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CIA's Camp Peary Back In The News

RECENT DISCLOSURES about alleged improprieties by the Central Intelligence Agency involving domestic surveillance of American citizens have brought Camp Peary back in the news.

Although no allegation relating to spying on Americans here at home has been linked with the CIA's training base at Camp Peary, the top-secret facility has been mentioned in a number of news accounts and interviews in recent weeks.

Newsweek magazine 10 days ago reported on a new book about the CIA written by Philip Agee, a former career CIA operative in South America. The newsmagazine quoted Agee's detailed revelations about CIA operations both here and overseas, and mentioned his training at Camp Peary during the late 1950s.

Agee himself said on the NBC network talk show "Tomorrow" aired last Thursday from Toronto, Canada, that he had received formal field training for the CIA "at Camp Peary, which is just outside Williamsburg, in Virginia."

Agee's book, "Inside the Company: a CIA Diary" has reportedly revealed the identity of more than 300 agents overseas in detailing the extent of covert CIA operations. While it has been published outside the United States, the book won't be on the bookshelves here for several more months at the earliest.

Parade magazine has also begun looking into CIA activities at their training base here. Last week a Parade contributing editor, Robert Walters, was in town visiting the Gazette offices for an upcoming article on CIA bases in Virginia.

Parade's interest in Camp Peary stems from a series of stories by the Gazette beginning in 1972 on the type of training programs run at the base during the late 1960s and early 1970s, including the instruction of "assassination cadres" for the CIA-run Phoenix counter-terror operation in Vietnam and instruction of surveillance techniques given domestic police departments.

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