

## The National Security Archive in 2019

The following statistics provide a performance index of the Archive's work:

- ◆ Freedom of Information and declassification requests filed – **1,760**
- ◆ Freedom of Information and declassification appeals filed – **137**
- ◆ Pages of U.S. government documents released as the result of Archive requests – **124,557** including headline-making documents underpinning the new *Washington Post* conclusion (12.9.19) “U.S. officials misled the public about the war in Afghanistan”; tens of thousands of pages of U.S. intelligence and defense records detailing the Argentina “dirty war” from 1976 to 1983; multiple releases on U.S.-Iran relations from the 1979 hostage crisis to the now-suspended nuclear deal of 2015; a State Department “dissent channel” cable proposing the ouster of Chile’s dictator Pinochet for his role in ordering the assassination of Orlando Letelier in 1976; a CIA “black site” cable authorized by now CIA director Gina Haspel that undercut prosecutors’ secrecy claims in a current Guantanamo trial; arms control records tracking nuclear weapons developments from the first Soviet test in 1949 to the expiration of the INF Treaty in 2019; records from the first “joint task force” on cybersecurity 20 years ago and from US Cyber Command targeting practices today; previously classified insider critiques of the “launch on warning” nuclear strategy and a step-by-step guide on how nuclear war would be fought.
- ◆ Pages of declassified documents delivered to publisher – **26, 598** in two reference collections: *U.S. Nuclear Nonproliferation 2, Part I: From Atoms for Peace to the NPT, 1954-1968* (edited by William Burr); *U.S. Policy toward Iran: From the Revolution to the Nuclear Accord, 1978-2015* (edited by Malcolm Byrne).
- ◆ FOIA Lawsuits: **3 new, 2 amicus briefs**: [CREW, National Security Archive, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations v. Mike Pompeo and the Department of State](#) (filed November 5, 2019) to enforce the Federal Records Act especially for foreign head-of-state conversations; [CREW, National Security Archive, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations v. Donald J. Trump, Executive Office of the President](#) (filed May 7, 2019, 1:19-cv-01333) to enforce the Presidential Records Act for preservation of head-of-state conversations; [National Security Archive v. Defense Intelligence Agency](#), (filed February 28, 2019, 1:19-cv-99529) to enforce the FOIA for documents related to the Able Archer nuclear war scare of 1983. Also *amicus* briefs in the 11<sup>th</sup> Circuit against grand jury secrecy on historic records, and in the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit against indefinite gag orders on Internet providers.
- ◆ E-Books published by Archive staff and fellows – **36**, bringing the Web site total to **691**
- ◆ Archive e-books republished by H-Diplo, the 5,500-member global network of diplomatic historians: **16**
- ◆ Archive primary sources selected by *Foreign Policy.com* as Document of the Week: **4**
- ◆ Research requests to the Archive – **3,800**; Visiting researchers at the Archive’s Smith Bagley Research Center – **262**
- ◆ Archive Web site usage – Sessions: **1,255,041**; Users: **914,680**; Page Views: **2,311,913**
- ◆ Posts by Archive staff on *Unredacted* blog – **44**; Readers of *Unredacted* blog — **136,088** page views
- ◆ Subscribers to the Archive’s e-mail alerts – **13,200**; Followers on the Archive Twitter feed – **18,200**; Followers on the Archive Facebook page – **10,739**
- ◆ Awards: Choice Magazine’s “Outstanding Academic Title 2018” (*Digital National Security Archive*)



## Briefing Books 2019



### Documenting Iran-U.S. Relations, 1978-2015

Every U.S. President Tried – at Some Point and for Different Reasons – to Engage with Iran

New *Digital National Security Archive* Collection of 14,000 pages Covers the 1978-79 Revolution to the 2015 Nuclear Deal (JCPOA)

Dec 19, 2019 | Briefing Book 692



### Nuclear Weapons and Ukraine

American, Ukrainian, and Russian Cooperation Eliminated World's Third Largest Nuclear Force in 1990s

Declassified Documents Illuminate Nonproliferation Success Story Now Dissed in All Three Countries

Dec 5, 2019 | Briefing Book 691



### The First Nukes on the Korean Peninsula

New Evidence on the Origins of U.S. Deployments 1958-1991

John Foster Dulles Worried "These Great Monsters" Would Be "Disastrous" for U.S. Political Position

Defense Department and Budget Bureau Pointed to "Economies" from Deployments – More Bang for the Buck

