

## **Short bio**

**Thomas Drake** is a former senior executive with the National Security Agency, a United States Air Force and Navy veteran, computer software expert, and whistleblower. While at NSA, he blew the whistle on multi-billion fraud, loss of intelligence, wrongdoing and a secret dragnet electronic surveillance and data mining program conducted on a vast scale by the NSA after 9/11. This program violated and subverted the Constitution as well as individual sovereignty and privacy, while weakening national security and fundamentally eroding civil liberties. In April 2010 he was charged by the US Department of Justice with a 10 felony count Espionage Act indictment facing 35 years in prison, until the government's case against him collapsed in June 2011. He is the 2011 recipient of the Ridenhour Prize for Truth Telling.