day. The D-21 drone extended the A-12’s capabilities into high-threat areas.
James Sanborn’s sculpture, Kryptos (meaning “hidden” in Greek), begins at the entrance to NHB and continues in the northwest corner of the NHB courtyard. Dedicated on November 3, 1990, the theme of this three-part installation is “intelligence gathering.” Kryptos incorporates materials native to the United States. A piece of petrified wood supports a large S-shaped copper screen that looks like a piece of paper coming out of a computer printer. On the paper is a coded message using the alphabet with frequency tables. The sculpture continues to be a source of pleasure and mystery for Agency employees, with a few taking the challenge to “break the code.”
The Agency established the CIA Museum in 1972 to document, preserve, and exhibit artifacts and photos that tell the Agency’s story from its OSS days and the height of the Cold War to the current war in Afghanistan and beyond. The Museum’s permanent and rotating displays give employees and official visitors an appreciation of the CIA’s unique history.
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ON THE FRONT LINES—CIA IN AFGHANISTAN

This gallery features artifacts from CIA operations in Afghanistan following the September 11th terrorist attacks. The gallery presents the joint efforts of CIA, the military, and coalition forces to overthrow the Taliban, kill or capture al-Qa’ida leaders, and deny the group its safe haven. Pictured here is “John,” the communications officer for JAWBREAKER, CIA’s first team into Afghanistan.
This special exhibit features rare Soviet and Stasi espionage artifacts from the private collection of H. Keith Melton. Miniature cameras, listening devices, and concealments are included in the extensive array of spy gear. Pictured here is a camera concealed in an umbrella case.
For more than 60 years the DI has informed presidents and other decision makers about the dangerous world in which we live, correlating and evaluating “raw” information relating to national security and turning it into “finished” intelligence. The DI helped keep the Cold War from becoming a nuclear holocaust and now plays a vital role in waging the war against al-Qa’ida and its affiliates. Among the unique items on display in this gallery is President Obama’s Presidential Daily Brief (PDB) binder.
The DS&T gallery provides a glimpse into the secret world of highly innovative technical concepts and devices. The items displayed here were designed by some of America’s most advanced thinkers who adapted existing technologies or invented new ones. A highlight of the gallery is the insectothopter (a miniature unmanned aerial vehicle) pictured here.
OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (OSS) GALLERY

This exhibit honors the OSS legacy for all who continue the vital missions begun six decades ago by a remarkable organization of extraordinary Americans. This extensive collection of OSS tradecraft and memorabilia includes personal items from OSS Director William J. Donovan, an Enigma machine, artifacts from OSS/Burma’s Detachment 101, communications equipment, weapons, and a fedora belonging to former President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
Displayed in this gallery are official portraits of the former Directors of CIA. After each Director leaves office, a portrait is painted by an artist of the Director’s choosing.
A growing collection of mission-related, intelligence-themed paintings is displayed in the gallery under the aegis of the CIA Museum and the CIA Fine Arts Commission. Each work of art depicts a significant event in intelligence history. This painting—titled Les Marguerites Fleuriront ce Soir, (The Daisies Will Bloom Tonight)—portrays OSS officer Virginia Hall making a clandestine radio transmission to London from occupied France.
Displayed throughout Headquarters is a collection of original abstract expressionist paintings collected by the late Vincent Melzac, former Director of the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The paintings were created in the 1950s and 1960s by artists from the Washington Color School to study the way the eye perceives color and pattern.
Vincent Melzac commissioned the bust of George H.W. Bush sculpted by Marc Mellon. The CIA Headquarters compound was renamed the George Bush Center for Intelligence in 1999 in honor of the only Director of Central Intelligence to later serve as President of the United States of America.
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This is a replica of an original work created for Yale University by Bela Pratt. Nathan Hale, a Yale graduate and captain in General George Washington’s Army, volunteered to collect information on British forces stationed on Long Island. On his first and only mission, he was captured by the British, found guilty of espionage, and executed on September 22, 1776. Hale was the first American executed for spying on behalf of his country. This statue captures the spirit of the moment before his execution—a 21-year old man prepared to meet his death for honor and country, hands and feet bound, face resolute, and eyes on the horizon. His last words, “I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country,” circle the base around his feet.
These three sections of reinforced concrete were removed from the Berlin Wall near Checkpoint Charlie at Potsdamer Platz in November 1989. Dedicated to the CIA in December 1992, the monument is oriented as it was in Berlin—the west side painted with graffiti, reflecting the color, hope, and optimism of the west; in stark contrast to the east side, which is whitewashed, plain and devoid of color and life. The monument is located in the middle of a path so that it must be confronted directly, just as it was for nearly three decades by the citizens of Berlin.
MEMORIAL GARDEN

Through the quiet beauty of living nature, the garden is a memorial to all deceased intelligence officers and contractors who served their country. The words, "In remembrance of those whose unheralded efforts served a grateful nation," are cast in a brass plaque to ensure the living will not forget the fallen.
The Headquarters Auditorium is commonly nicknamed “The Bubble” because of its bubble or igloo-like shape. Part of the original CIA Headquarters design in the mid-1950s, it is equipped with the latest in multi-media equipment and can accommodate 470 people. The Bubble serves as host to special events, prominent speakers, and conferences.
In the 1950s, the land obtained for the CIA Headquarters compound included a private residence known as the Calvert Estate, which came with the provision the owners, Margaret Scattergood and Florence Thorne, would occupy the property until their deaths. When Ms. Scattergood passed in 1986, the CIA converted the private residence into a conference center.
A-12 OXCART

Under the highly secret Project OXCART, CIA contracted with Lockheed to produce the A-12 supersonic reconnaissance aircraft as the successor to the U-2. Lockheed began its design in 1959, and the craft achieved full operational readiness in November 1965. During testing, the A-12 reached a speed of Mach 3.29 (over 2,200 mph) and an altitude of 90,000 feet. The A-12 flew only 29 missions before being replaced by the U.S. Air Force’s SR-71, a modified version of the A-12. Of the 15 A-12s that were built, only nine exist today. The aircraft is displayed in our north parking lot.
We are the nation’s first line of defense. We accomplish what others cannot accomplish and go where others cannot go.
THE WORK OF A NATION.

THE CENTER OF INTELLIGENCE.