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(A8-CES-de)
DIO - 4572

DISTRICT INTELLIGENCE OFFICE
ELEVENTH NAVAL DISTRICT
ROOM 200, BROADWAY PIER
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

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May 29, 1943

MEMORANDUM

To: Director Of Naval Intelligence

Subj: U. S. Marine Corps Intelligence Organization.

Ref: (a) Comdt, USMC, ltr AO-306-rd (02A10343) dated 22
APR 1943, subj: Counter Intelligence Officers. *F7932*

1. With a view of clarifying the situation regarding the relations of Marine Corps Domestic Intelligence Officers with the District Intelligence Officer, and with particular reference to telephonic conversation between the District Intelligence Officer, 11ND, and the Director of Naval Intelligence on May 12, 1943, the following comment is submitted.
2. The mission of Marine Corps Domestic Intelligence as set forth in paragraph 3 of ref. (a) is broader than that of Naval Intelligence. Marine Corps Intelligence Officers are called upon to investigate cases of "unethical behavior", and in turn become lost in a maze of petty thefts, perversion cases, automobile accident cases, cases involving drunkenness, etc. It is also to be noted that they are called upon to handle "censorship regulations". This again goes beyond the present mission of Naval Intelligence.
3. Paragraph 3 of ref. (a) also states that the Marine Corps officers are to contact local and national law-enforcing agencies of the government. This is contrary to the Delimitation Agreement of February 9, 1942 which requires that contacts of this nature are to be made solely through the DIO and not directly with the agency. The latter rule has worked well as it prevents confusion and insures proper coordination.
4. Paragraph 4 of ref. (a) is confusing in that Marine Corps Domestic Intelligence Officers are entirely under the command of the Commanding Officer of the particular Marine Corps station to which they are assigned. This chain of command leaves no authority or control in the DIO, and is contrary to the principle enunciated by the Chief of Naval Operations which states that an Officer-in-Charge of an Intelligence Unit is under the military command of the Commanding Officer of the activity concerned, and that he is also under the command and is an integral part of the District Intelligence Organization.

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5. The phrase, "to the immediate vicinity of the post," as set forth in Paragraph 4 of ref. (a) is vague in that it cannot be determined how far beyond the vicinity of the post Marine Corps officers are permitted to go. No authority rests with the DIO over Marine Corps officers who become overly zealous and disseminate information to other agencies. Moreover, the broader mission of the Domestic Intelligence Organization of the Marine Corps comes into conflict with the more limited mission of Naval Intelligence. When requests are made for investigation involving matters beyond the vicinity of the post which pertain to events entirely outside the mission of Naval Intelligence yet within the mission of the Marine Corps Domestic Intelligence Organization, the DIO has no other alternative than to refuse to conduct the investigation.

6. There is no record of any Form 119 investigation of the Marine Intelligence officers recently arrived in this District on file in the DIO-11ND. Letter from the Commandant, U.S.M.C., does not make reference to investigations of Marine Intelligence personnel. Without such investigations the DIO cannot make available information to Marine Intelligence officers from his files.

7. It is believed for coordination that all investigation reports should be made by Marine Intelligence officers and should be routed through the DIO organization to ONI for the use of the Commandant, Marine Corps, and the established procedure and form followed.

8. A problem peculiar to Eleventh Naval District has arisen in connection with Marine officers at outlying posts under the broad command of the Commanding General, U.S.M.C., San Diego Area. These officers, even those of rank of Major General, are required to first clear all matters with the Area command, and the matters are then routed to the District Intelligence Officer in the event that command deems it necessary. As a result, time is lost, many endorsements are required, and confidential matters are seen unnecessarily by a great many individuals. The District Intelligence Officer is also required to clear all matters pertaining to the San Diego Area command through its Commanding General, and the same confusion and delay takes place.