Nov 20, 2019 | Briefing Book 690



### 1979 Iran Hostage Crisis Recalled

Tehran Embassy Takeover Launched 444-Day Saga with Long-Standing Implications for Iran, United States, and Global Politics

Documents Show Brzezinski Proposed Considering Replacement of Khomeini or Even Direct Intervention, but Carter Declined

Nov 4, 2019 | Briefing Book 689



### Nuclear Weapons and Turkey Since 1959

Members of Congress Worried in 1960 That Leaders of a Coup "Might Seize Control" of Weapons

Other U.S. Officials Feared Risks of Accidental War or Overreaction to Local Crises

During Mid-1960s Turkish Officials Were Interested in Producing an "Atomic Bomb"

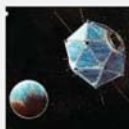
Oct 30, 2019 | Briefing Book 688



### Kennedy and Cuba: Operation Mongoose

Exhibits from CIA Document Set III: A Digital National Security Archive collection published through ProQuest

Oct 3, 2019 | Briefing Book 687



### The Vela Flash: Forty Years Ago

Controversy Hovers over Possible Nuclear Signal Detected in South Atlantic in 1979; Israeli or South African Origin Suspected by Some Experts – and President Carter

CIA Saw "Probability of a Nuclear Test as 90% Plus," According to Newly Posted Document

Additional Evidence Casts Doubts on White House Science Advisers' Dismissal of Possibility of a Nuclear Test

Sep 22, 2019 | Briefing Book 686



### **Letelier-Moffitt Assassination: State Department Officials Pushed for Pinochet's Ouster**

'Dissent Channel' Memorandum Called for U.S. Policy to Force Pinochet From Power

43 Years after State-Sponsored Terrorist Act in Washington, New Details Emerge on Effort to Hold General Pinochet Accountable

Sep 20, 2019 | Briefing Book 685



### **Detection of the First Soviet Nuclear Test, September 1949**

Newly Declassified Documents Trace Beginnings of Superpower Nuclear Arms Race

Soviet Atomic Project Posed Major Challenge to U.S. Intelligence

Records Expand Knowledge of the Role of German Scientists in Advancing the Soviet Nuclear Program

Sep 9, 2019 | Briefing Book 684



### **Targeting in Cyber Operations: FOIA release discusses considerations of US military targeting doctrine**

Sep 5, 2019 | Briefing Book 683



### **U.S. sought to preserve close ties to Indonesian military as it terrorized East Timor in runup to 1999 independence referendum**

U.S. knew of Indonesian military's creation, direction, and arming of militias in East Timor in 1998-1999, plans to "kill, drive out, or intimidate into silence independence activists" prior to historic vote

Posting of recently declassified documents marks 20th anniversary of key referendum

Aug 28, 2019 | Briefing Book 682



### **Top Secret Chernobyl: The Nuclear Disaster through the Eyes of the Soviet Politburo, KGB, and U.S. Intelligence**

Declassified documents detail highest-level reactions, cover-ups, critiques

Sources include Politburo notes, diaries, protocols never before translated into English

Part One of a Two-Volume Publication

Aug 15, 2019 | Briefing Book 681



### **Kissinger Told Soviet Envoy during 1973 Arab-Israeli War: "My Nightmare is a Victory for Either Side" – The Soviet Agreed**

New Kissinger Telcons Shed Light on U.S. Policy during the War as Well as Nixon's Nomination of Gerald Ford for Vice President

Nixon Described Ford to HAK as a "Bright Truman"

Posting Comes on Anniversary of Nixon's Resignation in 1974

Aug 9, 2019 | Briefing Book 680



### **The INF Treaty, 1987-2019**

Historic Reagan-Gorbachev arms control agreement expires today

Declassified documents show major advances on verification, missed opportunities for conventional and strategic arms cuts

Aug 2, 2019 | Briefing Book 679



### **"Atoms for Peace" Was Actually a "Threat to Peace" – AEC Official in 1955**

Major New Publication: *U.S. Nuclear Nonproliferation Policy, 1954-1968: From Atoms for Peace to the NPT*

Documents from Eisenhower, JFK, LBJ Presidencies Provide Crucial History on Indian, Chinese, Israeli, and Other States' Nuclear Programs

Latest Collection in the Digital National Security Archive series published by ProQuest

