This Is
The NIS
THE NIS TODAY

The Naval Investigative Service is a centrally directed, largely civilian, worldwide organization responsible for conducting criminal investigations and counterintelligence operations for the Department of the Navy.

Today's NIS Special Agent is a college-educated, highly trained, experience-tested civilian professional. He or she operates in an unusual environment with a major responsibility: enforcing the laws that protect the people, the property, and the security of the United States Navy and Marine Corps.

At this moment there are more than 1,200 NIS Special Agents on the job. Together they make up a highly motivated corps of individuals providing support to Navy and Marine Corps commands at more than 170 locations throughout the United States and overseas.

HISTORY

NIS Special Agents are the successors of the operatives and agents who served as part of the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) in World War I. ONI's responsibilities grew in the years that followed World War I and in 1939, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt directed ONI to investigate Navy cases relating to sabotage, espionage and subversive activities.

During World War II, ONI's mission continued to expand to include personnel security...
inquiries, war fraud cases and other intelligence-related activities. Later, the investigations of other felonious crimes was added to the mission of ONI.

After World War II, a small group of civilian special agents was retained and their jurisdiction was extended by the Secretary of Navy. When the U.S. entered the Korean Conflict in 1950, a major build-up of the civilian special agent corps began.

The name Naval Investigative Service (NIS) was adopted on February 4, 1966, to distinguish the Navy's investigative service from the rest of ONI.

As it did in World Wars I and II, and Korea, the organization responded to the call of duty in Vietnam. Once again, NIS Special Agents distinguished themselves in the service of their country. For its efforts from November 1, 1966 to February 29, 1972, the NIS office in Vietnam was presented with the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation. Part of that commendation reads as follows:

"...In the face of extremely difficult and hazardous conditions, including attacks on office compounds by enemy forces, the personnel attached to the U.S. Naval Investigative Service Office, Vietnam worked long and arduously in performing duties that contributed significantly to the successful accomplishment of the mission of the Naval Investigative Service. This effort was not restricted to conducting security and criminal investigations and collecting and reporting counterintelligence information, but also included preparation of special estimates, issuance of warnings of enemy operations, and production of other timely intelligence."

In recent years NIS Special Agents have served in Lebanon, the Persian Gulf and in other parts of the Middle East.
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Unlawful acts by or against Department of the Navy personnel (including civilian employees and contractors) that result in property damage, financial loss or serious personal injury carry the additional threat of impairing the Navy's ability to effectively carry out its mission. Criminal detection and investigation, therefore, are important responsibilities and account for the majority of the work done by the NIS.

People, of course, are the Navy's most valuable asset: there are more than one million sailors, Marines and civilians working for the Navy Department today. For that reason, a part of the Special Agent's workload focuses on investigating such violent crimes as homicide, rape, arson and robbery. Narcotics trafficking, fraud, larceny and destruction or theft of government property are major concerns as well.

At shore installations overseas and around the United States, NIS Special Agents are active in anti-drug operations. Overseas they join with local authorities in cooperative drug "sweeps" prior to U.S. Navy ship visits to foreign ports, and in major U.S. cities they work with other federal and local law enforcement agencies by conducting undercover operations to gather evidence against drug dealers looking for military customers.

NIS, JAPANESE POLICE SEIZE DRUGS
In the Far East, on the Indian Sub-continent, in Africa and in other areas of the world, this is the responsibility of a team of NIS Special Agents.

Operating out of a U.S. Navy base in the Philippines, the NIS Narcotics Suppression Team coordinates its activities with scheduled fleet visits to Hong Kong, Singapore, and other cities in Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Kenya. Their mission is to precede a ship visit and, working undercover with the cooperation of local police, make contact with and obtain the arrest of local drug traffickers.

Due to the collective efforts of various Navy commands and local law enforcement officials, the NIS Narcotics Suppression Operations have been consistently successful.

NIS Regional Fraud Units, dedicated to the investigation of major procurement fraud and staffed with special agents trained as fraud specialists, are located in the continental United States near major contracting centers, and are supplemented by fraud squads and smaller contingents at other locations where specialized expertise is needed.

Procurement fraud is a highly visible, complex challenge, which NIS has met with consistent success. These investigations often cross multiple jurisdictional lines, resulting in joint investigations with other Department of Defense (DOD) agencies as well as the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Department of the Treasury, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Department of Labor and the Small Business Administration, etc., and prosecution through the federal judicial system.

For example, NIS initiated the most widespread and multi-faceted procurement fraud investigation in the history of the Departments of Defense and Justice known as "Operation Ill Wind". The development of evidence against many civilians and private corporations led to the commitment of large numbers
of NIS and FBI agents and other DOD and DOJ resources to a joint investigation of unprecedented scope.

As of this writing, this investigation was still pending. However, it has resulted in large numbers of highly publicized indictments and convictions, and millions of dollars in fines and restitution payments connected with procurement contracts in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Procurement fraud investigations not only involve large sums of money, complex contractual situations, and criminals of professional backgrounds, but also involve a wide variety of criminal and civil violations of law. NIS fraud agents continually investigate cases of: conflict of interest; anti-trust; bank fraud; wire fraud; false statements in contract- ing; bribery; kickbacks; cost mischarging; product substitution; false quality certification; racketeering; and even environmental crimes.

