

ALLEGATIONS BY CHRISTOPHER H. PYLE

1/1/70

1. ALLEGATIONS:

A. "Nearly 1000 plain clothes investigators, working out of 300 offices from coast to coast, keep track of political protests of all kinds - from Klan rallies in North Carolina to anti-war speeches at Harvard."

B. "The Army still watches civilian politics ...More than 1000 soldier-agents continue to monitor the political activities of law-abiding citizens."

FACT:

A. In accomplishing its CONUS intelligence collection mission of which civil disturbance was the major portion, USAINTC expended an average of 125 man-years annually or 4.3% of its total assigned counterintelligence mission effort. Included in the man-years was the support of Task Force Commanders in the United States committed to active civil disturbance emergency areas by presidential direction.

B. The Army, through the U.S. Army Intelligence Command (USAINTC), collected information concerning the potential for civil disorders on the domestic scene to discharge its assigned responsibilities under Civil Disturbance directives. The coverage and collection of information demonstrations and rallies were not directed toward the monitoring of "political activities" or "political protests", per se, but specifically to detect any potential for violence which could lead to civil disorders requiring Federal troops. Policy and guidance set forth in Department of the Army (DA) letter, dated 9 June 1970, subject: Collection, Reporting, Processing and Storage of Civil Disturbance Information, and DA letter, dated 15 December 1970, subject: Counterintelligence Activities Concerning Civilians Not Affiliated with DoD, more specifically defines the present Army counterintelligence responsibilities and participation in civilian areas.

2. ALLEGATION:

". . . some reforms have occurred, . . . CONUS Intelligence program has been cut back. Army has promised to destroy two widely circulated 'blacklists on dissenters,' and to scrap its computerized banks on political activists.."

FACT:

While basically true, the lack of accurate terminology and broad generalizations is misleading. Specifically:

a) the missions and systems of collection of civil disturbance information has not been reformed; it has been modified, revised and adjusted in keeping with national policy.

b) No publication of USAINTC has been officially or unofficially identified as a "blacklist"; further, the two lists referenced were a compendium of two volumes (one on organizations and one on personalities) created as a management tool for ready reference.

c) Computerization was not directed toward political activists but was a logical management development to permit the storage and retrieval of vast amounts of information and data collected under the then existing civil disturbance directives and responsibilities.

3. ALLEGATION:

"The Army also periodically publishes an eight-by-ten glossary-cover paperback booklet known within the intelligence circles as the 'blacklist'. The 'blacklist' is a encyclopedia of profiles of people and organizations who in the opinion of the Intelligence Command officials who compile it, might 'cause trouble for the Army.'"

FACTS:

These allegations are inaccurate and misleading. The Army has not and does not maintain a 'blacklist' of people and organizations who "might cause trouble for the Army." USAINTC had compiled a listing of individuals and organizations who had been active in civil disturbances occurring throughout the United States; these listings had been consolidated into six volumes but were ordered withdrawn and destroyed under a DA letter dated 18 February 1970. The list contained a picture, identifying data and a notation as to which organization (s) the individual belonged or supported. It contained no comment as to political views or affiliations. The contents had been collected from various Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. It was used by USAINTC for identifying persons engaging in, organizing, or leading civil disturbances which had or could lead to the employment of Federal forces. The DA Civil Disturbance Information Collection Plan (ACDP), dated 2 May 1968, directed USAINTC to monitor areas of possible unrest and disseminate information to the DA Director for Civil Disturbance Planning and Operations (DCDPO) and to Army Commanders concerned. The last Volume (VI) had been published by USAINTC in March 1969.

4. ALLEGATION: "From its headquarters at Fort Holabird in Baltimore, the Army Intelligence Command flashed orders to each of its intelligence groups limiting the collection of domestic intelligence to only the most 'essential elements of information.' Agents were forbidden to discuss any aspect of the program with newsmen and were warned that any who did would be prosecuted for breach of national security."

FACT: Essentially true. The Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence (ACSI), DA, directed USAINTC to curtail collection of civil disturbance information (ACSI letter, dated 18 Feb 70). USAINTC, in turn, directed the assigned MI Groups to collect information only on incidents which may be beyond the capability of local and state authorities to control and require the deployment of Federal forces to assist in restoration of stability.

With reference to agents being forbidden to discuss the program with newsmen, it has been a long standing policy of DA as published in Confidential AR 381-103 (Employment, Utilization and Special Administration of Counterintelligence Personnel) to prohibit the release for publication of any information relative to US Army counterintelligence personnel or activities without prior approval of higher headquarters. Wherein the information concerns modus operandi and classification, its public disclosure is forbidden in accordance with Title 18, US Code and AR 380-5 (Safeguarding Defense Information.)

