

Op-16-B-3
Pl3-7/QN
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Serial 0873016

NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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26 April 1945

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From: Director of Naval Intelligence.
District Intelligence Officers, All Naval Districts;
Intelligence Officer, Potomac River Naval Command;
Intelligence Officer, Severn River Naval Command.

Subject: HOMOSEXUALS - Investigations of.

1. In investigations of naval personnel who are alleged to be engaged in homosexual activities, it is suggested that any signed statements obtained contain only such information as the person making the statement actually knows and concerning which he is competent to testify. The names of persons suspected or merely thought to be perverts should not be included in such statements, but may be recorded locally as information of possible future interest.

2. If, during investigations of naval personnel, Army personnel are named as homosexual such information, if factual, may at the discretion of the District Intelligence Officer be furnished to local Army authorities.

3. It has been noted that the practice is followed in some districts of conducting extensive background investigations of naval personnel allegedly engaged in homosexual activities, including numerous interviews with friends, neighbors, business associates, and references. Experience has shown that such inquiries seldom develop any pertinent information except in rare cases when the subject has been extremely promiscuous and indiscreet. This type of investigation might also prove very embarrassing to the Naval Intelligence Service and do an injustice in those cases where improper conduct on the part of subject is not established.

4. It is suggested, therefore, that investigations be directed toward ascertaining whether the subject currently associates or corresponds with known homosexuals and the reason for and the nature of his association with such persons. If information obtained by surveillance or other means discloses circumstances strongly indicating an unnatural relationship between subject and such persons, it has been found that an interview with

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Date: Unit:

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the subject of the investigation, preceded where considered advisable by an interview with the person or persons the subject is thought to have been involved with, results in most cases in a written admission of homosexual conduct.

5. It should also be borne in mind that in some instances naval personnel have attempted to obtain their release from the service by making untrue admissions of homosexual activity and naming numerous individuals with whom they claim to have had such relations.

6. These investigations must be confined to cases where definite allegations have been made and PROPER AUTHORITY HAS REQUESTED THE INVESTIGATION. Any activity which might be interpreted as "witch hunting" or "finger pointing" should be carefully avoided.

(Sgd) H. E. KEISKER
H. E. Keisker,
By direction.

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