WORKING WITH ITALIAN CARABINIERI

Criminal investigations may take NIS Special Agents anywhere in the world. Therefore, the NIS works closely with U.S. and foreign police and intelligence agencies on the federal, state and local level, including the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).
In an age of rapidly advancing technology, the protection of classified Naval information from unauthorized disclosure is vital to national security, as is the safeguarding of Naval material from damage or destruction. The role of the Naval Investigative Service in this regard is a dual one: to assist the Navy and Marine Corps in protecting its assets, and to apprehend those who would allow them to be compromised.

Counterintelligence, therefore, is the business of protecting Naval information from espionage, Naval personnel against subversion, and Navy installations and equipment from sabotage. The NIS Special Agent is authorized, for that purpose, to use various measures against organizations hostile to the interests of the United States. (In the U.S., NIS counterintelligence activities are coordinated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation; overseas they are coordinated with the Central Intelligence Agency).

Some counterintelligence operations involve the use of "double agents" who pose as traitors in order to surface and apprehend hostile intelligence service agents.
Three double agent operations involving the NIS have been made public in recent years. They are "Operation Station Zebra", "Operation Showdown" and "Operation Lemonaid".

"Operation Station Zebra" was initiated in 1986 and conducted jointly by the NIS, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Security Intelligence Service. It occurred in St. John's, Newfoundland, and utilized a woman Navy lieutenant as the double agent.

In December 1986, the double agent walked onboard a Soviet scientific research vessel which was visiting St. John's and met with the captain and the chief mate. After portraying herself as a disgruntled naval officer, she left an address where she could be contacted.

In February 1987, she was contacted by a man who identified himself as "Michael" and a series of meetings followed during which she was given money for classified information. In addition, she was given a camera that had been modified for document photography, secret writing materials, a contact address in East Berlin, and instructions to collect sensitive information, including what the U.S. knew about the acoustics of Soviet submarines and U.S. methods of tracking Soviet submarines.

Their final meeting occurred on June 11, 1988 at a room in the Hotel Newfoundland. By this time "Michael" had been identified as Stephen Joseph Ratkai, a Canadian-born son of a Hungarian emigre. Unknown to Ratkai, the room had been outfitted with audio and visual surveillance and as soon as he left, he was arrested.

Ratkai subsequently pleaded guilty to spying for the Soviets and was sentenced in Canadian court to two concurrent nine-year prison terms.
"Operation Showdown" was conducted jointly by the NIS and the FBI and occurred in the early 1980s. It utilized a civilian employee of the Navy as a double agent, who travelled to Mexico seven times and to East Berlin once to meet with East German Intelligence Service agents. In November 1983, East German physicist Alfred Zehe was arrested in Boston and later pleaded guilty to espionage in connection with "Operation Showdown".

The arrest and subsequent conviction of Zehe helped set up a major East-West prisoner exchange. In July 1985, Zehe and three other communist bloc agents were traded for 25 prisoners held in East German and Polish jails. One newspaper called it the biggest swap of its type since the beginning of the Cold War.

"Operation Lemonaid", conducted jointly by the NIS and the FBI, took place in New York in the late 1970s and utilized a Navy lieutenant commander as a double agent. It resulted in the arrest of two Soviet agents and the expulsion of another, Vladimir Petrovich Zinyatkin, who was a member of the Soviet mission to the United Nations and had diplomatic immunity.

The other two, Rudolph Petrovich Chernyayev and Valdik Alexandrovich Enger, worked at the U.N. but did not have diplomatic immunity. They were subsequently convicted of espionage and later traded for five Soviet dissidents in a dramatic swap at Kennedy Airport in New York.
NIS SPECIAL AGENTS ON A PSD

Assassination, kidnapping and hostage taking are hazards faced by American military personnel at some overseas bases and diplomatic posts, and sometimes by foreign visitors to the United States.

NIS Special Agents are frequently called upon to help prevent such acts by providing Protective Service Details (PSD's).

Overseas, NIS works closely with the security agencies and police forces of the host countries. In the United States, NIS works closely with counterpart local, state, military and federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies.

In recent years, NIS Special Agents have provided protective services for numerous foreign dignitaries including the Ministers of Defense of the Soviet Union, Israel, Egypt and Tunisia.

In 1988, NIS Special Agents conducted 203 PSDs in the United States and in overseas locations including Italy, Greece, the Philippines, Bahrain and Peru.

In addition to high-ranking Department of Defense, Department of the Navy and foreign dignitaries, NIS routinely provides protective
SPECIAL WEAPONS TRAINING

service support to the U.S. Secret Service and the Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security.

Assignment to Protective Services requires extensive training in the use of special weapons, anti-terrorism tactics and teamwork. For the NIS Special Agent, such training begins with classroom briefings and enactments of realistic scenarios at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Glynco, Georgia. Selected NIS Special Agents later receive additional specialized training in the NIS Special Protective Anti-Terrorism Seminar (SPATS) and attend seminars conducted by the U.S. Secret Service.

