Chief, Policy Staff

DOCID: 3987145

21 March 1979

TO: DIR
D/DIR
THRU: ADPL

SUBJECT: Draft COMSEC Directive (U)

The attached memorandum to the members of the United States Communications Security Board (Former) is for your advance information.

ROY R. BANNER
Chief, Policy Staff

Encl:
a/s

Declassified and approved for release by NSA on 07-25-2012 pursuant to E.O. 13526

EX REG, 21 Mar 79 328-79 3636

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY DIRECTIVE

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY COMMITTEE

Classified by SecDef
Review on 1 Dec 1999

Extended by SecDef
Reason 4&5

EXECUTIVE AGENT FOR COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY COMMITTEE (NCSC)

SUBJECT: National Communications Security Directive

PD/NSC-24, dated 16 November 1977, rescinded the National Security Council Communications Security Directive of 26 August 1968, while reaffirming the designation of the Secretary of Defense as Executive Agent for Communications Security.

The accompanying National Communications Security Directive, effective this date, re-establishes a national COMSEC framework, assigns responsibilities for the conduct of COMSEC activities within the United States Government, and creates a National Communications Security Committee.

The National Security Council is being advised of this action by copy of this memorandum to the Chairman, Special Coordination Committee.

Harold Brown

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY DIRECTIVE (U)

20 June 1979

(U) This Directive is issued pursuant to Executive Order 12036, United States Intelligence Activities (January 24, 1978), and PD/NSC–24, to set out the organizational relationships within the Executive Branch to be used for coordination of communications security activities that are the responsibility of the Secretary of Defense.

A. *(U) Definitions*

For the purposes of this Directive the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

1. (U) Communications security means protective measures taken to deny unauthorized persons information derived from telecommunications of the United States Government related to national security and to ensure the authenticity of such communications. Such protection results from the application of security measures (including cryptosecurity, transmission security, emissions security) to electrical systems generating, handling, processing, or using national security or national security related information. It also includes the application of physical security measures to communications security information or materials.

2. (U) Telecommunications means the transmission, communication, or processing of information, including the preparation of information therefor, by electrical, electromagnetic, electromechanical or electro-optical means.

3. (U) National security means the national defense and foreign relations of the United States.

B. *(U) Secretary of Defense*

The Secretary of Defense is the Executive Agent for communications security activities that protect government-derived classified information and government-derived unclassified information relating to the national security. The responsibilities of the Executive Agent affect many departments and agencies of the government. Actions taken pursuant to these responsibilities benefit from advice, consultation and coordination within the Executive Branch. This directive establishes the organizational relationships and the lines of communication to ensure the Secretary of Defense has the necessary advice and assistance in carrying out these Executive Agent responsibilities.

~~CLASSIFIED BY SECDEF~~
~~REVIEW ON 1 DEC 1999~~
~~EXTENDED BY SECDEF~~
~~REASON 4 & 5~~

C. *(U) National Communications Security Committee (NCSC)*

1. (U) There is established a National Communications Security Committee. The Committee shall be composed of a Chairman and ten regular members.

a. (U) The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Communications, Command, Control and Intelligence shall be the Chairman of the Committee and shall represent the Secretary of Defense.

b. (U) The regular members of the Committee shall be the representatives designated by The Secretary of State, The Secretary of The Treasury, The Attorney General, The Secretary of Transportation, The Secretary of Energy, The Secretary of the Army, The Secretary of the Navy, The Secretary of the Air Force, The Director of Central Intelligence, and the Director, National Security Agency.

c. (U) Representatives of the Secretary of Commerce; Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; Administrator, General Services Administration; Chairman, Federal Communications Commission; Manager, National Communications System; Director, Defense Communications Agency; Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; Director, Defense Logistics Agency; and Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency may participate as observers in all aspects of the Committee's work.

d. (U) Any department or agency may request consideration of a matter by the Committee. When such a request has been received, and if the Committee decides to take up the matter, the Chairman shall invite the department or agency that made the request to participate. The Chairman may invite any department or agency to participate when matters of direct interest to such department or agency are before the Committee.

2. (U) There shall be a National Communications Security Committee Secretariat to provide staff assistance for the conduct of Committee business. The Secretariat shall be responsible to and function under the direction of the Chairman of the Committee. The Director of the National Security Agency shall nominate a candidate for the position of Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary shall be designated by the Chairman. The Director of the National Security Agency shall provide other personnel, space, equipment, facilities and administrative support for the Secretariat.