Jul 16, 2019 | Briefing Book 678



### **Joint Task Force – Computer Network Defense: 20 Years Later**

Jun 29, 2019 | Briefing Book 677



### **The U.S.-Japan Military Alliance: A Documents Primer**

Declassified U.S. Record Describes Benefits from Mutual Security Treaty in Effect since 1960

Previous Debates over Balance of Contributions Also Discussed

Jun 28, 2019 | Briefing Book 676



### **China's Tibet Problem: The Contentious History**

Documents show splits within both China and Tibetan exile community, turning point in Carter years

China "mismanaged" Tibet from Dalai Lama's exile in 1959 to U.S. normalization in 1979, bringing "disaster" to most Tibetans

Jun 27, 2019 | Briefing Book 675



### **The "Launch on Warning" Nuclear Strategy and Its Insider Critics**

Policy Adopted in 1970s, Still in Effect Today Despite Danger of False Alerts

Top Defense Official in 1978 Called It "Dangerous, Wrong, and Ineffective"

Reagan Directive Called for Leaving Soviet Planners "with Strong Uncertainty" about U.S. Response to Warning

Jun 11, 2019 | Briefing Book 674



### **Inside Argentina's Killing Machine: U.S. Intelligence Documents Record Gruesome Human Rights Crimes of 1976-1983**

Buenos Aires Police Chief told CIA "he wanted no prisoners for interrogation, only cadavers"

Junta leader General Rafael Videla sought to hide mass murder to protect Argentina's image

Before coup, CIA analysts predicted rise of "hardline mentality... to dominate the Army"

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Patricia Derian reported that "Argentina has the worst human rights record in South America"

May 30, 2019 | Briefing Book 673



### **The Chernyaev Diary 1979**

"comrades, we have entered into a period of senility at the ruling top that is very dangerous for our country"

"all Germans share one history, therefore in their minds there is a feeling of impermanence and inconceivability of permanently maintaining this ridiculous construct of West Berlin"

"we have fallen terribly behind capitalism. And there is nothing left to justify this gap"

May 25, 2019 | Briefing Book 672



### **The Battle of the Letters, 1963: John F. Kennedy, David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol, and the U.S. Inspections of Dimona**

Kennedy Warned Israeli Leaders in 1963 That U.S. "Commitment and Support" Could be "Seriously Jeopardized" Absent Inspection of Dimona Reactor

U.S. Intelligence Estimated That by Mid-1960s Dimona Could Produce Enough Plutonium For "One or Two Weapons A Year"

May 2, 2019 | Briefing Book 671



### **Redactions: The Declassified File**

Mueller Report Censorship Raises Question: What's the Government Hiding?

Documents Show It's an Art Not a Science - Vast Over-classification

Apr 18, 2019 | Briefing Book 670



### **Declassification Diplomacy: Trump Administration Turns Over Massive Collection of Intelligence Records on Human Rights and Argentina**

47,000 Pages of CIA, FBI, NSC, DOD and State Dept. Records Touted as "Largest" Government-to-Government Transfer of Declassified Documentation

Documents Spotlight Buenos Aires Base for International Death Squad Operations sponsored by Condor States; Record Ruthless Repression by Argentine Security Forces during Military Dictatorship, 1976-1983

National Security Archive Commends Completion of U.S. Government's Special Argentina Project as 'Model of Declassification Diplomacy' and Major Contribution to the Cause of Human Rights and History

Apr 12, 2019 | Briefing Book 669



### **Kissinger State Department Insisted that South Koreans Break Contract with French for Reprocessing Plant**

State Department Cautioned that "Normal Reactor Grade Plutonium Could be Used in ... Bomb Designs"

New Documents on the Secret U.S.-South Korean Nuclear Controversy, 1975-1976

Apr 9, 2019 | Briefing Book 668



## Understanding the CIA: How Covert (and Overt) Operations Were Proposed and Approved during the Cold War

New Collection of Declassified Documents Illuminates the Role of Presidents and Top Advisers in Guiding and Sanctioning CIA Activities from Cuba to Africa, 1961-1974

A Gift to Bokassa and Exploiting Personal Characteristics of Fidel Castro Were Among Methods Used

Mar 4, 2019 | Briefing Book 667



## National Security Archive Sues DIA for Able Archer 83 Document

DIA Director Perroots' "Parting Shot" Warned of Nuclear Danger

DIA Claims Targeted Request for Three Boxes "Unusual"

Feb 28, 2019 | Briefing Book 666



## The Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan 1989

Geneva Accords Achieved Failure Disguised as Success:

