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WDGSS-10

5 December 1945

SUBJECT: Publication R-5

TO: Assistant Chief (Staff)  
Army Security Agency

1. With the departure of Lieutenant Nye, the editor of R-5, a new editor will have to be obtained. If carefully selected, the new man can initiate the rejuvenation of R-5 which is needed. For the present I think this publication should continue as originally planned for the Second Signal Service Battalion.

2. It doesn't appear desirable at this time to try to publish an Army Security Agency periodical. There are too many divergent interests, and under these conditions it would be difficult, if not impossible, to meet the needs of all. Later we may want to reconsider the matter and extend the scope and circulation of R-5.

1 Incl  
Ltr from SS-14,  
15 Nov 45

W. FRESTON CONDEERN  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

Copy furnished:  
✓ Dir of Comm Research

WDGSS-14

15 November 1945

**SUBJECT:** Publication "R-5", Improvement in

**TO:** Commanding General  
Army Security Agency

1. The monthly publication entitled "R-5" was first issued in January 1945 as a "monthly magazine published and edited by and for personnel of the 2d Sig. Service Battalion." Its purpose "is to make available ... information of both a general and technical nature as an aid in the most effective execution" of the mission of that organization. It is noted that the various detachments of the 2d Signal Service Company are widely scattered over the earth, so that direct contact among them and between them and the headquarters in Washington is difficult. The journal, in addition to dealing with technical matters of interest, was intended to assist in building up the morale and organizational spirit of the battalion, give its personnel some concrete information that would help in making them realize the importance of the work they are doing, throw light on personnel problems, and so on. Authority to publish the journal and to classify it "confidential" was obtained from the War Department. The first few issues were largely devoted to technical matters, were well prepared, and well received, but unfortunately it is not possible to say that the good standard of the initial issues has been maintained.

2. The need for such a journal unquestionably existed when it was first proposed, and this need, in view of the recent establishment of the ASA as a centrally controlled but greatly expanded world-wide organization, is of increasing importance. It is clear, however, that "R-5", as now constituted, cannot adequately meet the need, since it is addressed solely to the members of the 2d Signal Service Battalion, an organization which is soon to disappear, since all its officers and troops are to be absorbed within the Army Security Agency.

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3. a. At the headquarters of Army Security Agency we now have a publication, "The Barracks Bag," which originally was established as an organ of the enlisted personnel at Arlington Hall Station, but which was recently expanded in its scope to address itself to all personnel at this station. It can hardly, at least as presently constituted, serve as a journal for the whole of ASA, and possibly it should not and cannot so serve.

b. Certain of the Signal Radio Intelligence Companies abroad published weekly journals; whether publication has continued when they were absorbed within the ASA is unknown. They undoubtedly filled long-felt local needs within the Theaters.

c. The Signal Intelligence Service in AFPAC published a weekly journal called "Clamor." It has probably suspended publication by this time, but no doubt the need it was intended to meet will still remain under the new organization of ASA.

4. The ASA now being a world-wide organization, with its main headquarters in Washington, the need for a journal of scope, format, and content appropriate thereto is therefore apparent.

5. It is believed that the problem of establishing officially the basis for an ASA Journal, of designing its scope, format, and general content, and of obtaining the necessary approval and funds therefor is one that forms part of the larger problem of good public relations for ASA. There should be somebody on the staff of the Assistant Chief for Staff Operations (under the new organization) who would be charged with the preparation, editing, and production of an ASA Journal.

6. a. A fair number of Service Journals have been examined. Most of them are published privately by associations and are sold at subscription rates or by individual copies. In this category fall such journals as the following:

Infantry Journal (\$3.00 p.a.)  
 Cavalry Journal (\$3.00 p.a.)  
 Field Artillery Journal (\$3.00 p.a.)  
 Coast Artillery Journal (\$4.00 p.a.)  
 Marine Corps Gazette (\$3.00 p.a.)

b. There are, among the military journals examined, only 3: which are official publications, paid for and distributed by government funds:

Signal Corps Technical Information Letter (restricted)  
 The Chemical Warfare Service Bulletin (unclassified)  
 Air Force (unclassified)

There may be several others in this category.

c. The following items are quoted from the three last-mentioned publications, by way of indicating the policy under which they are published:

**SIGNAL CORPS TECHNICAL INFORMATION LETTER, July 1945, No. 44**

"PURPOSE: THE SIGNAL CORPS Technical Information Letter is a monthly publication designed to keep Signal Corps personnel and other military personnel using Signal Corps equipment informed on Signal Corps matters. It provides means for the dissemination and interchange of information of a widely varied nature, both technical and tactical.

