

NAVY DEPARTMENT

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS AND RADIO

AUGUST 15, 1946

OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH ESTABLISHED IN NAVY DEPARTMENT

Establishment of the Office of Naval Research within the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, giving permanent status to the Government's biggest program in support of fundamental research, was announced today.

Public law 588, passed by Congress August 1, 1946, and signed by President Truman on August 3, authorized the creation of the new Office of Naval Research to succeed the existing Office of Research and Inventions, which has functioned since May 19, 1945, by directive of the Secretary of the Navy under authority of the Second War Powers Act.

The new Office of Naval Research will carry on, in effect, where the Office of Research and Inventions has pioneered, with essentially the same objectives, staff and general organization.

Secretary Forrestal, who recognized the critical role of scientific research in Naval warfare and directed establishment of the Office of Research and Inventions more than a year ago, today termed activities of the Office of Naval Research "a Navy Department insurance investment in permanent research".

"This investment," he said, "may be expected to provide a revolving fund of progress in basic research, such as that which has made possible such spectacular developments as the atom bomb, radar, rockets, jet planes and penicillin."

The bulk of the work in this Navy-stimulated research program is conducted by civilian scientists throughout the country, working in universities and other research institutions, including industrial research laboratories, under contract with the Navy. The Office of Research and Inventions has been by far the largest sponsor of research contracts which aim to encourage and assist, but not to restrict or dictate, basic research activities of the contractor. Thus, the research work is done in exactly the same manner as usual and the customary publication takes place in scientific journals.

By means of this type of research contract the Navy taps the Nation's best educational and scientific sources for ideas and new knowledge, but makes no attempt to regiment or control scientific endeavor. For the most part basic research projects now in effect are the result of discussions between mutually interested groups at the institution concerned and the Navy, resulting in the institution undertaking work which it is especially equipped to perform and in which there are strong possibilities of interest for Navy development. Evidence as to the success of this line of approach is the large number of contracts in force with leading institutions and centers of scientific learning -- 177 contracts with 81 university, private and industrial research laboratories throughout the United States, and the enthusiastic reception accorded this program from the institutions concerned.

The Office of Naval Research, as it takes over from the Office of Research and Inventions, obtains a going organization composed of a headquarters office in the main Navy Department building in Washington, D. C., which performs staff, coordinating and service functions; the Planning Division, at headquarters; the Naval Research Laboratory, at Anacostia, D. C., the Special Devices Center, at Port Washington, Long Island, New York; the Navy Patents System, in Washington, and branch offices in London, Boston, New York, Chicago, San Francisco and Los Angeles. Each branch office in the United States includes a Scientific Section, Patents Section, and a Special Devices Section.

Wide powers granted the Chief of Naval Research, who will head the Office of Naval Research, charge him with "duties of encouraging, promoting, planning, initiating, and coordinating Naval research, and conducting Naval research in augmentation of and in conjunction with the research and development conducted by the respective Bureaus and other agencies and offices of the Navy Department."

The Chief of Naval Research will be the principal adviser to the Secretary of the Navy on all research matters and such developments as may be expected from research. He shall keep the Chief of Naval Operations advised of research findings, trends and potentialities, and shall disseminate Naval research information to interested bureaus and offices within the Navy Department and to other Governmental or appropriate private agencies.

The head of the Office of Naval Research also will serve as the principal representative of the Navy Department in dealings of Navy-wide interest on research matters with other Government agencies, corporations, educational and scientific institutions, and other organizations and individuals concerned with scientific research. In addition this position calls for scientific research and development surveys; planning and coordinating fundamental research; study and collaboration within the Navy on formulation of principal development programs of the Navy; recommendation on establishment or abolishment of Naval research laboratories; supervision, administration and control of all Navy activities relating to patents, inventions, trademarks, copyrights, royalty payments and similar matters; and development, design, maintenance, modification, improvement, and upon request, production of training devices and aids.

Planning and coordination of Naval research by the newly-established office will be aided by a civilian committee authorized by the new law. This committee, known as the Naval Research Advisory Council, shall consist of not more than 15 persons to be appointed by the Secretary from those persons in civilian life who are preeminent in the fields of science, research and development work. One member of this committee will be from the field of medicine.

The Secretary of the Navy said today that \$45,000,000 had been appropriated to the Navy Department for fundamental research initiated by the Office of Research and Inventions during the fiscal year 1947. Research is now being conducted in nuclear physics, medicine, physics, chemistry, mathematics, electronics, mechanics, meteorology, and applied research and coordination with the rest of the Navy in the fields of power, guided missiles, and air, surface and sub-surface warfare. The individual research projects are under direct supervision of the nation's leading

scientists in institutions of all types, large and small, throughout the country. From the development of this program may confidently be expected not only the progress in fundamental science which is so urgently required but also the advanced training of young scientists to take their places in both civil and military research and development.

"This program will be continued and augmented by the newly-created Office of Naval Research," the Secretary pointed out, "to insure a scientifically strong Navy most essential to maintenance of future Naval power and preservation of national security—the prime purpose of Naval research."