

## THE STORY BEHIND THE NAVAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE

The Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) is a team of federal law enforcement professionals dedicated to protecting the people, families and assets of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps worldwide. Under the Secretary of the Navy, NCIS has primary investigative and counterintelligence jurisdiction within the Department of the Navy. In order to carry out the organization's responsibilities, the agency is currently composed of about 2,300 civil servants in over 140 sites around the world; 1,043 of those employed are civilian special agents.<sup>1</sup>

Ever since 1992, this federal law enforcement agency has been known as the Naval Criminal Investigative Service; however, the organization's history is not limited to the use of this nominal identity. NCIS' roots and heritage stem from the creation of the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), a military information service. ONI's evolution and subsequent branches and functions are the younger counterparts of what NCIS has become today. Even though these different organizations, may have taken on various names, identities and organizational structures, over the past century, these transformations were integral to NCIS' development of its current mission: "to fulfill the criminal investigative, counterintelligence and security needs of the Navy and Marine Corps."<sup>2</sup>

### THE BIRTH: THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE

NCIS' ancestry can be directly linked to the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) which was established on 23 March 1882 as a part of the then existing Bureau of Navigation through General Order No. 202; this directive was authorized by William H. Hunt, Secretary of the Navy.<sup>3 4</sup>

Today, General Order No. 202 is often referred to as the Mason Memorandum due to Lieutenant Theodorus B.M. Mason's influential role in the creation of ONI: an organization which was constructed to collect and record information that could possibly become pertinent to the Department of the Navy during periods of both war and peace.<sup>5</sup> Lieutenant Mason was also the first Director of ONI; he served this post from June 1882 until April 1885 ("Part 1"). Before the inception of ONI, intelligence gathering was an unorganized endeavor typically performed by active and reservist military personnel.<sup>6</sup>

Shortly after the formation of ONI, the naval attache system was established: naval attaches and military affairs officers commenced a systematic collection of

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<sup>1</sup> For more information pertaining to fiscal year 2004, see the attachment labeled "Fact Sheet" at the end of this document.

<sup>2</sup> Naval Criminal Investigative Service. *To Protect and Serve*. 1994.

<sup>3</sup> William H. Hunt. "General Order No. 292." March 23, 1882.

<sup>4</sup> "Part 1: Organization. Chapter 1: Office of Naval Intelligence." Internal Document for Official Use Only. (Source Unknown).

<sup>5</sup> For a more detailed account of ONI's early history, see Albert Deahl's article, "Counterpoint," in *Military Intelligence (MI) Magazine*. Winter 1976.

<sup>6</sup> Naval Criminal Investigative Service. "Commanding Officers Guide to NCIS." 1994.

technical information about foreign governments and their naval developments.<sup>7</sup> Before the Spanish-American war, ONI also became active in the secret service field; however, as soon as combat began, all staff left their posts to join the operating forces. Prior to the war, ONI was also responsible for gathering intelligence on Cuban, Porto Rico and Philippine defenses.<sup>8</sup>

ONI's mission began to gain importance within the Department of the Navy after an explosion on the battleship Maine in Havana Harbor, Cuba; this was one of the main events that lead to the declaration of war with Spain in 1898. As a result of this episode, Congress began to appropriate funds for Naval Intelligence for the first time since ONI's formation.<sup>9</sup>

Despite these monetary advances, the agency was still not of great importance to the Navy as most counterintelligence and specific investigation activities continued to be handled by individual commands. For example, when the plans for the battleship Pennsylvania were stolen in 1913, the Navy sought the help of a private firm, Burns Detective Agency, not ONI (Deahl).

In 1913, Colonel John Russell attempted to reorganize ONI after he reported the following of his experience with the agency: "I found that most of the time was spent reading newspapers and filing the results" (Deahl). Colonel's Russell's request to revamp the agency was denied; however, ONI finally saw some positive changes and a new agenda with the onset of World War I (Deahl).

