

Serial: N 0934

16 MAR 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

(ATTN: General G. B. Erskine, USMC-Ret,
Assistant to the Secretary of Defense,
Special Operations)

SUBJECT: Conduct of Direct Support ELINT Activities ~~(S)~~

1. Reference is made to your memorandum on the above subject, dated 23 February 1961.
2. Your confirmation of the National Security Agency assumptions was appreciated as was the invitation to comment on the general subject of ELINT direct support.
3. One of the recommendations of the Joint Study Group on Foreign Intelligence Activities of the United States, concerned the re-examination of the assignment of ELINT resources to unified and specified commands. I have directed a study to determine areas where an improvement in existing arrangements could benefit all ELINT consumers. This study should be completed and forwarded to your office within the next thirty days. At that time, I hope to be able to recommend actions which might permit considerable savings by the consolidation of more programming of ELINT contracts within NSA.

/s/ L. H. FROST

L. H. FROST
Vice Admiral, USN
Director

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cc: DIR
 AG
 Reading File
 PROD-042
 OPS

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M/R: 1. Day to day operations in the ELINT field specifically, have raised many problems in implementing the provisions of the DOD implementing Directive 3115.2 in regard to the division of effort between NSA, JCS, and Theater Commands. Accordingly, PROD-04 and COSA are currently preparing a study of the relationships of NSA to the JCS, Joint and Specified Commands with a view to making accommodations for a restudy by SECDEF of DOD Directive 3115.2 after two years of implementation by NSA. Four major problems confront NSA. These are:

a. The provision of technical support to all U. S. SIGINT activities (specifically ELINT).

b. Accommodation of NSA organization and responsibilities to the Commands Theater ELINT Centers.

c. Processing of strategic ELINT resulting from Space Vehicle Collection (SAMOS) and from foreign space vehicles (USSR). This involves prevention of duplication of NSA efforts in providing various contractors same data and prevention of contractor duplication in the ELINT and data processing field.

d. Tasking of collection resources outside of NSA control to meet national collection objectives. These include new and unusual signals, both communications and non-communications, data systems, telemetry, etc.

2. Current progress of this NSA study indicates that in the course of the SECDEF's invitation to NSA to comment on the subject of ELINT direct support, NSA should recommend to SECDEF the following:

a. That NSA should ~~organize, man,~~ and manage Theater ELINT Centers to provide Theater Commanders with a local NSA support for new and unusual signals; process material collected by Commands and SCA's for support of Commands; provide SCA units with ELINT for fusion with COMINT and make available to all echelons of U. S. consumers results of Theater ELINT Center processing. ?

b. Take over all U. S. ELINT contracts for ELINT equipment development and processing. ? supervise?

c. Coordinate all plans for SIGINT collection packages installed in U. S. space SIGINT collection vehicles and arrange for processing take from these collection vehicles.

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3. This study further indicates that if SECDEF accepts this study and its recommendations as a basis for a reexamination of 3115.2, he, SECDEF, should inventory all U. S. ELINT collection and processing facilities not under NSA operational control so that NSA may prepare a plan to carry out the revised DOD Directive 3115.2 along the lines of the above recommendations.

GEORGE P. MCGINNIS, CDR, USN/PROD-042/4596-S/13 Mar 61/ej

ADDED M/R: Dual action between PROD and OPS. Mr. Brown, OPS states that no further coordination is required.

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TECKLA DeSOUCEY, AG-103,3624, 14 Mar 61, dbt