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(U) FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
National Security Information
CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

(U) (NSICG)

(U) June 29, 2012



~~CLASSIFIED BY: EAD-NSB, FBI
REASON: 1.4(c)(d)
DECLASSIFY ON: 20370629~~



(U) FOREWORD

(U) The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Security Information Classification Guide (NSICG) provides guidance concerning the classification and level of protection afforded to FBI-originated national security information. The NSICG is not intended to provide specific guidance concerning the handling, safeguarding, transport, declassification and downgrading, destruction, or administration of classified material, whether in paper or electronic form. Specific guidance concerning these topics is available in Executive Order (EO) 13526, "Classified National Security Information;" Department of Justice (DOJ) Security Program Operating Manual (SPOM); FBI Security Policy Manual (SPM); FBI Automatic Declassification Guide; FBI Foreign Dissemination Manual (FDM); Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) Directive Number 1 (32 CFR Parts 2001 and 2003); and other documents referenced herein.

(U) The duration of classification, classification markings, and other requirements of EO 13526, are to be applied to information classified pursuant to this guide, in accordance with the SPM and other approved FBI policies and procedures. I hereby approve the issuance of this classification guide and the classification determinations designated herein, as an authorized Original Classification Authority

(U) The NSICG shall be considered the primary authority on the subject matters it addresses for derivative classifiers within the FBI. This version, 2.0, is effective immediately, and supersedes the National Security Information Security Classification Guide (NSISCG) Version 1.1, Dated 06/15/2009.

[Redacted Signature]

Original Classification Authority
Executive Assistant Director
National Security Branch

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(U) NSICG 20120620

(U) National Security Information
(U) CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

(U) June 29, 2012

(U) Federal Bureau of Investigation
(U) National Security Branch
(U) Washington, D.C. 20535

THIS TABLE IS UNCLASSIFIED				
Date	Description		Editor	Version Number
06/15/2012	Fundamental Review Revision			2.0

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(U) NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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1 GENERAL

1.1 (U) PURPOSE

(U) The conduct of national security investigations and the collection, production, and dissemination of intelligence to support counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and other US national security objectives, requires the FBI to collect, analyze, and disseminate information eligible for classification under Executive Order (EO) 13526. In accordance with the FBI Security Policy Manual, all FBI personnel with appropriate security clearances and accesses are authorized to derivatively classify FBI-produced information by reference to, and in accordance with this classification guide (hereinafter NSICG). This includes detailees and contractors acting in the course of their assigned duties.

(U) The NSICG identifies categories of information frequently obtained in the course of national security investigations and intelligence analysis and provides guidance on whether information in these categories should be designated UNCLASSIFIED (U), CONFIDENTIAL (C), SECRET (S), or TOP SECRET (TS). It contains declassification instructions for such information and provides advisory guidance for markings to indicate foreign releasability and other dissemination controls.

1.2 (U) AUTHORITY

(U) The NSICG is issued under authority of Executive Order 13526; Information Security Oversight Office Directive Number 1 (32 CFR Section 2001.10); Department of Justice Security Program Operating Manual; the FBI Security Policy Manual; and the designated Original Classification Authority (OCA) of the Executive Assistant Director, National Security Branch. The NSICG constitutes authority and may be cited as the basis for classification of information and material.

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(U) The FBI's classification authority extends only to information originated by the FBI. Information produced and classified by another federal agency shall retain the classification and markings of the originating agency, even if that guidance conflicts with this guide.

1.3 (U) SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

(U) The NSICG Version 2.0 replaces the FBI National Security Information Security Classification Guide (NSISCG) Version 1.1, issued 15 June 2009 and is issued after completing a fundamental review of the FBI's classification guidance as required in Section 1.9 of Executive Order 13526. This document provides classification guidance for information associated with the FBI's National Security Branch (NSB) programs pursuant to E.O. 12333. The NSICG shall be cited as the basis for classification and sanitization of information and materials under FBI cognizance and control related to NSB programs. Changes in classification guidance required for operational necessity will be made in a timely fashion upon notification and concurrence of the approving authority and will be disseminated to original recipients of this guide. The provisions of this classification guide are applicable to all personnel handling information subject to classification under this guide.

(U) In the case of a conflict between the NSICG and another FBI classification guide, the information involved shall be protected at the highest level required by any of the "conflicting" classification guides. Report any conflicts to the Strategy, Policy, and Information Security Unit, Security Division, as identified in Section 1.4, who will coordinate deconfliction of guides with the appropriate original classification authorities.

