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GROUP 1
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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SECURITY GROUP COMMAND HEADQUARTERS
3801 NEBRASKA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20390

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NSG/G54/jm
3120
BYE-52,137-71
29 APR 1971

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From: Commander, Naval Security Group Command
To: Distribution List

Subj: Project POPPY Standard Operating Procedures; forwarding of

Ref: (a) Manual for Standard Operating Procedures for System POPPY BYE-3997-62 of July 1965

Encl: (1) POPPY Standard Procedures, Module 4.0-4.4.7 "POPPY PROGRAM SIGNAL ASSIGNMENTS"
(2) Tentative outline for revised POPPY Program Standard Operational Procedures

1. Field operational procedures, as they apply to Naval Security Group Activities with Project POPPY facilities, are currently undergoing review and revision. In order that the procedural documentation most in need of updating may be promulgated in a more timely manner, a modular concept has been adopted wherein the various sections of POPPY Standard Operating Procedures are being revised and promulgated separately.

2. Enclosure (1) represents the most current guidance from USIB(SORS) and NSA regarding Signals of Interest and processing assignments for the POPPY system, and as such, will cancel and supersede all existing assignments and procedures contained in reference (a) or otherwise promulgated should a conflict in instructions occur. When implemented electrically by this Headquarters, enclosure (1) should be used as the basis for routine, continuing operations. Certain of the continuing requirements, currently described as Special Tasks, have been included as a part of the permanently established mission of POPPY field stations by enclosure (1). Accordingly, the Tasks involved will be terminated when enclosure (1) is implemented. All other Special Tasks will remain in effect until fully satisfied or otherwise terminated.

3. Enclosure (2) outlines the format and content tentatively planned for the revised Standard Operating Procedures for Project POPPY. Each of these modular sections will be developed

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to the extent and in the detail required to provide the level of guidance necessary to insure effective coordination of field operations. Recommendations concerning the development of these sections, or others which are not included in enclosure (2) are invited and should be forwarded to this Headquarters (Attn: G54).

[redacted]

By direction

Distribution:

CHNAVMAT(PM-16) (with 1 cpy encl (1) and (2))
DIRNSA (W242) (with 1 cpy encl (1) and (2))
SAFSS (SOC) (with 1 cpy encl (1) and (2))
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4.0 POPPY PROGRAM SIGNAL ASSIGNMENTS

The United States Intelligence Board(USIB) SIGINT Overhead Reconnaissance Subcommittee(SORS) establishes the policies which determine the systems and emissions against which national intelligence collection resources of the National Reconnaissance Office(NRO) are to be directed. In the case of the POPPY satellite system, ABM and ABM related electronic systems have been designated as signals of primary interest. The Director, National Security Agency, exercising his responsibility in accordance with NSCID-6, interprets SORS policy guidance in order to provide specific signal processing and reporting assignments, and related technical guidance to field stations involved in Project POPPY. Commander, Naval Security Group Command coordinates in the assignment of field processing and reporting tasks to insure compatibility with system and station capabilities, and promulgates procedural and implementing directives as required to insure that field operations are in consonance with established goals for the POPPY system.

4.1 SIGNAL OF INTEREST(SOI)

The Signal of Interest(SOI) assignments for the POPPY satellite system are those which have been established by USIB(SORS) as system policy guidance. Current SOI assignments are listed in Article 4.2 below, together with processing and reporting requirements for each. It can be anticipated that these SOI assignments will be revised periodically as the nature of national requirements change, and whenever a specific requirement has been satisfied. Additionally, it will be noted that not all SOI's are equally applicable to every POPPY field station. Each field station should, therefore, concentrate its efforts toward the satisfaction of the requirements for analysis, processing and reporting of the SOI's which are a part of the station's observable environment, while remaining continually alert for the appearance of SOI's which have not previously been detected.

