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**(U) Original CIA Seal Returns to Agency (WN#523a8)**

Posted By (b)(3)  
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In a ceremony on May 4, former DCI and Ambassador Richard Helms presented DCI George Tenet with the original CIA Seal, signed by President Harry Truman.

  Director of the Center for the Study of Intelligence, reminded the audience that the 1947 National Security Act, which established the Agency, also authorized the DCI to commission an official Agency seal. It was designed and painted by the Heraldic Branch of the Quartermaster General's Office in the Department of the Army. President Truman approved the now familiar design in an Executive Order on February 17, 1950, signed several copies of the seal at a ceremony at the White House, and presented a copy to DCI Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter. The seal hung in the offices of DCIs from Walter Bedell Smith to Richard Helms. The seal was inadvertently packed in Helms' belongings by his staff when he was leaving office. It has since been reframed and restored.

*Continued in column 2*



**(U)** *Former DCI Richard Helms presents DCI George Tenet with the original CIA Seal.*

[Click here for picture enlargement](#)

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Ambassador Helms, speaking "in the interests of truthful history," traced the location of the seal as it passed through various offices of the DCI and DDCI during the years. DCI Tenet noted that "this is a bit of history important for everyone," and vowed to return it to its traditional place.

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