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Draft version revised on basis of meeting with representatives of OSD, NSA, JCS, Army, Navy and Air Force on 4 December, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE  
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

SUBJECT: Implementation of NSC Directive on Communications Security  
(NSC 168)

- References:
- (a) NSC Directive on Communications Security, (NSC 168) dtd 20 Oct 53
  - (b) SecDef Memorandum Interim Responsibility for COMSEC, dtd 5 Dec 52
  - (c) NSCID No. 9 Revised, dtd 24 Oct 52
  - (d) Secretary of Defense Directive Implementation of NSCID No 9 Revised, dtd 5 Dec 52

1. This Directive is issued for the purpose of implementing within the Department of Defense the provisions of reference (a) and supersedes reference (b) All directives, orders, or instructions relating to COMSEC matters issued by any authorities within the Department of Defense which are inconsistent or at variance with the provisions of this Directive will be rescinded or revised in consonance therewith

2 The Department of Defense has been designated by reference (a) as Executive Agent of the Government for all COMSEC matters.

3 The National Security Agency (NSA) was authorized by reference (c) and established by reference (d). Reference (b) assigned to the Director, NSA, on an interim basis, the responsibility for COMSEC activities and related matters previously assigned to the Director, Armed Forces Security Agency (AFSA) The Director, NSA, has<sup>now</sup> been designated to act for the Executive Agent in all COMSEC matters set forth in paragraphs 2d(1) through 2d(13) of reference (a) and any others which may be specified by the "Special Committee of the National Security

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Council for COMSEC Matters", or the "United States Communications Security Board" (hereinafter referred to as the Board). With respect to the military departments, the Director, NSA, ~~will ensure that fulfillment of his COMSEC functions will meet the requirements of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. functions under the immediate direction (guidance) of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.~~ ~~of Staff.~~

4. In fulfilling his COMSEC responsibilities, the Director, NSA, ~~will be bound~~ <sup>governed</sup> by the provisions of reference (a), and in the fields of cryptosecurity, transmission security, physical security, and cover and deception, it shall be his responsibility:

a. To obtain from the military departments such information as he may require in performing his functions, as authorized in this directive or any other directive subsequently issued.

b. To prescribe, or review and approve, the cryptoprinciples incorporated or to be incorporated in any telecommunications equipments and systems and in any COMSEC equipments and systems.

c. To prescribe, or review and approve, cryptosecurity rules regulations, and instructions applicable to the operation and use of any crypto-equipments and systems and of any COMSEC equipments and systems.

d. To perform technical analysis of military telecommunications for the purpose of determining the degree of COMSEC being provided by the cryptoprinciples, materials and procedures used, as well as the effect on COMSEC of the communications procedures and practices being utilized; making arrangements with the military departments to obtain the material required for such analysis.

e. To review and evaluate communications procedures developed within the Department of Defense to determine whether such procedures will

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provide and maintain transmission security; and, in conjunction with the military departments, revise and supplement rules and procedures as required. ~~develop and establish such revisions of and additional rules and procedures as may be required.~~ The Director, NSA may perform technical analyses of military telecommunications and shall make arrangements with the military departments to obtain the material required for such analysis.

f. To prescribe minimum standards for the physical security of cryptomaterial, in collaboration with the military departments as appropriate.

g. To assist in the preparation of or to review the communications portions of all cover and deception plans. To formulate and promulgate the basic policies used in such portions.

h. To receive from the military departments their research and development requirements for crypto-equipments and materials, and provide for review, coordination, and approval of all such research and development programs. In so doing, he will ascertain the extent of joint or common interest in the requirements and the means by which requirements may best be satisfied.

i. In consonance with the policies of the Department of Defense ~~and the Joint Chiefs of Staff,~~  
/to formulate an integrated program for cryptosecurity research and development to meet the requirements of the military departments in order to ensure the continuing security of their telecommunications.

j. ~~In consonance with the policies of the Department of Defense,~~  
To  
/to conduct an integrated research and development program adequate to achieve a satisfactory state of cryptosecurity. In so doing, he shall

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be assisted by the military departments.

k. To inform any military department which has expressed interest in cryptosecurity research and development projects of the progress being made.

l. To receive from the military departments their requirements (other than research and development) for crypto-equipments and materials, and provide for review, coordination, and approval of all crypto-equipment and material production and procurement programs.

**In consonance with policies of the Department of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff**  
m. / To formulate an integrated program for the production and procurement of crypto-equipments and materials.

n. To produce cryptomaterial necessary to meet the requirements of the military departments and to ensure that there is adequate capacity to meet these requirements. In so doing, the Director, NSA, by mutual agreement will authorize the military departments to engage in the production of cryptomaterial. Such production will be conducted in accordance with technical cryptologic criteria prescribed by the Director, NSA, and he will be kept informed of the production accomplished.

o. In meeting operational requirements, to ensure the necessary compatibility and, insofar as practicable, the standardization of crypto-equipments and material in order to promote a maximum of efficiency and economy in their procurement, operation, and maintenance. Determination of the acceptability of an equipment in meeting the operational requirements is a responsibility of the military departments.

p. To furnish services and materials for the COMSEC program of the military departments under mutually agreeable fiscal arrangements.

