

Op-16-B-3
A8-5/LL
Serial 1101416

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations
WASHINGTON

SO-52108

May 13, 1942

UNCLASSIFIED

From: The Vice Chief of Naval Operations.
To: Chiefs of All Bureaus.
Directors of all Divisions of the Office
of Naval Operations.
Director of Shore Establishments, Assistant
Secretary's Office.
Subject: Investigation of Personnel.

1. Since the outbreak of war, 3,268 requests for investigations of personnel, whether of the Navy, civilian employees of the Department, or applicants for employment have been received by the Office of Naval Intelligence. Of these, approximately 1,100 have been completed. *reference 3*

2. It is obviously desirable that the integrity of personnel dealing constantly with secret and confidential matters should be assured. To permit this assurance requires a thorough investigation and the expenditure of considerable time on the part of the relatively small force of investigators available. An incomplete or half-way investigation cannot give the necessary assurance.

3. With this requirement for a thorough investigation and the time necessary therefor, it is apparent that clearance cannot be given for some time to the total number of personnel for whom investigations have been asked. It will be probable also that this number will be considerably increased by additional daily requests for investigations as employees are taken on.

4. On the other hand, it is believed that a careful limitation of the number of personnel entrusted with secret matters will reduce the necessary number of investigations to a point where they may be more readily concluded. At present, there seems to be a disproportionate number asked by certain agencies, even after allowances for the character of work performed by those agencies. For

48
DECLASSIFIED

Authority NND 73643

example, investigations have been requested by some agencies as follows:

Bureau of Aeronautics	666
Bureau of Ordnance	267
Bureau of Ships	193
Division of Communications (Op-20)	1493
Secretary's Office (SOSED)	357

5. It is requested that all addressees limit their requests for investigations as far as practicable, considering the need for assurance of the integrity of personnel actually employed on secret matters or in contact with secret correspondence. It is further requested that the agencies listed in the preceding paragraph review their lists of requests and cancel those which are not essential, in order that an earlier completion may be accomplished of the essential investigations on personnel not only of their offices but also of all offices in the Department.

UNCLASSIFIED

/s/ F. J. Horno.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 73043