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Ministry of National Defense	PRESS RELEASE	“Competent National Security, Strong National Defense”

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Date + Time of Release:	Nov. 6, 2018 (Tues)	Department:	Special Investigation Unit on Suspicious of the Defense Security Command (DSC)
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Investigation Results of the Alleged Surveillance of Civilians (in connection with Sewol) by the DSC

Overview

- A “Special Investigation Unit” (SIU) was formed on July 16, 2018 to investigate suspicions surrounding the DSC Task Force (TF)’s alleged surveillance of civilians in connection with the Sewol incident. The investigation was carried out as follows:
 - 8 search and seizures were carried out at the offices of the DSC and Security Research Institute (33 areas in 21 different places), and a total of 129 investigations (through summons) were carried out on approx. 110 people.
 - Approx. 600,000 files (700GB) of emails, electronic records, etc. were analyzed
 - *Annex of Outcomes for each defendant/suspect is included

Investigation Results of the Alleged Surveillance of Civilians by the DSC

1. DSC’s Surveillance of Sewol victims’ families

- **(DSC’s Purpose in Running a Sewol TF)** After the Sewol ferry incident, there were various regional elections and important political events coming up. As the political situation in the midst of the Sewol incident grew unfavorable for the government (there were concerns about the government’s negligence in the protection of the people, and the inadequate response to the initial incident, etc.), this task force was formed and operated to quickly reverse the political situation and promote the recovery of approval ratings for the VIP.

May 10th Blue House (BH) Report “A plan to take measures against controversial issues on Sewol”

Measures to Manage the Media and Maintain “President Identity”

- Points for Consideration
 - 1) Exit Strategy for changing public opinion for the June 4th Regional Elections (Chinese)
 - 2) Boosting confidence in the government and restoring the VIP’s approval ratings for the stable operation of state affairs

- **The DSC’s motive behind its surveillance of Sewol victims’ family members:** The DSC recognized that giving up the missing victims’ search and giving up the recovery of the Sewol ferry were preconditions for a quick change to be brought about in the political situation. It therefore began to gather intelligence on each individual and any unrealistic requests they made that will turn the public opinion on them and persuade and pressure the missing victims’ families.

July 19th Blue House Report “A plan to change the political situation related to the Sewol incident”

2. Plan to persuade family members of the missing victims

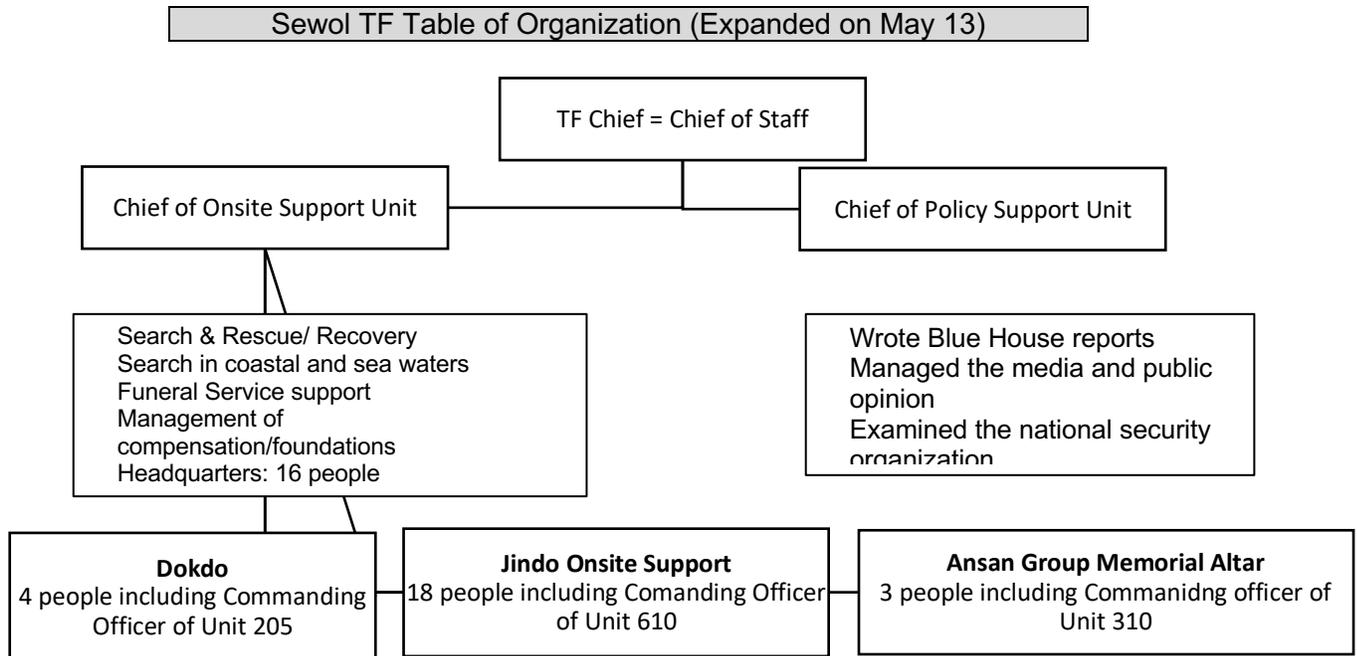
1) Gathered Information on individuals	2) Established a plan to persuade the families	3) Proceeded with trying to persuade the families	4) Also worked to shape public opinion
In cooperation with related agencies	Focus persuasion for 2 weeks	Informal and emotional tactics	Use of the media and social media

