

NSA said going beyond surveillance laws

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The National Security Agency reportedly has been going beyond U.S. law in intercepting private e-mail and phone calls, government officials say.

Several intelligence officials said the NSA had been engaged in "overcollection" of domestic communications of Americans, a practice some say is significant but may have been unintentional.

The Justice Department told The New York Times that problems with the agency's surveillance operation "raised concerns" that led to "comprehensive steps to correct the situation and bring the program into compliance" with the law and court orders.

However, the questions may not be settled yet with intelligence officials still looking over the scope of NSA practices.

The Times said it was not clear to what extent the agency may have actively listened in on conversations or read e-mail messages without proper court authority, rather than simply obtained access to them.

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