4.1.1 DATA HANDLING REQUIREMENTS

Primary Signals of Interest, assigned for coverage and exploitation by the POPPY satellite system, have a relative order of importance which equates to USIB and consumer requirements for intelligence data for each signal. Generally, these requirements will dictate the priorities of handling of data at the field station level; however, real-time tactical exploitation opportunities may occasionally impose a more timely data handling and reporting requirement for certain signals than would otherwise be indicated by the relative importance of the emitter itself. For example, emitters of known radiation parameters and threat capability

may obtain a high degree of tactical significance during a particular time-frame because of new deployment patterns, or events of overriding importance in a particular area. Likewise, detection of unusual or significantly increased activity levels by a relatively low priority emitter might provide an early indication of an increased readiness posture by a threat country. Under routine conditions, however, Signals of Interest should be processed and reported in accordance with the Data Handling and Reporting Factor assigned each category. In further amplification of the interaction between relative importance of Signals of Interest and Data Handling and Reporting Factors, the following generalized descriptions of timeliness goals of each "Factor" are provided:

FACTOR	CRITERIA
ONE	Data should be processed AHEAD of all other Signal of Interest data and reported at immediate precedence. (Currently, this factor is assigned only to the Ocean Surveillance support category of emitters; however, it can be anticipated that factor "ONE" timeliness criteria will be assigned other emitters, both fixed and mobile, as the need arises.)
TWO	Data should normally be processed and reported within 24 hours of the time of initial data intercept. Ideally, report entries should be included in the daily reports for the date of intercept. It is recognized that this goal will not always be possible during periods of peak activity.
THREE	Data should normally be processed and reported within no more than one week from the date of initial data intercept.
FOUR	Data should be processed and reported as expeditiously as the availability of computer time and handling of higher priorities will permit. No specific timeliness requirements are established.
FIVE	This factor is assigned to target signals which, for any reason, are unusually difficult to process in the field. Generally, these will be those emitters which are not easily exploited through the Delta Time of Arrival technique, and those in extremely dense RF environments. Geolocation of this category of emitter will only be assigned as a requirement if there is a significant need to continue attempts to exploit the emitter in the field. No specific timeliness requirement is established.

4.2 SIGNAL OF INTEREST REQUIREMENTS

While the SOI assignments are common to all field stations alike, even though some may not be a part of a given station's environment, the requirement for data on the SOI's vary greatly dependent upon the nature of the SOI itself, the extent to which knowledge concerning the SOI has already been developed, and the relative threat posed by the system to which the SOI emitter belongs. Accordingly, each SOI is considered to be an entity within itself, with its own peculiar set of specific requirements; however, it will be obvious that many of the specific requirements are common to more than one SOI. The following Articles list the current SOI assignments and include criteria regarding collection and processing requirements for each. Table 4-I to this section sumarizes these assignments and requirements.

4.2.1 NEW, UNUSUAL AND/OR UNIDENTIFIED [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - ONE
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - TWO

The initial detection of New, Unusual and or Unidentified emitters ranks as top national priority for all general search collection system, including POPPY. In all cases, the most accurate locations possible are required in order to evaluate the importance and potential threat of a new emission and its related weapons system. Development of accurate parameter characteristics for unidentified signals is of the highest priority importance during analog scanning and digital processing. An unidentified SOI Report and POPPY Location Report entry is required for each intercept of an unidentified emission.

4.2.2 SQUARE PAIR [redacted]

[redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - ONE
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - TWO

Certain structures have been identified and located by photographic analysis for which no ELINT emissions have been detected or correlated. Of these, the highest priority has been assigned to the Square Pair antenna which is associated with the SA-5 missile system, and probably serves a target acquisition/tracking function. Emissions from this antenna have never knowingly been intercepted, and will probably qualify as an Unidentified Signal when initially detected. Another structure in this category is the antenna immediately adjacent to the northern section of the [redacted] at Sary Shagan.

