For the most relevant source of information about the NSA, we turn to the NSA’s official government website. One of the first sections on the site is titled “What We Do”, which contains a brief summary of the NSA’s objectives, a number of relevant national security issues it is tasked with addressing, and the means with which it addresses these issues. Right at the top of this aforementioned webpage, the NSA/CSS (Central Security Service) identifies itself in that it:

* Saves lives
* Defends vital networks
* Advance U.S. goals and alliances
* Protects privacy rights
* Is a unique asset

Thereafter, the page’s content focuses around how U.S. leaders must be aware of issues that face our nation’s security and how the NSA is readily able to carry out these objectives. “U.S. leaders, , it says “policymakers, war fighters, law enforcement agencies and our Intelligence Community partners face some of the gravest national security challenges in U.S. history”. Then, the page finishes with the statement that despite these challenges, the NSA is readily equip to face these issues. “It is this expertise” it reads, “-from our people and technology- that allows us to accomplish the goals of discovering adversaries' secrets, protecting U.S. secrets, and outmaneuvering our adversaries in cyberspace while at the same time protecting the privacy rights of the American people”.

As we take a closer look at this document, there are a number of strengths and weaknesses. What this document does well is that it provides a lot of relevant and up to date information in a relatively few number of characters. If one looks at the bottom of the page, one sees that it was posted on May 3, 2016, so pretty recently. Also, the NSA’s affirmation to meet the challenges set before it can actually be backed up. The NSA is actually the nation’s top cryptology and security agency, if not the world!

However, there is a fault in this webpage. The page gives no mention as to the ethical principles upon which its methods are based. From the sound of the reading, it seems like they are willing to do whatever it takes, unethical or not, to meet their goals!

<https://www.nsa.gov/about/mission-strategy/>