## WORLD WAR I & THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTERINTELLIGENCE CAPABILITES:

In July 1914 when the war began, ONI had been fulfilling its peacetime duties of providing information to keep the Administration and the Navy Department informed of the naval activities of other countries (Coggins). In 1915, a "General Plan" was conceived in anticipation of the U.S.'s involvement in World War I. The new arrangement gave ONI the responsibility of securing information for the following: the states of preparation of the navies of probable enemies, the movements of probable enemy forces and their war preparation progress. This plan was intended to be used in time of war and sited that, if necessary, information should be obtained through various undercover and secret service activities (Coggins).

In July of 1916, there was an explosion on the Jersey City munitions dock which was believed to have been the work of German saboteurs; this affair later became known as the "Black Tom" incident (Deahl). This attack was one of the main contributors to a series of discussions amongst top naval official for increased intelligence.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Office of Naval Intelligence. "About ONI: Our History." 26 Jul 2004.  
<<http://www.nmic.navy.mil/history.htm>>

<sup>8</sup> Attributed to Rear Admiral Cecil H. Coggins, MC, USN. *Training Manual*. 1940.  
*This document is regarded to be the very first training manual. The only source this editor could find was a Xeroxed excerpt. For more information on Coggins see Paul Mullis' "Biographical Note" from A Brief History of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Other biographical information on Coggins, can be found in some of the unclassified inventoried documents that are currently in Code OOC's possession.*

<sup>9</sup> Albert F. Deahl. "Counterpoint." *Military Intelligence Magazine*. Winter 1976.

<sup>10</sup> Confidential letters from 1916 (Director of Naval Intelligence, Chief of Naval Operations, Acting

After a few days, the Chief of Naval Operations instituted the Naval District Information Service which assigned an Aid for Information to each of the fifteen Naval districts and Branch Offices of Naval Intelligence in all large seaports and manufacturing centers (Coggins). Thus, the district intelligence office system was established in 1916 to cope with what was predicted to be an increasing need for counterespionage work.<sup>11</sup> Even during times of peace, these aids were meant to keep a “secret war portfolio.” For the first time in Naval intelligence history, the “General Plan” not only called for gathering information but also investigative work (Mullis).

The district intelligence offices of 1916 would later be replaced by the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) offices and the districts staff intelligence officers (DSIO) in March of 1966 (Packard).

As a result of ONI’s new organization and responsibilities, counterintelligence—“intelligence activity devoted to destroying the effectiveness of inimical foreign intelligence activities and protecting information against espionage, personnel against subversion, and installations and material against sabotage”—was included as part of the agency’s agenda during WWI (Packard). From 1916-18, Congress continued to increase funding for the collection of information at home by naval districts (Packard).

ONI was also the first federal intelligence agency to deploy undercover agents during World War I (Packard). In 1916, an undercover branch office was established in New York City which was run by reservists and female and male civilians. This office was under the supervision of ONI (Mullis).

Unfortunately, many of the records of early Naval intelligence have been lost since most of these classified missions have gone unrecorded. Thus, this particularly limits the information available of NCIS’ past until 1966 when NIS (an early version of NCIS) officially broke away from ONI. Even after 1966, there is still not an abundance of unclassified informational sources. Due to these circumstances, it may be impossible to ever know the depth and degree to which members of the Intelligence community have served the Navy and Marine Corps communities (Mullis).

Even though much of the detail of ONI’s history related to intelligence work is missing, NCIS would never have developed without ONI. Throughout the 1950’s and 60’s, there were several reorganizations of the domestic intelligence part of ONI. In order to improve such functions, a decision was made to establish the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) on 4 February 1966 as a field activity, first of the CNO’s office and then, on 1 July 1967, as a field activity of the Naval Intelligence Command (Packard).

