

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

SUBJECT

The National Security Agency

FROM

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1. IRNSA

V'DIC has seen/Quil

The following was transmitted on the Associated Press News ticker on Saturday 18 April:

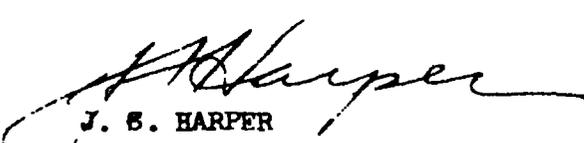
WASHINGTON-(AP)-THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY IS ONE OF THE MOST SECRET OF AMERICA'S SECRET SERVICES, AND IF YOU COULD SUM UP ITS JOB IN ONE WORD, THAT WORD WOULD BE: CODES.

THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BRUSHES OFF ALL QUERIES ABOUT THE AGENCY BY CALLING IT A "FACILITY CONCERNED WITH SPECIALIZED RESEARCH AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES."

THE 1,100-PAGE PRESIDENTIAL BUDGET CONTAINS NO MENTION OF IT. NEITHER IS IT LISTED IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SECTION OF THE WASHINGTON TELEPHONE BOOK NOR IN THE PENTAGON'S OWN DIRECTORY.

BUT ENOUGH NON-SECRET INFORMATION HAS SURVIVED FROM THE DAYS WHEN THE MILITARY SERVICES MAINTAINED SEPARATE COMMUNICATIONS-INTELLIGENCE GROUPS TO INDICATE THIS MUCH: THE UNIFIED AGENCY IS IN THE GLOBAL BUSINESS OF MAKING, PROTECTING AND BREAKING CODES AND SECRET CIPHERS.

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J. S. HARPER

Captain, U. S. Navy

Assistant Director, Production

cc: SEC

New York Herald Tribune, Sunday, May 3, 1953
City Edition, page 18

Secret Unit Mission: to Solve Codes

WASHINGTON, (AP).—The National Security Agency is one of the most secret of America's secret services, and if you could sum up its job in one word, that word would be codes.

The Defense Department brushes off all queries about the agency by calling it a "facility concerned with specialized research and training activities."

The 1,100-page Presidential budget contains no mention of it. Neither is it listed in the Federal government section of the Washington telephone book nor in the Pentagon's own directory.

Unified Agency

But enough non-secret information has survived from the days when the military services maintained separate communications-intelligence groups to indicate this much: the unified agency is in the global business of making, protecting and breaking and secret ciphers.

A search of the basic reference books does reveal the existence—without explanation in this day of armed forces unification—of Army and Navy security agencies. The Navy organization, however, has the same addresses as does the present director of the National Security Agency, Lt. Gen. Ralph J. Canine.

Before military unification, the services were not so secretive about their activities in communications-intelligence. Testifying before Congressional committees in 1947, Navy officers bolstered requests for funds by saying their security agency employed 700 uniformed and 400 civilian personnel.

World-Wide Posts

The Navy said then its agency

operated listening posts in far corners of the world, naming Bahrein Island, in the Persian Gulf; Port Lyautey, in French Morocco; Quito, Ecuador; Bermuda; Japan; Iceland; Newfoundland; England, and the Philippines.

Shortly after the Air Force became a separate service from the Army, air officers went to Congress with a request for a multi-million dollar communications security center near Kelly Field, Texas. Air generals said they would require incinerators big enough to burn up to twelve tons of papers every twenty-four hours and enough barbed wire and steel fencing to enclose a 500-acre site.

The most authoritative source information on the doings of the services' security arms before unification are Army regulations published in February, 1949. These clearly set forth the mission and operation of the agency.

"Clandestine" Traffic

The Army agency, which now forms a large part of the combined effort, was given responsibility for producing communications intelligence, for investigating means employed in "clandestine" communications, and for the preparation, detection and processing of secret inks, micro-photos, codes and ciphers.

The Army agency's mission also included the "surveillance of friendly radio and wire traffic."

The regulations defined communications intelligence as all information derived from the study of intercepted messages. The regulations also said the agency would maintain fixed and mobile units, some overseas.

The headquarters and administrative branches of the unified agency remain in the Washington area, with important supporting facilities in nearby Maryland and Virginia. Published, but unconfirmed reports have placed its payroll at from 3,000 to 7,000 persons in the United States. How many are working overseas is a deep secret.