

Relationship between AMS and NSA

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The mathematics community has significant ties to the National Security Agency (NSA). NSA employs a large number of mathematicians. Additionally, many academic mathematicians have done work for the NSA during summers and sabbaticals. The AMS recognizes that its relationship with the NSA is perceived by some members of the mathematics community as problematic. For this reason, our relationship is routinely examined by the AMS Committee on the Profession (CoProf).

CoProf discussed the AMS relationship with the NSA at its meeting in 2013, following the revelations of Edward Snowden. It was felt at that time that the Notices of the AMS could serve as the appropriate place where opposing opinions could be expressed. In 2014 and 2015, the relationship between the AMS and the NSA was a topic of discussion in the pages of the Notices and in the mathematical community at large (<http://www.ams.org/notices/201402/rnoti-p190.pdf> and www.ams.org/notices/201502/rnoti-p165.pdf). In 2014 and after further discussion, CoProf ultimately decided not to pursue issuing a statement on this subject. At its meeting in 2015, CoProf responded favorably to a suggestion of adding a page to the AMS website describing the NSA grants program and the Society's role in managing the review process.

The Mathematical Sciences Program of the NSA, launched in the mid-1980s, funded individual research grants, Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REUs), conferences and sabbaticals. For several years, the AMS held a contract with the NSA to handle the submission and evaluation portions of this grants program; specifically, for the NSA Young Investigator and Standard Research Grants. The final review panel was in spring 2016, which was the last time the NSA budgeted for these grants and the last time the AMS assisted.

The AMS invites any potential employer of mathematicians to engage with our community, including employers in government, industry, business, and the academic and nonprofit sectors. This can happen via job postings on Mathjobs.org, exhibit booths at the Joint Mathematics Meetings (JMM), and quiet table rentals at the JMM's Employment Center.

The NSA rents quiet tables at the JMM Employment Center. In 2019, NSA paid \$560 and in 2020, they paid \$565. NSA has not outright purchased any Mathjobs ads, although they received and utilized one freebie from their interview table purchases. In 2019, NSA paid \$4,245 for their JMM exhibit booth. In 2020, the NSA paid \$4373. These fees are used to offset the rental costs of the convention center facilities for the JMM.

The AMS welcomes membership and participation from mathematicians regardless of employer.