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SECURITY INFORMATION

Air Force Career Field

TWO

S/ASST

13 Aug 53

1. Recognition of present inadequacies in the enlisted career structure of the USAFSS and the work done on this problem by NSA's Training Division are appreciated by all concerned with the COMINT product.

2. This office submits the following thoughts for your consideration:

a. Cryptologic equipment maintenance is very important and continually increases in importance. The existing communications maintenance career field is already large and cumbersome. A great deal of the equipment used by cryptologic agencies is inherently different from more conventional equipment. Perhaps the existing communications maintenance career field could prove to be an excellent source for career airmen of E-4 and E-5 ratings who could round out their careers in a separate cryptologic equipment maintenance field.

b. The implications of paragraph c of your D/F are not clear. In any discussion, such as this, dealing with COMINT, COMSEC must not be alighted. It is true that COMSEC is directly applicable to the existing communications career field. However, in regard to COMINT, COMSEC has unique, very definite, and extremely important applications that pertain very directly to the success of the functions of everyone in the COMINT field. Perhaps a separate Air Force Specialty in COMSEC could be developed concurrently with the COMINT field.

c. In relation to the schematic break-down of the COMINT career field, and pending publication of job descriptions, there appear to be some possibilities of functional overlap - particularly under actual working conditions - especially in the general areas of special identification and D/F.

d. It is felt that the current and projected AF policy is to increase the stature and responsibilities of E-6 and E-7 personnel. Granted that provision should be made for advancement to W-0, however W-0's are relatively scarce. Perhaps provision should be made for qualified E-6's and E-7's to serve in the superintendent level.

e. It is noted that work is now being done in the ELINT field by USAFSS, and that this consideration has been omitted from your discussion.

f. Perhaps to get a more representative view of NSA's ideas in this matter, an informal conference could be arranged among interested parties from COMSEC, PROD, and R & D.

g. This office is interested in the overall COMINT and COMSEC personnel problem. Further discussion is welcomed.

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