[redacted]

No emissions have been correlated to this structure, which has not been

assigned a name. However, it has been referred to unofficially as [redacted] A new phased array has been identified from photography at Sary Shagan, complex four. This antenna is "field transportable" and is approximately 28 feet long. It is currently boresighted at approximately 330 degrees. There have been no signals intercepted which could be associated with this antenna; however, it has been speculated that its emission may be frequency stepped. Unident SOI and POPPY Location Reporting required.

4.2.3 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - TWO
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - TWO

No emissions have as yet been confirmed as emanating from the [redacted] or correlation of any new unidentified emission is required. SOI and/or Unidentified SOI, and POPPY Location Reporting is required.

4.2.4 SOVIET NAVAL MOBILE EMITTERS

Relative Signal Priority - THREE
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - ONE

Currently, included as assigned emitters in this group are [redacted] Ocean Surveillance support processing currently concentrates on the exploitation of these emitters, primarily because they are installed on the more important of the Soviet Naval combatants, and their parameters are such as to yield accurate, reliable geolocations without an undue amount of processing. However, as processing capabilities and techniques improve, it can be expected that additional Soviet Naval emitters will be included in this group. Primary interest in these emitters lies in the need for quick identification and geopositioning for purposes of support to fleet elements. First priority data handling (both analog and digital), and immediate reporting by SELOR report to fleet consumers are essential requirements. SOI reporting is not required for Soviet Naval mobile emitters unless significant parametric variations are observed; however, all locations for which SELOR reports are transmitted should be included in the daily POPPY location Report.

4.2.5 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - FOUR
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - TWO

Primary interest in the [redacted] is in definition of activity schedules as accurately as possible, and identification of new modes of operation and/or new deployment locations. Since the only known [redacted] are currently located in the Moscow and Sary Shagan areas, activity surveillance may be partially satisfied by [redacted] intercept which may not meet processing criteria for location processing. Precise geolocation is required when data quality and duration permits. These locations, combined with all-source RF and PRF-to-area correlations assist in determining which system/area is active at any given time. Current area/parameter correlations are as follows:

	AREA
[redacted]	Sary Shagan
	MOSCOW
	MOSCOW
	MOSCOW

Report each intercept of [redacted] in the daily SOI and POPPY Location Reports as appropriate. Requirements for Signal Level (SLX) data will be levied as Special Tasks. Analog tapes need be forwarded only if SLX data is collected in response to a Special Task. There is no requirement for exploitation of SLX data at field stations.

4.2.6 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - FIVE
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - THREE

These emitters are unique, one-of-a-kind systems with fixed sectors of coverage. The associated emissions are frequency [redacted] modulations which are not suitable for Delta time of arrival location processing. However, orbital geometry at time of intercept, as determined by NAVSPASUR five-line ephemeris data, can often be used to indicate that a particular emission emanated from a known site and sector. There are no digital processing requirements for these signals. Analog processing requirements are for detection of new modes of operation or parameters, and activity surveillance to establish operational schedules. SOI reporting required. Include notation as to site/sector intercepted whenever possible.

4.2.7 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - SIX
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - THREE

The [redacted] is also a unique, one-of-a-kind structure and is located immediately adjacent to and shares a common control building with the Hen House II installation at Sary Shagan. The emitter uses frequency scan from about [redacted] in two adjacent RF bands centered at approximately [redacted]. Primary requirements are for detection of new modes of operation, and activity surveillance to establish operating schedules. SLX data collection is required on all intercepts of the [redacted] Since intercept is infrequent, payload(s) (currently only 7106C) should be reinterrogated as a matter of routine procedure on all occasions of [redacted] intercept to obtain [redacted] SLX data only. Report in daily SOI and POPPY Location Reports.