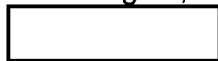
(U) When using FBI-originated information previously classified and marked in accordance with a prior classification guide, FBI personnel shall determine whether a conflict exists between the prior guide and this updated NSICG. If there is a conflict, the instructions in the NSICG shall prevail and information

shall be remarked with the classification level derived from the NSICG. If the information was marked with a specific date for declassification, that date shall not be changed. If the information was not marked with a specific date, the declassification date shall be determined in accordance with the NSICG, with calculations of 10 years, 25 years, or 50 years made from the date the information itself was originated as opposed to the date of new document creation. The declassification date shall be determined in accordance with the version of the NSICG in effect when the source document was originated. It is not necessary to re-mark information in files or databases until the information is extracted or otherwise used.

1.4 (U) OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY

(U) The Office of Primary Responsibility for the NSICG is:

(U) Federal Bureau of Investigation
Policy and Strategy Unit
Executive Staff Section, National Security Branch
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Room 11100
Washington, D.C. 20535



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(U) If the Office of Primary Responsibility cannot be reached, contact:

(U) Federal Bureau of Investigation
Strategy, Policy, and Information Security Unit
Mission Support Section, Security Division
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20535



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1.5 (U) SUPPLEMENTAL GUIDANCE

(U//FOUO) FBI HQ divisions are encouraged to supplement the NSICG with

additional classification guidance tailored to their specific operational requirements or functional responsibilities. All such supplemental guidance must be coordinated with office of primary responsibility listed in section 1.4 and approved by an FBI official with Original Classification Authority. Each supplemental guide will be reviewed to ensure that it is consistent with the NSICG.

2 (U) POLICY

2.1 (U) REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION

(U) Classification is reserved for specific categories of information or the compilation of related information meeting the standards and criteria for classification as defined in E.O. 13526, and falling within one or more of the categories of information eligible for classification per Section 1.4 of E.O. 13526. The topics of information cited in the NSICG are classified pursuant to the reason(s) indicated in the "Reason" column of the classification matrix.

2.2 (U) CLASSIFICATION BY COMPILATION

(U) A compilation of unclassified information is normally not classified. However, in certain circumstances, information that would otherwise be marked unclassified may become classified when combined or associated with other unclassified information, if the compiled information reveals an additional association or relationship that meets the standards and criteria for classification.

(U) Under such circumstances, it is the additional association or relationship revealed by the combination or compilation of information that is classified, not the individual items of information. Careful consideration must be taken when determining the need for classification by compilation. When the determination is made that classification by compilation is necessary, the classifier must provide explicit instructions as to what elements of the compilation, when combined, constitute classified information and the precise association or relationship that warrants the classification. Information which is classified by compilation must be marked in accordance with the ISOO's Marking Classified National Security

Information booklet, pages 30-31.

(U) Users of the NSICG should be aware of the possibility of classification by compilation when compiling unclassified information. If a compilation of otherwise unclassified information reveals information requiring protection as classified national security information according to the Classification Matrix of the NSICG, it must be marked in accordance with the ISOO's Marking Classified National Security Information booklet, pages 30-31.

(U) Likewise, the compilation of classified information will be classified, at a minimum, at the highest classification among the aggregated data, but may become a higher classification if the compiled information reveals an additional association or relationship warranting a higher level of classification. If a compilation of information classified at one level reveals information which requires protection at a higher classification level according to the Classification Matrix of the NSICG, it must be marked in accordance with the ISOO's Marking Classified National Security Information booklet, pages 30-31.

(U) Individuals who find instances of classification by compilation not covered in the Classification Matrix shall follow guidance in Section 2.4 of the NSICG.

2.3 (U) EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

(U) Should a situation arise where a holder of information believes the information should be classified but it is not covered by this or any other classification guide; or a compilation of unclassified information should be classified but is not covered in a classification guide; or a compilation of classified information should be classified at a higher level than any of the individual information items but is not covered in a classification guide, the information will be handled and safeguarded in accordance with the level of classification the holder believes appropriate.

