The Point of Beginning

One can hardly engage in any form of communication today without hearing of some form of covert intelligence gathering. Stating this, I did some research on this topic, dating back to the early days of our country. A natural starting point would be with our brother George Washington. Who I found was an excellent student in counter intelligence. He observed the French as they annihilated the British forces in the French and Indian Wars. This was done by simply gathering information of the deployment of British troops. While Washington’s attempt to establish Nathan Hale as a spy in New York City failed, he soon was able to set up agents in many areas in New York and Long Island.

To eliminate the chance of discovery, all agents were known as numbers, with only a few being known to Washington. One of Culper’s numbered agents was instrumental in providing information on the British forces whom were waiting to stop the French fleet as they attempted to deliver fresh troops and supplies to the American forces. Other agents uncovered Benedict Arnolds move at West Point. One of Milligan’s agents became the “fox in the henhouse”. He was able to intercept and translate the British orders being passed to the Hession troops. And through the spy network system, the early warning received at Valley Forge enabled the under-manned forces of Washington to defeat the British. So, it was natural that the British claimed at the end of the war, that Washington hadn’t defeated them, he had just out-spied them.

Though we know gather information in a more sophisticated manner, we can rest assured that our Brother George Washington contributed to the “laying of the cornerstone”.

Fraternally,

Bob