5. ALLEGATION: "Army General Counsel suspended all replies to Congressional inquiries. The Army violated its own regulations by not acknowledging receipt of Congressional inquiries."

FACT: There was an expected delay in responding to Congressional inquiries when the ACLU filed its suit in Federal District Court in Washington, D. C. Delay was due to concern over the type of reply that could be sent in view of the pending litigation against the Department of Defense. Based on available information, all Congressional, White House, as well as individual inquiries have received a reply.

6. ALLEGATION: "The Army also maintained a ' computer-indexed microfilm archive . . . at CIAD.'"

FACT : CIAD maintains a microfilm file which contains information pertaining to actual or potential threats to Army personnel,

material, installations, the accomplishment of the Army's mission. The index to the microfilm is also on microfilm. There are no computer printouts of the index. Microfilm files on individuals are not marked in any special way; the microfilm file is seen only on a need-to-know basis. CIAD is not an office of record and other agencies do not check the files of CIAD.

7. ALLEGATION:

"The Army also maintained 'a computerized data bank on civil disturbance, political protests and resistance in the Army (RITA) at the Continental Army Command headquarters, Fort Monroe, Virginia."

FACT:

CONARC maintained a computerized intelligence data bank in the fulfillment of its mission responsibilities. The CONARC computerized data bank was destroyed as directed by ACSI, DA message, dated 5 Mar 70, in keeping with newly defined DA policy and guidance concerning civil disturbances. An exception was requested by III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas; DA denied the exception and the civil disturbance computerized intelligence data bank was destroyed at Fort Hood, Texas, on 25 August 1970.

8. ALLEGATION:

"The Army maintained 'non-computerized files at most of the Intelligence Command's 300 stateside intelligence group offices.'" "The Army also maintained 'non-computerized data banks at each stateside Army Command and at many military installations."

FACT:

Non-computerized files have been and continue to be maintained at Army commands and installations, as well as USAINTC subordinate elements, to permit the accomplishment of the assigned counterintelligence and intelligence missions. However, current DA policy and guidance define the type of files that may be established and maintained.

9. ALLEGATION:

". . . One of the principal uses of this file (CIAD microfilm file) if not the main reason for its existence -- has been to satisfy the curiosity of the Pentagon's brass."

FACT:

This allegation is false. Departmental directive and regulations established the CIAD mission and responsibilities, which includes the establishment and maintenance of files. Mandatory security controls, supervision, and procedures clearly establish the official release of information and intelligence data to prohibit unofficial release or personal use.

10. ALLEGATION: "During the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Army agents posed as TV camera crews. . . ."

FACT: This allegation is true. In its civil disturbance coverage demonstrations during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August 1968, USAINTC employed photographic coverage of gatherings and demonstrations. The photographic coverage was essential to assess expeditiously the potential for violence which could require the commitment of Federal troops prepositioned in the Chicago area. The film was destroyed by USAINTC as a result of ACSI, DA letter dated 18 February 1970, which ordered destruction of civil disturbance information on civilians not affiliated with Department of Defense.

11. ALLEGATION: "Sources of CONUS Intelligence continue to include local and state police, the FBI, newspapers, and Army undercover operations. . . ."

FACT: This allegation is true.

12. ALLEGATION: "..... and two plain clothesmen from the staff of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence occupied assigned seats within the convention hall."

FACT: This allegation is not true. No "plain clothesmen" from OACSI occupied assigned seats within the convention hall and further, no assignment or orders existed encompassing any counterintelligence mission responsibility for the coverage of the convention hall or the convention. However, it was established that an ACSI representative, a member of the DA Liaison Team assigned to the PLOCSA (Personal Liaison Representative of the Chief of Staff, Army) in the area, did obtain a pass to enter the convention hall for the personal reason of witnessing an historical event. He did not occupy a seat.

13. ALLEGATION: "Army plain clothesmen have been spotted recently on the Milwaukee and Madison campuses and at the University of Oklahoma."

FACT: This allegation is true. The USAINTC in accomplishing its counterintelligence mission in the field of personnel security investigations conducts an estimated 1.7 million leads (phases of investigation) annually, a portion of which entails the conduct of education checks.

Therefore, USAINTC agent investigators, in civilian clothes, do visit University campus in the United States on a continuing basis in the fulfillment of the required verification of education of individuals being investigated under the Army's personnel security program.