(U) In such instances, the information will be marked with the tentative level of classification and the notation "*Pending Classification Review.*"

(U) The information will be transmitted, by a means approved for the level of classification, to the Strategy, Policy, and Information Security Unit, Security Division (SecD), as identified in Section 1.4, to coordinate a classification determination with the appropriate original classification authority. If the information is commonly occurring information and is found to not be covered in this or any other FBI classification guide, the appropriate original classification authority will add the information to an appropriate classification guide.

2.4 (U) CHALLENGES TO CLASSIFICATION

(U) Classification levels and durations mandated in the NSICG are, in the opinion of the Executive Assistant Director – National Security Branch, necessary for the protection of national security information. If the classification level(s) and duration(s) mandated in this Guide impose requirements considered impractical, or some information is of such a unique nature or extremely sensitive to require higher levels of protection, or any contributory factors indicate a need for change(s) in this Guide, documented and justified recommendations should be made to the Strategy, Policy, and Information Security Unit, Security Division, as identified in Section 1.4. Pending final decision, the information in question will be protected at the highest level of either the current classification or the recommended change.

(U) Additional guidance regarding the FBI's formal and informal challenge processes can be found in [REDACTED]

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2.5 (U) USE OF THIS GUIDE

(U) The NSICG is for the use of FBI personnel, contractors and detailees performing derivative classification actions when addressing the elements of information covered by this guide.

(U) For the purpose of marking documents containing classified information covered by the NSICG, derivative classifiers will cite "FBI NSICG" at a minimum (include the date of this guide if the system allows) on the "Derived From" line,

and the declassification instruction as specified in the guide. For Example:

(U) Derived From: FBI NSICG, 2011XXXXX

(U) Declassify On: (Insert declassification instruction as cited for the particular type of information in the classification guide)

(U) If classified information covered by the NSICG, as well as classified information from other classified sources, is included in the same document, the document will be marked as follows:

(U) Derived From: Multiple Sources

(U) Declassify On: (Carry forward the single most restrictive declassification instruction from all source documents)

(U) NOTE: If "Multiple Sources" are used for a derivatively classified document, a record of the sources used for classification will be maintained (at a minimum) with the file or record copy of the document. It is good practice to include the source listing either at the beginning of the document, near the classification authority block (the "Derived from/Declassify on" block), or at the end of the document with the words "Derived from:" and then a comprehensive list of only the sources from which the classifications were determined.

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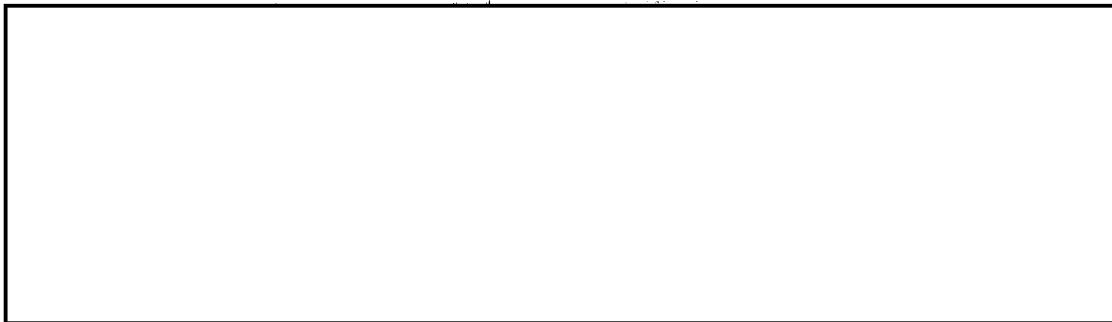
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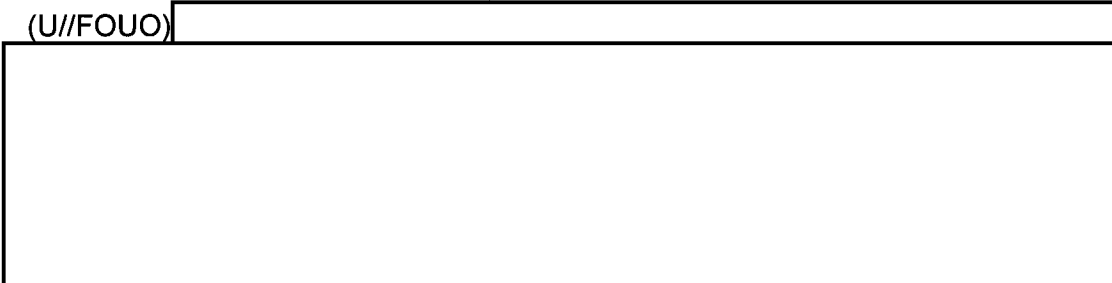
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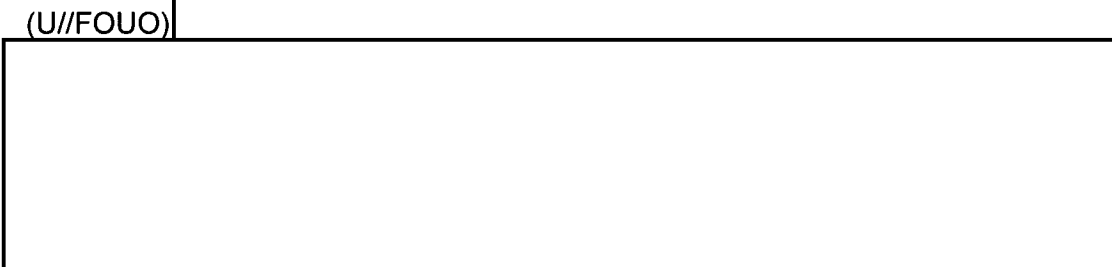
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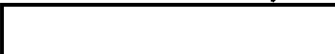
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3 (U) MARKING

