

'Watchlist' Started in Kennedy

By Stephen Green

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A special military reserve unit with a mission to prepare a "National Watchlist" of persons with "devious ideas" has been operating under an agreement made during the Kennedy administration between the Department of Defense and Office of Emergency Preparedness.

However, investigators for the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights said yesterday they probed the reserve unit last summer and found no evidence that a "National Watchlist" now exists.

"Those connected with the unit (Special Analysis Division) were reluctant to answer questions but we had the impression they didn't want us to

know that in fact the unit doesn't do much of anything. It seems to be just another boondoggle military reserve unit," said one investigator for the subcommittee, headed by Sen. Sam J. Ervin (D-N.C.).

Rep. William S. Moorhead (D-Pa.), chairman of the House Government Information Subcommittee, said Sunday that Watergate bugging defendant James W. McCord Jr. participated in the drafting of the watchlist as part of a national censorship plan while a member of the reserve unit.

McCord, a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserve, was a member of the unit until he resigned in February. A former FBI and CIA agent, and former security chief for President Nixon's re-election committee, McCord was one of five men arrested June 17 inside the Democratic National Headquarters at the Watergate and since has been indicted in the Watergate bugging case.

Moorhead said Sunday he feared the watchlist "will pinpoint the names of individuals slated for political reprisals and announced that his subcommittee will conduct a full-fledged investigation of government censorship planning.

Questioned yesterday, Moorhead said he has no evidence that a watchlist in fact exists now. But he added: "I think they have one because of two letters sent him from Eugene J. Quindlen, in charge of censorship planning at OEP. The 16-member reserve unit is attached to OEP.

One of the letters, dated July 7, contains an organization chart of the unit and says its mission is to "prepare, maintain and disseminate . . . a National Watchlist."

Another letter, dated July 10, says the data processing group of the reserve unit is to "continue preparing computer procedures for compiling a watchlist. No watchlist is maintained by the unit or is planned unless and until" national censorship "is implemented under wartime conditions."

"If they don't have a watchlist on the computers, they must have a manual watchlist. Otherwise, what the hell would they be doing all this time?" Moorhead asked. The reserve unit meets monthly in an annex to White House offices.

Members of the unit contacted by The Washington

Post refused to say what they do at reserve meetings.

"As a citizen and a taxpayer, I feel insulted by this man (Moorhead)," said John B. Farmakides, an employee of the Atomic Energy Commission and an Army Reserve lieutenant colonel in the unit. When asked what he does in the unit, he replied: "I can't talk."

Commander of the unit is Army Reserve Col. James J. Landis, employed by the National Distillers Chemical Corp. He said any questions about the unit would have to be answered by the Pentagon.

Dr. D. O. Cooke, deputy assistant secretary of Defense, said a watchlist "does not exist at this time" and explained that one would be compiled only in case of general war. "Censorship planning is based on what we did in World War II," he explained and added that the entire censorship planning program now is in the "process of revision."

He and Robert Nipp, public information office for OEP, said a National Watchlist was in effect in World War II. "It was terminated in 1945," Nipp said.

A new watchlist, Nipp said, would include "people with devious ideas. There are always a few people with devious ideas for overthrowing the country." He said he didn't know who would be responsible for determining what ideas are "devious."

Farris C. Bryant, former Florida governor who headed OEP in 1966 and 1967 when it was known as the Office of Emergency Planning, said he was "aware of contingency plans" made by the reserve unit. "But the unit didn't compile any names. In case of emergency it would depend on security agencies to supply it with names."

The Senate subcommittee investigators said that if national censorship were imposed, the unit would receive names for a Watchlist from the FBI and other security agencies. They would be put on a computer and sent to censors at post office and telegraphic communication stations who would inspect mail and other messages to and from those on the list. The censors also would spot check other mail and messages.

Although OEP's "Basic Plan" for censorship says the controls could be applied in a limited or "brush-fire" war,

government officials say censorship would be ordered only in case of general or nuclear war.

The Special Analysis Division, while designated part of the Army Reserve, is composed of reservists from the Navy and Air Force also.

The Oct. 1, 1963, agreement between the Defense Department and the Office of Emergency Preparedness calls for the reserve unit to be assigned to OEP. It also calls for the Defense Department to develop plans and prepare for telecommunications, postal and travelers censorship.

The Defense Department and the special reserve unit would cease to be involved in national censorship activities at such time as a War Information Security Office is created. The President would appoint a director of the agency.

Testifying under oath before Moorhead's subcommittee on May 12, Quindlen said nobody has yet been picked to head the censorship department, according to the hearing transcript.

OEP was given responsibility to develop censorship plans in Executive Order 11051, issued by the late President Kennedy on Sept. 27, 1962.

A censorship "Basic Plan," written by OEP, says censorship could be imposed in general war or in "limited war or conflicts of the brush fire type . . ."

Despite this, Quindlen testified that censorship would be imposed only in general war or in case of nuclear attack.

According to the Basic Plan, newspapers, radio and television stations in the United States would not be subject to compulsory censorship but would be asked to submit to "voluntary censorship codes." These codes would be sent to the news media through wire service channels as soon as the President declared censorship in effect. OEP would administer the voluntary code initially and then turn this duty over to the Information Security Office.

Years