IARPA'S MOSAIC FITBIT FOR PSYCH

EFF's Dave Maass discovered this [conference notice](#) from the Intelligence Advanced Research Projects Activity.

> Selecting and evaluating a workforce that is well-suited for the psychological and cognitive demands of the diverse positions across the Intelligence Community (IC) is an important and persistent need. This is growing in importance as the pace and complexity of the challenges facing the IC workforce grow and expand. Methods that enhance our ability to evaluate an individual's psychological drivers, cognitive abilities, and mental wellness and resilience will enable improved capabilities to select the right person for the right job, evaluate and help maintain optimal performance throughout their career, and better understand and anticipate changes in an individual that may impact their work effectiveness, productivity, and overall health and wellness.
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> To address this challenge, the MOSAIC program aims to take advantage of multimodal mobile, worn, and carried sensors and the corresponding data to enable the measurement of an individual in situ, throughout their daily activities, using an aggregate of behavior, physiology, social dynamics, physical location and proximity, as well as other novel data sources. Research in this program will aim to establish convergent validity of multimodal signals across a range of researcher-defined contexts and over time to enable accurate and personalized evaluations. It is anticipated that research teams will develop and test a suite of

> multimodal sensors to collect a range of
> subject-focused and situational data;
> build capabilities to develop an
> integrated model of the subject, their
> behaviors, and the social and physical
> context; and advance methods to
> personalize modeling approaches to
> develop accurate assessments of an
> individual over time.

The Program, which uses the intelligence jargon
"Mosaic" to stand for "Multimodal Objective
Sensing to Assess Individuals with Context"
would start with volunteers and then roll out
better measurements, though it's not clear
whether the program, as conceived, would roll
out to the IC as a whole.

It's all very spooky, especially given that it
doesn't really say what it wants to measure. Is
it going to be a running polygraph, a constant
assessment of deceit of the kind the IC doesn't
encourage, if that can be distinguished from the
kind it does? Will it measure how the best
operatives respond to stress? What kind of
spying on the spies will it enable?

But it's nice to see IARPA making clear whether
the push for things like FitBit will lead the
rest of society.