3. (U) The Committee shall meet at the invitation of the Chairman or at the request of any member. A minimum of two meetings shall be held annually.

4. (U) In accordance with the directives and guidance of the Secretary of Defense, it shall be the responsibility of the Committee to:

a. (U) Develop for approval by the Secretary of Defense broad communications security objectives, policies, and implementation procedures.

b. (U) Provide guidance and assistance to the departments and agencies of the Federal Government in their communications security activities. This shall include but not be limited to:

(1) Addressing the requirement for broad guidance to promote awareness of the need for communications security.

(2) Emphasizing the need for early recognition of the requirement to introduce communications security features in the planning and design of telecommunications and other electrical processing systems.

(3) Providing guidelines for evaluating the need for communications security protection.

(4) Recommending methods by which departments and agencies can develop programs for evaluation of their requirements for specific communications security systems.

(5) Establishing requirements for reporting to the committee in support of the annual review of communications security activities.

c. (U) Conduct an annual review of the status and objectives of the communications security activities of the departments and agencies and make recommendations concerning those activities to the Secretary of Defense.

d. (U) Provide communications security guidance to the departments and agencies in their relations with foreign governments, international organizations, and private industry.

e. (U) Consider and discuss any issue of communications security referred to it by any department or agency and make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense with respect thereto, if appropriate.

5. (U) The Committee is authorized to establish permanent and temporary subcommittees, as may be required.

6. (U) The Committee shall reach decisions on matters within its cognizance by majority vote. In the event of a tie, the Chairman shall cast a deciding vote. At the request of a dissenting department or agency, dissenting opinions shall be forwarded with Committee recommendations to the Secretary of Defense. Any department or agency, whether or not represented on the Committee, may appeal a Committee decision directly affecting it to the Secretary of Defense by written appeal within 15 days after such decision is made.

7. (U) The Chairman of the Committee shall have the responsibility to keep the Secretary of Defense informed of significant current matters under consideration by the Committee and, with the assistance of the Committee Secretariat, the Chairman shall:

a. (U) Maintain liaison with the Executive Secretary of the Special Subcommittee on Telecommunications Protection, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Telecommunications and Information, the Executive Secretary of the National Foreign Intelligence Board, and the other departments and agencies.

b. (U) Coordinate Committee matters with Committee members and other departments and agencies.

c. (U) Request such reports, information, and assistance from the departments and agencies as may be necessary.

d. (U) Perform other assignments relating to the coordination of communications security activities, as directed by the Secretary of Defense.

D. *(U) The Director, National Security Agency*

Under the direction of the Secretary of Defense, the Director, National Security Agency, is responsible for executing the communications security responsibilities of the Secretary of Defense and for conducting research and development to meet the needs of the United States for communications security. For these purposes the Director, National Security Agency, shall:

1. (U) Fulfill communications security requirements of the various departments and agencies of the government.

2. (C) Prescribe or approve all cryptographic systems and techniques used by or on behalf of the government to safeguard national security and national security-related information from exploitation or disruption or to ensure authenticity This includes the doctrine, standards and procedures governing installation, operation, use, modification or removal from use of such systems and techniques and the application of compromising emanations suppression techniques.

3. (U) Develop methods by which the techniques of cryptographic system design and functions applicable to the protection of national security and national security-related information may be applied for other purposes, and establish the security procedures that are necessary to protect these cryptographic techniques when so applied.

4. (C) Initiate research and development needed to fulfill requirements for cryptographic equipment to be used to safeguard national security and national security-related telecommunications systems (or to fulfill requests of departments and agencies); or to advance communications security technology, including techniques, protective measures, standards for controlling compromising emanations, and basic or applied cryptographic and cryptanalytic research. The Director, National Security Agency, may delegate authority to conduct specified cryptographic research and development projects.

5. ~~(C)~~ Establish and maintain a national communications security assessment program to advise the Secretary of Defense, the Committee and other federal departments and agencies on the vulnerability to and evidence of hostile exploitation of telecommunications.

6. (U) Issue guidelines in accordance with Department of Defense procedures for the conduct of communications security surveillance activities.

