THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN IN IDA, ARPA, AND PROJECT AGILE

President Harlan Hatcher is a member of the IDA Board of Trustees.

Professor Kenneth Case of the physics department is one of the 44 professors across the country who do consulting work for IDA. Case is a theoretical physicist who, during World War II, worked at Los Alamos on the development of the atomic bomb. For about one day a month during the school year, Case works for IDA. He also attends a six-to eight-week intensive summer study session run by Jason and several weekend Jason meetings each year. Case refused to be interviewed by the Daily about this relationship.

While he was a professor of physics at the University, Peter Franken was also a Jason consultant. Franken went on leave from the University last year and is now acting director of the defense department's Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), the arm of the Pentagon that channels funds for the school's \$I million counterinsurgency project in Thailand.

Gwynn Suits, a research physicist at Willow Run Labs, took a year-long leave from the University in the 1965-66 academic year to work on the IDA staff.

George Zissis, head of the Willow Run Center's Infrared Physics Laboratory spent the 1963-64 academic year working for the Research and Engineering Support Division (RESD) of IDA.

-Steve Wildstrom, Michigan Daily Oct. 19, 1967

Counter-Insurgency in Vietnam

One of the areas of ARPA's concern is Project Agile which is charged with the development of weapons systems for "remote areas". Agile has been concentrating on Vietnam recently alvice. IDA's responsibilty is to adapt new scientific ideas to weaponry, develop new systems, co-ordinate research being done in various labs on counter-insurgency weaponry, and evaluate the

While IDA views the weapons system from the viewpoint of the research scientist, engineers must develop the new weapons concept from blueprint to prototype. Many of the war engineers work at university labs and Willow Run is a prominent one. Broject Michigan started well before American intervention in Vietnam, in terms of troops, began, but its recent work has concentrated on solving surveillance problems arising in the war. Such problems have included the development of effective moving target indicators both airborne and for ground use, infrared detector systems, and night vision. Project Michigan has been vital to the war effort as indicated by the army's statement to Project Director Hess, given in the 1985-66 President's Report.

The complex interrelationship between IDA and Project Michigan is illustrated in two recent events. The first was a conference called at IDA's headquarters near the Pentagon in Arlington, Va. The conference was entitled Counter-Insurgency Research and Development and brought together scientific and military personnel working in the RAD field relative to Vietnam. Willow Run staff participated in the conference and acted as resource personnel. George Zissis of Willow Run led the section dealing with night vision in the Vietnamese setting.

A more glamorous example is the electronic barrier. This idea was developed and evaluated by IDA for Project Agile. The New York Times reports that Agile spent 11 million dollars to develop the barrier concept. The detectors which will be deployed for the barrier were developed at Willow Run for Project Michigan. They include both ground and airborne radar and infrared systems.

The costs for the various stages of development for the barrier are typical for weapons systems. The initial R&D by IDA cost ll million. The systems developed at Willow Rum to prototype cost over 50 million since Project Michigan started. The actual production and installation of the barrier will cost over a billion and this does not include the expenses of the troops needed to man it. A small R&D seed can lead to vast military expenditures.

--- Voice-SDS (2534 Student Activities Bldg., 663-6610)

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IDA: Marketing Academic Research

CATHY McAFFEE/Graduate student in History of Science, Princeton University; member SDS. Research assistants for this story were Ernest Dornfeld and Steven Kindred of University of Chicago SDS, and James Tarlau of Princeton SDS.

After 1962, titles such as the following appear with increasing frequency in the lists of IDA project reports:

A Lanchester Model of Guerrilla Warfare
Small Arms for Counterguerrilla Operations
Tactical Nuclear Weapons—Their Battlefield Utility
Chemical Control of Vegetation in Relation to Military
Needs
Research Guidance for the Development of Flame
Weapons
A Rational Approach to the Development of NonLethal Chemical Warfare Agents
Night Vision for Counterinsurgents

Behavioral Science Research Relevant to Military
Operation: Government-Funded External Research
Relevant to Persuasion and Motivation
Interdiction of Trucks from the Air at Night
Helicopter Aural Detection in Tactical Situations

In order to give academic scientists the opportunity to work on these "challenges of our time," 12 major universities have combined to form the Institute for Defense Analyses, As IDA officials explain, the Institute serves as "a means by which individuals from universities can come to grips with major problems of national security," and "by which the government can reach deeper and more accurately into a great store of scientific knowledge and technical skill." As the major research institution of the Defense Department, IDA has contributed to the development of major weapons used in Vietnam.

