This article concludes with an intelligent awareness that privacy rights and academic freedom aren't absolute. They must be balanced against the government's responsibility to protect all of us against demonstrable threats, including international terrorism and the exploitation of children. No institution is perfect, but I'd prefer to have federal courts doing the balancing rather than "lone wolf" academics, journalists, or leakers. People in the latter category may have good motives, but they rarely follow a process designed to hear and weigh alternative views with care and disinterested wisdom.

Posted by Mr. Gary Pavela on Nov 6, 2014 3:59 PM

Inman asserted: "NSA has been accused of intervening in the development of the DES and of tampering with the standard so as to weaken it cryptographically. This allegation is totally false."

The NSA tried to convince IBM (which had originally designed the DES algorithm) to reduce the DES key size from 64 to 48 bits.

You state, "Recently declassified documents reveal that Inman's statements were misleading, if not incorrect."

Come on, Inman outright lied to his fellow countrymen. Don't muddle your own reporting.

Posted by Mr. Roel C. Zylstra on Nov 12, 2014 6:26 PM

Zylstra is right. Don't muddle your own reporting. The NSA put a chill on research in an academic institution, as they most probably did (and continue to do) in other areas as well. It is NO different from communist countries back in the day. That is the real story here. Good journalism is neither 'fair nor balanced.' It takes a stand and sticks to it for better or for worse.

Posted by Mr. Jeffrey Schwartz on Nov 16, 2014 12:21 PM