

9 February 1955

TO: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Staff Study on Intelligence Decorations

1. PROBLEM:

To establish policy regarding award by CIA of intelligence decorations to personnel of other U. S. Government Departments and Agencies.

2. FACTS BEARING ON THE PROBLEM:

- a. The purpose of most awards programs is recognition of outstanding performance. Such recognition usually includes public announcement and tangible evidence of the award.
- b. Within CIA recognition must be adjusted to security requirements. To accomplish this the four CIA decorations were created to recognize outstanding performance by CIA personnel in the intelligence field. The National Security Medal and the Medal of Freedom may also be awarded for such service in accordance with the governing Executive Orders.
- c. Military and Foreign Service personnel may also warrant recognition for service performed for CIA. For military personnel the practice of CIA has been to recommend to the parent service the award of a military decoration on the assumption that such decorations are of greater value career-wise for these personnel than are CIA decorations. Further, when such action is taken, public recognition presents a lesser security problem. A secure channel has been established to allow for oral presentations by CIA representatives to military awards boards.
- d. No recommendations for Foreign Service personnel detailed to CIA have been forwarded to the Honor Awards Board. However, a suggestion

25X1C4a

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP78-04718A001700120016-5

3. DISCUSSION:

- a. It is believed that detailed Foreign Service personnel will seldom engage in sensitive operations. Though CIA awards might be granted in these cases, those of the Foreign Service would seem more desirable.



25X1C4a

- b. The intelligence connotation attached to the National Security Medal would categorize it with CIA decorations in the situations outlined above. No such connotation is attached to the Medal of Freedom.

4. CONCLUSIONS:

- a. That CIA Honor Awards be reserved for CIA personnel, and that such awards should not be made to personnel of other agencies.
- b. That the present method of recommending military decorations for military personnel detailed to CIA is sound.
- c. That, as required, CIA develop liaison similar to that existing with the Department of Defense with other agencies for the purpose of obtaining recognition for personnel [redacted] (or detailed to) CIA.
- d. That existence of such liaison should not preclude CIA from awarding CIA decorations to detailed personnel if parent Agency action is deemed inappropriate.

25X1C

Approved For Release 2001/08/07 : CIA-RDP78-04718A001700120016-5

~~SECRET~~

5. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- a. That it shall be the general policy of CIA to award CIA decorations for service in the intelligence field only to CIA personnel.
- b. That such service performed by personnel of other agencies in cooperation with or in support of CIA shall be recognized by a recommendation to the parent agency for the award of an appropriate decoration and that channels be established for such action.
- c. That when action as outlined in b. is inadvisable, it shall be the policy to consider award of CIA decorations for outstanding service by personnel detailed to CIA (both military and civilian).
- d. That CIA will not recommend awards of the National Security Medal to personnel of other government departments and agencies in those cases where the intelligence connotation of such awards would be damaging.

Signed

[Redacted Signature]
Chairman,
CIA Honor Awards Board

25X1A9a

Concur:

Approve:

15
Chairman, CIA/Career Council

Acting Director of
Central Intelligence

Date: 6 APR 1955

Date: _____

25X1A9a

HAB: [Redacted] :vcd (9 Feb 55)

Distribution:

- Orig & 12 - D/Personnel
- 2 - DDCI
- 2 - DD/S
- 1 - signer
- 1 - Chrono