(U) All documents containing classified national security information will bear all required Intelligence Community classification markings, which include portion markings, foreign dissemination markings and a banner line on every page and the classification authority block described in Section 2.5 on the first page or front of the media.

(U) Detailed instructions for marking classified materials can be found in the ISOO booklet titled "Marking Classified National Security Information" dated December 2010. A link to this booklet  can be found in the "References" section of the NSICG. The booklet is also available on the

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unclassified network at: <http://www.archives.gov/isoo/index.html>.

(U) NOTE: OADR, X1 through X8 and MR are commonly seen obsolete markings. If these markings appear on a source document, follow the instructions in the ISOO booklet (Marking Classified National Security Information December 2010) when marking a new document with information derived from the source document.

(U) Further marking guidance can be found on the SecD's web page located on



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3.1 (U) FOREIGN DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

(U) The NSICG indicates OCA decisions on the **reason** for classification (as detailed in E.O.13526, Section 1.4, a-h), **damage potential** of the information (which is the classification level – Unclassified, Confidential, Secret, or Top Secret) and **duration** of classification.

(U) ICD 710, Section G, requires all members of the Intelligence Community, including the FBI, to include one of the following foreign dissemination markings in all marking of classified documents and classified portions of documents:

(U) NOFORN (NF) *Meaning:* Permission of the DIDO (Designated Intelligence Disclosure Officer) of the **originating organization** is required to release the information in any form to foreign governments, foreign nationals, foreign organizations, or non-US citizens.

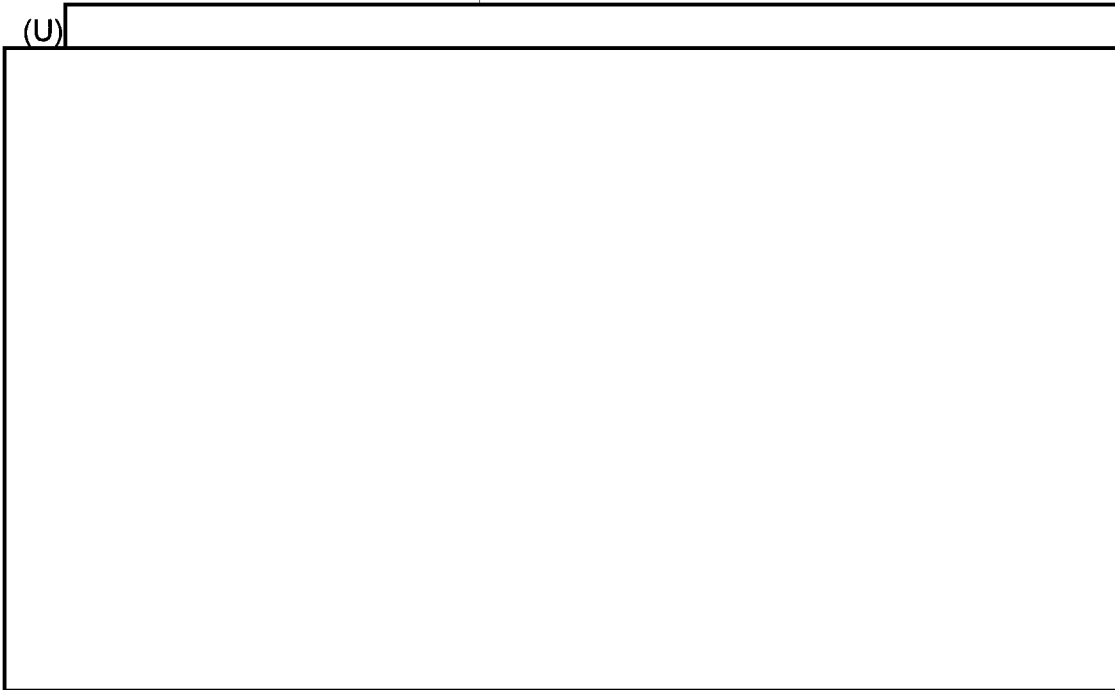
(U) REL TO USA, [Country List] (Where Country Listed is an ISO 3166 trigraph for a country or a tetragraph from the IC tetragraph table.) *Meaning:* **Any** authorized person from **any** agency may release it to the country(ies) listed, but permission of the DIDO from the **originating organization** is required for release to other foreign governments, foreign nationals, foreign organizations, or non-US citizens.

