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September 1, 1988.

Dear Brian:

Sherm Bliss sent me a draft, similar to the attached, to be looked at and forwarded on to you. I have edited it slightly and herewith pass it on. The first, second and last paragraphs are as rewritten by me; the rest is essentially Sherm's original.

Since retirees, except ex-Presidents, are not furnished secretaries, I had to type this myself, hence its deplorable condition.

Please let me know if there's anything further I can do to help on it.

Hope to see you at Nolan's crabfeast.

Best regards,

Jack

ORIGIN OF THE NAME "NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE"

During 1965, The Department of Defense undertook a full scale study of all aspects of security within the Department. The late Honorable Walter T. Skallerup, then Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Security, headed the study group. Among the items considered were the missions, organizational structure and effectiveness of the investigative units of the various Defense components.

At that time, the predecessor organization of the present NISHQ was the Security Division of the Office, ~~the Office of~~ Naval Intelligence (ONI), which was part of the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. The then Security Division Director was Captain Jack O. Johnson, USNR. The field organization was headed by the various District Intelligence Officers (DIOs), who served on the staffs of each of the Naval District Commandants, and by the Intelligence Officers (N-2) on the staffs of certain overseas commands. Within the Security Division, an Investigations Branch was the primary interface with field operational units, exercising the mission of "technical control" over investigations. Individuals assigned to perform the investigative task were "ONI" special agents, formerly engaged as contract employees; later converted to civil service status. These personnel, together with others in Washington and the field, were also responsible for a number of other Intelligence functions besides investigations. This was at a time too when personnel security investigations (PSIs) were still a major portion of the ONI caseload and the backlog of such cases was huge and ever growing.

John W. (Jack) Lynch, then the Special Assistant for Investigations (later to become the first special agent to be appointed Assistant Director for Investigations, and widely regarded as the "Godfather of NIS") was assigned TAD to the Pentagon as Navy Representative in this study. The study produced twenty-two recommendations for implementation, the pertinent one here being that there should be a separate investigative service in the Department of the Navy and that "the head of the naval investigative service (lower case) was to be the commander in fact as well as in name and to have no other duties."

In the staffing process which ensued, it soon became evident that a necessary ingredient was a name for this new organization. Its genesis was indeed quite informal, almost casual. Late in the afternoon on a wintry Arlington day, Lynch and M. Sherman Bliss, Lynch's assistant (later to become Deputy Director, 1980-82), conversed informally as was their wont with the late Richard (Dick) Wilson, the senior civilian in the Investigations Branch. This conversation took place in Wilson's office, ~~the purpose being to~~ bring Wilson up to date on the issues of the day.

When the matter of a name for the new organization arose, Lynch pointed out that the Skallerup recommendation specified that the Navy should have an organization whose primary mission was investigative, and said he believed the organizational title should reflect that. The words "Investigation," "Investigations," "Investigatory," and "Investigative" were bandied about. Bliss expressed the view that the name should connote the relationship of this new agency to support of both the Navy and the Marine Corps and advocated the term "Naval" encompassing both services, as opposed to "Navy." Several component titles such as "Agency," "Division," "Department," etc., were kicked around along with a light hearted discussion of acronyms, many already in use, and finally, alluding to the NIS role of support and service to commands, Wilson noted historically that Naval Intelligence itself had once been known as the Naval Intelligence Service. The three agreed that this term accurately captured the essence of the new organization about to be launched. All that remained was the ordering of the terms into "Naval" "Investigative" "Service", with its acronym "NIS."

Out of all this came a Secretary of the Navy directive (circa February 1966) officially establishing the Naval Investigative Service (NIS), essentially as it now exists, centrally controlled, with a Director at NISHQ and with NISOs geographically distributed, under his direct command. Thus was born the organization in which so many since have proudly served.