

**PACOM  
Declassification Plan  
(Status: Incomplete Plan Attached)**

# **United States Pacific Command**

## **Declassification Plan**

**Executive Order 12958**

**Classified National Security Information**

**21 May 2004**

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SUBJECT: UNITED STATES PACIFIC COMMAND DOCUMENT  
DECLASSIFICATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR EXECUTIVE ORDER 12958

As required by Executive Order 12958, the attached Draft Document Declassification Implementation plan has been developed for the U.S. Pacific Command. U.S. Pacific Command approves it as interim guidance pending final program development, approval and implementation.

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Special Security Officer  
U.S. Pacific Command  
Date: 21 May 2004

Program Manager:  
CAPT David J. Dorsett  
Director of Intelligence  
U. S. Pacific Command  
Date: 21 May 2004

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#### **A. PURPOSE**

To promulgate USPACOM Declassification Plan as required by Executive Order (E.O.) 12958, "Classified National Security Information".

#### **B. U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND'S ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACT**

The U.S. Pacific Command official charged with overseeing and managing compliance for National Security Information (NSI) document declassifications under E.O. 12958 is Mr. Guy Dunan, Special Security Officer, USPACOM Intelligence Directorate, (808) 477-7342.

CAPT Dorsett, Director for Intelligence, USPACOM, (808) 477-7323, will manage implementation of the document declassification review program in the U.S. Pacific Command.

#### **C. OVERVIEW**

E.O. 12958 was signed on April 17, 1995, and became effective on October 16, 1995. The E.O. calls for the automatic declassification of National Security Information (NSI) records (i.e., records classified by previous Executive orders) that have permanent historical value and are 25 years old or older. Recognizing that there are particular categories of NSI that must continue to be protected beyond 25 years, the order provides for the exemption of those sensitive records either by complete file series or on an individual record basis. Beginning in 2000, U.S. Pacific Command identified numerous records exempt from automatic declassification. These records require continued protection due to their continuing sensitivity under provisions of E.O. 12958 in section 3.4.

In order to prepare this plan, the U.S. Pacific Command must assess the volume and nature of the records both in its possession and those held by other agencies that were likely to contain U.S. Pacific Command-exemptible material. In 2000, The U.S. Pacific Command conducted a survey of the records in the Washington D.C. area. The

documents consisted of hardcopy and microfiche, which we received via mail from the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facilities at College Park and Suitland, Maryland and the Naval Historical Center. We conducted the declassification review at HQ, USPACOM. In addition to the survey, we contacted our field organizations for assessments of their holdings and discussed with other agencies our equities that may be in their holdings. However, we have not done anything with the program for approximately two years.

U.S. Pacific Command will continue to make positive steps to demonstrate our commitment to the principles of an open Government and disclosure of the maximum amount of information possible consistent with protecting our vital national security interests. Our plan is based on two principles: use reviewers trained to identify the exempt material so that it may be properly withheld, and allow other organizations to review USPACOM equities that they have referred to USPACOM.

To implement E.O. 12958 the U.S. Pacific Command Declassification Plan:

1. Includes an estimate of the aggregate quantity of component records subject to this provision; a listing of where these records are located and an approximation of the quantity at each location; and a description of the Command's survey methodology. The estimates are provided in the following breakdown:

- a. Estimated quantity of textual records, per Washington National Records Center inventory that will be reviewed by year (See Table 1), beginning with 1979 (1979 requiring declassification beginning this year).

**BOXES TO BE REVIEWED BY YEAR, 1979 &  
FORWARD**

1979 - 9 (Review by 31 Dec 04)  
1980 - 2 (Review by 31 Dec 05)  
1981 - 1 (Review by 31 Dec 06)  
1982 - 1 (Review by 31 Dec 07)  
1983 - 1 (Review by 31 Dec 08)  
1984 - 1 (Review by 31 Dec 09)  
1985 - 1 (Review by 31 Dec 10)  
1986 - 2 (Review by 31 Dec 11)  
1987 - 0 (Review by 31 Dec 12)  
1988 - 0 (Review by 31 Dec 13)  
1989 - 0 (Review by 31 Dec 14)  
1990 - 0 (Review by 31 Dec 15)  
1991 - 1 (Review by 31 Dec 16)  
1992 - 0 (Review by 31 Dec 17)  
1993 - 1 (Review by 31 Dec 18)  
1994 - 0 (Review by 31 Dec 19)  
1995 - 4 (Review by 31 Dec 20)