- 1) Gathered information on individual family members of missing victims
 - Most of the families consented to the government measures that were taken, some of them took the lead on hardline public opinions
 - Most of the moderate-leaning families remained cautious and were hesitant with voicing their opinions
- 4) Pressured families while also trying to shape nationwide public opinion
 - The missing victims’ family members reacted sensitively to the negative media reports and public opinions

- **Report on Surveillance of Victims’ Families in connection with the Blue House:** The DSC continued to be attentive to the interests of superior authorities such as the Blue House in regard to the Sewol incident. After the sinking of the Sewol, over several times it suggested phased and strategic measures to key officials at the Blue House to change the political situation. Within that, it also gave current reports of the Sewol situation, including reports on the surveillance of victims’ families and took follow-up measures.

Systematic Surveillance of Victims' Families through the Sewol-related Task Force (TF): From the beginning of the incident, the DSC assigned its Chief of Staff to the position of Chief of TF and formed this Sewol TF. The onsite support units at Jindo and Ansan and the cyber management unit surveilled victims' families and reported on them as per orders of the TF. This was systematically operated by the DSC.

⇒ Col. Sohn, Chief of the Special Unit and the TF Onsite Support Unit, was arrested and indicted; Col. Park, the unit controller of the Onsite Support Unit, was indicted without detention



June 14: Sewol Situation Report by Headquarters

Breakdown of Onsite Support Unit: Total of 23 people deployed from 3 different units

Governmental Joint Memorial Center (Hwarang Recreation Area) + Ansan Center for Incidents Response (Ansan City Hall)

- 3 people including the Commanding Officer of Unit 310

Headquarters for Incident Response (Jindo District Office)

- 7 people including the Commanding Officer of Unit 610

Donggeochado

- 2 people including the Sergeant Commander of Unit 610
- 2 people including the Officer of Maritime Affairs School

Yellow Sea Coast Guard

- 5 people including Level 4 Officer of Unit 610
- 4 people including the Commanding Officer of Unit 610-703

- **Unit 610's Surveillance of Families of Missing Victims:** The Commanding Officer of Unit 610 assigned individual onsite duties for each officer in the unit. He instructed them with guidelines on what actions to take if they were exposed while on duty. For example, they were told to disguise themselves as one of the victims' family members if they were exposed. They gathered intelligence on each family member of the missing victims who were staying near the Jindo gymnasium and reported on each members' political leaning, family relations, TV viewing habits, drinking patterns, and they identified those among the family members who had a strong sway over public opinion.
 - ⇒ Major General Soh, Commanding Officer of Unit 610 and the Special Unit, was arrested and indicted

