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Col Roser

WDGSS-72

14 December 1945

SUBJECT: General Comments on Army Ground Forces Equipment Review Board Report

TO: Chairman, ASATC

1. Adequate security for all types of communications is one of the most important problems to be solved in providing an integrated Military communications system, therefore the development of all types of security equipment should be actively pursued.

2. The development of speech security equipment is in its early stages compared to the development of literal types of cryptographic systems. Therefore, work must continue under the highest priority both for the further development of known speech security principles and the investigation of new principles and their application to the communications system. However, in view of the technological difficulties involved in the development of speech security equipment, it will be several years at least before equipment suitable for very widespread use can be furnished; in any case, speech security equipment will not completely eliminate the need for literal test communications. Therefore, it is essential that considerable emphasis should continue to be placed on the development of improved literal cipher systems for interim use.

3. Although many methods have been suggested for the achievement of both speech and teletypewriter security, it is believed that the developing agency should be restricted only by the requirement that transmission of the intelligence be possible over the communications channels provided in an integrated system.

4. It must be realized that wholesale distribution of equipments which must be carefully safeguarded and the Army-wide coordination of the key changes necessary for proper security makes the provision of security with each item of communication equipment an almost impossible task.

5. A more reasonable goal would be the development of suitable voice, teletypewriter, facsimile and other security devices for use on selected circuits where the need is established and where adequate security discipline can be enforced.

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6. Greater flexibility, simpler maintenance and greater security can be achieved without undue increase in bulk or weight by not building all the components required for a specific application into one unit. Therefore, security devices should be provided as attachments to, or as unitized components of communication equipment as required. These security devices should be thoroughly functionally integrated with the communication equipment with which they are used and with the communication system as a whole. However, the question of built-in security versus attached security should be determined by the operational requirements for each specific item of equipment.

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