

USCIB: 4.2/15

29 March 1954

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE MEMBERS OF USCIB:

Subject: USCIB Directive Number 13 (Capture of Enemy  
Cryptologic Material).

The enclosed directive, approved by USCIB as of 26 March 1954, is  
forwarded for the information and guidance of all concerned.

  
RUFUS L. TAYLOR  
Captain, U. S. Navy  
Executive Secretary, USCIB

Enclosure  
CIBD #13.

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USCIB DIRECTIVE NUMBER 13 (CIBD #13)

(Approved by USCIB as of 26 March 1954)

CAPTURE OF ENEMY CRYPTOLOGIC MATERIAL

PURPOSE

1. It is the purpose of this Directive to set forth USCIB policy governing the capture by the U.S. Armed Services of enemy cryptologic material in time of war.

DEFINITION

2. For the purpose of this Directive, cryptologic material is understood to include cryptographic documents, cryptographic equipment including related communications equipment, as well as cryptanalytic documents and devices.

DISCUSSION

3. The wartime capture of enemy cryptologic material will generally occur as a result of one of the following operations:

a. A special operation planned with the capture of such material as a primary (or secondary) objective.

b. A normal operation in which the capture of such material is incidental to the action, as for example, the overrunning of an enemy headquarters, the salvage of an enemy ship sunk in shallow water, or the recovery of a crashed enemy aircraft.

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4. Experience gained in World War II clearly shows that very great importance must be attached to the timely capture of enemy cryptologic equipment; it also shows, however, that serious harm may result if special operations for that purpose are planned without regard to the communications intelligence considerations involved.

CONSIDERATIONS GOVERNING SPECIAL OPERATIONS

5. A special U.S. Armed Service operation having as its primary objective the capture of enemy cryptologic material will be undertaken only when authorized by the Director, NSA, or his field representatives.

6. A special U.S. Armed Service operation having as a secondary objective the capture of enemy cryptologic material will not be undertaken without prior reference to the Director, NSA, or his field representatives, for a determination as to whether the capture of such material will be in the best interests of the  communications intelligence effort.

EO 3.3(h)(2)  
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

7. On the basis of technical and operational considerations, the Director, NSA, will determine the individual items or types of enemy cryptologic material which warrant special operations to effect their capture. In such actions, the U.S. Armed Services will be furnished guidance by the Director, NSA, (in whatever detail he considers suitable and through appropriate channels) on the importance of these special operations, and how the materials in question may be located, recognized, and handled.

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EO 3.3(h)(2)  
PL 86-36/50 USC 3605

8. The Director, NSA, will maintain close cooperation with [ ]  
[ ] COMINT authorities, as appropriate, in the  
planning of special operations. Where appropriate, coordination with  
NATO will be effected through "Y" channels in the major NATO headquarters  
concerned.

9. Insofar as practicable, existing COMINT channels, viz: -  
NSA [ ] will be used for technical exchanges of information  
on the planning of special operations. Similarly, enemy cryptologic  
material captured as a result of special operations by U.S. [ ]  
forces will be exchanged in the same COMINT channels.

CONSIDERATIONS GOVERNING NORMAL TACTICAL OPERATIONS

10. In the conduct of normal tactical operations it is recog-  
nized that the U.S. Armed Services may, as an incidental by-product of  
such operations, capture enemy cryptologic material. The Director, NSA,  
will issue appropriate guidance to the U.S. Armed Services in the  
recognition, protection, and proper disposition of captured cryptologic  
material. Such guidance will take into account cooperation with [ ]  
[ ] COMINT authorities, as appropriate, and will be  
in accord with pertinent NATO directives on the processing of captured  
enemy documents. The U.S. Armed Services will prepare and issue such  
instructions as may be required.

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11. It is of the utmost importance that the strictest secrecy be maintained regarding all activities pertaining to any operation to capture enemy cryptologic material. This concept shall be reflected in the guidance issued by the Director, NSA, and further indicated in the instructions prepared by the U.S. Armed Services.

12. The Director, NSA, will from time to time review pertinent regulations promulgated by components of the Department of Defense to insure that they are in accord with this directive.

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