Department of Defense
DIRECTIVE

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Incorporating Through Change 4, June 24, 1991

ASD(I)

SUBJECT: The National Security Agency and the Central Security Service

Reference: (a) National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 6[1]

1. PURPOSE

This directive prescribes authorities, functions, and responsibilities of the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Central Security Service (CSS).

2. CONCEPT

2.1. Subject to the provisions of NSCID No. 6, and the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, and pursuant to the authorities vested in the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Agency is a separately organized agency within the Department of Defense under the direction, supervision, funding, maintenance and operation of the Secretary of Defense.

2.2. The National Security Agency is a unified organization structured to provide for the Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) mission of the United States and to insure secure communications systems for all departments and agencies of the U.S. Government.

2.3. The Central Security Service will conduct collection, processing and other SIGINT operations as assigned.

[1] Declassified on May 22, 1990 by the Director of Administration and Management, Office of the Secretary of Defense (Authority: E.O. 12356, April 6, 1982).

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Signals Intelligence (SIGINT) is a category of intelligence information comprising all Communications Intelligence (COMINT), Electronics Intelligence (ELINT), and Telemetry Intelligence (TELINT).

3.2. COMINT is technical and intelligence information derived from foreign communications by other than the intended recipients. COMINT is produced by the collection and processing of foreign communications passed by electromagnetic means, with specific exceptions stated below, and by the processing of foreign encrypted communications, however transmitted. Collection comprises search, intercept, and direction finding. Processing comprises range estimation, transmitter/operator identification, signalanalysis, traffic analysis, cryptanalysts, decryption, study of plain text, the fusion of these processes, and the reporting of results. COMINT shall not include:

3.2.1. Intercept and processing of unencrypted written communications, except the processing of written plain text versions of communications which have been encrypted or are intended for subsequent encryption.

3.2.2. Intercept and processing of press, propaganda and other public broadcasts, except for processing encrypted or "hidden meaning" passages in such broadcasts.

3.2.3. Oral and wire interceptions conducted under DoD Directive 5200.24.

3.2.4. Censorship.

3.3. ELINT is technical and intelligence information derived from foreign, non-communications, electromagnetic radiations emanating from other than atomic detonation or radioactive sources. ELINT is produced by the collection (observation and recording), and the processing for subsequent intelligence purposes of that information.

3.4. TELENT is technical and intelligence information derived from the intercept, processing, and analysis of foreign telemetry.

3.5. SIGINT operational control is the authoritative direction of SIGINT activities, including tasking and allocation of effort, and the authoritative prescription of those uniform techniques and standards by which SIGINT information is collected, processed and reported.

3.6. SIGINT resources comprise units/activities and organizational elements engaged in the conduct of SIGINT (COMINT, ELINT or TELINT) activities.

4. APPLICABILITY

The provisions of this directive apply to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Military Department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified and Specified Commands, the National Security Agency, the Central Security Service, and other Defense Agencies hereinafter called Department of Defense Components.

5. ORGANIZATION AND RESOURCES

5.1. The SIGINT resources of the Department of Defense will be structured to accomplish most efficiently and effectively the SIGINT mission of the United States.

5.2. The National Security Agency shall consist of a Director, a Headquarters, and such subordinate units, elements, facilities, and activities as are assigned to the National Security Agency by the Secretary of Defense in his role as the Executive Agent of the Government for the conduct of SIGINT.

5.3. The Central Security Service is comprised of a Chief, Central Security Service, a Deputy Chief, a jointly staffed headquarters, Army, Navy/Marine Corps and Air Force operating elements, and such other subordinate elements and facilities as may be assigned to the Central Security Service by the Secretary of Defense.

5.4. The Director, National Security Agency, shall also be the Chief, Central Security Service.

5.5. The Director of the National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service shall have a Deputy Director for the National Security Agency and a Deputy Chief, Central Security Service. To provide continuity in SIGINT matters the Deputy Director, National Security Agency, shall be a technically experienced civilian. The Deputy Chief, Central Security Service, shall be a commissioned officer of the Military Services, of not less than two star rank, designated by the Secretary of Defense. The Deputy Chief will normally not be selected from the same Military Service as the Chief.

5.6. The Director and Deputy Director of the National Security Agency shall be designated by the Secretary of Defense, subject to the approval of the President. The Director shall be a commissioned officer of the Military Services, on active or reactivated status, and shall enjoy not less than three star rank during the period of his incumbency.

5.7. The Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service shall report to the Secretary of Defense.

5.8. The Commanders of the Service cryptologic organizations and their subordinate activities which conduct SIGINT operations will be subordinate to the Chief, Central Security Service, for all matters involving SIGINT activities. In this role they will be designated as Service element commanders and subordinate activities of the Central Security Service. Unless otherwise specifically provided in this Directive, the Service cryptologic organizations will remain in their parent Services, for the purpose of administrative and logistic support.

5.9. The Secretary of Defense with the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff may specifically designate other SIGINT-related resources of the Department of Defense, which will be subordinate to the Chief, Central Security Service for SIGINT operations.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

6.1. Subject to the direction, authority and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service shall:

6.1.1. Accomplish the SIGINT mission of the National Security Agency/Central Security Service.

6.1.2. Act as principal SIGINT advisor to the Secretary of Defense, the Director of Central Intelligence, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As principal SIGINT advisor to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director, National Security Agency will keep the Joint Chiefs of Staff fully informed on SIGINT matters.

6.1.3. Exercise SIGINT operational control over SIGINT activities of the U.S. Government to respond most effectively to military and other SIGINT requirements. In the case of mobile military SIGINT platforms, he shall state movement requirements through appropriate channels to the military commanders, who shall retain responsibility for operational command of the vehicles.

6.1.4. Provide technical guidance to all SIGINT or SIGINT-related operations of the U.S. Government.

6.1.5. Formulate programs, plans, policies, procedures and principles.

6.1.6. Produce and disseminate SIGINT in accordance with the objectives, requirements and priorities established by the Director of Central Intelligence. (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/Central Security Service.)

6.1.7. Manage assigned SIGINT resources, personnel and programs.

6.1.8. In relation to the DoD SIGINT activities, prepare and submit to the Secretary of Defense a consolidated program and budget, and requirements for military and civilian manpower, logistic and communications support, and research, development, test and evaluation, together with his recommendations pertaining thereto.

6.1.9. Conduct research, development, and systems design to meet the needs of the National Security Agency/Central Security Service and coordinate with the Departments and Agencies their related research, development, test and evaluation in the SIGINT field.

6.1.10. Determine and submit to the Secretary of Defense logistic support requirements for the National Security Agency, and the Central Security Service, together with specific recommendations as to what each of the responsible Departments and Agencies of the Government should supply.

6.1.11. 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.

6.1.12. Prescribe within his field of authorized operations requisite security regulations covering operating practices, including the transmission, handling, and distribution of SIGINT material within and among the elements under his control; and exercise the necessary monitoring and supervisory control to ensure compliance with the regulations.

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

6.1.14. Respond to the SIGINT requirements of all DoD Components and other Departments and Agencies.

6.1.15. Eliminate unwarranted duplication of SIGINT efforts.

6.1.16. Standardize SIGINT equipment and facilities wherever practicable.

6.1.17. Provide for production and procurement of SIGINT equipments.

6.1.18. Provide the Director of Central Intelligence through the Secretary of Defense with such information as required on the past, current and proposed plans, programs, and costs of the SIGINT activities under his control.

6.1.19. Provide guidance to the Military Departments to effect and insure sound and adequate military and civilian SIGINT career development and training programs, and conduct, or otherwise provide for, necessary specialized and advanced SIGINT training.

6.1.20. Provide technical advice and support to enhance SIGINT arrangements with foreign governments, and conduct, as authorized, SIGINT exchanges with foreign governments.

6.1.21. Perform such other functions as the Secretary of Defense assigns.

7. AUTHORITIES

7.1. Subject to the authority, direction and control of the Secretary of Defense, the Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service, is specifically delegated authority to:

7.1.1. Exercise SIGINT operational control over SIGINT activities of the United States.

7.1.2. Issue direct to any of his operating elements such instructions and orders necessary to carry out his responsibilities and functions.

7.1.3. Have direct access to, and direct communications with, any element of the U.S. Government performing SIGINT functions.

7.1.4. The authority in subparagraphs 7.1.1., 7.1.2., and 7.1.3., above, is subject to review, approval and control in accordance with procedures determined by the Secretary of Defense.

7.1.5. Adjust as required, through the Service cryptologic organizations,personnel resources under his SIGINT operational control.

