



REF ID: A66522
NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

IN REPLY REFER TO

27 April 1953

MEMORANDUM TO ALL NSA PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Improved Security Practices

1. The attached letters by the Secretary of Defense point out the immediate need for improved security practices among all personnel in the Department.

2. In collaboration with this impelling need, all key personnel in this Agency are directed to express in affirmative and unequivocal language to all personnel in their respective offices the consequences of unauthorized disclosure of classified security information.

3. In consonance with this renewed effort for improved security practices, exacting application of NSA Security Regulations is enjoined upon all personnel.

FOR THE DIRECTOR:

P. P. LEIGH
Captain, U.S. Navy
Acting Chief of Staff

2 Incls:

1. SECDEF Memo, Security Violations
2. SECDEF Memo, Improvement of Security Procedures

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

26 March 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE
CHAIRMEN OF BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS, OSD
ASSISTANTS TO THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTORS OF OFFICES, OSD

SUBJECT: Security Violations in the Department of Defense

I am deeply concerned over the number of security violations occurring recently within the Department of Defense. Responsible military opinion has established that the nature of information so compromised has seriously affected the national security of the United States. Furthermore, I am informed that intelligence evaluation confirms that such information, both in the aggregate and in detail, has provided vital intelligence to countries hostile to the United States.

In view of the general international situation and the continuing military operations in Korea, I am impressed with the clear necessity of affording the utmost protection to our scientific, technical, and military advantages. The expenditure of lives and of the wealth of our citizens in the present defense effort makes it mandatory to insure that our military secrets are not dissipated.

It must be concluded, as to the reasons for this condition, that indoctrination in security regulations generally is being handled in a perfunctory and haphazard manner. Other indications exist that sensitive staffs and agencies lack the detailed working knowledge of security practices and procedures established for safeguarding classified information. Also having bearing upon the security situation is inter-service rivalry in the weapons development field and competition between defense contractors. Although competition as such is indispensable to the American system, it has been permitted to unduly influence decisions on the disclosure of technical developments of military application. Lastly, I believe that the debriefing of civilians leaving Department of Defense employment, or leaving the employment of Department of Defense contractors having classified contracts, must incorporate positive instructions against unlawful disclosures of classified information. Similar positive procedures are required in the cases of military personnel retiring and separating from the Service.

As an immediate supplementary measure, I desire that you express in affirmative and unequivocal language to all personnel under your jurisdiction the consequences of unauthorized disclosure of classified security information and that such instructions specifically include key executives and military personnel in headquarters located at the Seat of Government.

Additionally, your instructions in this matter should provide for continuity of investigative jurisdiction and review to insure prompt and adequate disciplinary action regardless of rank or position. Disciplinary action should include, in the case of military personnel, trial by court martial or in the case of civilians, prosecution under Title 18 U.S.C., as amended, or other Federal statutes, as appropriate. Offenses by civilian employees of the Department of Defense should also be carefully reviewed for the applicability of Public Law 733, 81st Congress (64 Stat. 476), pertaining to security risks.

C. W. Wilson

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

March 26, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Secretaries of the Military Departments
The Joint Chiefs of Staff
The Assistant Secretaries of Defense
The Chairmen of Boards, Councils and
Committees
The Assistants to the Secretary of Defense
The Directors of Offices, OSD

SUBJECT: Improvement of Security Procedures Within the Department
of Defense.

Recent investigations have indicated that the only method whereby the disclosure of classified information can be prevented within the Department of Defense is the improvement of our security procedures and the personal attention of responsible officials. There must be fixed responsibility in determining to what extent dissemination should be given to Government documents, and thereafter appropriate records maintained. A general tightening up of security regulations within the Department of Defense is necessary in order to insure a higher degree of security for our official documents.

In the future, important policy documents within the Department of Defense will be made available to personnel on the strictest "need to know" basis. They will bear a notation on each copy indicating that reproduction is not to be made without permission of the issuing office. Officials preparing such documents will determine at the time of signature whether this restriction is required and the number of copies that are to be distributed.

Where information based on documents, as described in paragraph two above, is required by subordinate officials in the execution of their duties, it will be the responsibility of the recipients of the original document to prepare supplementary memoranda or directives to furnish them with the information which they require without reproduction or direct quotation from the original document.