(U) RELIDO *Meaning:* **Any** DIDO from **any** agency may release the

information to foreign governments, foreign nationals, foreign organizations, or non-US citizens **without** the permission of the originating agency.

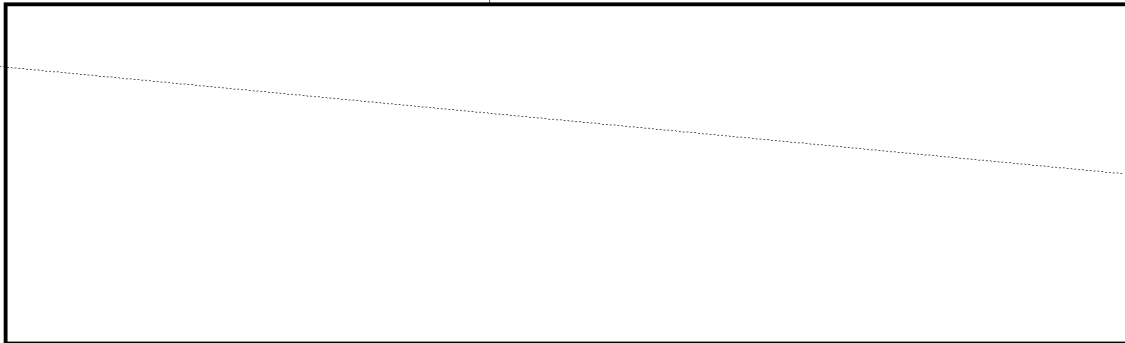
(U) REL TO USA, [Country List]/RELIDO *Meaning:* **Any** authorized person from **any** agency may release it to the country(ies) listed and **any** DIDO from **any** agency may release the information to additional foreign governments, foreign nationals, foreign organizations, or non-US citizens **without** the permission of the originating agency without consulting with the originating agency.