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q To provide technical guidance and support for ~~cryptosecurity~~ training conducted by the military departments

r To arrange with the authorized representatives of a military department for required liaison with subordinate elements of that department

s To refer violations of COMSEC instructions to the military department concerned for such action as may be deemed necessary, and if appropriate corrective action is not taken, refer the subject to the Secretary of Defense via the Joint Chiefs of Staff

5 Except on matters which have been voted on by the Board and subject to the direction of the Secretary of Defense and ~~(the guidance of) the Joint Chiefs of Staff~~, the Director, NSA, shall discharge his responsibilities with respect to the military departments in accordance with his own judgment

6 In COMSEC matters, it shall be the responsibility of the military departments

a To organize and conduct their COMSEC activities as they see fit subject to the provisions of law, the directives of the President, and any other directives issued by the the provisions of reference (a) ~~the provisions of this directive, and Board, the provisions of this directive, and any directives issued by any other directives issued by the United States Communications Security the Director, NSA Board or the Secretary of Defense.~~ Nothing in this directive shall relieve the military departments of their responsibilities for executing all measures required to assure the security and efficiency of their own telecommunications

b To provide all lawful assistance required by the Board

c. To provide the Director, NSA, with such information and assistance as he may require in the performance of his functions, as

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authorized in this directive, or any other directives subsequently issued

d To provide logistic support of the National Security Agency as required by the Director, NSA, in order that he may fulfill his COMSEC responsibilities

e. To furnish to the Director, NSA, the materials necessary for his technical analysis of military telecommunications.

f. To submit all research and development requirements for crypto-equipments and material to the Director, NSA, and to keep him currently advised of any changes therein

g To accomplish such COMSEC research and development projects as may be authorized by the Director, NSA. Subject to prior notification to and approval by the Director, NSA, to initiate and conduct such research and development projects as may be necessary to support their COMSEC activities.

h To determine the acceptability of crypto-equipments in meeting their expressed operational requirements Military departments will furnish the Director NSA, timely notification of service test findings When equipment developed to meet joint or common requirements is service tested, the departments concerned will arrange to conduct coordinated service tests so as to achieve maximum results with the procurement of the minimum number of service test models.

i. To submit all requirements, other than research and development, for crypto equipments and materials of the Director, NSA, in accordance with procedures established by him

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j To organize, train, equip, operate, administer, budget for, and provide logistic support to their respective COMSEC activities. This will include provision of reserve programs to meet emergency or wartime requirements

k To perform, under mutually agreeable fiscal arrangements, such COMSEC tasks and functions as may be specified by the Director, NSA.

l. To provide the necessary COMSEC facilities and resources for the support of the military effort, in accordance with assigned responsibilities.

7 The Director, NSA, will arrange with the appropriate authorities <sup>Department of</sup> of departments and agencies of the Government outside the ~~military~~ Defense for the exercise of the authority over COMSEC matters granted in ~~establishment for the exercise of his authority over COMSEC matters granted~~ paragraph 2 of ~~in-reference (a)~~

8 In accordance with the policies established by the Board, and in behalf of the Executive Agent of the government for all COMSEC matters, the Director, NSA, will conduct the liaison on technical COMSEC and related matters with the cryptologic authorities of foreign nations and international organizations. The military departments shall be invited to participate in any international conference called for the purpose of determining the crypto-equipments, procedures, and/or materials to be used to provide security to communications between the military forces of the United States and those of the United Kingdom or Canada.

9 Appeals from any decision of the Board by the Director, NSA, or by the representative of any of the military departments, shall be filed only with the approval of the Secretary of Defense. In the event that a military department objects to any decision of the Director, NSA,

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that department will call the matter to the attention of the Director, NSA. If the matter in question cannot be resolved after consideration by the Director, NSA, and the department concerned, the head of that department shall refer the matter to the Secretary of Defense via the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

10. With respect to the responsibilities of the military departments, nothing in this directive shall require them to take any action which will jeopardize their primary mission, or exceed their authorized budgetary expenditures. If in the implementation of COMSEC directives or requirements it becomes apparent that the primary mission of a military department will be adversely affected or its budgetary authorization will be exceeded, such directives or requirements will be implemented to the fullest extent possible while the conflict between the COMSEC directives or requirements on the one hand and the primary mission or budgetary limitation on the other is being referred to the Secretary of Defense by the head of the military department concerned. The military departments shall not be required to disclose to the Director, NSA, the Board, or any of its committees the contents of any official communications concerning its activities, if, in the opinion of the head of the department, the disclosure would be contrary to the national interest. Nothing in this directive shall be construed to give the Board or any of its representatives the right to inspect the operation of COMSEC in any military department without approval by the head thereof.

11. Special terms used in this directive shall have the meanings assigned by reference (a).