SECRET//COMINT//X1

UNITED
STATES
SIGNALS
INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTIVE

# USSID 1

# SIGINT OPERATING POLICY ~~(FOUO)~~

**13 June 1994**

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## LETTER OF PROMULGATION

~~(FOUO)~~ United states SIGINT activities are controlled by the USSID System. All elements of the United States SIGINT System (USSS) must operate within the spirit and the letter of the principles and procedures promulgated by USSID. USSID 1 is the foundation of this system. It establishes fundamental policy guidelines and sets forth the basic concept for the direction and operation of the
USSS, namely that the United States SIGINT mission will be discharged through central managementand planning, with centralized or decentralized operations, as appropriage. All elements of the USSS will be called upon to participate in productive, mutually supported roles directly contributing to the national
security of the United States.

(U) This USSID supersedes USSID 1, dated 19 April 1990, which must now be destroyed.

(U) If this edition is not needed, destroy it and notify DIRNSA/CHCSS (P0442, USSID Manager) of the destruction and pertinent details. Also, notify P0442 if this document is destroyed because of an emergency action

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(U) The authority for approving requests for the reproduction or the removal of any portion of this USSID for use within the United States SIGINT System rests solely with the USSID Manager or the local Designated USSID Representative. Any other reproduction or removal of parts of this document is prohibited.

~~(FOUO)~~ Release or exposure of this document to contractors and consultants without approval from the USSID Manager is prohibited. [redacted]

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

J.M. McCONNELL
Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy
Director

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION 1 - POLICY

SECTION 2 - REFERENCES

SECTION 3 - AUTHORITY

SECTION 4 - RESPONSIBLIITIES

SECTION 5 - THE UNITED STATES SIGINT SYSTEM

SECTION 6 - OBJECTIVES

SECTION 7 - UNITED STATES SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE SYSTEM

SECTION 8 - OPERATING PRINCIPLES

SECTION 9 - SIGINT SUPPORT

SECTION 10 - SECOND PARTY RELATIONSHIPS

SECTION 11 - THIRD PARTY RELATIONSHIPS

SECTION 12 - STANDARDIZATION

SECTION 13 - SIGINT CONTINGENCY PLANNING

SECTION 14 - SECURITY

SECTION 15 - TRAINING

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**SIGINT OPERATING POLICY ~~(FOUO)~~**

**SECTION 1 - PURPOSE**

1.1. (U) This USSID consolidates established policy and procedures for the direction, control, and coordination of United States signals intelligence (SIGINT) *1* activities.

**SECTION 2 - REFERENCES**

2.1. ~~(FOUO)~~ The following references govern SIGINT operating policy.

a. Executive Order (E.O.) 12333, "United States Intelligence Activities," dated 4 December 1981.

b. Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 5210.70, "DOD Cryptologic Training," dated 3 November 1980.

c. DOD Directive S-3115.7, "Signals Intelligence," dated 25 January 1973.

d. National Security Council Intelligence Directive (NSCID) No. 5, "U.S. Espionage and Counterintelligence Activities Abroad," dated 17 February 1972.

e. NSCID No. 6, "Signals Intelligence," dated 17 February 1972.

f. DOD Directive S-5100.20, "The National Security Agency and the Central Security Service," dated 23 December 1971.

g. Public Law 95-511, "Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978," dated October 1978.

**SECTION 3 - AUTHORITY**

3.1. (~~FOUO~~) The Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) is the Executive Agent of the U.S. Government responsible for conducting SIGINT activities in accordance with NSCID No. 6 and E.O. 12333, and for the direction, operation, supervision, funding, and maintenance of the National Security Agency.

3.2. ~~(FOUO)~~ NSCID No. 6 establishes the U.S. SIGINT mission; assigns the responsibility for that mission to the Director, National Security Agency (DIRNSA); establishes the Central Security Service (CSS) under DIRNSA; and defines the relationships between NSA and other departments and agencies. E.O. 12333 contains basic national policy on SIGINT, affirms the U.S. SIGINT mission, and also assigns responsibility to NSA for the management of that mission.

3.3. ~~(FOUO)~~ Certain SIGINT collection and processing activities, specially designated by the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) as essential and integral to activities conducted under the authority of NSCID No. 5, are specifically exempted by NSCID No. 6 from the control of DIRNSA/Chief, CSS (DIRNSA/CHCSS).

3.4. ~~(FOUO)~~ DOD Directive 5210.70 provides the authority under which DIRNSA/CHCSS is required to ensure the technical adequacy of all DOD cryptologic training.