4.2.8 HEN HOUSE I
HEN HOUSE II [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - SEVEN
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - THREE

Hen House I and II activity surveillance, identification of new faces, and definition of ELINT sectors are the primary contributions which the POPPY System can make to the overall [redacted] requirement. Activity surveillance may be accomplished using the most convenient means available to determine the emission origin. If an intercept is from a unique sector and no ambiguity exists, then this identification alone is sufficient to meet the requirement and single ball intercept is acceptable. However, if an emission could be emanating from more than one emitter because of overlapping sectors, or the possibility of a new [redacted] becoming active, the Delta time of arrival technique should be applied. As a matter of routine, extensive digital processing for well defined location reporting is only required when a new face/system becomes active for the first time. SOI reporting for each observation. POPPY Location reporting required only for new activity.

4.2.9 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - EIGHT
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - THREE

This signal, formerly [redacted] has been intercepted regularly by the POPPY system and reported by field stations since 1965. Most recently, the signal has been correlated with the SA-6 weapons system and is believed to emanate from a mobile vehicle. Activity Surveillance, refinement of radiated parameters, and establishment of the most accurate possible locations are the essential requirements for this target.

4.2.10 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - NINE
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - THREE

Primary interest in [redacted] emissions is in Activity Surveillance, Detection of New Modes of operation, and location of newly established sites. Currently, there are nine known [redacted] all in the Northern District of the Soviet Union. (A varient or new mode of the system has recently been detected by [redacted] on the Soviet Mongolian Border). SOI and POPPY Location reporting is required. Requirements for SLX data will be levied as Special Tasks.

4.2.11 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - TEN
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - TWO

Emissions from a newly identified A-band radar, emanating from locations in Communist China, have been designated as [redacted] Recent collateral information has indicated that these emissions are associated with a large mattress type array Early Warning antenna measuring 74 feet in the horizontal plane. Site deployment is generally in China's northern provinces, with one site as far south as 200 NM south of the Sino Mongolian Border. Since this signal is a newly developed system, and its functions are not known, the most accurate possible parametric data and site locations are required. Requirements for Signal Level data(SLX) will be levied as Special Tasks.

4.2.12 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - ELEVEN
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - FIVE

Although these emitters are of high interest to fleet consumers and are among the most significant of the Ocean Surveillance targets, it is recognized that limitations imposed by X-band density, computer and software capacity inhibit their timely processing and reporting. These factors notwithstanding, processing of X-band data, and this group of emitters specifically, should be undertaken as computer time and higher priorities permit. The experience gained from processing this data will assist in the isolation of potentially new activity in the X-band and should lead to the refinement of high data density processing techniques and software. This experience and improved techniques will be essential to the effective exploitation of payload X-band filtering systems and more advanced computer and software systems.

4.2.13 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - TWELVE
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - FOUR

Of particular interest, in addition to accurate parameter description and individual emitter location, are any intercepts of low pulse rate operating modes, i.e., 68-70 pps. Routine SOI and POPPY Location reporting required.

4.2.14 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - THIRTEEN
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - FOUR

[redacted] locations are sufficiently well separated that the essential Activity Surveillance requirement may normally be satisfied through analog processing alone. Digital processing is not specifically required; however, SOI reports should include identification of a specific site when this can be determined through evaluation of payload/emitter source geometry.

4.2.15 [redacted]

Relative Signal Priority - FOURTEEN
Data Handling/Reporting Factor - FOUR

Emitters in this group are of interest when an accurate location has been established. [redacted] geolocations require SELOR reporting only when the availability of geolocation is within the timeliness criteria established for SELOR Reports, i.e., data should be processed and available for reporting [redacted] of initial intercept; otherwise, [redacted] intercepts only require reporting in the daily POPPY Location Reports. Primary interest in these emitters is in the association of the intercepted emission, and their locations, with related activity in a given area at the time of intercept.

