

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

Op-16-B-3

AS-5/LL

CONFIDENTIAL

Serial 01197116

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NAVY DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

WASHINGTON

MAY 24 1943
MAY 21 1943

From: Director of Naval Intelligence.
To: All District Intelligence Officers (less Sixteenth),
Intelligence Officer, Potomac River Naval Command,
Intelligence Officer, Severn River Naval Command.

Subj: Personnel Investigations - Priority of.

1. Owing to the freeze of personnel assigned to the Naval Intelligence Service, investigations of applicants for commissions, assignment to or employment in Intelligence, will, of necessity, decrease to only those required as replacements.
2. A decrease of investigative personnel in Section B-3 throughout the Naval Intelligence Service, of 40% of the on-board complement of officers and enlisted men as of March 8, 1943 was recommended by the Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations. This was approved and made effective by the Secretary of the Navy under date of May 3, 1943.
3. This reduction in personnel will require careful supervision and selectivity in the acceptance and assignment of cases for investigation by Naval Intelligence, in order that valuable time and effort will not be dissipated in work that logically should and could be performed by other recognized, established agencies.
4. The investigative jurisdiction of ONI is clearly defined by the Revised Delimitation Agreement of February 9, 1943, in cases involving espionage, counter-espionage, sabotage and subversive activities. Strict adherence to the limits defined therein should be observed.
5. Insofar as investigations outside of these categories are concerned, character, background and loyalty investigations should continue to be made upon specific request of cognizant and interested Naval Authorities, where direct Naval interest is involved. Priority should be given such investigations in the following order:
 1. - Personnel in, or applicants for assignment to, Naval Intelligence duties.

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2. - Personnel under Naval jurisdiction, engaged in Secret or highly confidential work, or having access thereto.
3. - Personnel, not in the above categories, whose possible access to material of a classified nature, in connection with duties performed or services rendered in capacities not under direct Naval jurisdiction, renders assurance of their loyalty of vital importance to the security of the Naval Establishment or of Naval information.

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