## WORLD WAR II TRANSFORMED ONI:

As the Navy decreased in size after WWI, ONI continued to collect, evaluate and disseminate intelligence information (ONI). In 1926, the Navy began to organize special groups of volunteer reserve intelligence officers; these cadres were intended to serve as

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Secretary of the Navy and the General Board).

<sup>11</sup> Captain Wyman H. Packard, USN (Retired). *A Century of U.S. Naval Intelligence*. Office of Naval Intelligence & The Naval Historical Center: Washington, 1996.  
*For more details on this period and citations of specific government documents relating to the creation of the District Information Service, see Packard.*

trained personnel that would collect intelligence in case there was a national emergency.<sup>12</sup>

After LTJG Cecil H. Coggins uncovered an Axis spy ring, there was an influx of counterintelligence experts (NCIS “To Protect”). In 1937, there were 14 special agents; these men would be the core of what would later become known after 1992 as the NCIS special agents corps.

Around 1939, there was a proposal to create a Naval Intelligence Investigative Service (NIIS) that would be a distinct agency subordinate to the Director of Naval Intelligence; however, in September 1939, this idea of a separate investigative service failed. All personnel who had been assigned to what was intended to be NIIS were then absorbed by the Investigative Section (B-D) of the District Intelligence office of section B-3 of ONI (Packard). These civilian investigators were referred to as the Naval Intelligence Investigating Service (NIS).<sup>13</sup> As early as 1930, there has been civilian investigative billets; these employees were referred to as Civilian Assistants to the District Intelligence Officer (CADIO). Other records from 1938 show that some agents were hired under the term “confidential employee.” Only after 1966 did the practice of contract agents end (Deahl).

In 1939, an Executive Memorandum signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt gave ONI direct responsibility for investigation, espionage and subversion (Mullis). (It should be noted that Franklin D. Roosevelt had been an early promoter of ONI when he was assistant director of the Navy). President Roosevelt’s executive command was as follows:

It is my desire that the investigation of all espionage, counter-espionage, and sabotage matters be controlled and handled by the General Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, and the Military Intelligence Division of the War Department, and the Office of Naval Intelligence of the Navy Department.<sup>14</sup>

As tensions throughout the world increased, there was a selective call-up of intelligence reservists for counterintelligence purposes in 1940 (NCIS “NCIS: History”). Furthermore, there was increased professional progress within ONI through the creation of report forms and a standard category system. Also, in 1940 the first of several delimitation agreements between FBI, ONI and MID was reached (Deahl).

The attack of Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941 marked a decisive date in the role of the US in World War II because U.S. forces were officially deployed overseas. During this period, investigative responsibilities were typically assigned to reserve officers.

Throughout WWII, ONI’s purpose continued to grow; the agency became responsible for personal security inquiries, war fraud cases and other intelligence related

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<sup>12</sup> Naval Criminal Investigative Service. “NCIS: History.” 8 Aug 2004.

<<http://www.ncis.navy.mil/aboutncis/history.html>>.

<sup>13</sup> O’Riley, SA William C. “A Look at the Past.” *A.R.N.I.S.S.A. Newsletter*. April 2004.

<sup>14</sup> Franklin D. Roosevelt. *Confidential Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of War, the Attorney General, the Postmaster General, the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of Commerce*. 26 Jun 1939.

activities.<sup>15</sup> Furthermore, until 1943, ONI was the only agency assigned to investigate Japanese activities within the United States (Deahl).

In 1942, the M/V AMANO symbolized the first special agent afloat undertaking. Manned by personnel of DIO-11ND, the AMANO was disguised as a Panamanian trawler and monitored merchant shipping during World War II (NCIS “NCIS: History”).

In 1945 Secretary of Navy Forrestal increased ONI’s responsibilities to major criminal and security investigation in addition to ONI’s sabotage and espionage duties. In a confidential memorandum dated 1 November 1945, Forrestal stated:

The investigative jurisdiction of the naval intelligence organization is hereby broadened to permit the use of naval intelligence personnel and facilities to investigate (1) Naval Personnel (2) Civilians under purely administrative control, and (3) matters under purely naval administrative control.<sup>16</sup>

The war and the understood need for increased intelligence created a need for more of a stable civilianized agency. Before intelligence posts were filled by naval officers as a stepping stone to hire ranks but in 1950 the employment of civilian agents began to increase even if these billets were not created or filled in a consistent fashion (US NIS “This is the Nis”).

Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s, approximately 500 ONI agents conducted general criminal investigations, counterintelligence and background investigations for the department of the Navy.<sup>17</sup> The Korean Conflict in 1950 also added to an increase in the number of agents (US NIS “This is the NIS”).

One domestic locale to which agents were assigned was Upstate New York. The first resident agent office was opened in Buffalo in 1950 even though agents had been there before this inaugural date. As O’Riley reports of his own experience during that time in “A Look at the Past”:

Pay was twice per month which meant sometimes three weeks could go by. DIO-3ND’S paymaster was “C. Benz” who hand-wrote the checks on ordinary bank issue. No mention of the government. You had to set up an account somewhere and convince the bank’s office you were legitimate. You were not supposed to let anyone outside official business know you were with Naval Intelligence (O’Riley).

As the agency began to develop, the Department of Defense reevaluated the agency’s organization. In 1964, as a result of a Department of Defense Study, Secretary McNamara directed that “... the commander of the Navy investigative organization be commander in fact as well as in name, having no primary responsibility other than

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<sup>15</sup> U.S. Naval Investigative Service. “This Is The NIS.” The Department of the Navy.

<sup>16</sup> The Secretary of the Navy. “Naval Investigative Functions and Responsibilities.” Confidential. 1 Nov. 1945.

<sup>17</sup> Naval Criminal Investigative Service. “Background information: History.”

managing the investigative organization” (Mullis). The modification of the Commander’s role reflects the increasing importance of intelligence work.

Then in May 1965, the Secretary of Defense directed a reorientation of the Navy’s approach to its counterintelligence requirements after an in-depth survey of Army, Navy and Air Force investigative and security organizations (Packard).

#### NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE IS FOUNDED:

On 4 February 1966, SECNAVNOTE 5450 was issued and with this document, the Naval Investigative Service (NIS) earned its independence from ONI:

The purpose of this Notice is to establish the Naval Investigative service and concurrently disestablish the naval Counterintelligence Support Center, all District Intelligence Offices, all Counterintelligence Support Activities and Support Units, and Seven Field Offices.<sup>18</sup>

Thus, the NIS was officially established in March 1966 when the investigative and counterintelligence duties formerly performed by a district intelligence office were assigned to a Naval Investigative Service Office (NISO); non investigative functions were temporarily retained by the NISO’s until the district staff intelligence officers (DSIO) were established. Later, NIS would adopt the present name of NCIS in 1992.

In March 1967, the Special Agent Afloat program was officially initiated by the office in Naples, Italy. Overtime, this program was developed from an initial agent on a carrier in 1942. The program called for agents to be stationed on ships in order to give professional investigative support to deployed Navy and Marine Corps commanders for a short period of time. Eventually, two fully deployed special agents were assigned to each aircraft battle group for a year at a time (NCIS “To protect”).

In July 1969, special agents officially became criminal investigators who were part of the civil service and stopped serving as contract employees.

#### AGENTS ENTER A COMBAT ZONE, VIETNAM:

NIS agents have always gone to where they were needed. Similarly, when America went to Vietnam, NIS agents were deployed. Only male agents were sent to Vietnam starting in 1966; each assignment was a twelve month unaccompanied tour in a combat zone. These agents were either assigned to NISRA Saigon or NISRA Danang. Fortunately, NIS did not suffer any casualties during these tours.<sup>19</sup>

For the agency’s accomplishments in Vietnam, the Naval Investigative Service Office in Vietnam later received the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation; this award is given by the Secretary of the Navy to a unit of the US Navy or Marine Corps which “distinguish[es] itself by either valorous or meritorious achievement considered outstanding when compared to other units performing similar service.”<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> SECNAVNOTE 5450. 4 Feb 1966.