4.3 SUPPLEMENTARY SIGNALS OF OPPORTUNITY

The primary thrust of field station operations should be geared to the satisfaction of the Signals of Interest(SOI) specifically assigned to the POPPY system generally, and those Special Tasks assigned to each of the field stations individually. The POPPY field station reporting requirements and report formats have been designed primarily to accommodate these routine assignments, and may not always lend themselves specifically to the reporting of unusual or significant developments not normally a part of the field station's mission. Since significant new or unusual target country activity may often be recognized initially by a field station, it is important that it be considered a potential signal of opportunity (once intercepted) and a component part of a station's overall reporting mission, even though the activity may not be related to any of the Signals of Interest assigned. Field station involvement in such activity may be in the form of extensive analysis of a particular signal, or may concern new locations for target country emitters which are not listed in the current Electronic Order of Battle references. In order to insure that such relavent information is fully exposed and exploited, a "Supplementary" system of reporting should be employed to the maximum degree possible. These "Supplementary Reports" need have no particular periodicity, nor will specific formats be given any but the "Supplementary Location Reports", which should be summary compilations provided all reported radiation parameters are normal. However, for convenience of interpretation, the formats used for other Supplementary Reports should be based on the basic series to which the supplement applies, provided the data being reported lends itself to that format and does not require the inclusion of redundant or non-essential information. For example, a "Supplementary SOI Analysis Report", would probably be somewhat more extensive in detail that a routine SOI Report, and would not, therefore, lend itself to the simplified SOI Report format. In general, the format, periodicity, and content of Supplementary Reports will be dictated by the character of the information being reported.

4.4 DATA EXPLOITATION

The extent to which data collected at POPPY field activities is to be locally processed, and the manner of specific exploitation, is dependent upon the nature and complexity of the intelligence information required for each of the Signal of Interest categories, and the capabilities of a given field activity at any given time. New, sophisticated emissions may require extensive digital and analog processing efforts over long periods of time, while at the other end of the spectrum, a known system for which radiation parameters have been fully developed may require only basic analog processing to establish activity patterns. The exploitation requirements included in the SOI listings (Art. 4.2) are intended to provide the basis for field station processing efforts, and establish a standardized approach to each of the SOI's throughout the POPPY project. The following Articles further amplify the nature and scope of these exploitation requirements in order that field processing resources and efforts may be appropriately distributed.

4.4.1 INITIAL SIGNAL DETECTION

Initial Signal Detection requirements relate to the first priority national intelligence requirement for timely detection of electromagnetic radiations associated with new threat systems, and the equally high priority need to associate intercepted radiation parameters with structures and antennas already identified and/or located through means other than emission intercept. The former requirement is a continuing one and imposes the need for accute alertness, and accurate, reliable technical analysis on the part of intercept and processing personnel. The latter, correlation of New or Unusual emissions with known structures, is inter-related with the former and requires the most accurate possible geolocations and parametric descriptions, supported by a continuing and meaningful dialogue between field stations and NSA processing elements.

4.4.2 NEW MODES OF OPERATIONS

During the routine processing of Signals of Interest, data exploitation efforts should be sufficiently detailed to establish that all signal parameters are within EPL limits, and if so, SOI Report entries should be included in Part Bravo provided no specific technical feedback is otherwise desired. However, if significant variations of radiation parameters are detected, but they are not sufficient to qualify the intercepted signal as a "Varient", the intercept should be reported in the SOI Report Part Alfa with an appropriate notation which describes the anomaly observed. All Part Alfa entries automa-

tically require analog tape forwarding, and will be the subject of specific technical feedback from NSA; however, Part Bravo entries, which will be assumed to represent entirely routine intercepts, will not require analog tape forwarding even though the signals are designated Signals of Interest. Likewise, no specific technical feedback will be provided for Part Bravo SOI Report entries unless collateral information available to NSA is considered important to the conduct of field station mission. If an emission is intercepted which appears to be a known SOI, but has radiation parameters sufficiently different from EPL listings for that SOI to qualify the intercept as a Variant, it should be reported as an "Unidentified SOI" with appropriate comments describing its similarity to a known signal. Analog tape forwarding is required for all intercepts reported as Unidentified SOI's.

