

# The Process Behind Targeted Killing

The Obama administration has been developing blueprints for a “disposition matrix,” a database that officials describe as a next-generation capture/kill list. Here is an overview of how targets are collected, reviewed and presented for presidential approval.

CIA JSOC\* GOVERNMENT AGENCIES DOD NSA

1. Agencies compile names of operatives, building rosters of terrorist organizations and affiliates.



**National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)**

2. The NCTC generates lists of names based on specific White House criteria (for example: a target list of terrorist leaders believed to be plotting attacks against U.S. personnel in Yemen). The NCTC sends the list of names for review.



**Deputies committee of National Security Council**

3. Chaired by White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan and made up of deputy directors from the CIA, the FBI, the State Department, the Pentagon and the NCTC, the council culls the rosters to individuals who will be targeted with the president’s approval.



4. President Barack Obama signs off on the targeted individuals.