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March 19, 1959
NUMBER S-5100.20

Department of Defense Directive

SUBJECT The National Security Agency

I. GENERAL

Subject to the provisions of NSCID No. 6, dated September 15, 1958, and the provisions of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, and pursuant to the authorities vested in the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Agency is established as a separately organized agency within the Department of Defense under the direction, authority and control of the Secretary of Defense.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. The National Security Agency shall consist of a Director, a Headquarters, and such subordinate units, facilities and activities as are specifically assigned to the National Security Agency by the Secretary of Defense or are established by the Director, NSA.

B. The National Technical Processing Center and the Electronic Intelligence Coordinating Group, established pursuant to DOD Directive S-3115.2, dated July 13, 1955, are abolished. Assigned functions, records, facilities and equipment are hereby transferred to the National Security Agency. Military and civilian personnel (including authorized personnel spaces), and supporting funds, are also transferred, as mutually agreed between the National Security Agency and the military services.

III. RESPONSIBILITIES

The National Security Agency, under the direction and control of the Director of the Agency, shall be responsible for the following functional fields as specifically prescribed in appropriate NSC and DOD Directives:

1. Communications intelligence (COMINT).

2. Electronics intelligence (ELINT).

3. Other functional fields assigned by specific NSC and DOD Directives.

IV. FUNCTIONS

Under the direction and control of the Director of the National Security Agency, the Agency shall perform the following functions within its assigned fields of responsibilities:

1. Formulate plans, policies, procedures and principles.

2. Subject to the supervision of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, conduct research and engineering activities to meet the needs of the National Security Agency and the departments and agencies and coordinate the related research, development, test and evaluation conducted by such departments and agencies.

3. Determine and submit to the Secretary of Defense logistic support requirements for the Agency, together with specific recommendations as to what each of the responsible departments and agencies of the Government should supply.

4. Prepare in collaboration with the military departments and submit to the Secretary of Defense a consolidated DOD budget, and requirements for military and civilian manpower, logistic and communications support, and research, development, test and evaluation, together with his recommendations pertaining thereto.

5. Develop requisite security rules, regulations and standards governing operating practices in accordance with the policies of the U.S. Intelligence Board and the U.S. Communications Security Board.

6. Make reports and furnish information to the U. S. Intelligence Board or the U.S. Communications Security Board, as required.

7. Produce and disseminate COMINT and ELINT information in accordance with objectives, requirements and priorities established by the U.S. Intelligence Board. (This function will not include the production and dissemination of finished intelligence which are the responsibilities of departments and agencies other than the National Security Agency.)

8. Perform such other functions as the Secretary of Defense or other proper authority assigns.

V. RELATIONSHIPS

A. In the performance of its functions, the Agency shall:

1. Coordinate actions, as appropriate, with the military departments, other DOD agencies, and other departments and agencies of the Government having collateral or related functions in the fields of its assigned responsibilities.

2. Maintain active liaison, as appropriate, for the exchange of information and advice in the field of its assigned responsibility with the military departments, other DOD agencies and other departments and agencies of the Government.

3. Make full use of established facilities in the military departments, other DOD agencies, and other departments and agencies of the Government, rather than unnecessarily duplicating such facilities.

4. Provide for participation by representatives of each of the members of the U.S. Intelligence Board in those offices of the National Security Agency where priorities of intercept and processing are established by the Director of the National Security Agency.

B. Officials of the military departments and other DOD agencies shall provide support, within their respective fields of responsibility, to the Director of the National Security Agency as may be necessary to carry out the assigned responsibilities of the Agency.

VI. AUTHORITIES

A. To carry out assigned responsibilities of the Agency, the Director of the National Security Agency is specifically delegated authority to:

1. Exercise operational and technical control of COMINT and ELINT intercept and processing activities of the United States to the extent prescribed in other specific DOD Directives.

2. Issue instructions pertaining to COMINT and ELINT to the Chiefs of the operating agencies of the Services or civilian departments or agencies when action by them is required. However, because of the unique technical character of COMINT and ELINT operations, the Director is authorized to issue direct to any operating elements under his operational control task assignments and pertinent instructions which are within the capacity of such elements to accomplish. Compliance with instructions issued by the Director is mandatory, subject only to appeal to the Secretary of Defense by the head of the department and agency concerned (military department, other DOD agency, or other department or agency of the Government).

3. Have direct access to, and direct communication with, any element of the department or agency (military department, other DOD agency, or other department or agency of the Government) performing COMINT and ELINT functions over which he exercises operational and technical control.

4. Centralize or consolidate the performance of COMINT and ELINT functions for which he is responsible to the extent he deems feasible, in consonance with the aims of maximum overall efficiency, economy and effectiveness.

5. Prescribe policies, procedures, principles, and issue instructions for activities under his operational or technical control, as appropriate.

6. Prescribe, or review and approve security rules, regulations and instructions, as appropriate.

7. Obtain such information and intelligence material from the departments and agencies (military departments, other DOD agencies, or other departments or agencies of the Government) as may be necessary for the performance of the Agency's functions.

8. Maintain a departmental property account for the Agency.

B. In providing direct COMINT and ELINT support to the military departments, other DOD agencies and other departments and agencies of the Government, the Director of the National Security Agency is authorized to delegate operational control of specified COMINT and ELINT facilities and resources as he determines appropriate.

C. Other authorities specifically delegated by the Secretary of Defense or other proper authority to the Director of the National Security Agency in other directives or issuances will be referenced in an inclosure to this directive.

VII. ADMINISTRATION

A. The Director of the National Security Agency shall be a commissioned officer of the Armed Forces, on active duty, designated by the Secretary of Defense, after consultation with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and shall have at least three-star rank while serving in this position. His appointment shall be for a term of four years. The Director shall report to the Secretary of Defense through the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense (Special Operations).

B. There shall be a civilian Deputy appointed by the Director of the Agency with the approval of the Secretary of Defense.

C. To the extent applicable and consistent with the functions assigned to the Agency, Department of Defense policies, regulations and procedures will govern the Agency's operations.

D. The Agency will be authorized such personnel, facilities, funds and other administrative support as the Secretary of Defense deems necessary for the performance of its functions. The military departments, other DOD agencies, or other departments and agencies of the Government, as appropriate, shall provide support for the Agency as prescribed in specific directives or support agreements.

VIII. CANCELLATION

Secretary of Defense memorandum dated December 5, 1952, subject: "Implementation of NSCID No. 9, Revised" and DOD Directive S-3115.2, dated July 13, 1955, are hereby canceled. (NSCID No. 6, dated September 15, 1958, superseded NSCID No. 9, Revised, dated October 24, 1952).

IX. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Directive is effective upon publication.

Secretary of Defense

Inclosure - 1

Listing of Specific Delegations of Authority by the Secretary of Defense to the Director of the National Security Agency

1. Administrative authorities required for the administration and operation of the National Security Agency, as prescribed in Secretary of Defense memoranda dated May 19, 1954, March 7, 1955, and July 10, 1958.

2. Authority to authorize or request the procurement of cryptologic material and equipment by the military departments, as prescribed in Secretary of Defense memorandum dated March 20, 1956.

3. Authority to establish and administer programs of training, as prescribed in DOD Directive 1430.4, dated October 27, 1958.

4. Authority to assign the classification of TOP SECRET, as prescribed in DOD Directive 5200.1, dated July 8, 1957, and by Secretary of Defense memorandum, dated June 3, 1958.