<sup>19</sup> SA Bill Biscomb. “Vietnam: I Was There.” *NCIS Bulletin*. Winter 1987.

<sup>20</sup> Naval Helicopter Association. “Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation.”

As a result of the United States' forces involvement in Vietnam and the Cold War, more civilian special agents continued to be hired. By 1969, there was period where NIS employed 1000 agents before the number dwindled back down to 900 (NCIS "Background: History").

Also, during this period, NIS was making technological advances; the agency pioneered the application of automated data processing (ADP) techniques in the U.S. investigative and counterintelligence community; NIS' system became worldwide by 1970 (Packard).

As NIS' responsibilities continued to grow, the Defense Investigative Service (DIS) was created in 1972 to conduct personnel security investigations and related activities. The creation of DIS was intended to relieve NIS of these duties so that agents would have more time for criminal investigations and counterintelligence; however, the addition of DIS was not initially beneficial since half of NIS' agents were transferred to DIS in order to support this new bureau. In the end, NIS had a shortage of personnel (NCIS "Background: History").

#### THE AGENCY'S GROWTH:

By the late 1970s, NIS had rebuilt its employee base and was no longer a small organization; NIS had become a full partner with many federal, state and local law enforcement International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and a full member of the U.S. delegation to the Interpol General Assembly."<sup>21</sup>

From around 1972-80, the agent corps was about 500 until Ronald Reagan became president in 1980; the Reagan administration was responsible for building up the Department of Defense and the intelligence community (NCIS "Background: History").

In 1982, NIS was elevated within the Navy to an Echelon II command; this gave the agency control over its annual budget. Furthermore, NIS was removed from the operational control of the Navy Intelligence Command. During this time, there was improvement to the Navy's law enforcement and physical security programs. Because of this additional focus on new security aspects of the agency's mission, NIS changed its name to the Naval Security and Investigative Command (NSIC) (NSIC "Background: History"). Eventually, NIS would run the Navy's Master-At-Arms program and military working dog program (NCIS "Background: History"). Today, NCIS' Law Enforcement and Physical Security Programs Department is responsible for developing policy in the following areas: ammunition and weapons security, general physical security law enforcement, and antiterrorism/force protection. Furthermore, the Master-At-Arms program and military working dog program still remain centerpieces to this department.<sup>22</sup>

In 1983, there were several terrorist attacks on the Navy. One case of particular importance was the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon on 23 October (NCIS "Background:History"). In response to these events, the US Navy's Antiterrorist

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<<http://www.navalhelicopterassn.org/medsribs/rib23.htm>>.

*In Naval Criminal Investigative Service. "Background Information: Vietnam."  
There is a reproduction of the Secretary of Navy's letter.*

<sup>21</sup> SA. (Ret.) J. Brian McKee. "Statutory Arrest Authority; A Look Back." *NCIS Bulletin*.

<sup>22</sup> Naval Criminal Investigative Service. "NCIS: Law Enforcement and Physical Security." 12 Aug 2004.  
<<http://www.ncis.navy.mil/activities/LEPS/LEPS.html>>.

Alert Center (ATAC) was established. The function of the ATAC was to produce daily summaries of terrorist activity and analysis. The ATAC was the first 24-hour Antiterrorist watch in the US intelligence community. In 2003, the ATAC was absorbed into the Multiple Threat Alert Center (MTAC)—a newly established antiterrorist surveillance post.

In addition to the ATAC, NIS agents were deployed to Beirut throughout the Beirut conflict which began in 1983; they provided criminal investigative support to Navy and Marine Corps Personnel as well as counterintelligence support.<sup>23</sup>

In 1984, agents began to train at the General Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Georgia. This is the same training center that most other federal investigative agencies use except for the FBI (NCIS “Background: History”).

