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REPORT OF THE BEHAVIORAL PANEL TO THE
COMMITTEE

21 AUGUST 1972

This is the initial report submitted to the Chairman,
Committee by the Behavioral Panel.
In preparing this report the Behavioral Panel has attempted
to follow the guidance and instruction provided during a
briefing by the Chairman, Committee
and as well has attempted to adhere to the guidelines set
forth by the in his memorandum of 21 June 1972.

This report deals for the most part with the "inventory
and assessment of current capability within the Agency" and
"the inventory of ongoing and programmed R, D and E programs."
The Behavioral Panel has not attempted an evaluation of pro-
grams nor has it attempted to develop a "statement of long-
range technical objectives." It is intended that these major
topics will be the subject of an additional report in the near
future.

In preparing this report the Panel became aware that the
term "behavioral science" is vague and has different connota-
tions for different individuals. Drawing lines between pure
research, applied research and analysis was difficult. The
term "behavioral activities" generally refers to the measure-

ment, assessment, prediction, influence and control of human behavior. In the broadest sense, just about every element of the Agency is concerned with assessing and predicting the behavior of people, and to this end conducts some kind of data collection, analysis and testing often referred to as "research". In preparing this report, we have attempted to steer a course between the Scylla of being overly restrictive and the Charybdis of being so broad as to lose focus. This paper thus covers formally programmed research activities, applied research of behavioral science components, and in-house capabilities of personnel with behavioral science training where their expertise bears upon the Agency product.

This first report surveys capabilities and research activities. The components surveyed were:

I.

II.

OFFICE OF

I. Capabilities

The _____ Division at the present time has a staff of five professionals --- a physician, one research psychologist, two physiologists, and one psychologist on detail from _____

This staff initiates and monitors nearly all of the contracted "external research." In addition to the professional staff of _____ the _____ Division of _____ has on its staff two psychologists engaged in work in Human Factors as related to man-machine interface and some animal behavior. However their work has not been included in this report.

II. Research Activities

The activities are identified under four project areas: Performance Measurement, Assessment and Selection, Human Factors and Material Analysis.

A. Performance Measurement -

(1) Final _____ Model ---

Apply sequential or group (Bayesian) analytical techniques to the analysis of the _____ with a redefinition of the independent variable

Test these techniques on the data from the new agreement study. Analytical models of the relationship between [] data and [] signal identification has been based on the assumption that the signals identified are independent entities. (FY 1973 - [])

(2)

Evaluation ---

A high sensitivity, [] has been designed and fabricated for [] monitoring of [] signals. This task will undertake a complete [] evaluation and operational assessment of the system in [] noisy environments. (FY 1973 - [])

(3)

Consultant Support ---

To provide biomedical engineering support to the [] Program. To undertake special tasks concerned with signal source, signal processing and biological interpretation. To provide the necessary interdisciplinary skills to integrate and apply engineering principles to medical and physiological processes. The [] Program began as a few isolated projects concerned with [] monitoring and interpretation. At present the program includes systems under development in the [] fields. Medical engineering skills are now needed to integrate and further

B. Assessment and Selection -
Measures of Psychological Indices of Behavior

(1)

The research will focus on studying techniques to _____ The major research question being asked is whether behavior will change as a result of changes in the _____ that were achieved through the use of conditioning techniques. The above research is a Phase II follow-on oriented toward the study of behavioral manipulation techniques. Phase I was directed toward the identification of responses as they relate to positive and negative stimuli. The class of research has the potential of being a powerful tool in the detection of induced behavioral changes, e.g., "brain washing." (FY 1973 -

(2) Psychobiology of Monotony ---

Prior research on monotony or boredom has focused primarily on what happens in various forms of extended isolation. Monotony in less drastic situations can also lead to discomfort and demotivation. There are a number of positions in the Agency which demand a relatively high degree of tolerance to monotony. Persons assigned to these positions should have both tolerance for and an

effective means of coping with monotony. (FY 1973 -

(3) Assessment and ESP --- 1

This will be a continuation of a personal services contract to provide consultation in the areas of (a) extra-sensory perception, (b) indirect assessment, and (c) narcotics control. The activity is oriented to providing information on current or incipient developments in these fields. (FY 1973 -

(4) Observational Techniques --- 1

Basic observational skills in human interaction have been largely ignored in the study of assessment techniques. This preliminary experiment seeks to fill that gap and may be very important in developing a successful assessment program. (FY 1973 -

(5) Assessment Validation --- 1

This study will address itself to identifying those factors or traits that may discriminate "good" and "poor" assessors. The problem of accurate and reliable assessment of human targets remains a critical one within key operational components. This project addresses itself to that issue on a practical as well as theoretical basis. (FY 1973 -

(6)

*Unbudgeted

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS

The Panel has previously defined the term "behavioral activities" as the measurement, assessment, prediction, influence, and control of human behavior. It follows from this that the Agency research effort in the area of behavioral activities should be concerned not only with monitoring relevant foreign and domestic developments, but also in sponsoring those external and conducting those internal projects that will enhance Agency knowledge and capability. The long-term goals are simple to define -- increased ability to identify, understand, predict and control the behavior of human beings -- but extremely difficult to implement. Because the emphasis is on human beings in their infinite variety rather than upon standardized inanimate objects or processes, there will always be a certain amount of uncertainty in this area of research and development. Nevertheless, the fact that there may be no immediately obvious payoff should not preclude any well-formulated basic research nor even shut off exploratory research that may lead to testable Agency-relevant hypotheses.

Because research in human behavior is as much

an art as a science, drawing heavily on serendipitous findings from presently programmed projects, this Panel does not believe that any rigid limitations can be imposed on what might or ought to be done in the next fiscal year. To the extent that integrated programs rather than scattered projects can be developed, this will facilitate Agency aims and goals.

The Panel recommends new research initiative in the following areas:

1. differential culturally-determined responses to
2. unconventional biophysics and neurophysiology (including "parapsychology").

The Panel recommends augmentation of research efforts in several key areas as spelled out in the body of the report.

The Panel observes that there is a certain lack of coordination and exchange of information between components who are involved in very similar kinds of professional and research activity. The Panel believes that it can serve as a mechanism for informal exchange of information concerning proposed and ongoing research and that no other formal coordinating group is required. To this end, the Panel recommends that a representative

ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION -

I. Development of New Approaches and Test Instruments

A. External Research

The Panel believes that most of the relevant projects in this category are conceptually well-established and have well-defined requirements. Although none has yet reached the point of practical application, each is moving toward its stated goals. The single possible exception to this finding is the project on

This project is due for intensive review in November; at that time a decision will be made concerning continuation or dropping.

The Panel recommends continuation of the following projects with funding during FY 74 as indicated:

- Manipulation
- Assessment and ESP
- Observational Techniques
- Assessor Selection