A DIGNITARY DEPARTS
After an NIS Special Agent has completed one year of service, he or she may qualify to apply for the Polygraph Program or Technical Surveillance Countermeasures (TSCM) Program, which are a part of the NIS Technical Services Department.

Since both require intensive training and a high degree of aptitude, candidates are thoroughly screened prior to being recommended for one of these programs.

Those selected for the Polygraph Program are sent to the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute at Ft. McClellan, Alabama to attend a three-month course. Upon successful completion of that course, they must successfully complete a six-month internship under the supervision of a senior polygraph examiner before they are certified.
NIS Special Agents selected to become Technical Investigative Specialists receive a total of 32 weeks of intensive electronics training during their first year. Following that, they receive training in crime scene forensics, fingerprints, photography, arson investigation, forensic pathology and security systems.

In addition to these programs, the Technical Service Department is responsible for three forensic labs located in Norfolk, San Diego and Pearl Harbor; radio communications; and weapons testing and custody.
CONDUCTING AN INTERVIEW

Unique among all Federal Law Enforcement agencies is the NIS Special Agent Afloat. Qualified NIS Special Agents serve aboard all aircraft carriers, generally for a one-year tour of duty, and occasionally aboard other major combatants as needed.

As one of only a handful of civilians aboard an aircraft carrier, the NIS Special Agent is responsible for all major criminal investigations and counterintelligence matters on the carrier and on all other ships of the accompanying battle group as well. The agent's special role and high visibility in this environment make working effectively with the officers and crew an absolute requirement.

“Special Agent Afloat” is a professionally demanding, highly responsible and career-enhancing assignment. The agent spends the same long periods at sea as his military shipmates and visits the same ports of call in Europe, the Mediterranean, the Pacific, and in the Far East. Accordingly, agents selected for afloat duty are recognized with added incentives including increased financial entitlements and preferential future duty assignments.
TRAINING

Prospective agents come to NIS from a wide variety of backgrounds: law enforcement, law, engineering, the military and from other sectors of the public and private business and industry. All are college graduates and each is required to complete a rigorous 15-week basic agent course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) at Glynco, Georgia.

The agent-trainee receives instruction in three primary types of subjects at FLETC: law enforcement, practical exercises, and physical specialties and firearms. Classroom instruction covers such matters as investigative techniques, criminal law and procedure, and the rules of evidence.

Practical exercises cover surveillance techniques, fingerprinting, raids and apprehensions, courtroom testimony and demeanor, and crime scene examinations.

Physical specialties include conditioning and instruction in unarmed self-defense, while firearms training includes the proficient use of weapons and survival under various tactical conditions.

In addition, agents receive specialized training from the NIS Agent Training Department in the skills and knowledge necessary to perform their job of protecting national interests and the Navy community.
NIS instructors are experienced Special Agents drawn from offices all over the world. Instructors are selected based upon demonstrated expertise in diverse areas such as narcotics operations in foreign ports, protective service details for senior U.S. officials and foreign dignitaries, interrogation techniques, the use of polygraph and forensic hypnosis, counter-terrorism and hostage negotiations, port security and major procurement fraud investigations.

Agents in training will also learn about Navy and Marine Corps customs and traditions, and the military justice system, from career Navy and Marine Corps personnel, and from experienced trial lawyers, some of whom are NIS Special Agents.

In the course of their careers, NIS Special Agents periodically will receive advanced training in a number of specialized areas. Specialty training includes undercover operations, white collar crime, computer fraud, technical surveillance countermeasures, photography, forensics, counterespionage, counterintelligence and the polygraph.
A CHALLENGE
A COMMITMENT
A CAREER

In many ways, NIS Special Agents are just like their counterparts in other federal law enforcement agencies.

NIS Special Agents are classified in the GS-1811 series (criminal investigator). They are carefully screened and must meet exacting standards of intelligence, alertness and temperament. They must successfully complete basic agent training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, GA. They earn premium pay for long and irregular hours. And once they attain the age of 50 and complete 20 years of service, they are entitled to full retirement benefits.

The NIS, however, offers some additional unique opportunities.

Beirut, Bahrain, London, Madrid, Moscow, Pakistan, Rome, Tel Aviv, and even the South Pole...NIS Special Agents have been there. During a 20-year career an NIS Special Agent can expect to do at least two tours of duty overseas.

The NIS has a broad spectrum of investigative fields ranging from criminal investigations, store front “sting” operations and undercover narcotics work to countering intelligence, protective services and anti-terrorism. What the NIS offers is an opportunity to be a part of some of the most interesting and challenging fields in law enforcement and national security.
Requirements

* U.S. Citizenship
* Baccalaureate Degree
* Between the ages of 21 and 35
* Pass extensive background investigation
* Excellent physical condition
* Complete Basic Agent Training

Regional Headquarters

Newport, RI
Washington, DC
Norfolk, VA
Charleston, SC
San Francisco, CA
San Diego, CA
London, UK
Honolulu, HI
Yokosuka, Japan
Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines