

OSINT Timeline (1988-2020)

Isolated contracts award from 1997 onwards are not included – OSINT never got organized.

1988 USMC Intelligence Center established, Robert David Steele founds modern discipline of OSINT
1988 Commandant of the Marine Corps publishes article calling for increased attention to OSINT
1990 Dutch military intelligence establishes first OSINT unit, forbids classified collection if OSINT can do
1992 USMC proposes alternative National Intelligence Topics for OOTW/GWOT using OSINT
1992 DDCI agrees to keynote conference on OSINT – CIA demands that USMC shut down the conference
1992 Community Open Source Program Office (COSPO) established
1993 Scotland Yard establishes world's first LEA OSINT Centre
1995 In Aspen-Brown benchmark exercise on Burundi, US IC smashed by OSINT in 24 hours, six calls
1996 *Government Information Quarterly* publishes a Special Feature on creating a Smart Nation
1997 *JMITC OSINT Handbook* published
1997 CINCSOC briefed, creates J-26 which immediately solves 40% of all SOF EEI with 22 people, \$5M
1997 CINCENT goes on record as saying secret sources and methods provide “at best” 4% of need
1997 Aspin-Brown calls for DCI to pay greater attention to, and provide more funding for, OSINT
1997 DCI Study *The Challenge of Global Coverage* concludes \$2B a year needed for OSINT – censored!
1998 COSPO proposes Consolidated Open Source Program, DDCI/CM refuses to allow this to happen
2000 OMB ADD/NS briefs DD/OMB who agrees that an OSA is needed at IOC \$125M, FOC \$2B
2000 NATO/PfP flags for military intelligence briefed on OSINT
2001 NATO OSINT Handbook published out of SACLANT (today ATC)
2002 NATO OSINT Reader published out of SACLANT (today ATC)
2004 Department of State hosts OSINT briefing, standing room only in largest auditorium. INR blocks
2004 SOF Civil Affairs Brigade sponsors draft *SOF OSINT Handbook*
2004 9/11 Commission includes OSA on pages 23 and 423 (added at 0300, no text, SES blood shed)
2005 Assistant Director of National Intelligence for Open Source created, abolished within two years
2006 National Defense Authorization Act requires Department of Defense to establish OSINT program
2006 OSINT conference series concludes with 750 international speakers, 7,500 trained over 15 years
2007 OSINT chapter included in definitive five volume study of strategic intelligence
2007 Amazon receives capstone briefing on OSINT and need to create all-source processing cloud
2009 USDI receives OSINT Leadership & Staff briefings; DoD offers \$2B/Year to SOCOM, they decline
2010 OMB ADD/NS confirms OMB support for OSA at \$2B/year contingent on Cabinet or WH demand
2010 Robert Steele interviewed for DISL DH DIA, writes HUMINT monograph cleared by DoD and CIA
2012 *The Open Source Everything Manifesto* published, lists 60 opens relevant to GWOT/OOTW
2014 IEEE recognizes potential of OSINT as a source of national information power, publishes article.
2016 Danish Ministry of Defence hosts conference on OSINT Done Right, NATO toys with Centre
2016 Donald Trump elected President of the United States of America, not happy with US IC
2017 Recognition of Internet censorship and data manipulation widespread, need for Web 3.0 seen
2019 OSA proposed to White House, said to be in staffing – **OSA triples POTUS public power.**