The End of Soviet Intervention, but Not Demilitarization or Free Elections

Soviets Sought a Model of Cooperation with U.S. on Regional Conflicts

Feb 27, 2019 | Briefing Book 665



## The United States and the North Korea Nuclear Threat

U.S. Attempts to Blunt North Korea's Nuclear Threat Have a Complex History

Republican and Democratic Presidents Shared Concerns over Nukes and Regional Instability

Declassified Records Reflect Military, Economic, and Diplomatic Challenges

Feb 26, 2019 | Briefing Book 664



## How the Strategic Air Command Would Go to Nuclear War

Declassification of Red Dot "Emergency War Orders" from 1964 Opens Window into Strategic Operations

SAC's Role in DEFCON System Detailed

Bruce Blair on How the Strategic Air Command Would Have Gone to Nuclear War in the 1970s - [update](#)

Feb 25, 2019 | Briefing Book 663



## The VICE File: Dick Cheney Declassified

Oscar-worthy Documents on the Dark Side, from Cheyenne to Baghdad

Feb 22, 2019 | Briefing Book 662



## U.S.-Japan Negotiations over Reprocessing and Plutonium Use: Opening Moves, 1981-1982

Reagan Administration Eased Back on Carter-Era Restrictions; Relations with Japan Prioritized

Ambassador Mike Mansfield: U.S. Curbs a "Thorn in the Japanese Side Which We Should Completely Remove"

Senator John Glenn Opposed Making "An Exception for Japan"

Feb 12, 2019 | Briefing Book 661



## Iran's 1979 Revolution Revisited: Failures (and a Few Successes) of U.S. Intelligence and Diplomatic Reporting

Review of Documents Suggests Despite Big Gaps Substantial Information Was Available to Policymakers

Feb 11, 2019 | Briefing Book 660



## What the CIA Tells Congress (Or Doesn't) about Covert Operations: The Barr/Cheney/Bush Turning Point for CIA Notifications to the Senate

William P. Barr Defended Expanded Presidential Authority and Limiting Notification of Congress about Certain Covert Operations during Iran-Contra Affair

Feb 7, 2019 | Briefing Book 659



## A New Phase in the Great Game: U.S., Soviets, India, Pakistan vied to shape a new Afghanistan in late 1980s

U.S. Ambassadors Dean and Raphel warned Washington unconditional support to Pakistan and fundamentalist factions of mujahedin was destabilizing the region

Reagan administration supported India's active role in connection with Soviet withdrawal, but changed position when

Delhi tried to keep extreme fundamentalists from coming to power

## News Stories Citing and Quoting the Archive in 2019

“Navy letter shows military worried about unknown vulnerabilities in DJI drones” by Shannon Vavra, *CYBERSCOOP* 16 December 2019.

“Afghanistan Papers: Overwhelmed by Opium” by Craig Whitlock, *The Washington Post* 14 December 2019.

Afghanistan Papers: Unguarded Nation” by Craig Whitlock, *The Washington Post* 13 December 2019.

“Afghanistan Papers: Consumed by Corruption” by Craig Whitlock, *The Washington Post* 12 December 2019.

“Afghanistan Papers: Built to Fail” by Craig Whitlock, *The Washington Post* 11 December 2019.

“Afghanistan Papers: Stranded Without a Strategy” by Craig Whitlock, *The Washington Post* 10 December 2019.

“Afghanistan Papers: At War With the Truth” by Craig Whitlock, *The Washington Post* 9 December 2019.

“Argentina Declassified: How secret US intelligence files provide the verdict of history on the repression of the ‘Dirty War’” by Peter Kornbluh, *The Nation* 2 December 2019.

“Trapped in the Archives” by William Burr, *Foreign Affairs* 29 November 2019.

“Turkey Has Long Had Nuclear Dreams” by Colum Lynch *Foreign Policy* 11 November 2019.

“Judge in Case of Qaeda Suspect Rules Prosecutors Distorted Evidence” *The New York Times* 9 November 2019

“United Nations Condemns U.S. Embargo on Cuba” by Peter Kornbluh, *Cigar Aficionado* 8 November 2019.

“New LawsUIT Alleges Illegal 'Shadow' Ukraine Diplomacy at Trump's Direction” by Jacqueline Thomsen, *Law.com* 5 November 2019. |

“The United States Overthrew Iran’s Last Democratic Leader” by Raham Alvandi and Mark J. Gasiorowski, *Foreign Policy* 30 October 2019.