"SOURCE: THE LETTER is compiled mainly from information available in the divisions and branches of the Office of the Chief Signal Officer. Signal Corps and other communications personnel are invited to submit, through channels, material of general interest. Information on problems encountered and overcome by combat and service communications troops is desired."

**CHEMICAL WARFARE BULLETIN, Vol. 31, No. 3 (June, July, Aug. 45)**

"MISSION: The Bulletin seeks to serve as a forum for the free and open discussion of CWS interests, as a medium for the dissemination of technical information, training notes and field expedients and, within the limitations imposed by security, combat narratives from which constructive lessons can be drawn. All articles and other expressions of individual opinions are published on the writer's own authority. They do not necessarily reflect War Department policy or CWS doctrine, and hence should not be interpreted as basis for official action."

**AIR FORCE, Vol. 28, No. 6, June 1945**

"Authorization--AIR FORCE (formerly the Air Forces News Letter) is printed monthly by authority of AAF Reg. 5-6A (24 Jan. 1945) under the immediate supervision and jurisdiction of the Chief of Air Staff, Headquarters, AAF, and with approval of the Bureau of the Budget, Executive Office of the President.

Participation--AIR FORCE is primarily a medium for the exchange of ideas and information among Army Air Forces personnel. Readers are encouraged to submit articles, short subjects, photographs, art work. All contributions will be given consideration; suggestions and criticisms are welcome. Opinions expressed by individual contributors do not necessarily reflect the official attitude of the Army Air Forces or of the War Department. Material appearing in AIR FORCE is not to be reproduced without written permission."

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d. The Signal Corps Bulletin, publication of which was suspended even before 7 December 1941, was also an official, classified (restricted) journal. It fulfilled a need in the Signal Corps and it is presumed that republication will commence as soon as practicable. Members of the old Signal Intelligence Service and the 2d Signal Service Battalion were frequent contributors to the Signal Corps Bulletin; it is probable that an ASA Journal would serve as an even better medium of expression for these personnel. About a year or more after the Signal Corps Bulletin suspended publication, its place was temporarily taken by the Signal Corps Technical Information letter, already mentioned above. Its contents have been generally confined to the communications field and understandably little reference to signal security and signal intelligence has appeared.

7. Efforts by the (old) SSA to obtain authority to publish a bulletin such as the Naval Communications Security Bulletin or the similar bulletin published by the Army Air Forces have been fruitless. A proper ASA Journal could incorporate items such as we wanted to publish in an SSA Security Bulletin. Certain items which now are published in the document known as SIGINFO could no doubt find a place in the ASA Journal.

8. It is recommended that:

a. Steps be initiated to obtain authority and funds for publishing a single official journal, classified appropriately, for the whole of the ASA.

b. If the foregoing authority and funds are obtained, a suitably qualified officer to serve as Editor-in-Chief, assisted by a technical staff, be appointed to serve on the staff of the Assistant Chief for Staff Operations for the purpose of supervising, coordinating, and producing the official journal, under general policies established by the Commanding General, ASA.

c. The publication should not be confined solely to technical matters but may include notes of general and personal interest as well. It may be that there could be separate sections devoted to general news concerning or of interest to the respective stations and establishments of ASA. For example, there might be a section devoted more or less exclusively to items of interest to Arlington Hall Station personnel; another to Vint Hill Farms Station, and so on. Items of interest to all

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members of ASA might be gathered together under one section. In such a manner both local and general need for a medium of expression, information, and exchange of ideas could be met.

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