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Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT Implementation of National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 7

Ref: (a) National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 7, "Critical Intelligence Communications".
(b) JCS "Plan for Timely Transmission of Critical Intelligence Combined with Improved Communications Support of Communications Intelligence", (Short Title: CRITICOMM), as approved and modified by Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum dated August 22, 1958.

I. AUTHORITY AND PURPOSE

Reference (a) designates the Secretary of Defense as the Executive Agent of the Government to provide for the establishment, operation, and perfection of communications means necessary to provide the most timely transmission of critical intelligence to higher authorities. Reference (a) further directs that the Secretary of Defense shall effect coordination with other Government agencies in order that their communications facilities may be utilized to the extent deemed practicable. This directive is issued for the purpose of implementing these provisions of reference (a) within the Department of Defense.

II. IMPLEMENTATION

A. A Critical Intelligence Communications System (short title: CRITICOMM) is hereby established by the Secretary of Defense acting as Executive Agent of the Government. The CRITICOMM system will consist of those facilities currently allocated for COMINT communications augmented and modified in accordance with reference (b) to handle critical intelligence communications and effect necessary improvements in COMINT communications. An overriding priority will be accorded in the system to critical intelligence messages. In the implementation

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POLICY

of reference (b), changes in operational detail necessary to meet changed conditions and variations in requirements may be made in accordance with the functions and responsibilities specified in paragraph III. B., below.

B. As specified in reference (a), the system will also utilize, as practicable, certain communications facilities to be furnished by other agencies of the Government.

C. Substantial completion of the CRITICOMM system is desired by the end of 1961.

III. FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

The Secretary of Defense is responsible for providing for the establishment, operation and perfection of the Critical Intelligence Communications System and for effecting coordination with other Government agencies concerning utilization of their communications facilities to the extent practicable.

B. Specific

1. The Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations), in collaboration with other elements of the Office of the Secretary of Defense as appropriate, will:

   a. Advise and assist the Secretary of Defense in the evaluation and meeting of requirements for the transmission of critical intelligence.

   b. Issue instructions and forward information to appropriate components of the Department of Defense as necessary to the implementation of this directive.

   c. Maintain continuing review of the establishment and operation of the CRITICOMM system to assure effective execution of the responsibilities of the Secretary of Defense under reference (a).

   d. Advise and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense concerning any determination necessary with respect to implementation of the

CRITICOMM system which significantly affect or change:

(1) the cost of the system.

(2) its conformance to pertinent Department of Defense policies and directives.

(3) the capability of the system to meet the requirements placed upon the Secretary of Defense under reference (a).

(4) the time schedule for completion of the system.

2. The Director of Defense Research and Engineering will ensure technical compatibility within the CRITICOMM system and between this system and other communications systems operated or planned within the Department of Defense.

3. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply and Logistics), in accordance with his assigned responsibilities for telecommunications, will:

a. Review and approve the programs of the military departments for provision, augmentation and improvement of communications facilities for the CRITICOMM system.

b. Effect necessary policy agreements with other Government agencies concerning use of their communications facilities in the CRITICOMM system.

4. The Joint Chiefs of Staff, in accordance with their assigned responsibilities and established relationships, will:

a. Supervise and coordinate the provision, augmentation and improvement of communications facilities authorized for the CRITICOMM system.

b. Keep the Secretary of Defense advised and informed on CRITICOMM matters within their area of responsibility.

c. Consult with the military departments and the National Security Agency in the development of the system.

5. The Director, National Security Agency, will:

   a. Control the traffic and cryptographic operations of the CRITICOMM system.

   b. Establish, after coordination with the organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other appropriate agencies, the operational procedures for handling COMINT and critical intelligence traffic within the CRITICOMM system.

   c. Keep the Secretary of Defense advised and informed on CRITICOMM matters within his area of responsibility.

6. The Secretaries of the military departments will:

   Provide, within normal budgeting, funding, and personnel allocation procedures, for the establishment, operation and maintenance of those communications facilities in the system for which they are responsible under reference (b), including tributary and trunk channels, automatic switching centers, and relay facilities.

IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective immediately.

Secretary of Defense