

Pentagon still spying on citizens

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WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon, which once kept files on the political activities of some 100,000 Americans, still spies on citizens thought to pose a "threat" to the military, a Senate intelligence committee staff report said Sunday.

Although the report stressed that military spying "has been greatly

reduced," it said that Pentagon directives are "so ambiguous" that widespread surveillance of civilians could resume.

According to the report, military agents have been authorized to penetrate civilian groups on nine occasions since the new directives went into effect in 1971. Most of the military spying since 1971 has been done by the Navy at bases in Charleston, S.C., and San Diego and Long Beach, Calif., the report indicated.

In addition, military intelligence agencies continue to spy on American civilians living near military installations in Japan and West Germany, the report said. In Berlin, the Army opened mail addressed to an underground newspaper affiliated with a group founded in 1972 under the name "Americans in Berlin for McGovern," according to the report.

Much of the 49-page staff report detailed incidents which have been the subject of congressional hearings dating back to 1971 when they were first disclosed in the press. Among them were:

—Sending 1,500 agents to virtually every city in the country to collect information "on the most trivial of political dissent" and store it in computers. The Army maintained files on persons ranging from Sen. Adlai Stevenson and Rep. Abner Mikva to singers Arlo Guthrie and Joan Baez. Army agents posed as television newsmen at the 1968 Democratic National Convention and attended a Halloween party for school children in search for a dissident.

—Monitoring citizen, police and taxi

band radios during demonstrations like the 1967 march on the Pentagon, the 1968 poor people's campaign and the national political conventions. The monitoring continued despite a law prohibiting anyone from intercepting private radio transmissions and an opinion by the Federal Communications Commission that it was illegal. In 1969 Army Security Units at Ft. Hood, Texas, spent a month monitoring a nationwide citizens band net without any indication that a civil disturbance would develop.

—Participating in law enforcement operations by exchanging intelligence files with local police departments and acting as "observers" on police raids.