7. (U) Generate and produce communications security aids, including all forms of keying material, act as the central procurement authority for TSEC-nomenclatured equipment and aids and design controlled spare parts, maintain a Central Office of Record, and in order to promote efficient use of equipment, establish procedures for the conduct of an inter-department or inter-agency loan program and the reuse of excess equipment. The Director, National Security Agency, may authorize federal departments and agencies to produce specified TSEC-nomenclatured equipment and aids and cryptomaterial in accordance with technical and security criteria prescribed by the Director, National Security Agency.

8. (C) Conduct technical communications security liaison with the appropriate organizations of foreign governments and international organizations.

9. (U) Provide technical guidance and support for communications security education and training programs.

10. (U) Obtain information needed to maintain an overview of communications security resource programs to facilitate optimum utilization and to conduct assessments of the communications security protection provided to national security or national security-related information.

11. (U) Prescribe minimum security standards for the performance of Central Office of Record functions by federal departments and agencies.

12. (U) Initiate, develop, and present proposals for, and technical assistance to, the Committee in developing guidance and assistance to the departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

13. (U) Collaborate with departments and agencies in order to:

a. ~~(C)~~ Assist in the formulation of principles and the development of techniques for communications cover and manipulative communications deception, and in the preparation or review of the communications security elements of these programs.

b. (U) Establish procedures for reporting and evaluating communications security weaknesses.

c. (U) Establish doctrine and procedures to protect communications security information.

E. *(U) Heads of Departments and Agencies of the Government*

Nothing in this directive shall relieve the heads of the departments and agencies of their authority and responsibility for executing all measures required to assure communications security. Communications security activities shall be conducted in accordance with applicable law, directives of the President and the National Security Council, and documents in the National Communications Security Issuance System. In particular:

1. (U) This Directive does not give the Secretary of Defense, the Committee or any of its members, or the Director, National Security Agency, the authority to inspect any department or agency without the approval of the head of the department or agency.

2. (U) Departments and agencies may not be required to disclose to the Secretary of Defense, the Committee or any of its members or to the Director, National Security Agency, the contents of any official communications if, in the opinion of the head of the department or agency, disclosure would be contrary to the national interest.

F. ~~(C)~~ *Exemption*

The Communications conducted by the Central Intelligence Agency in the performance of functions described in NSCID No. 5 are exempted from this Directive only to the extent set forth in a memorandum of understanding between the Central Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency.

G. *(U) National Communications Security Issuances*

There is established a national communications security issuance system for purposes of promulgating objectives and policies, issuing directives and guidance, and disseminating information of government-wide interest. The System shall include, as required:

1. *(U) National Communications Security Policies.*—The Committee shall issue policy guidance that has been recommended by the Committee, approved by the Secretary of Defense, and coordinated as appropriate with the Chairman of the Special Subcommittee on Telecommunications Protection.

2. *(U) National Communications Security Plans.*—The Director, National Security Agency, in coordination with the departments and agencies, shall develop a National Communications Security Plan for review by the Committee and approval by the Secretary of Defense. The Director shall also develop long-range plans for research, development and application of communications security equipment. These long-range plans shall be coordinated with the departments and agencies and disseminated by the Director.

3. *(U) National Communications Security Advisory Memoranda (NACAMs).*—These shall provide advice and assistance to all departments and agencies of the Government on broad communications security matters consistent with the policy guidance of the Secretary of Defense and the Special Subcommittee on Telecommunications Protection. Such guidelines, approved by the Committee, shall be signed by the Chairman and issued by the Committee.

4. *(U) National Communications Security Instructions (NACSIs).*—These shall provide instruction and establish technical criteria to be implemented by the departments and agencies on specific communications security matters. NACSIs will be promulgated by the Director, National Security Agency, after coordination with Committee members and other affected departments or agencies. NACSIs shall include legal guidelines, restrictions and procedures promulgated by the Department of Defense and approved by the Attorney General that are generally applicable to the conduct of communications security activities.

5. *(U) National Communications Security Information Memoranda (NACSIMs).*—These shall contain information of general interest or application pertaining to technical or procedural aspects of communications security. NACSIMs shall be published and disseminated by the Director, National Security Agency.

6. *(U) Glossary.*—A glossary of communications security terms will be issued by the Committee containing definitions unique to communications security.