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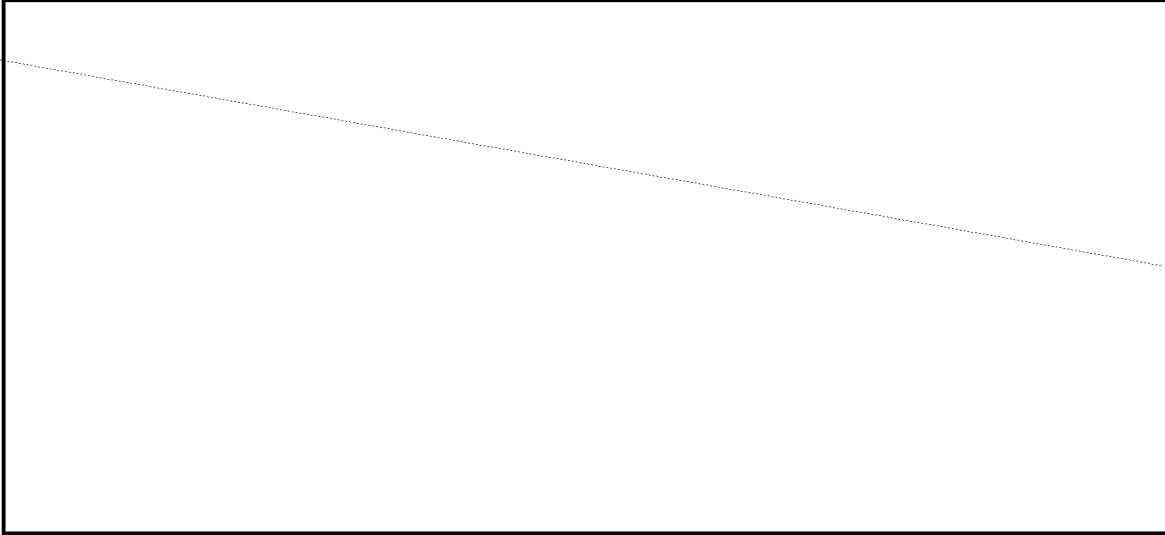
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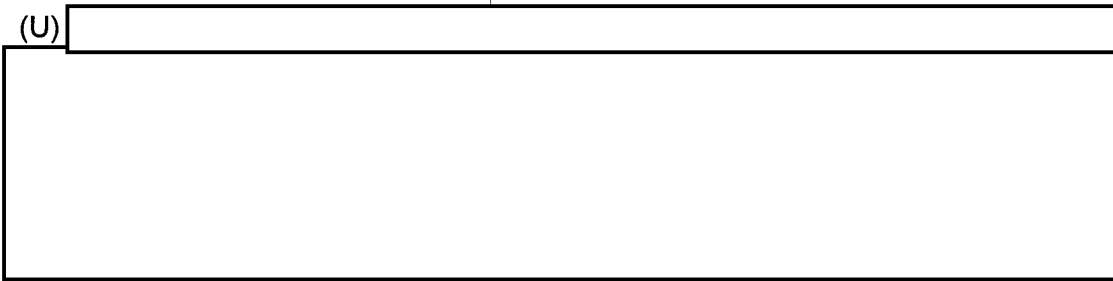


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3.2 (U) OTHER DISSEMINATION CONTROLS

(U) Other dissemination caveats such as FOUO (for official use only), LES (law enforcement sensitive), Proprietary Information, Grand Jury Information, etc., may be used as appropriate to limit access to or distribution of unclassified information that is sensitive, privileged, or otherwise restricted by policy, law or regulation. Users should consult the Intelligence Community Classification and Control Markings Implementation Manual for a comprehensive list of authorized unclassified control markings and the authority for each. Unclassified control markings are applied at the discretion of the FBI employee following guidelines contained in the Intelligence Community Classification and Control Markings Implementation Manual. Such designations may be removed by the official who made the original designation, by the successor in function to such an official, by an official in the chain of supervision of the official who made the original decision, or his/her successor in function.

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In addition to portion marking paragraphs

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4 (U) DECLASSIFICATION

(U) Classified information may only be declassified by an original classification authority or declassification authority with jurisdiction over the information. To obtain declassification of information which has been classified according to this classification guide, consult the Office of Primary Responsibility listed in Section 1.4 of this Classification Guide. The Office of Primary Responsibility will coordinate declassification with the OCA having jurisdiction over the information contained herein.

5 (U) CLASSIFIED HANDLING AND PROCESSING

(U) Classified information shall be handled and safeguarded in accordance with E.O. 13526, its implementing directives, the Department of Justice Security Program Operating Manual, and FBI Security Policy. Classified information will not be processed on any automated IT equipment unless the equipment has been specifically accredited and approved for the applicable level of classified processing. Consult division/field office security officials for instructions on local handling and processing procedures.

(U) Any questions about sharing NSICG information with US or foreign partners should be directed to the Office of Primary Responsibility, listed in Section 1.4 of

this Classification Guide. Such guidance must be provided consistent with the FDM.

6 (U) REPRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION

(U) This classification guide may be reproduced and disseminated within the FBI as needed. However, to ensure receipt of updates, revisions, and classification changes, whenever the guide is disseminated beyond an initial addressee, the Office of Primary Responsibility identified in Section 1.4 of this Classification Guide must be notified.

