

You don't get to be Director of the National Security Administration by accident. You get to be Director of the National Security Administration by knowing more than anyone else and being constantly on the lookout for opportunities.

When you started in mathematics, you hardly expected this would be the path your life took. Topology was your specialty during graduate school. One night, you were working late in the grad student lounge, when you overheard a conversation between two of your colleagues. They obviously didn't realize you were in the room - to this day, you tend to hide behind a pile of books so you can get work done.

In hushed tones, Adams was telling Watanabe that he'd been tapped by an organization whose name he couldn't divulge for a top-secret project, whose details he couldn't divulge. Watanabe politely acted awed, but you could feel the jealousy dripping from his every word. Besides, both you and Watanabe knew exactly what organization Adams was talking about - the NSA was hardly a secret by then.

At that moment, you realized you had been on the wrong track this whole time. Topology was hardly brimming with jobs, and you'd already been worried about what you'd do after graduating if you couldn't get a teaching position somewhere. Cryptography, though. If you could somehow break in...

A week later, it came to you. A totally novel cryptosystem based on non-Euclidean geometry. You made sure to leave an enticing abstract "accidentally" where Adams would see it. Soon enough, a man in a nondescript suit came around to see you.

Once in the NSA, your rise was meteoric. You were not popular, but you had the grudging respect and admiration of your peers. You were decisive, seizing upon every opportunity for new, exciting research. If others felt cut out of the loop, that was hardly your fault - their projects were simply in better hands with you. The combined respect and, you suspect, others' desire to get you out of research positions saw you quickly promoted.

And now, here you are, in charge of the whole place. Well, it's only natural - you can hardly think of a more deserving employee. Now that you are on top, you are going to see that the NSA becomes more proactive about research. The US can hardly afford to fall behind the rest of the world in security, after all.

One project that particularly interests you is Resonance. This is a biological research project that started in academia but was quickly co-opted by DARPA. The idea is to develop a virus that alters the minds of those infected by it, which has applications in the treatment of Braiden's Syndrome and in crowd control. You think, though, that with the appropriate alterations, Resonance could be made to have security applications as well. What if you didn't need to break codes anymore - just infect a captured enemy spy, and get all the information you need?

Who You Know:

President Carrol was elected shortly after you became Director of the NSA. Some Presidents go around and shake everything up in Washington, but you had done well enough that Carrol didn't want to rock the boat. Since then you have worked fairly well with Carrol.

Vice President Richardson can be hard to work with. President Carrol was just about to tell you something about Richardson. Something important. You can't remember what it was.

General Rosen is a good General, but would be better on the ground than managing research projects. Rosen simply doesn't understand the importance of this work.

Secretary Highmore is one of President Carrol's worst choices. A Wall Street tycoon should not be given the

Secretary of Defense position like a Christmas present for helping with the campaign.

Advisor Cahill is the President's National Security Advisor. You have worked together closely on many matters of national importance. Cahill is easy to work with and will work towards anything that seems to increase security. You can easily push towards the projects that seem important to you.