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Intelligence Sections in the Offices of Chiefs of Arms and Services (AG 321.19MID 6 Sept. 1940)

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Title:

Intelligence Sections in the Offices of Chiefs of Arms and Services
(AG 321.19MID 6 Sept. 1940)

Description:

This document consists of a memorandum instructing senior staff officers in the headquarters of the War Department to set up intelligence sections in their offices. Those senior Army staff officers included the Chief of the Air Corps, the Chief of the Chemical Warfare Service, the Chief of Engineers, the Chief of Ordnance, the Chief Signal Officer, the Quartermaster General, and the Surgeon General. Also included are a “Distribution Sheet” showing who copies were sent to and a letter from the National Archives forwarding the memorandum to Robert L. Bolin.

The memorandum was a charter for organizations that grew into large intelligence agencies in the Army and the Department of Defense.

During World War II, the Chemical Warfare Service, the Corps of Engineers, the Department of Ordnance, Signal Corps, Quartermaster Corps, the Medical Department, and the newly created Transportation Corps came to be known as the Army Technical Services. During the war the offices of the chiefs of the Technical Services grew considerably as did the intelligence sections in them.

The intelligence sections survived retrenchment after World War II. In the 1950s, several of those intelligence sections evolved into small specialized intelligence agencies including the Army Chemical Corps Intelligence Agency, Army Ordnance Intelligence Agency, the Army Signal Intelligence Agency, Army Quartermaster Intelligence Agency, The Army Medical Information and Intelligence Agency, and the Army Transportation Intelligence Agency.

During the early 1960s, the Army Technical Services were reorganized radically and the intelligence activities in the Technical Services were incorporated into the Defense Intelligence Agency and a new Army technical intelligence agency.
SUBJECT: Intelligence Sections in the Offices of Chiefs of Arms and Services.

TO: Chief of Coast Artillery,  
Chief of Air Corps,  
Chief of Chemical Warfare Service,  
Chief of Engineers,  
Chief of Ordnance,  
Chief Signal Officer,  
The Quartermaster General,  
The Surgeon General,  
Chief of Cavalry,  
Chief of Field Artillery,  
Chief of Infantry, and  
The Judge Advocate General.  

(SEE DISTRIBUTION SHEET ATTACHED).

1. An Intelligence Section in the Offices of Chiefs of Arms and Services will be established and maintained for the following purposes:

   a. The Military Intelligence Division, War Department General Staff, receives and disseminates foreign military information of a comprehensive nature. It sends out information bulletins of various kinds and maintains digests and estimates on foreign countries. It recognizes that in principle, only the user knows what information he wants, and only when it reaches the user is such information of any value. But the Division does not always know what information is wanted by those agencies which can use it, nor can it in all cases disseminate information directly to those agencies.

   b. An essential link in the intelligence chain is, therefore, a section in the office of the Chief of Arm or Service which can receive, collate and pass on to M.I.D. requests for information wanted by the using agencies of that Arm or Service, and can disseminate to those agencies information which M.I.D. obtains. The needs of the Arms and Services frequently include technical questions that can be stated intelligently only by a specialist.

   c. Requests for information will be digested and collated by the intelligence sections of the Arms and Services before being passed on to M.I.D. The former will make sure that such requests do not cover information already received or available to them. They will also be
responsible that all information received or available is disseminated to all agencies of their Arm or Service which might have use for it.

2. The reproduction of information received from M.I.D. is authorized, in accordance with Army Regulations, subject to the following provisions:

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By order of the Secretary of War:

Major General,
The Adjutant General.


COMPARSED: jh/wr.

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MISCELLANEOUS DIVISION, A. C. O.

Distribution Sheet

July 2, 1940

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Secretary, General Staff

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Chief of Air Corps
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Chief Quartermaster General

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Cy. to The Adjutant General

Cy.

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Cy.

ARMIES:

Commanding General, 1st Army, Governors Island, New York.

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