

PART 93—ACCEPTANCE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS; RELEASE OF OFFICIAL INFORMATION IN LITIGATION; AND TESTIMONY BY NSA PERSONNEL AS WITNESSES

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AUTHORITY: E.O. 12333, 3 CFR, 1981 Comp., p. 200; 50 U.S.C. apps. 401, 402.

SOURCE: 56 FR 51328, Oct. 11, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

§ 93.1 References.

(a) DoD Directive 5405.2,¹ "Release of Official Information in Litigation and Testimony by DoD Personnel as Witnesses," July 23, 1985, reprinted in 32 CFR part 97.

(b) E.O. 12333, United States Intelligence Activities, 3 CFR, 1981 Comp., p. 200, reprinted in 50 U.S.C. app. 401.

(c) The National Security Agency Act of 1959, Public Law No. 86-36, as amended, 50 U.S.C. app. 402.

(d) Rule 4, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(e) DoD Instruction 7230.7,² "User Charges", January 29, 1985.

(f) 28 CFR 50.15.

§ 93.2 Purpose and applicability.

(a) This part implements § 93.1(a) in the National Security Agency/Central Security Service including all field sites (hereinafter referred to collectively as NSA). The procedures herein are also promulgated pursuant to the NSA's independent authority, under § 1.12(b)(10) of E.O. 12333 referenced under § 93.1(b), to protect the security of its activities, information and employees. This part establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes mandatory procedures for service of process at NSA and for the release of official information in litigation by NSA personnel, through testimony or otherwise.

¹Copies may be obtained, at cost, from the National Technical Information Service, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22161.

²See footnote 1 to § 93.1(a).

(b) This part is intended only to provide guidance for the internal operation of the NSA and does not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law against the United States, the Department of Defense, or NSA. This part does not override the statutory privilege against the disclosure of the organization or any function of the NSA, of any information with respect to the activities thereof, or of the names, titles, salaries, or numbers of the persons employed by the NSA. See section 6(a) of the DoD Directive referenced under § 93.1(a).

§ 93.3 Definitions.

(a) *Service of process.* Refers to the delivery of a summons and complaint, or other document the purpose of which is to give notice of a proceeding or to establish the jurisdiction of a court or administrative proceeding, in the manner prescribed by § 93.1(d), to an officer or agency of the United States named in court or administrative proceedings.

(b) *Demand.* Refers to the delivery of a subpoena, order, or other directive of a court of competent jurisdiction, or other specific authority, for the production, disclosure, or release of official information, or for the appearance and testimony of NSA personnel as witnesses.

(c) *NSA personnel.* (or NSA person) Includes present and former civilian employees of NSA (including non-appropriated fund activity employees), and present and former military personnel assigned to NSA. NSA personnel also includes non-U.S. nationals who perform services overseas for NSA under the provisions of status of forces or other agreements, and specific individuals hired through contractual agreements by or on behalf of NSA.

(d) *Litigation.* Refers to all pretrial, trial, and post-trial stages of all existing or reasonably anticipated judicial or administrative actions, hearings, investigations, or similar proceedings before civilian courts, commissions, boards, or other tribunals, foreign and domestic. It includes responses to discovery requests, depositions, and other pretrial proceedings, as well as responses to formal or informal requests

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by attorneys or others in situations involving litigation.

(e) *Official information.* Is information of any kind, in any storage medium, whether or not classified or protected from disclosure by § 93.1(c) that:

(1) Is in the custody and control of NSA; or

(2) Relates to information in the custody and control of NSA; or

(3) Was acquired by NSA personnel as part of their official duties or because of their official status within NSA.

(f) *General Counsel.* Refers to the NSA General Counsel (GC), or in the GC's absence, the NSA Deputy GC, or in both of their absences, the NSA Assistant GC (Administration/Litigation).

(g) *NSA attorney.* Refers to an attorney in the NSA Office of General Counsel (OGC).

§ 93.4 Policy.

Official information that is not classified, privileged, or otherwise protected from public disclosure, should generally be made reasonably available for use in Federal and State courts and by other governmental bodies.

§ 93.5 Procedures.

(a) *Release of official information in litigation.* NSA personnel shall not produce, disclose, release, comment upon, or testify concerning any official information during litigation without the prior written approval of the GC. In exigent circumstances, the GC may issue oral approval, but a record of such approval will be made and retained in the OGC. NSA personnel shall not provide, with or without compensation, opinion or expert testimony concerning official NSA information, subjects, or activities, except on behalf of the United States or a party represented by the Department of Justice (DoJ). Upon a showing by the requester of exceptional need or unique circumstances and that the anticipated testimony will not be adverse to the interests of the NSA or the United States, the GC may, in writing, grant special authorization for NSA personnel to appear and testify at no expense to the United States. Official information may be released in litigation only in compliance with the following procedures.

(1) If official information is sought, through testimony or otherwise, by a litigation demand, the individual seeking such release or testimony must set forth, in writing and with as much specificity as possible, the nature and relevance of the official information sought. Subject to paragraph (a)(5) of this section, NSA personnel may only produce, disclose, release, comment upon or testify concerning those matters that were specified in writing and approved by the GC.

(2) Whenever a litigation demand is made upon NSA personnel for official information or for testimony concerning such information, the person upon whom the demand was made shall immediately notify the OGC. After consultation and coordination with the DoJ, if required, the GC shall determine whether the individual is required to comply with the demand and shall notify the requester or the court or other authority of that determination.

(3) If a litigation demand requires a response before instructions from the GC are received, the GC shall furnish the requester or the court or other authority with a copy of § 93.1(a) and this part 93. The GC shall also inform the requester or the court or other authority that the demand is being reviewed, and seek a stay of the demand pending a final determination.

(4) If a court or other authority declines to stay the demand in response to action taken pursuant to paragraph 3 of this section, or if such court or other authority orders that the demand must be complied with notwithstanding the final decision of the GC, the NSA personnel upon whom the demand was made shall notify the GC of such ruling or order. If the GC determines that no further legal review of or challenge to the ruling or order will be sought, the affected NSA personnel shall comply with the demand or order. If directed by the GC, however, the affected NSA personnel must decline to provide the information.³ The NSA personnel shall state the following to the Court:

³ See United States ex rel. *Touhy v. Ragen*, 340 U.S. 462 (1951) wherein the Supreme Court held that a government employee could not be held in contempt for following an agency regulation requiring agency approval before