

SUBCHAPTER D—DECLASSIFICATION

PART 1260—DECLASSIFICATION OF NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Subpart A—General Information

Sec.

- 1260.1 What is the purpose of this part?
- 1260.2 Definitions.
- 1260.4 What NARA holdings are covered by this part?
- 1260.6 What is the authority for this part?

Subpart B—Responsibilities

- 1260.20 Who is responsible for the declassification of classified national security Executive Branch information that has been accessioned by NARA?
- 1260.22 Who is responsible for the declassification of classified national security White House originated information in NARA's holdings?
- 1260.24 Who is responsible for declassification of foreign government information in NARA's holdings?
- 1260.26 Who is responsible for issuing special procedures for declassification of information pertaining to intelligence activities, sources and methods, or of classified cryptologic information in NARA's holdings?
- 1260.28 Who is responsible for declassifying records that contain information classified under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, commonly referred to as Restricted Data and Formerly Restricted Data?

Subpart C—Systematic Review

- 1260.40 How are records at NARA reviewed for declassification?
- 1260.42 What are the procedures for agency personnel to review records at a NARA facility?
- 1260.44 Will NARA loan accessioned records back to the agencies to conduct declassification review?
- 1260.46 How will NARA implement automatic declassification?

Subpart D—Mandatory Review

EXECUTIVE BRANCH RECORDS

- 1260.50 What procedures does NARA follow when it receives a request for Executive Branch records under mandatory review?
- 1260.52 What are agency responsibilities after receiving a mandatory review request forwarded by NARA?
- 1260.54 What is the appeal process when a mandatory review request for Executive Branch information is denied?

- 1260.55 What is the appeal process when an agency denies a mandatory review request for Executive Branch information within Nixon Presidential Historical materials or Presidential records?

WHITE HOUSE ORIGINATED INFORMATION

- 1260.56 Is White House originated information subject to mandatory review?
- 1260.58 What are the procedures for requesting a mandatory review of White House originated information?
- 1260.60 What are agency responsibilities with regard to mandatory review requests for White House originated information?
- 1260.62 What is the appeal process when a mandatory review request for White House originated information is denied?

Subpart E—Reclassification

- 1260.70 Can previously released Executive Branch information be reclassified or have its classification restored?
- 1260.72 Can previously released White House originated information be reclassified or have its classification restored?
- 1260.74 What if NARA does not concur with an agency decision to reclassify or restore the classification of information that has been previously released?

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SOURCE: 71 FR 14809, Mar. 24, 2006, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General Information

§ 1260.1 What is the purpose of this part?

(a) This part defines the responsibilities of NARA and other Federal agencies for declassification of classified national security information in the holdings of NARA.

This part also describes NARA's procedures for:

- (1) Conducting systematic reviews of NARA holdings, and
 - (2) Processing mandatory review requests for NARA holdings.
- (b) Regulations for researchers who wish to request access to materials containing classified national security

§ 1260.2

information are found in 36 CFR part 1256.

§ 1260.2 Definitions.

(a) *Classified national security information* or *classified information* means information that has been determined under EO 12958, as amended, or any predecessor order to require protection against unauthorized disclosure and is marked to indicate its classified status when in documentary form.

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

(c) *Systematic declassification review* means the review for declassification of classified information contained in records that have been determined by the Archivist of the United States to have permanent historical value in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2107.

(d) *Mandatory declassification review* means the review for declassification of classified information in response to a request for declassification that meets the requirements under section 3.5 of EO 12958, as amended.

(e) *Integral file block* means a distinct component of a file series, as defined in this section, that should be maintained as a separate unit in order to ensure the integrity of the records. An integral file block may consist of a set of records covering either a specific topic or a range of time such as presidential administration or a 5-year retirement schedule within a specific file series that is retired from active use as a group.

(f) *File series* means file units or documents arranged according to a filing system or kept together because they relate to a particular subject or function, result from the same activity, document a specific kind of transaction, take a particular physical form, or have some other relationship arising out of their creation, receipt, or use, such as restrictions on access or use.

§ 1260.4 What NARA holdings are covered by this part?

The NARA holdings covered by this part are records legally transferred to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), including Federal records accessioned into the Na-

36 CFR Ch. XII (7-1-10 Edition)

tional Archives of the United States, 44 U.S.C. 2107; Presidential records, 44 U.S.C. 2201-2207; Nixon Presidential materials, 44 U.S.C. 2111 note; and donated historical materials in Presidential Libraries and in the National Archives of the United States, 44 U.S.C. 2111.

§ 1260.6 What is the authority for this part?

Declassification of and public access to classified national security information is governed by EO 12958 of April 17, 1995 (3 CFR part 1995 Comp., p. 333), EO 13142 of November 19, 1999 (3 CFR part 1999 Comp., p. 236), EO 13292 of March 28, 2003 (68 FR 15315), collectively referred to as EO 12958, as amended, and by the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) Implementing Directive for EO 12958, as amended (32 CFR part 2001).

Subpart B—Responsibilities

§ 1260.20 Who is responsible for the declassification of classified national security Executive Branch information that has been accessioned by NARA?

(a) Consistent with the requirements on automatic declassification in section 3.3 of EO 12958, as amended, the originating agency is responsible for declassification of its information, but may delegate declassification authority to NARA in the form of declassification guidance. Even though the agency delegates declassification authority to NARA in the form of declassification guidance, the agency remains responsible for reviewing the records to identify other agencies having primary subject matter interest (“equities”) before the date that the records become eligible for automatic declassification.

(b) If an agency does not delegate declassification authority to NARA, the agency is responsible for both declassification of its own information and reviewing the records to identify the equities of other agencies before the date that the records become eligible for automatic declassification.

(c) NARA is responsible for the declassification of records of a defunct