4.4.3 ACTIVITY SURVEILLANCE

When the parameters of a known, operational emitter type have been well established, or when a Target Signal of Interest is one of a unique type or group, the total intelligence requirement may be satisfied by emitter Activity Surveillance. In terms of operational procedure, this may only require that parameters be checked for variations from established EPL limits, and locations determined sufficiently to establish that the emissions are from a known site and/or sector. In many cases these determinations may be made from analog screening and examination of payload/emitter geometry to indicate emission source. Should this emitter surveillance indicate variations from established EPL limits, or new locations and/or sectors noted, detailed and accurate parameter and location reporting is required.

4.4.4 REFINEMENT OF SIGNAL PARAMETERS

Parametric refinement is a long-term, continuing requirement to determine more accurately the operating limits of specific SOI target categories. Additionally, parametric refinement exploitation may often be directed toward specific emitter locations in order to establish the radiation "fingerprints" of an emitter. Analog and digital processing should be undertaken to determine the most accurate possible radiation parameters, within collection and processing system limitations, even though an intercept may not be of sufficient duration for accurate geolocation processing.

4.4.5 GEOLOCATION

As a general rule, geolocation processing requirements apply to all Signals of Interest with the exception of those with radiation parameters which cannot be exploited through the Delta time of arrival technique. Additionally, certain unique, one of a kind emitters may require only a minimum geolocation effort, sufficient to determine the face or sector of the emitter being intercepted. This minimum requirement may, in some cases, be satisfied by analog screening of the intercept data with reference to payload and emitter geometry. The location of New and Unusual emitters is of the utmost importance in establishing the association of the emitter and a potential threat system, and in assessing the significance of the threat represented by the system. The importance of geolocation of Soviet Naval mobile emitters is in their tactical significance to U. S. Fleet consumers, and for that reason, the data is to be processed in the highest priority. Other categories of emitters may require geolocation only to establish activity and deployment patterns and are assigned data handling factors appropriate to that end.

4.4.6 SPECIALIZED DATA COLLECTION

This requirement refers to the use of the POPPY System payload options to enhance routine collection, or to provide for collection of data not available through routine payload operation. It may envolve High Sensitivity mode collection, Signal Level or [redacted] measurement, or selective RF spectrum filtering. Some of these have been established as a routine requirement for certain Target Signals of Interest which are infrequently intercepted. Accordingly, payload re-interrogation to collect the special data required should be accomplished as soon as the Target SOI is recognized. Since the initial digital Header will be invalidated by this procedure, it is important that Trailers and tape logs accurately describe the payload re-interrogation data. Determination of whether or not there is sufficient time remaining in an orbit to justify re-interrogation for specialized data collection will be made locally at each site. When payloads are re-interrogated for SLX data collection, they will be allowed to continue the orbit without being reset to the original tasking for that orbit; however, all other re-interrogations for special data collection should affect only the initiating site, and payloads should be reset to the original tasking arrangement if subsequent collection is required by another site during the same orbit.

4.4.7 ANALYTIC MEDIA

During the progress of field station analysis of sophisticated or complex emitter parameters, a body of analytic material are routinely generated, such as Brush Recorder presentations, scope photography, computer graphic displays and other hardcopy graphic media. These materials are generated primarily as the basis for local reporting; however, the same material must often be re-generated at NSA in order to perform final analysis there. Accordingly, subsequent to local analysis and reporting, all available analytic media of good quality for those SOI's so designated, are to be packaged separately and forwarded to NSA (Attn: W242) on a weekly basis. Each component of analytic media forwarded should be clearly marked with the following description data:

a. Date/Orbit Number to which media applies

b. Identification of Signal (use site notation for New/ Unusual)

c. Parameters represented by media forwarded

d. Comments relative to interpretation of media forwarded, i.e., speeds of analytic devices, reference signals used, significant comments regarding analytic conclusions, etc.

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DRAFT OUTLINE OF POPPY S.O.P

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