

Central Intelligence Agency

Central Intelligence Agency Seal

On 1 July 1949, it was announced that an official seal had been authorized for the Agency, and all employees were invited to submit suggested designs, for which a cash award was offered to the winner of the competition (Notice 18-49) By 7 March 1950, the final design was chosen and approved by the President in Executive Order 10111 - on 17 February* and announced to all employees. Since the final design included a number of suggestions, no cash award was made. (Notice 12-50) This copy is one of a series of about 20 hand-colored lithographs(?) which were actually signed by President Truman and then distributed to various Agency officials. This one was presented to George G. Carey, Assistant Director OO, 1948-1962.

L. Davison
OO Historical Writer, 1971

This document has been
approved for release through
the HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM of
the Central Intelligence Agency.

Date 31 May 91

HRP 89-2

HS/HC-387

200061

18 JAN 1950

The Honorable Frank Pace, Jr.
Director of the Bureau of the Budget
Bureau of the Budget
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pace:

Section 2 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (Public Law 110, 81st Congress) provides for a seal of office for the Central Intelligence Agency of such design as the President shall approve.

In accordance with this Section, this Agency requested that such a seal be prepared in approved form by the Heraldic Branch of the Office of the Quartermaster General of the Department of the Army.

There is forwarded herewith a proposed Executive Order setting forth the description and interpretation of the seal, together with the necessary painting and drawing, all of which have been prepared for us by the Heraldic Branch. It is necessary that this description and interpretation be approved by the President in accordance with Section 2 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act in order that judicial notice may be taken of this seal and in order that we may use it for all official purposes.

Sincerely,

R. H. HILLENKOTTER
REAR ADMIRAL, USN
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

Enclosures: 3

1. Proposed Executive Order
2. Painting of proposed CIA seal.
3. Drawing 626, Department of the Army, OCMG (2 copies).

WIPforzheimer:blc
Central Records
Signer
Management Officer
Legal Staff

HS/HC-387

Budget

EXECUTIVE ORDER

ESTABLISHING A SEAL FOR THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

In accordance with the provisions of Section 2 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, approved June 20, 1949 (Public Law 110, 81st Congress), and by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, it is hereby ordered as follows:

The seal for the Central Intelligence Agency shall be of the following design:

DESCRIPTION

Shield: Argent, a compass rose of sixteen points gules.

Crest: On a wreath argent and gules an American bald eagle's head erased proper. Below the shield on a gold color scroll the inscription "United States of America" in red letters. Encircling the shield and crest at the top the inscription "Central Intelligence Agency" in white letters; all on a circular blue background with a narrow gold edge.

The seal shall be as described and interpreted herein and as set forth in the illustrations which accompany this Order and are hereby made a part thereof.

INTERPRETATION

The American eagle is a symbol of strength and alertness and is the National bird. The radiating spokes of the compass rose depict the coverage of intelligence data from all areas to a central point.

Such seal being of suitable design and appropriate for establishment as the official seal of the Central Intelligence Agency:

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 2 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, I hereby approve such seal as the official seal of the Central Intelligence Agency.

This order shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

THE WHITE HOUSE.



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE CIA SEAL

Section 2 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 provided for a seal of office for CIA. The design of the seal was approved and set forth on 17 February 1950 in President Truman's Executive Order 10111.

In Executive Order 10111, the CIA seal is described in heraldic terms as follows:

SHIELD: Argent, a compass rose of sixteen points gules.

CREST: On a wreath argent and gules an American bald eagle's head erased proper.

Below the shield on a gold color scroll the inscription "United States of America" in red letters, and encircling the shield and crest at the top the inscription "Central Intelligence Agency" in white letters.

All on a circular blue background with a narrow gold edge.

The interpretation of the CIA seal is as follows:

The American Eagle is the national bird and is a symbol of strength and alertness.

The radiating spokes of the compass rose depict the coverage of intelligence data from all areas of the world to a central point.

RS/HC-387

AN INTERESTING VIGNETTE OF CIA HISTORY

In June of 1949 Paul E. Arneson, of the Management Office, was called to the office of CIA Executive, Captain Winecoff and informed that the Act of Congress which established the Agency (Section 2, PL 81110, 50 USC 403B) had noted that the Director should prepare a Seal of Office for CIA. He handed Mr. Arneson a copy of the Act and requested that action be initiated to produce appropriate designs for consideration by the Director.

Informal contacts with several representative employees indicated that perhaps an invitation should be extended to all employees to submit ideas for the design. The suggestion was submitted to the Executive who approved and issued an All Employees Notice. The response produced a dozen or more sketches, none of which was acceptable.

Mr. Arneson recalled certain experiences which he had had during World War II as an Army Staff officer in the development of recommendations for medals, shoulder patches, etc., and that final designs and heraldic descriptions had been developed in conjunction with the Heraldic Division of the U.S. Army, Quartermaster Corps. He made arrangements through the Agency liaison office to visit the Chief of the Heraldic Division. A copy of the law and the sketches which had been submitted were examined and discussed.