7.1.6. Centralize or consolidate SIGINT operations for which he is responsible to the extent desirable, consistent with efficiency, economy, effectiveness, and support to field commanders.

7.1.7. Submit, as appropriate, concurrent/letter of evaluation efficiency/fitness reports on the commanders of subordinate elements of the Central Security Service in accordance with parent Service procedures.

7.1.8. Delegate SIGINT operational tasking of specified SIGINT resources and facilities for such periods and or such operational tasks as required or as directed by the Secretary of Defense.

7.1.9. Prescribe SIGINT procedures for activities to whom he provides technical guidance.

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

7.1.11. Conduct those SIGINT operations undertaken in support of certain missions within the purview of NSCID No. 5.

7.1.12. Obtain such information and intelligence material from the Departments and Agencies (Military Departments, other Department of Defense Agencies, or other Departments or Agencies of the Government) as may be necessary for the performance of the National Security Agency/Central Security Service functions.

7.1.13. Maintain a departmental property account for the National Security Agency and the Central Security Service headquarters.

7.2. Other authorities, specifically delegated by the Secretary of Defense or by other proper authority to the Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service in other directives or issuances, will be referenced in an enclosure to this Directive.

8. RELATIONSHIPS

8.1. In the performance of its responsibilities and functions, the National Security Agency/Central Security Service shall:

8.1.1. Coordinate actions, as appropriate, with other DoD Components, and other Departments and Agencies of the Government.

8.1.2. Maintain direct liaison, as appropriate, for the exchange of information and advice in the field of its assigned responsibility with other DoD Components and the other Departments and Agencies of the Government.

8.1.3. Coordinate with other DoD Components and other Departments and Agencies of the Government to make maximum use of established facilities to preclude unnecessarily duplicating such facilities.

8.1.4. Provide for direct liaison by representatives of the intelligence components of individual Departments and Agencies regarding interpretation and amplification of requirements and priorities within the framework of objectives, requirements, and priorities established by the Director of Central Intelligence.

8.2. The other DoD Components shall provide support, within their respective fields of responsibility, to the Director, National Security Agency/Chief, Central Security Service as may be necessary to carry out his assigned responsibilities and functions.

9. ADMINISTRATION

9.1. To the extent applicable and consistent with the functions assigned to the National Security Agency/Central Security Service, DoD policies, regulations, and procedures will govern.

9.2. The National Security Agency/Central Security Service 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 other DoD Components shall provide support for the Agency/Service as prescribed in specific directives or support agreements.

10. CANCELLATION

To the extent they are inconsistent herewith, DoD Directive S-5100.20, "The National Security Agency," dated March 19, 1959, DoD Directive S- 3115.4, "Communications Intelligence," dated March 19, 1959, and DoD Directive S-3115.2, "Electronics Intelligence," dated February 7, 1967 are hereby canceled.

11. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

11.1. This Directive is effective upon publication.

11.2. To meet the provisions of this Directive, the Director, National Security Agency will develop a plan to implement this Directive including establishment of the Central Security Service for approval by the Secretary of Defense with the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

11.3. When the Central Security Service is established under the terms of this Directive and the approved implementing plan, all DoD Components will review their existing directives, instructions, and regulations for conformity and submit necessary amendments thereto to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) within ninety (90) days.

Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 1

E1. Listing of Specific Delegations of Authority

E1. ENCLOSURE 1

LISTING OF SPECIFIC DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY BY THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

E1.1.1. Administrative authorities required for the administration and operation of the National Security Agency, as prescribed in DoD Directive5100.23, dated May 17, 1967.

E1.1.2. Authority to authorize or request the procurement of cryptologic material and equipment by the Military Departments, as prescribed in DoD Directive 5160.13, dated March 20, 1956.

E1.1.3. Authority to establish and administer programs of training, as prescribed in DoD Directive 1430.4, dated August 5, 1969.

E1.1.4. Authority to assign the classification of TOP SECRET, as prescribed in DoD Directive 5200.1, "DoD Information Security Program Regulation," authorized by DoD Directive 5200.1, June 1, 1972.

E1.1.5. Authority to determine the eligibility of individual civilian officers and employees to transport or store their privately owned motor vehicles at Government expense, in accordance with provisions of DoD Directive 1418.3, dated June 28, 1965.