April 21: Orders from the Commanding Officer (Unit 610 Email)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emphasis on assessing the situation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The requests that the family members are making, the content of the discussions between the governmental task force and the family representatives, any issues resonating with the family members or strange conducts of the family members - Status of the victim bodies that have been uncovered, interviews of civilian divers and comments on the family members - Ascertain whether there were any problems with the associated support - Tracking down antigovernment instigators and disseminators of groundless rumors ○ Measures to prevent public criticism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can use cell phones, but only after applying a passcode and putting a lock on Kakaotalk - Prohibit the use of slogans/statements of loyalty when giving reports via phonecall and text message - Prohibit the possession of social security cards, drivers' licenses, and other forms of identification (when in plainclothes) - Prepare to disguise oneself as one of the family members and answer questions accordingly in an emergency situation

- **Unit 310's Surveillance of Families of Surviving Students and Victims' Families:** The Commanding Officer of Unit 310 assigned tasks to officers in the unit. He instructed them to gather intelligence on the leaders of the groups of victims' families and sympathizers of the surviving students and to report on their work history, political leanings, political parties they were affiliated with, and the status on the protests that were occurring around the group memorial altar.
 - ⇒ Rear Admiral Kim, the Commanding Officer of Unit 310 and the Special Unit, was arrested and indicted.

May 29: Conclusions on the Sewol Victims' Families Representative and Spokesperson
A. Representative of the Sewol Victims' Families <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Does not have any previous history of antigovernmental activities, but did have a critical perspective of society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Had a normal job, working in _____ and _____, but was critical of society.

[Annex] Outcomes for each defendant/suspect

Rank/Name	Position (at that time)	Charges	Outcome
Major General Soh	Commanding Officer of Unit 610	Ordered the surveillance of Sewol victims' family members	Arrested and indicted
Rear Admiral Kim	Commanding Officer of Unit 310		
Colonel Sohn	Sewol Ferry TF Onsite Support Team Leader		
Colonel Park	Sewol Ferry TF Onsite Support Team Controller		
Rear Admiral Ki	Captain of the YBE Arrest TF	Illegally wiretapped the Geumsuwon area during the operation to arrest YBE	Indicted without detention
Colonel ***	Commanding Officer		Suspension of indictment
Colonel ***	Commanding Officer		
Lieutenant Colonel ***	Commanding Officer		
Lieutenant Colonel ***	YBE Arrest TF Controller		

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- o (000 Military Unit Information 00 Unit Victims' Families 'Cyber Surveillance') The cyber team within the DSC ("Defense Security Command), 000 Division Information 00 Unit, through search engines such as Google, collected information about victims' families' articles on the internet and also collected information such as telephone numbers, academic credentials, used products transactions history, and social club activities on the internet, and provided reports on this and thus carried out 'cyber surveillance'.
- o (Entire Military Unit Collected Proposals Related to the Sewol Ferry Political Situation) The DSC used the entire military unit to collect early recovery measures for the government regarding the Sewol Ferry political situation under the name of 'Sewol Ferry Expectations and Proposals Collection'. One measure that was reported to the BH was a proposal to give up the search on the missing people of the Sewol Ferry.

*Early on during the incident, an evaluation report suggesting giving up the missing people search during the early stage and salvaging it early on. Once it was determined that the salvaging process would take an extended period of time, the proposal was changed to establishing a collective memorial park. (6.7. Collective proposal initial report to BH)

- (Early Recovery Proposals to Overturn the Political Situation Presented by the DSC Task Team at the Time)
 - If the missing people's parents seem rigid, we need to actively look into close family members and verify their identity to indirectly negotiate providing compensation.
 - Provide information about the costs involved related to the Sewol Ferry and the things that the victims' families are demanding to form a negative public opinion about the investigation and salvaging.
 - Negative public opinion about the conservative party is spreading, so use an expert in economics and continue to report on the negative impact on the nation's economy due to the Sewol Ferry accident. Get the conservative organizations to launch a public opinion poll of the general public.
 - The government's position on the surface will be to continue the search efforts but will put pressure on the victims' families to give up on the searches by using the negative public opinion.
 - Focus on the wrongdoings of the owner and captain of the Sewol Ferry and lead the public's anger to be expressed on them as targets. (Form good guys-bad guys public opinion)