In August 1985, NIS was given full command status after Rear Admiral Cathal L. Flynn, USN, a flag officer, become commander. Consequentially, NIS had to report to both the CNO and the Secretary of the Navy. Also, in 1985, the name of the command is changed to the Naval Security and Investigative Command in which NIS is a major element; NIS was given the responsibility of controlling the Navy’s information and personnel security programs (NCIS “Background: History”).

In 1986, the agent corps reached over 1000 people. During the same year, NSIC started the Department of the Navy’s Central Adjudication Facility—the DON CAF; this program was meant to review security clearance investigations conducted by DIS and, subsequently determine suitability for the issuance or retention of security clearances. Today, the DON CAF adjudicates security clearance for the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard and civilians working within the Department of the Navy (NCIS: “Background: history”).

On 8 September 1988, the agency adopted a new name; the organization was designated as the Naval Investigative Service Command (NISCOM) after the Rear Admiral John E. Gordon, the agency’s second flag rank commander, felt that there were a lot of miscommunication about the identity of the agency (NSIC “Background: History”).

In the early 90s, NIS was recognized for its investigation of procurement fraud cases under Operation III Wind. The mission began in September 1986 and ended as a joint operation with the FBI in January 1994. After the completion of this operation, Attorney General Janet Reno said: “Operation III Wind had been one of the most successful investigations and prosecutions ever undertaken by the Department of Justice against white-collar crime in the history of your country.”

#### ESPIONAGE CASES:

NIS was involved in several espionage cases throughout the 1980s. Two cases are particularly noteworthy: the Jonathon Jay Pollard case and the Walker espionage case.

In 1985, NIS agents arrested Jonathon Jay Pollard for stealing documents for Israel. This case was particularly stressful since Jonathon Jay Pollard was also a NIS agent.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Gary G. Cumberland. “NIS Agents Had A Close Up Look at War While in Beirut.”

<sup>24</sup> Criminal Complaint Against Jonathon Jay Pollard. 21 Nov. 1985.



Another high profile case was the Walker espionage case in which NIS became involved because the man under suspicion was a former Marine.

#### PERSIAN GULF WAR:

During operation Desert Storm which began in 1991, special agents were responsible for counterintelligence. NISCOM was the first service counterintelligence agency to produce a tailored threat assessment for the Persian Gulf region.<sup>25</sup> In December 1991, the National Foreign Intelligence Committee presented two Meritorious Unit Citations to members of the Naval Investigative Service Command for their accomplishments in the Persian Gulf War (NCIS “Background Information: Persian”).

Throughout the Persian Gulf, Naval Counterintelligence and (CI) and Force Protection made large improvements in providing relevant support to the Fleet by not just focusing Force Protection on the Soviet threat but more towards the needs of the war fighting commands. After the completion of the Gulf War, NCIS was able to begin a more systematic approach for developing specific strategies to prosecute new CI/force protection problem. The first time these strategies were used was in December 1992 when US forced entered Somalia. It should also be noted that throughout the early 90s, NIS also conducted other antiterrorist actions in Europe and at home (NCIS: “Background Information: Persian”).

#### CIVILIAN CONTROL:

NISCOM underwent a drastic change in 1992 when the organization became run by a civilian. In the past, the agency had been run by a military officer, first a Navy Captain and eventually a Rear Admiral who reported to the Chief of Naval Operations. This restructuring was brought about largely as a result of adverse publicity after an explosion aboard the USS Iowa in 1989 and the “Tailhook” scandal in Las Vegas in 1991. The changes made had the following results:

- (1) The name was changed to NCIS, in order to emphasize the organization’s criminal investigative mission.
- (2) The military leadership was replaced by the first civilian law enforcement director, SA Roy Nedrow; this position was placed directly under the Secretary of the Navy (a civilian post) and separated from uniformed Navy leadership.
- (3) All military are commands were disestablished.