14. ALLEGATION: "MI Agents subscribe to hundreds of local and campus newspapers, monitor police and FBI radio broadcasts, and, on occasion, conduct their own undercover operations."

FACT: Army MI units do subscribe to and obtain local and campus newspapers. These newspapers are screened for information which might indicate a potential threat to the Army's mission, materiel, installations and personnel.

No monitoring of FBI broadcasts has ever been undertaken by Army units. Police broadcasts have been monitored with the knowledge and complete cooperation of police agencies but only in civil disturbance or potential civil disturbance situations. As pertains to undercover operations, that is, covert operations, the Army does not indiscriminately engage in these types of activities. In civil disturbance situations covert operations require the concurrence of the FBI and the specific approval of each operation by the Under Secretary of the Army.

15. ALLEGATION: "Military undercover agents have posed as press photographer covering anti-war demonstrations, as students on college campuses, and as 'residents' of Resurrection City."

FACT: Military Intelligence agents have conducted such covert operations in the past, under DA civil disturbance collection and reporting directives which were published for the accomplishment of the Army's mission in its role as Executive Agent for DoD in civil disturbances.

16. ALLEGATION: "Both the Intelligence Command's 'identification list' and CIAD's 'Compendium' have been ordered destroyed. Chances are excellent, however, that copies of both remain in circulation along with another blacklist published by the Alabama State Police and distributed by the Intelligence Command to the headquarters and region offices of each MI Group."

FACT: Both the Intelligence Command's six volume 'identification list' and CIAD's two volume "Compendium" were ordered withdrawn and destroyed based on DA directives dated 18 Feb 70.

20 March 70 and 31 March 70. The so-called "blacklist" published by the Alabama State Police was a separate volume of USAINTC's "identification list," and, therefore, was under the "Withdraw and Destroy Orders" from DA, as part of the six volumes. OACSI is making every effort to assure that an absolute destruction has been achieved. Of the CIAD 2-volume "Compendium", 96% have been certified as being withdrawn and destroyed. The recipients of the remaining copies are still tracing their records for destruction certificates. Of the USAINTC 6-volume "Identification Lists, 65% has been withdrawn and destroyed. Tracings on the remaining 35% indicated the greater majority were distributed to major law enforcement agencies. The fact that these volumes were not registered documents complicated the withdrawal and destruction process.

17. ALLEGATION: "It is also likely that copies of the magnetic tapes which made up the memory core of the Fort Holabird computer have been hidden away or transferred to other governmental agencies

FACT:

This allegation is false. The 47 tapes which comprised the USAINTC Civil Disturbance Incident and Biographical Data Bank were destroyed during the period 26 February 1970 to 3 March 1970. As an added precaution in complying with DA instructions, each computer tape that was ever used in processing civil disturbance information for input into the master tapes was put through a special (degaussing) process to insure that all information was deleted. This process took place during 25 Sept 70 to 15 Oct 70. Printouts were destroyed by incineration.

BACKGROUND ON PYLE

Born: 24 November 1939 at Plymouth, Mass.

HOR: 229 Sandwich St., Plymouth, Mass.

Education: 1961 - Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. BA degree.
1964 - Columbia University Law School, New York, N. Y.
LLB degree in Public Law and Government.
1964-66 - Columbia University Law School, New York, N. Y.
MA degree, Political Science.

Marital Status: Single

Army Service:

Entered Active Duty: 1 Aug 66, 2d Lt (delayed ROTC)

MI Training: Fort Holabird, Md - 10 Oct 66 to 8 Mar 67; Instructor 18 J

Vietnam Service: None

Assignments: Ft. Holabird, MD., as instructor in USAINTC School (Senior
Legal Instructor) - 8 Mar 67 to 30 Jul 68

Promotions: 2Lt June 61; 1Lt 10 June 64; CPT 10 Oct 67

Awards:

Disciplinary Action

Separated From Service: 30 July 68. Resigned his commission upon
termination of his two year obligation.

Present Activity: According to the press, he is attending Columbia
University Law School in New York City.

- Other:
- a. Pyle was in Minneapolis, Minn. in mid - January 1971 where he gave lectures and showed the "First Tuesday" (1 Dec 70) NBC film on military intelligence activities. He was interviewed on Minneapolis radio station KSTP on the same subject.
 - b. Pyle has provided information to Senator Ervin's Subcommittee Constitutional Rights and has been invited to testify before that Subcommittee on 24 Feb 1971.
 - c. Pyle has been active in seeking out former MI agents and encouraging them to denounce publicly their activities while serving in MI units in the U. S.