During the next twelve to fifteen weeks, many meetings finally resulted in the drafting of about twenty designs. From this assortment about eight were selected which were prepared in color for presentation to the Director for review. From the group, the DCI selected the present seal. Following the final selection, Mr. Arneson worked with the Chief of the Heraldic Division in preparing the heraldic description to accompany the seal.

The Office of General Counsel prepared the draft of an Executive Order which was approved by President Harry S. Truman on 17 February 1950. (Executive Order 10111, 17 February 1950, 3CFR 1949-1953 Comp., page 302)

Action was completed with the procurement of the official Agency Standard which designates the CIA Headquarters wherever it is flown.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Washington, D. C.

NOTICE
NO. 18-49

1 July 1949

SUBJECT: Employees Suggestions for Design of Official CIA
Seal.

1. Legislation recently signed by the President directs Central Intelligence Agency to acquire an official seal. All civilian employees of CIA are invited to submit their suggestions for a suitable design to be used as the official seal of Central Intelligence Agency.

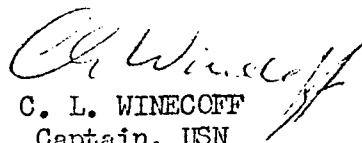
2. The designs will be judged for originality and appropriateness rather than perfection of artistic detail. Therefore, artistic talent is not a requirement in preparing a suggested seal.

3. A seal is presently in use by Central Intelligence Agency. This seal will be considered along with other entries in selection of the official seal. If the present seal is finally accepted, it will have been chosen by the panel of judges as the best seal for CIA.

4. If an employee's suggestion for a CIA seal is selected by the judges, the Committee on Awards for Meritorious Suggestions will recommend to the Director that a cash award be presented to the employee. The acceptance of a cash award shall constitute an agreement that the use by Central Intelligence Agency of the design for which the award is made shall not form the basis of a further claim of any nature upon CIA.

5. All entries must reach the Management Office, Room 144, South Building, not later than 15 July 1949. The Management Officer will turn all entries over to a panel of judges who will be named by separate action.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:


C. L. WINECOFF
Captain, USN
Executive

DISTRIBUTION: ALL CIA EMPLOYEES.

THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY ACT OF 1949,
AS AMENDED

Note—This statute is cited as 63 Stat. 208, 50 U.S.C. 403 (a) or P.L. 81-110 (1949), as amended.

AN ACT

To provide for the administration of the Central Intelligence Agency, established pursuant to section 102, National Security Act of 1947, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

DEFINITIONS

Section 1. That when used in this Act, the term—

⁵⁰
U.S.C.A.
403a

- (a) "Agency" means the Central Intelligence Agency;
- (b) "Director" means the Director of Central Intelligence;
- (c) "Government agency" means any executive department, commission, council, independent establishment, corporation wholly or partly owned by the United States which is an instrumentality of the United States, board, bureau, division, service, office, officer, authority, administration, or other establishment, in the executive branch of the Government.

NOTE

- 1. Former section 1(d) defining "Continental United States" was repealed by section 511(a) (3) of the Overseas Differentials and Allowances Act, 74 Stat. 792. (See p. 113 below.)

SEAL OF OFFICE

Section 2. The Director of Central Intelligence shall cause a seal of office to be made for the Central Intelligence Agency, of such design as the President shall approve, and judicial notice shall be taken thereof.

⁵⁰
U.S.C.A.
403b

EXECUTIVE ORDER 10111

Establishing a Seal for the Central Intelligence Agency

WHEREAS section 2 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, approved June 20, 1949 (Public Law 110-81st Congress), provides, in part, that the Director of Central Intelligence shall cause a seal of office to be made for the Central Intelligence Agency of such design as the President shall approve; and

³
CFR
1949-1953
Comp.,
p. 302

WHEREAS the Director of Central Intelligence has caused to be made and has recommended that I approve a seal of office for the Central Intelligence Agency the design of which accompanies and is hereby made a part of this order, and which is described in heraldic terms as follows:

SHIELD: Argent, a compass rose of sixteen points gules.

CREST: On a wreath argent and gules an American bald eagle's head erased proper.

Below the shield on a gold color scroll the inscription "United States of America" in red letters, and encircling the shield and crest at the top the inscription "Central Intelligence Agency" in white letters.

All on a circular blue background with a narrow gold edge;

AND WHEREAS it appears that such seal is of suitable design and is appropriate for establishment as the official seal of the Central Intelligence Agency;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of and pursuant to the authority vested in me by the said section 2 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, I hereby approve such seal as the official seal of the Central Intelligence Agency.

/s/ Harry S. Truman

The White House
February 17, 1950

NOTE

1. As provided for in section 2 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, this Executive Order describes and gives Presidential approval to the official seal of the Agency, a black and white facsimile of which appears on the title page of this booklet.

15 June 1966