**SECTION 4 - RESPONSIBILITIES**

(U//FOUO)

4.1. ~~(S)~~ DIRNSA/CHCSS is responsible for ensuring that SIGINT activities are conducted in accordance with appropriate laws, and, where applicable, with procedures approved by the U.S. Attorney General. DIRNSA/CHCSS is responsible for:

a. Establishing and operating an effective, unified organization for SIGINT activities. This includes delegating operational control over certain activities to other elements of the U.S. Intelligence Community. No other department or agency may engage in SIGINT activities unless the authority to do so has been specifically delegated by SECDEF.

b. Controlling SIGINT collection and processing activities, including the assignment of resources to an appropriate agent for such periods and tasks as required for the direct support of military commanders. [redacted]

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

c. Collecting and processing SIGINT information for national foreign intelligence purposes, in accordance with guidance from the DCI.

d. Disseminating SIGINT for national foreign intelligence purposes to authorized elements of the U.S. Government, including the military services, in accordance with guidance from the DCI.

e. Collecting, processing, and disseminating SIGINT information for counterintelligence purposes.

f. Providing SIGINT support for military operations in accordance with tasking, priorities, and standards of timeliness assigned by the SECDEF. If provision of such support requires the use of national collection systems, these systems normally will be tasked within existing guidance from the DCI. 3

g. Conducting research and development to meet the SIGINT needs of the United States.

h. Conducting foreign SIGINT liaison relationships, in accordance with policies and guidance formulated by the DCI.

i. Conducting administrative and technical support activities within, and outside, the United States as necessary to perform assigned functions, including procurement.

j. Guiding the military departments to ensure sound and adequate SIGINT career development and training programs. DIRNSA's responsibilities also include conducting, or otherwise providing for, specialized and advanced SIGINT training and, under the provisions of DOD Directive 5100.47, dated 30 April 1965, maintaining and operating the National Cryptologic School.

4.2. ~~(FOUO)~~ In providing for SIGINT support to departments, agencies, commands, and other U.S. Government activities, DIRNSA/CHCSS determines the extent of the SIGINT effort to be committed. DIRNSA/CHCSS will provide such support by either directing the activities or by delegating an appropriate agent with the authority to levy operational tasks directly on specified SIGINT units.

4.3. ~~(FOUO)~~ The Service Cryptologic Elements (SCEs) *4* are components of the U.S. Military Services whose SIGINT activities are subordinate to DIRNSA/CHCSS. The SCE Headquarters command and manage subordinate SIGINT units. The SCEs provide guidance and assistance to those Tactical Cryptologic Program (TCP) elements integral to other commands, in order to ensure proper application of resources to accomplish operational tasks assigned by DIRNSA/CHCSS. They provide the organizational structure, manning, and training for subordinate units. Operational information needed by SCE Headquarters to perform their missions will be provided by the National Security Agency/Central Security Service (NSA/CSS) or will be developed by the SCEs themselves, in coordination with NSA/CSS.

**SECTION 5 - THE UNITED STATES SIGINT SYSTEM**

5.1. ~~(FOUO)~~ The United States SIGINT System (USSS) consists of the SIGINT missions of NSA/CSS, the SCEs, [redacted] that perform SIGINT activities, and other U.S. Government entities authorized by the SECDEF to conduct SIGINT activities.

5.2. ~~(FOUO)~~ The United States Cryptologic System (USCS) is the aggregate of NSA's dual missions of SIGINT and Information Systems Securty (INFOSEC). The term USCS is not interchangeable with the term USSS.

5.3. ~~(FOUO)~~ SIGINT assets outside of the Department of Defense will be tasked, either directly or indirectly, by DIRNSA/CHCSS, as necessary.

[redacted]

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

[redacted]

5.5. (U) Certain foreign SIGINT organizations work jointly with the USSS [redacted]

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

**SECTION 6 - OBJECTIVES**

6.1. ~~(C)~~ The following are the objectives of the USSS.

a. To provide SIGINT information and support to departments, agencies, commands, and other U.S. Government activities, to satisfy their requirements.

b. To produce reliable, timely, and usable SIGINT reports.

c. To transmit SIGINT information and operational data rapidly and securely.

d. To provide for SIGINT operations during wartime, in emergencies, or in other contingency situations.

e. To use SIGINT resources economically and effectively.

**SECTION 7 - UNITED STATES SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE DIRECTIVE SYSTEM**

7.1. ~~(FOUO)~~ DIRNSA/CHCSS uses the U.S. Signals Intelligence Directive (USSID) System to control the operations of the USSS. DIRNSA/CHCSS promulgates procedures and controls for the preparation, publication, and maintenance of USSID.

7.2. ~~(FOUO)~~ Only USSID, or vehicles authorized in USSID, are used to direct SIGINT operations of the USSS.

**SECTION 8 - OPERATING PRINCIPLES**

8.1. ~~(FOUO)~~ NSA/CSS and other elements of the USSS comprise a support organization whose functions can be centralized or decentralized, as necessary.

8.2. ~~(FOUO)~~ SIGINT operations are managed and conducted as a single, coherent system under the direction and control of DIRNSA/CHCSS to achieve the greatest responsiveness at the least cost.

8.3. ~~(FOUO)~~ The USSS will be responsive to the needs of all authorized SIGINT users, including military commanders for whom special support arrangements have been devised as part of the system, in accordance with USSID 4, "Concept of SIGINT Support to Military Commanders," and MJCS 111-88, dated 10 August 1988, "Concept of SIGINT Support to Military Commanders."

8.4. ~~(FOUO)~~ The USSS will be ready to respond to emergency situations, including combat. SIGINT activities designated for wartime or contingency operations will be used productively during peacetime.

8.5. ~~(FOUO)~~ SIGINT operations must be conducted in accordance with the Constitution, Federal law, Executive Orders, and DOD and NSA regulations.

**SECTION 9 - SIGINT SUPPORT**

9.1. ~~(FOUO)~~ DIRNSA/CHCSS provides SIGINT information and support to departments, agencies, commands, and other U.S. Government activities in order to provide expeditious responses to user needs. In determining how best to meet these needs, DIRNSA/CHCSS will consider all SIGINT resources available and will task elements, as appropriate.

**SECTION 10 - SECOND PARTY RELATIONSHIPS** (b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

10.1. (U) DIRNSA/CHCSS conducts SIGINT activities with the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand (designated Second Parties) under the policy guidance of the DCI.

**SECTION 11 - THIRD PARTY RELATIONSHIPS**

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36
(b)(3)-50 USC 403

11.1. ~~(S-CCO)~~ Nations with which the U.S. Government has SIGINT arrangements (other than the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) are known as Third Parties. The DCI, with the advice of the National Foreign Intelligence Board (NFIB), establishes policies and procedures for conducting SIGINT activities with these nations

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

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## SECTION 12 - STANDARDIZATION

12.1. (U) DIRNSA/CHCSS prescribes standards to be used in SIGINT activities, including the data standards that will provide a body of terms, codes, and abbreviations to facilitate the processing and exchange of information.

## SECTION 13 - SIGINT CONTINGENCY PLANNING

13.1. ~~(FOUO)~~ DIRNSA/CHCSS develops and maintains plans for SIGINT operations to be conducted by USSS elements in contingency, emergency, or wartime situations.

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

13.3. ~~(S)~~ SIGINT Plans should be developed and structured in the context of the following criteria.

(b)(1)
(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

**SECTION 14 - SECURITY**

14.1. ~~(FOUO)~~ The DCI determines the degree and type of security protection given to SIGINT activities by protecting information about, or derived from, these activities.

14.2. ~~(FOUO)~~ DIRNSA/CHCSS is responsible for the following aspects of security.

a. Prescribing, within the Agency`s field of authorized operations, security regulations covering operating practices, including the transmission, handling, and distribution of SIGINT material within and among the elements under the Director`s control, and exercising the necessary supervisory control to ensure compliance with these regulations.

b. Protecting the security of NSA/CSS installations, activities, property, information, and employees by appropriate means, including, as necessary, investigations of applicants, employees, contractors, and other persons who have similar associations with NSA/CSS.

14.3. ~~(FOUO)~~ DIRNSA/CHCSS prescribes procedures for the special protection of unusually sensitive SIGINT operations, from the handling of the material in its initial stages to its inclusion in intelligence reports.

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

## SECTION 15 - TRAINING

15.1. ~~(FOUO)~~ DIRNSA/CHCSS provides guidance to program managers for cryptologic training conducted by the military departments, and otherwise executes the responsibilities assigned by DOD Directive 5210.70. DOD Directive 5210.70 is implemented by NSA/CSS Circulars.

15.2. ~~(FOUO)~~ The Deputy Director for Support Services (DDS) serves as the principal executive for DIRNSA/CHCSS in matters related to cryptologic training.

(b)(3)-P.L. 86-36

## Footnotes

*1. ~~(FOUO)~~ SIGINT is a category of intelligence information comprising, either individually or in combination, all communications intelligence (COMINT), electronics intelligence (ELINT), and foreign instrumentation signals intelligence (FISINT), however transmitted.*

*3. ~~(FOUO)~~ National Security Decision Directive Number 204 states that National Intelligence Collection Tasking Authority will transfer from the DCI to the SECDEF upon the declaration by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, or higher authority, of Defense Readiness Condition 1 (DEFCON 1), or by mutual DCI and SECDEF agreement, or as directed by the President.*

*4. ~~(FOUO)~~ SCE - A term used to designate, separately or together, those elements of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps that perform cryptologic functions. The term applies, separately or together, to the cryptologic staffs and functional portions of the U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command (INSCOM), the Naval Security Group Command (NAVSECGRU or NSG), and the Air Force Air Intelligence Agency (AIA), their subordinate elements, and integral cryptologic elements of military tactical or combat commands, including those of the U.S. Marine Corps.*

~~**Derived** NSA/CSS~~
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