

14 June 1952

Colonel Frederick D. Sharp
Executive Officer, G-2, GSUSA
The Pentagon

My dear Colonel Sharp,

Your letter of 31 May 1952 requesting ideas for a new Army intelligence system affords me the opportunity to synthesize my thinking on a problem which has been in the back of my mind for some time. As an Army officer intensely interested in Military Intelligence, I have given considerable thought to the conflicting requirements of generalization and specialization in the development of military leadership and sound organization. A troop commander without an understanding of intelligence and its relationship to his plans, estimates, and decisions is as incomplete a military leader as an intelligence officer lacking a sound knowledge of combat command, organization, and operations.

Mr. Pace, Secretary of the Army, in a 20 May address at West Point stated "Military leadership must address itself to those more technical fields of production, intelligence, personnel, research and development as well as the combat fields with comparable rewards for a career in each."

The answer to both questions raised in your letter lies in the specific measures taken to solve the problem posed by Mr. Pace.

From a personal viewpoint, I am often disquieted by the thought that I may be prejudicing my opportunities for advancement and high level training by pursuing my love for intelligence work when my career management program resides in the hands of my basic branch with specific branch criteria the normal basis for selection for higher level training and consideration for advancement to the grade of general officer.

It is my considered opinion that the establishment of an Intelligence Corps is desirable for the very reasons advanced by you for considering a reorganization, i.e., (a) the tendency to shun intelligence as a desirable career; (b) the AC/S, G-2, Department of the Army, under existing organization does not have the means nor the authority to control the procurement, assignment, and training of intelligence personnel as do chiefs of the technical services; and (c) the problem of authority and method for the AC/S, G-2, to properly coordinate the operations of all intelligence agencies below departmental level to produce an efficient, well-balanced overall intelligence effort. Furthermore, I believe the existence of such a Corps will assist in developing "intelligence consciousness" in commanders at all echelons.

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The following recommendations are respectfully submitted for consideration:

(1) That under the provisions of Section 306.(a) of the Army Organization Act of 1950 the Secretary of the Army establish an Intelligence Corps as a basic branch of the Army.

(2) That the Intelligence Corps have administrative, operational, technical, training, and supervisory responsibilities paralleling those of the present Technical Services.

(3) That the organizational structure of the Intelligence Corps provide for an Army Security Service (Signal Intelligence and Communication Security), a Counter Intelligence Service, and a Military Intelligence Service as major basic components of the Corps.

(4) That under the provisions of Section 306.(d) of the Army Organization Act of 1950 the Secretary of the Army prescribe regulations for detail of members of the Intelligence Corps of the Army to other branches or groups and for detail of members of other branches for duty with the Intelligence Corps.

(5) That personnel assigned to or detailed for duty with the Intelligence Corps be trained and available for duty in any of the several components of the Intelligence Corps and not permanently appointed or commissioned in but one of the services comprising the Corps.

(6) That, in order to insure that Intelligence officers do not become inbred and will also be available for troop command and other assignments, such as General Staff, at least twenty-five per cent of the commissioned strength of the Corps will be maintained on detail to other branches and groups.

(7) That, in order to insure the development of intelligence consciousness in commanders at all echelons, at least twenty-five per cent of the commissioned strength of the Corps will be detailed to the Corps from other branches.

Sincerely,

Arthur C. Peterson
Colonel, Arty