**Table 1: WNRC Inventory for USPACOM**

- b. Estimated quantity of textual records that will be declassified by December 31, 2006. Approximately 12 boxes from WNRC, total numbers still TBD.
- c. Estimated quantity of textual records that will be exempted from automatic declassification by December 31, 2006. TBD.
- d. Estimated quantity of textual records we expect to refer to other agencies by December 31, 2006. TBD.
- e. Estimated quantity of textual records we expect to refer to USPACOM for declassification or exemption by December 31, 2009.
  - 1) On 18 August 2003, the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) referred two classified documents for review.
  - 2) The Army reviewed and referred 1,100,000 pages of USPACOM's equities and USPACOM responded with a delegation of authority letter to the Army Declassification Activity (ADA) allowing them to review the referrals.
  - 3) The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has referred approximately 300,000 pages that are pending action.
  - 4) All other sources of referrals are currently TBD. We are awaiting the results of most agencies initial scrub.
- f. Estimated quantity of special media that can be delayed until December 31, 2011. TBD.
- g. Estimated quantity of special media that USPACOM expects to declassify by December 31, 2011.
  - 1) In 1999 the Naval Historical Center (NHC) shipped 16,770 microfilm reels of USCINCPAC message traffic. Tapes were shipped to HQ, USPACOM for review. 2,500 reels were processed in a page-by-page review. The status of the remaining 14,270 microfilm reels is TBD.
  - 2) Also in 1999, the WNRC shipped 1,300,000 pages of hard copy documents. 800,000 pages were processed in a page-by-page review. 500,000 pages still require review.
- h. Estimated quantity of special media that USPACOM expects to exempt by December 31, 2011. TBD.
- i. Estimated quantity of special media that USPACOM expects to refer by December 31, 2011. TBD.
- j. Estimated quantity of special media that USPACOM expects to be referred to USPACOM for declassification or exemption by December 31, 2016. TBD.

2. Includes the plan to apply the integral file block concept. The plan defines what records are included in an integral file block in the following areas:

a. U.S. Pacific Command intelligence information, intelligence sources or cryptology that is still currently being used and may reveal sensitive information related to the nuclear weapons program.

b. Concerns foreign governments or international organization(s) information that was provided to U.S. Pacific Command, or U.S. Pacific Command information provided to foreign government(s) or international organization(s), with the understanding that such information be kept in confidence. Such information includes, but is not limited to, information generated pursuant to agreements for cooperation or sensitive high-level discussions between U.S. Pacific Command officials and foreign government representatives.

c. Concerns naval nuclear propulsion information which will assist other nations in the application of nuclear propulsion to naval vessels, will provide unauthorized access to information related to the operational characteristics and capabilities of a naval nuclear propulsion plant. These are the only NSI subject areas that U.S. Pacific Command desires to continue to protect in documents that are older than 1976. Even though the documents within these subject areas are exempt from automatic declassification, they are still subject to mandatory and systematic declassification review under the provisions of the E.O.

d. Other concerns to be determined.

3. Performed characterization surveys of U.S. Pacific Command's classified record file series located at U.S. Pacific Command Headquarters, as well as at NARA within the Washington D.C. area, which have been designated as having historical value (permanent file series) to determine the existence and percentage of exemptible information in each file series.

4. Develop a database of the U.S. Pacific Command records in the Washington D.C. area which:

(a) Identifies and categorizes file series that:

(1) Should be exempt.

(2) Are not exempt but must be reviewed before release.

(3) Should be reviewed if resources are available, but will otherwise be automatically declassified (requires USPACOM Chief of Staff approval before declassification).

(b) Provides a basis to plan the scope of our declassification activity under the order.

5. Become a member of the External Referral Working Group (ERWG) to exchange data with other agencies to insure coordination where needed, as well as sharing of experience and ideas.

## **D. ASSUMPTIONS**

1. This plan covers only records determined by the Archivist of the United States to have permanent value. U.S. Pacific Command Records Management personnel and the Archivist will ensure that all historically significant records are scheduled for permanent retention. Any pre-1976 records that are subsequently determined to be permanently valuable will be reviewed by the end of the transition period or within 1 year of being declared permanently valuable, whichever is greater.
2. Where possible, document collections should be kept intact for convenience in historical research. Collections whose time-span overlaps a due date for automatic declassification will be scheduled for review as one collection. The collection is scheduled for review based on the latest date in the collection's time-span as if the entire collection is due for automatic declassification based on that date.
3. Documents containing Restricted Data (RD) and Formerly Restricted Data (FRD) are classified under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and are not governed by E.O. 12958. Consequently, RD and FRD are not subject to the automatic declassification provisions of E.O. 12958.
4. NSI documents residing in RD/FRD collections (file series) are not exempt from the provisions of E.O. 12958. All file series have been evaluated based upon the NSI they contain for the purpose of determining whether it was appropriate to request an exemption and for scheduling a collection review.
5. If a document containing RD/FRD is improperly marked NSI, or has no markings, it can be properly marked and excluded from further review.
6. If a document contains exemptible unmarked NSI, it may be marked appropriately and segregated from records scheduled for automatic declassification.
7. U.S. Pacific Command's review will not normally include documents marked as unclassified. However, in recognition of the risk associated with these policies, U.S. Pacific Command will survey collections prior to making a determination that the risk is sufficiently low to permit the omission from review of unmarked documents presumed to be unclassified.