“How the U.S. Found Out About Russia’s First Nuclear Test 70 Years Ago” by Colum Lynch, *Foreign Policy* 4 October 2019.

“Justice Dept. assures judge White House won’t destroy records of Trump calls, meetings with foreign leaders” by Spencer S. Hsu, *The Washington Post* 2 October 2019.

“A Judge Wants Assurances The Administration Won't Destroy Records About Trump's Calls With Foreign Leaders. The Justice Department Is Hesitating” by Zoe Tollman, *Buzz Feed News* 1 October 2019.

“The American way of cyber warfare and the case of ISIS” by JD Work, *Atlantic Council* 17 September 2019.

“Cogs of War” by Anatoly Chernyaev, *Harper’s Magazine* 3 September 2019.

“US stood by as Indonesia deployed militia in Timor Leste conflict: Declassified Documents” by Dian Septiari, *The Jakarta Post* 29 August 2019.

“US Knew Indonesia intended to stop East Timorese independence ‘through terror and violence’” by Helen Davidson, *The Guardian* 28 August 2019.

“Zarif advises Brian Hook to study National Security Archive on 1953 coup in Iran” *Tehran Times* 21 August 2019.

“Transcript Shows That Kissinger Dreaded All-Out Israeli Victory in Yom Kippur War” by Colum Lynch, *Foreign Policy* 9 August 2019.

“U.S. Researcher Highlights Importance of Cuba Travel Law” by Peter Kornbluh, *Prensa Latina* 2 August 2019.

“Congress Finally Challenges the Cuba Travel Ban” by Peter Kornbluh, *The Nation* 1 August 2019.

“Guatemala Declares War on History” by Column Lynch, *Foreign Poilcy* 30 July 2019.

“Document of the Week: Risk of Iranian Retaliation Has Long Spooked Gulf Allies” by Colum Lynch, *Foreign Policy* 21 June 2019.

“A Vast Archive Exposed the Secret History of Kidnapping and Assassination in Guatemala. Now It’s Under Threat.” By Cora Currier, *The Intercept* 8 June 2019.

“US documents expose details of 1976-1983 dictatorship’s grizzly crimes” *Buenos Aires Times* 31 May 2019.

“Trump Wins Fight Over Messaging Apps Nixon ‘Could Only Dream Of’” by Andrew M Harris, *Bloomberg* 28 May 2019.

“Document of the Week: How JFK Tried to Stop Nuclear Proliferation” by Colum Lynch, *Foreign Policy* 24 May 2019.

“The NSA knows its weapons may one day be used by its targets” by Shannon Vavra, *CYBERSCOOP* 14 May 2019.

“One for the history books: A lawsuit demands that Mr. Trump comply with federal law on his records” Editorial, *The Washington Post* 13 May 2019.

“Kennedy, Ben-Gurion and Dimona” by William Burr and Avner Cohen, *Haaretz* 3 May 2019.

“Declassified documents detail the evolution of CYBERCOM’s Cyber Mission Force” by Mary Lee, *Politico* 3 May 2019.

“When in Doubt, Redact: The Mueller report is hardly the first time officials have gone heavy on the black pen” by Fred Kaplan, *Slate* 18 April 2019.

“Secrecy is subjective' when government censors redact documents” interview of Tom Blanton by PRI’s *The World* 17 April 2019.

“Redaction nation: US history brims with partial deletions” by Hillel Italie, Associated Press 16 April 2019.

“Secrets revealed as US government declassifies 5,600 new files on dictatorship” by Santiago del Carrill, *Buenos Aires Times* 13 April 2019.

“Declassified U.S. Documents Reveal Details About Argentina’s Dictatorship” by Ernesto Londono, *The New York Times* 12 April 2019.

“US completes release of records on Argentina’s dirty war” by Luis Alonso Lugo, Associated Press 11 April 2019.

“Mad Libs, but for democracy: The timeless intrigue of redactions” by Dan Zak, *The Washington Post* 11 April 2019.

“How to ensure we have a more open, accountable government Congress must strengthen the Freedom of Information Act” by Nate Jones, *The Washington Post* 3 March 2019.

“Taiwan's 20th Century Brush With a Nuclear Capability” *The Diplomat* 30 January 2019.

“Why Did Soviets Invade Afghanistan? Documents Offer History Lesson for Trump” by Peter Baker, *The New York Times* 29 January 2019.

“No, the president can't destroy records. Here's why” interview of Tom Blanton on PRI’s *The World* 14 January 2019.