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Proposed Change to 27 Nov 1953  
DRAFT based upon meeting with  
representatives of OSD, NSA, JCS,  
Army, Navy and AF on 2 Dec 1953

*Mr Friedman*

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of Defense which are inconsistent or at variance with the provisions of this Directive ~~are hereby~~ will be superseded, rescinded or revised in consonance therewith.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). ~~Therefore, the "headquarters, subordinate units, and facilities, including the personnel thereof" referred to in reference (d) will be understood to include those devoted to COMSEC activities.~~ The Director, NSA, has been designated ~~by reference (d)~~ to act for the Executive Agent in all COMSEC matters set forth ~~therein~~ in paragraphs 2d(1) through

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2d(13) of reference (a) and any others which may be specified by the "Special Committee of the National Security Council for COMSEC Matters" or the "United States Communications Security Board". Pursuant to that directive, all COMSEC activities of the Department of Defense are hereby placed under the operational and technical control of the Director, NSA, subject to the immediate direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and in technical COMSEC matters the Director, NSA, shall act as the agent for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. With respect to the military departments, the Director, NSA, will perform his COMSEC functions under the immediate direction of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and in technical matters coming within these functions, he shall act as the agent of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

4 In fulfilling his ~~assigned~~ COMSEC responsibilities ~~within the Military Establishment~~, the Director, NSA, will be ~~guided~~ bound 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 as the agent for the Joint Chiefs of Staff

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. ~~1/~~ 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. ~~1/~~ 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 ~~g/~~ .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, utilized within the military establishment, as well as the effect on COMSEC of the communications procedures and practices being utilized, making arrangements as appropriate to obtain the material required for such analysis

e. ~~g/~~ To review and evaluate communications procedures developed within the ~~military establishment~~ Department of Defense to determine whether such procedures will provide and maintain transmission security; and, in conjunction with the military departments, develop and establish such revisions and additional rules and procedures as may be required.

~~and to establish rules and procedures, as required, which will maintain acceptable standards thereof.~~ The Director, NSA, may perform technical analyses of military telecommunications and shall make the necessary arrangements to obtain the material required for analysis

f ~~g/~~ To prescribe minimum standards for the physical security of cryptomaterial

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

h ~~g/~~ To receive ~~directly~~ from the military departments ~~and agencies~~ their requirements for COMSEC research and development, and provide for review, coordination and approval of all ~~communications security~~ COMSEC research and development programs In so doing, he will

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ascertain the extent of joint or common interest in the requirements and the means by which requirements may best be satisfied. For the purpose of obtaining on a continuing basis, technical information pertaining to COMSEC requirements, he is authorized ~~direct~~ access, through appropriate channels to the original elements generating the requirements.

i. ~~h.~~ To formulate an integrated program for ~~communications security~~ COMSEC research and development to meet the requirements of the military departments ~~and agencies~~ in order to ensure the continuing security of their telecommunications

j. ~~i.~~ In consonance with the policies of the Department of Defense, to execute an integrated research and development program adequate to achieve a satisfactory state of COMSEC ~~communications security~~. In so doing, he shall conduct the necessary research and development, ~~and~~ delegate the assignment of COMSEC ~~communications security~~ research and development projects to the military departments ~~and agencies~~, and supervise the implementation thereof.

k. ~~j.~~ To inform any military department ~~or agency~~ which has expressed interest in ~~communications security~~ COMSEC research and development projects of the progress being made.

l. ~~k.~~ To receive directly from the military departments ~~and agencies~~ their requirements (other than research and development) for COMSEC equipments and materials, and provide for review, coordination, and approval of all COMSEC production and procurement programs.

m. ~~l.~~ To formulate an integrated program for the production and procurement of COMSEC equipments and materials.

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n ~~/~~ To produce cryptomaterial necessary to meet the legitimate requirements of the military departments ~~and agencies~~ and to ensure that there is adequate capacity to meet these requirements. In so doing, the Director, NSA, may ~~authorize or direct~~ delegate authority to the military departments ~~and agencies~~ 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 ~~/~~ ~~To effect necessary compatibility and standardization of COMSEC equipments and materials.~~ In meeting operational requirements, to ensure the necessary compatibility and, insofar as practicable within common requirements, the standardization of crypto-equipments and material in order to promote a maximum of efficiency and economy in their procurement, operation, and maintenance

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

q ~~/~~ To provide technical guidance and support for COMSEC training conducted by the military departments ~~and agencies~~.

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 ~~head~~ of the military department concerned for such action as may be deemed necessary, and if appropriate corrective action is not taken, refer the

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subject to 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 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 ~~and agencies~~

a. To organize and conduct their COMSEC activities as they see fit subject to the provisions of the law, the directives of the President, the provisions of reference (a), the provisions of this directive, and any other directives issued by the United States Communications Security 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 United States Communications Security Board.

c. §/ To provide the Director, NSA, with such information ~~and assistance as his functions and responsibilities require~~, as he may require in the performance of his functions, and with such assistance as is within their capabilities

d. §/ To provide logistic support of ~~NSA COMSEC activities~~, as determined necessary by the Director, NSA, 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

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for his technical analysis of military telecommunications

f. ~~f/~~ To submit all COMSEC research and development requirements ~~directly~~ to the Director, NSA, for his action and to keep him currently advised of any changes therein

g. ~~f/~~ To accomplish such COMSEC research and development projects as may be approved or ~~assigned~~ delegated by the Director, NSA Subject to prior notification to and approval by the Director, NSA, the military departments ~~and agencies~~ may initiate and pursue such research and development projects as may be necessary to support their COMSEC activities

h. ~~f/~~ To determine the acceptability of COMSEC equipments in meeting their expressed operational requirements Military departments ~~and agencies~~ will furnish the Director, NSA, ~~prompt~~ timely notification of service test findings When equipment developed to meet joint or common requirements is service tested, such tests will be conducted in accordance with coordinated Service programs established by the Director, NSA.

i. ~~f/~~ To submit all requirements, other than research and development, for COMSEC equipments and materials directly to the Director, NSA, in accordance with procedures established by him

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

k. ~~f/~~ To perform, under mutually agreeable fiscal arrangements, such COMSEC tasks and functions as may be specified by the Director, NSA, and are within their capabilities ~~under mutually agreeable fiscal arrangements~~

1. // To provide the necessary COMSEC facilities and resources for the support of military operations and of the National COMSEC effort in accordance with assigned responsibilities and within their capabilities.

6. *The/joint Chiefs of Staff will assist the National COMSEC effort by providing the Director, NSA, with the COMSEC requirements of joint military strategic plans and estimates.*

7. The Director, NSA, will arrange with the appropriate authorities of departments and agencies of the Government outside the military establishment for the exercise of his authority over COMSEC matters granted in reference (a).

8. In accordance with the policies established by the United States Communications Security 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 will be invited to participate in any international conference called for the purpose of determining the crypto-equipments 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 United States Communications Security 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, that department will call the matter to the attention of the Director, NSA. If the matter in question cannot



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be resolved after consideration by the Director, NSA, and the head of the department concerned, it shall be referred to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for decision.

10. ~~§~~ Special terms used in this Directive shall have the meanings assigned by reference (a).

LEGEND:

~~Deletion~~ - Wording deleted from 27 Nov 53 DRAFT

Underscore - Wording added to 27 Nov 53 DRAFT

Overscore - Wording questioned by certain participants but not changed. Overscored words reflects preference of NSA participants.