Director Roy D. Nedrow was the first civilian head of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Prior to this role, he was an SES US Secret Service agent. He began his tenure on December 28, 1992. During his time as director, the agency underwent a process to “flatten out” the field organization by eliminating two layers of management. Thus, he terminated three Area Commands and phased out the nine Regional offices. Before this, field offices did not have direct contact with NCIS headquarters. Also, there was an effort to downsize—field elements were reduced as

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<sup>25</sup> Naval Criminal Investigative Service. “Background Information: Persian Gulf War.”

well the number of Special Agents corps. This was done through hiring freezes, natural attrition and early retirements. It should be noted that there were no layoffs during this time. These structural transformations gave NCIS a similar infrastructure to other law enforcement agencies (NCIS “Commanding Officers Guide”)

#### SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 90s TO THE PRESENT:

On 1 August 1993, the Government Liaison and Public Affairs office was established as a new internal department.

In July 1995, NCIS established a permanent Cold Case Homicide Unit. This addition can be attributed to NCIS agents’ solving the Bartlett Case in which a Lieutenant was killed and a Lieutenant and Petty Officer were beaten in the U.S. Virgin Island in 1993. By 1994, little progress had been made in the case despite the fact that the FBI, Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD), and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service were all involved. In response, a task force was created with six NCIS agents and five VIPD Detectives and one deputy Marshall; the team became known as the Virgin Islands Task force (VITF). The group began investigations on 4 January 1995 and by the end of that month, Lieutenant Bartlett’s murderer was in custody.

Today, the NCIS Cold Case Homicide Unit has three functions: investigating unresolved murders; assisting other law enforcement agencies with homicide cases and investigative leads; training federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Cold Case methodology upon their request.<sup>26</sup>

In 1999, NCIS and the Marine Corps Criminal Investigative Division (CID) signed a memorandum of understanding which called for an integration of Marine Corps CID into NCIS

In 2000, Special agents of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service were granted the authority to execute warrants and make arrests in sec 7480 of H.R. 5408 which originated in the House of Representatives during the 106h Congress.<sup>27</sup>

As a result of the attack of the USS Cole in Yemen and NCIS agents being deployed to Iraq, the ATAC was transformed into the Multiple Threat Alert Center (MTAC) which is the Department of the Navy’s fusion, analysis, and dissemination center for terrorist, criminal, counterintelligence and security information.<sup>28</sup>

During Operation Iraqi freedom, NCIS agents have been deployed. Initially, NCIS agents were debriefing captured Iraqis which led to several intelligence leads. NCIS also sent in physical security specialists to minimize potential hazards. Currently, NCIS provides protective services for senior officials and goes on counterintelligence and investigative missions. Finally, NCIS have been investigating war crimes and giving forensic support on Iraqi mass gravesites (*Eyes on Target*).

NCIS:

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<sup>26</sup> Naval Criminal Investigative Service and Cold Case Homicide Unit and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation present Cold Case Homicide Investigations: Methodolgy and Protocol. NCIS Cold Case Homicide Unit in 1996, and was updated in February, 2000.

<sup>27</sup> H.R. 5408. *To Authorize Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001 for Military Activities of the Department of Defense for Military Construction, and for Defense Activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe Personal Strengths for Such Fiscal year for Armed Forces and other purposes.*

<sup>28</sup> Naval Criminal Investigative Service. *Eyes on Target*.

NCIS' development is a reflection of a changing world and times. The cases that special agents pursue as well as the developments of the internal infrastructure, all reflect NCIS' need for flexibility and adaptability in order to serve those that depend on the agency.

#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

This document was prepared by an intern in Code OOC, Dana Rosenberg, during the summer of 2004. This source has its limitations due to her unclassified status, time constraints and inconsistencies of sources. Due to these circumstances, much of this history has been based on Paul Mullis's historical document and Albert Deahl's article. Despite these certain shortcomings, this brief history hopes to serve as a tool in order to gain a better understanding of NCIS' past.

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