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(Basic Ltr: ACSI DA File ACSI-CS, Subj: Delegation of Operational Control (U), dtd 17 Feb 1961)

1st Ind

Serial: N 1515

15 MAY 1961

National Security Agency, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Department of the Army,  
The Pentagon, Washington 25, D. C.

1. This Agency has reviewed the allocation of resources to the COMINT tasks being conducted to meet the present intelligence requirements of the Seventh and Eighth Armies. We have determined that appropriate resources have now been allocated to tasks directed toward fulfillment of the Seventh and Eighth Armies' requirements. In addition, the original delegation of operational control for the 501st and 502nd U. S. Army Security Group has been superseded by current directives, decentralizing specific problems and resources through the Chief, U. S. Army Security Agency to the commanders of U. S. Army Security Agency (USASA) field COMINT units.

2. The assignment of intercept, processing and reporting tasks to USASA units for those problems within the capability of these units is contained in "NSA Operating Instructions" (OPINS) and is simplified in technical guidance and direction in accordance with the "Manual of U. S. SIGINT Operations" procedures.

3. These procedures and tasks, established in OPINS-1 and OPINS-10 and those NSA directives which decentralize specific intercept, processing and reporting tasks, provides for fulfillment of the SIGINT requirements to the commanders of the Seventh and Eighth Armies.

4. OPINS-10 is periodically reviewed and maintained in a current status. The control of the resources required for the intercept, processing and reporting of appropriate tasks has been decentralized to the Chief, U. S. Army Security Agency, who has the responsibility for insuring the accomplishment of these tasks which he normally fulfills by tasking the USASA field SIGINT units. These units are now responsive to

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the requirements of the Seventh and Eighth Armies. A determination has been made of SIGINT resources for the support of the Seventh and Eighth Armies and the decentralization of control of these facilities is currently in effect.

L. H. FROST  
L. d. FROST  
Vice Admiral, USN  
Director

Incl:  
n/c

Copy Furnished:  
ACSI DA Liaison Officer

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Serial:

N 1515

cc: DIR  
 AG  
 Reading File  
 OPS  
 PROD-04  
 PROD-001 (2)

M/R: Paragraph IV.C.1.h. of DOD Directives 3115.2 and 3115.4 each states that "The Secretaries of the Military Departments will: state to the Director, NSA, their requirements for ELINT (3115.2), COMINT (3115.4) direct support."

NSA letter, Ser N4052, Subj: Delegation of Operational Control (U), dated 10 October 1959 reviews original delegation (NSA letter, Ser 000307-S, Subj: COMINT Close Support Requirements of the Department of Army, dated 29 May 1953) of facilities to Dept of Army for "close" support. The latter reference states that original delegation is no longer valid due to change structure of units involved and increased dual responsibility of service units for direct support and general support to national SIGINT effort. Further, Director, NSA, expresses in this reference that 29 May 1953 letter is to be superseded and delegation of direct support requirements for CG, Seventh and Eighth Armies will be incorporated in MUSSO (OPINS-1 and/or 10), as appropriate.

ACSI DA Letter, Subj: Delegation of Operational Control (U), dated 12 May 1960 states Dept Army requirements for SIGINT direct support for Seventh and Eighth Armies by listing in detail all positions and organizations. Many of these positions and organizations to which they belong are theater support elements, i.e., 280th USASA Co. (in support of USCOB, a component of USAREUR--not Seventh Army).

ACSI DA Letter, Subj: Delegation of Operational Control (U), dated 28 July 1960 and the basic letter to this correspondence confirm these requirements.

On 25 May 1960, conference was conducted to attempt clarification of the stated ACSI DA requirements. Representatives of NSA, ACSI DA and USASA were present (quote from Memo for the Record prepared by USASA representative follows).

"Mr. Winkler (ACSI Rep) and the undersigned (LtCol Rolle, USASA Rep) stated that if ACSI and USASA representatives could receive informal written queries concerning matters in the ACSI letter on which PROD-04 desired clarification, ACSI and USASA could expeditiously obtain ACSI/USASA replies thereto. PROD-04 representatives agreed to this procedure.

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M/R: (Continued)

It was noted that instant action was first US Army statement of direct support requirements. It was noted that DIRNSA retains tasking authority, through MUSSO channels, of SIGINT units, even those released to operational control of Chief, USASA. USASA representative pointed out that this tasking authority was understood and posed no particular problems.

Careful reading of the ACSI letter discloses no direct request for delegation of operational control of the units and positions listed in Inclosure A (sic) of letter, though it is implied that operational control is desired. It is anticipated that DIRNSA will non-concur in delegation of operational control to the extent indicated, especially since DIRNSA's representatives feel that many listed positions are not presently utilized solely or primarily in direct support."

As a result of meeting, ACSI (Mr. Winkler) was informally requested on 3 June, by NSA:

"We are assuming that stated "present requirements" for direct support are peacetime requirements (and that the positions involved will continue to be subject to Director, NSA, tasking through OPINS-10 as at present) and that they represent also the general war direct support requirements of these armies as of M-Day. In connection with any statement of general war requirements, it is presumed you desire that positions requested will be subject exclusively to the tasking authority of USASA or its subordinate echelons. You will understand that, if this presumption is correct, NSA must consider Army requirements in conjunction with those of the other military departments in order to determine whether or not there will remain a sufficient number of positions of specific types to fulfill the needs of direct service and national (USIB member) requirements in time of war.

It is noted that reference provides for forwarding these requirements from CG, Seventh and Eighth Armies to the unified commander, apparently bypassing the theater's Army component commander. In this general regard, the question is raised, insofar as the Pacific area is concerned, whether or not other Army forces in that theater require direct support, e.g., forces at Oahu."

*D. F. Hermes*  
 D. F. HERMES, LTCOL, USA / PROD-0421/3326-S/26 Apr 61/ap

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