IDA is set up as a non-profit corporation, a defense "think tank." It is an arrangement that works out well for everyone involved. Through such a consortium, the government can buy top scientific talent, bypassing low civil service salaries and avoiding accountability to Congress. Defense industry corporations, whose executives usually dominate think tank boards of directors, gain access to classified information and the opportunity to "evaluate objectively" the projects they are trying to sell to the government. Through their participation in weapons design, the universities receive "the direct opportunity to absorb... the wisdom that derives empirically from intimate contact with real and present problems," not to mention lucrative leaves of absence and consulting fees for professors. The importance of IDA for the universities has nothing to do with education; IDA membership is a means for marketing the products of the academic research industry.

IDA was formed in 1955 to procure civilian scientists for the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Defense Department wanted sophisticated, computerized, "objective" studies of defense strategy.

IDA was finally formed as a membership corporation including MIT, Cal Tech, Case Institute of Technology, Stanford, and Tulane, and was provided with a \$500,000 grant from the Ford Foundation. Administrators from each of the universities (many of whom are connected with companies in the defense business), a number of bankers and aerospace industralists, and a few career government servants were enlisted as trustees. Since then, the corporation has expanded to include the universitites of Chicago, Illinois, Michigan, California, Princeton, Penn State, and Columbia.

Today IDA has over 600 employes and an annual budget of \$12 million. In addition to WSEG, IDA now does studies for the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Defense Department, the National Security Agency, the State Department, the Office of Civil Defense, and the Federal Aviation Agency. Recently, IDA

has been applying its knowledge of military "command and control" and resource management to studies of police methods, the poverty program. and the draft.

Most of IDAs work is highly classified, and all of it is done at the Institute's Arlington, Va., headquarters, or at the Communications Research Center on the Princeton campus. Although most of IDA's scientific and administrative employes come from industrial laboratories, and a few from government agencies, almost all have taught in universities at one time. Many are recruited directly from the campus, and there is a growing trend to hire recent PhDs. Some academics work at IDA during their leaves of absence, and about 25 are added to the summer staff. The average length of stay of an employe at IDA is only about two years.

Academic scientists are finding it increasingly difficult to pursue their careers without contributing to this kind of work. Not only do they depend on government contracts for support, but often they must become involved in defense projects merely to gain access to the information and equipment they need for research. Moreover, the value of a professor to a university is increasingly measured, certainly not by his teaching ability, and not even so much by his publication, but by the demand for his product in the market of the knowledge industry.

Theoretically, IDA is controlled by its corporate members through their representatives on the board of trustees, but in practice that body has little influence on the Institute's policy. The formal re-

Suggestions for reading (—from a bibliography compiled by U. of Chicago SDS, available from Voice):

Military counterinsurgency research and development for Vietnam:

Science, April 8, 1966, pp. 187-90. Includes IDA's place in overall counterinsurgency R&D.

Missiles and Rockets, Mar. 29, 1965, pp. 125-59. "Must be read. (especially pp. 128-91"

" " " , Mar. 28, 1966, pp. 132-41. Together with previous, includes valuable background on Project Agile.

Vietnam Thailand other "remote areas":

Vietnam, Thailand, other "remote areas":

New York Times, Jan. 27, 1964. "Weapons sought for remote wars". Early functions of Project Agile,
with discussion of their test centers in Vietnam, Thailand, elsewhere.

Technology Week, Dec. 19, 1966, pp. 17/18. "ARPA team aids Thailand.." "Excellent description of
these peoples' thinking."