## **E. IMPLEMENTATION**

### **1. General Considerations in Implementation:**

Effective implementation of E.O. 12958 depends on a strong information management program. Records management, classification management, and information release are functions that will be performed in an integrated manner throughout the U.S. Pacific Command. Effective classification management will reduce the amount of information classified unnecessarily, lower costs, and facilitate future declassification.

To accomplish the systematic declassification review efforts associated with this plan and serve the public economically, the U.S. Pacific Command systematic review (for U.S. Pacific Command records) will be:

- Focused first on those records where there is a high likelihood of both declassification and public, academic, or historical researcher interest. U.S. Pacific Command will determine the likelihood of declassification by a survey and provide NARA with a list of candidate collections; NARA will determine degree of interest and schedule the year for review of each collection. (All applicable documents will be reviewed during the four and one-half years allowed by the Executive order).
- Conducted in such a fashion that both declassification and public release are accomplished at very close to the same time. By public release, we mean the public has: (a) a vehicle through which to be made aware of the availability of the documents, and (b) a means of obtaining access.
- Accomplished without redaction except in exceptional circumstances.
- Performed in a manner designed to isolate and/or avoid the release of exemptible U.S. Pacific Command NSI, RD, and FRD. To this end, past conversations with both NARA and U.S. Naval History Center management indicate that documents at both sites that remain classified after the systematic review will be withdrawn and a withdrawal card put in their place.

For the other agency records, the above procedures will be modified in that the files will be selected by NARA in consultation with the other agency. U.S. Pacific Command will cooperate fully with other agencies when they identify potential U.S. Pacific Command equities within their holdings.

U.S. Pacific Command intends to implement document reviews specifically to comply with E.O. 12958. Plans are for the reviewers to perform reviews at the location where the documents are stored or at our Command location.

Inadvertent releases of RD/FRD material (under the Comprehensive Classification Review Program) resulted from early attempts under previous administrations' Executive orders (e.g., E.O. 11652) to rapidly declassify information. U.S. Pacific Command will conduct two-person reviews for RD/FRD material because of its complexity and technical nature.

## **2. Specific Approach to Implementation:**

Phase I - This plan insures the review of pre-1981 is first priority for review. The actual sequencing of the order in which files will be reviewed and sites will be visited will be determined at a later date.

Phase II - Systematic review of exempt pre-1981 file series as required by section 3.5 (a) of the Executive order: No file series have been submitted for exemption.



Phase III - Review of post-1981 files series: The third phase of the U.S. Pacific Command review program under E.O. 12958 will commence with the oldest files and working forward to the most recent.

Quality Assurance: Contractor reviewers will perform the majority of the work. These reviewers fall into one of two general qualification levels:

1. Technical reviewers who have a background in applied sciences or engineering. These reviewers have been trained to deal with the entire spectrum of NSI and RD/FRD issues.
2. National Security Information reviewers who may not have the scientific or engineering qualifications of the reviewers above and who have not received the same training on recognizing all of the RD/FRD material.

We will employ a three-level approach to quality assurance:

1. Each reviewer will check his own work for errors.
2. The team leader/supervisor will spot check approximately 10 percent of each team member's work.
3. The Federal employee responsible for each team will randomly check about five percent of the team's work.

Because we will use reviewers with different qualification levels, each team will have at least one fully trained RD/FRD reviewer to assist in properly identifying RD/FRD information that may not be clear to the NSI reviewers.

### **3. Further Coordination for Implementation:**

The following paragraph addresses the specific tasks in the 25 November 2003 letter from the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Counter-Intelligence and Security, listed below:

- Describe any interagency cooperative efforts or innovative approaches that will facilitate the declassification, exemption, referral, or appropriate delay, by December 31, 2006, of all 25-year-old or older permanent historically valuable classified records in USPACOM's possession.
- Describe USPACOM plans to update, develop, use, and share declassification guides.
- Provide a description of USPACOM's plan to delegate declassification authority to other agencies either through the sharing of declassification guides, or through any existing or newly executed procedural agreement(s) between another agency and USPACOM.

- Describe any current or planned training initiatives, both internal and external, to aid in the identification of USPACOM's equities and any other agencies' equities contained in our classified records.
- Describe any external factors that may affect USPACOM's ability to declassify, exempt, refer, or appropriately delay, by December 31, 2006, all 25-year-old or older permanent historically valuable classified records in USPACOM's possession.
- Describe any current or future, plans, if any, to re-review records. The description must include volume, reason for re-review, and anticipated results.
- Discuss the status of implementation of approved file series exemptions, if any, as well as general information regarding any additional exemptions USPACOM anticipates request

HQ, USPACOM no longer has a trained skill base for the declassification program. All our trained/qualified civilian and active duty personnel departed, and we have not had any historical records to review in CY02 or 03. We must now reconstitute our program. The above bullets are due outs for the new office that receives the Declassification Program function.