(U) Coordinate dissemination to government agencies outside of the FBI through the Office of Primary Responsibility identified in Section 1.4 of this Classification Guide. When disseminating to other government agencies, ensure the information disseminated contains instructions on how that government agency must handle and protect the information, including instructions on further dissemination.

7 (U) PUBLIC RELEASE OF INFORMATION

(U) The fact that this classification guide indicates some information may be unclassified does not imply the information is automatically releasable to the public. Requests for public release of information will be addressed in accordance with Federal statutes, rules, and regulations which provide for access to this material.

(U) Portions of this classification guide are designated "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY" and will not be released to the public. Requests for copies of this guide by non-government officials will be addressed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The procedures for filing FOIA and Privacy Act requests with the FBI can be found on the unclassified network at <http://foia.fbi.gov>.

8 (U) EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

(U) This Classification Guide is effective immediately upon OCA approval and publication.

(U) NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

(U) APPENDIX A : CLASSIFICATION MATRIX

(U) June 29, 2012

(U) APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS

(U) *Classification* means the act or process by which information is determined to be classified information, and the determination of whether the information is Confidential, Secret, or Top Secret.

(U) *Classification guidance* means any instruction or source that prescribes the classification of specific information.

(U) *Classification guide* means a documentary form of classification guidance issued by an original classification authority that identifies the elements of information regarding a specific subject that must be classified and establishes the level and duration of classification for each such element.

(U) *Classified national security information* or *classified information* means information that has been determined pursuant to Executive Order 13526, or any predecessor order or successor order, to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and is marked to indicate its classified status when in documentary form.

(U) *Confidential Human Source* means any individual or organization that has provided, or that may reasonably be expected to provide, information to the United States on matters pertaining to the national security with the expectation that the information or relationship, or both, are to be held in confidence.

(U) *Damage to the national security* means harm to the national defense or foreign relations of the United States from the unauthorized disclosure of information, taking into consideration such aspects of the information as the sensitivity, value, utility, and provenance of that information.

(U) Sec. 1.3 of Executive Order 13526 states that information may be classified at one of the following three levels (damage potential):

(U) *Top Secret* shall be applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave

damage to the national security that the original classification authority is able to identify or describe.

(U) *Secret* shall be applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause serious damage to the national security that the original classification authority is able to identify or describe.

(U) *Confidential* shall be applied to information, the unauthorized disclosure of which reasonably could be expected to cause damage to the national security that the original classification authority is able to identify or describe.

(U) *Declassification* means the authorized change in the status of information from classified information to unclassified information.

(U) *Derivative classification* means the incorporating, paraphrasing, restating, or generating in new form information that is already classified, and marking the newly developed material consistent with the classification markings that apply to the source information. Derivative classification includes the classification of information based on classification guidance. The duplication or reproduction of existing classified information is not derivative classification.

(U) *Document* means any recorded information, regardless of the nature of the medium or the method or circumstances of recording.

(U) *For Official Use Only* is a caveat which can be used with unclassified FBI information if the information meets one of the eight FBI criteria for using FOUO:

(a) (U) [redacted]

(b) (U) [redacted]

(c) (U) [redacted]
[redacted]

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(d) (U)

[Redacted]

(e) (U)

[Redacted]

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(f) (U)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(g) (U)

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[Redacted]

(h) (U)

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(U) *Information* means any knowledge that can be communicated or documentary material, regardless of its physical form or characteristics, which is owned by, produced by or for, or is under the control of the United States Government. "Control" means the authority of the agency that originates information, or its successor in function, to regulate access to the information.

(U) *Multiple sources* mean two or more source documents, classification guides, or a combination of both.

(U) *National security* means the national defense or foreign relations of the United States, including measures to counter international terrorism.

(U) *National security program* means international terrorism, counterintelligence, intelligence, and weapons of mass destruction. National security program does not refer to specific cases.

(U) *Original classification* means an initial determination that information requires, in the interest of the national security, protection against unauthorized disclosure.

(U) *Original classification authority* means an individual authorized in writing,

either by the President, the Vice President in the performance of executive duties, or by agency heads or other officials designated by the President, to classify information in the first instance.

(U) *Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI)* means classified information concerning or derived from intelligence sources, methods, or analytical processes, which is required to be handled within formal access control systems established by the Director of National Intelligence.

(U) *Source document* means an existing document that contains classified information that is incorporated, paraphrased, restated, or generated in new form into a new document.

