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FIRST ENDORSEMENT on Supt. USNA SECRET ltr 7010 Ser: 001 dtd 16 Jan 1956

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: Chief of Naval Operations

Subj: Instruction of Midshipmen in Intelligence

1. Forwarded.

2. The Chief of Naval Personnel is aware of the desirability of providing training and education in intelligence to officers of all levels as appropriate. However, in view of the restrictions of the amount of instructional time available, the Chief of Naval Personnel concurs with the Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy recommendation contained in paragraph 7. of basic letter.

H.A. YEAGER
Rear Admiral, U.S.N.

Assistant Chief for Education and Training

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UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY
Annapolis, Maryland

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7010
Serial: 001
16 Jan 1956

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From: Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy
To: Chief of Naval Operations
Via: Chief of Naval Personnel

Subj: Instruction of Midshipmen in Intelligence

Ref: (a) CNO secret ltr Op-023T/aw serial 008602P92 of 30 Dec 1955

PII-1
Act-011146

1. Reference (a) recommended that instruction in intelligence be added to the curriculum of the Naval Academy.
2. The course of instruction at the Naval Academy has been extended to the point that no new course can be added without taking something away. The curriculum is under constant evaluation and examination with the view towards elimination of any subject matter which would permit of strengthening such basic courses as mathematics, nuclear physics, aerodynamics, fluid mechanics, and electronics. Moreover, there is apparent need to expand the course in English whenever the time can be found. It is felt that the courses which are basic must take precedence over instruction in purely professional matter which, in many areas, can properly come after graduation.
3. The suggestion that a reading course in intelligence might be introduced has been examined. The only time when reading courses are used is during fourth class summer. Any reading course given to midshipmen which did not require an examination would be of limited effectiveness. Furthermore, it is considered that fourth classmen would not be conditioned mentally to derive any real and lasting benefit from a course in intelligence.
4. The suggestion of a lecture course has been explored. Any lectures given are at the expense of academic study time and are somewhat resented because of the encroachment on study hours. Currently, there are about eight professional lectures and about ten in the social-humanistic field given to members of the First Class. The Superintendent would be reluctant to increase this number or to inaugurate a series for another class.
5. It is noted that the Naval Intelligence School offers a correspondence course in intelligence. This course, taken after graduation, appears to be a more appropriate means of training officers in this area of professional knowledge. It is noted also that the latest directive in regard to promotion examinations does not require officers below the grade of lieutenant commander to qualify for promotion by evidencing proficiency in intelligence. It is assumed from this that junior officers required to carry out intelligence functions may expect to receive command guidance in the performance of these duties.

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6. The Superintendent is of the opinion that intelligence instruction is in the category of a number of other professional subjects which, while highly desirable for inclusion, cannot be crowded into the four year Naval Academy course. Such instruction must, of necessity, await a favorable opportunity after graduation. The General Line Course at the Postgraduate School would seem to be an appropriate opportunity to give special instruction in intelligence to junior officers.

7. In view of the foregoing considerations, it is recommended that the incorporation of a course in naval intelligence not be required of the Naval Academy.


W.F. BOONE

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