- 2. Illegal Tapping Suspicion Related to YBE Arrest Task Force ("TF")
 - (YBE Arrest TF's Organization and Activities) Since June 11, 2014 upto the time of verifying YBE's death, the DSC formed three TFs in order to arrest YBE and carried out various illegal tapping and reports about the activities of the entire DSC unit followed their orders and restrictions and received reports about these activities.
 - (Report about Tapping Situation to BH) After June 2014, over several times, the DSC gave a report to people of key positions at BH about the tapping activities and about the arrest plan for YBE. This report was titled 'Current Update on Investigation and Inspection Activities'
 - In regards to the report about the commencement of tapping devices usage, a BH document of encouragement was verified which stated, "There's no other organization like the DSC that moves in unison under centralized authority.
 - (TF's Meetings and Execution of Illegal Tapping) June 12, 2014. The commander and deputy commander had a meeting and decided to use flying surveillance devices and more manpower to tap the walkie-talkie devices used by YBE followers. They reported about using these surveillance devices and starting using them under the guise of "electric wave environment research'.

- (Awareness of Illegal Tapping and Enforcement) After the tapping started, one of the employees submitted a report titled 'Wireless Tapping Illegality Assessment' about the illegality of the tapping. But the title of this report was changed to 'Evaluation Report about the Illegality of the Tapping by Surveillance Devices'. Since the tapping was illegal, they tried to legitimize it by making it look like they were carrying out research on the electric wave environment and reported in that manner.

Special Unit, TF Leader at the time (Colonel) KiOO Brigadier Indicted without
detainment

June 17 th Excerpt from the 'Evaluation Report about the Illegality of the Tapping by Surveillance Devices'
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Question about the illegality of the task force tapping activities / recommendations<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The current activities are beyond the scope of the 'communications privacy laws' and 'special espionage communications regulations'<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Communications privacy laws section 16 (penalties), can be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum 1 year to less than 10 years○ In order to avoid the issue of breaking the law, we can apply the 'Electric Wave Law' section 55 (measuring the electric wave environment etc), and carry out these activities for the purposes of researching the electric wave environment (need to prepare the plans and outcomes for the electric wave research)<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Electric wave research: In preparation of certain tasks, we need to carry out research nationwide in certain areas in order to carry out the research about the installment and transferring of certain devices.○ Need strict security measures on the contents of the tapping and the recorded content<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ List of tapping devices, content of tapping / keep only 1 copy of the list of contents (destroy once terminated)

- (Espionage surveillance and security equipment and people used for surveillance activities) Jun 13, 2014 ~ Until the time of death was verified of YBE, the OOO Unit carried out surveillance activities of YBE even if it resulted in creating a lapse in their original surveillance and security duties that they had. They used people and equipment in areas where there were suspicions of his hiding and they indiscriminately tapped and recorded all wireless communications between private individuals, and all wireless communications in public places such as seaports, construction sites, and places of businesses. Close to several hundreds of pages of records were reported to the TF.

*OOO Unit June 28 ~ July 21. More than about 2 million in the Yongin and 13 other areas / OOO Unit June 13 ~ July 12. About 1,300 instances of illegal tapping in the Anseong Geumsoowon area. (Based on the internal report)

- The purpose of the investigation and future actions
 - The DSC abused its power for the purposes of protecting the current political powers during the Sewol Ferry disaster by carrying out organized illegal surveillance of the Sewol Ferry family members and private citizens. The Special Task Force needs to reveal the truth of the DSC's illegal surveillance activities and hold them accountable for their actions so that the same does not occur again. That was the purpose of this investigation.
 - The Special Task Force will further carry out justice against the defendants involved who were responsible for the surveillance of private citizens related to the Sewol Ferry. We will work in cooperation with the Seoul Central Prosecutors' Office concerning the civilian suspects.

The related facts presented in this press release has not been confirmed by trial.