



ISOO Notice 2013-04: The National Security Staff (NSS) Partial Waiver for the Declassification Review of Select National Security Council and White House Classified Records

June 14, 2013

The Senior Director for Records and Access Management at the National Security Staff (NSS) has directed declassification reviewers across the Federal Government not to refer selected classified information originated by the National Security Council (NSC) and the White House to the NSS for declassification review.

This NSS partial waiver applies to the following groups of records:

- Classified NSC and White House-originated documents, as well as other records containing primary NSC/NSS equity, in the records of agencies and in records already accessioned by the National Archives and Records Administration, including those records in the Presidential Libraries and the National Declassification Center.
- Records reviewed pursuant to the automatic declassification provisions of E.O. 13526; under systematic declassification reviews; as a result of mandatory declassification review requests; or under Freedom of Information Act requests.

This partial waiver applies only to records created prior to January 20, 1997, and excludes specific categories of records that require NSS review for declassification.

Declassification reviewers must refer excluded categories of records to the NSS. The NSS partial waiver excludes the following records:

- Presidential Directives, to include all numbered NSC policy documents not already declassified in full. See Attachment A for a list of NSC policy documents by Presidential administration;
- Minutes or Summaries of NSC meetings, including NSC sub-group meetings. See Attachment B for a complete list of NSC sub-groups;
- Documents filed with or pertaining to Presidential Directives and minutes or summaries of NSC meetings;
- Records relating to the *authorization* to use weapons of mass destruction or the policy issue of “*first use* of nuclear weapons;”
- White House or NSC records specifically identified as “Action” memorandums, where the President or the National Security Advisor is asked to make a substantive decision;
- All White House and NSC records relating to covert activity, and all records (regardless of agency of origin) concerning Presidential Findings, Memoranda of Notification (MON), or White House or NSC meetings regarding covert activity;
- All White House or NSC records identified by the NSC as “System 3/INT,” (log numbers 8930001- 9330001 and 9330001 – 9730014) or marked “Limited Access.”

- All White House or NSC records identified by the NSC as “System V,” “Continuity of Government (COG),” “ECG,” or “COOP,” and
- All White House or NSC records that have been *appealed* under the Freedom of Information Act or Mandatory Declassification Review procedures.

Applying the NSS Partial Waiver:

Agencies applying the NSS partial waiver to a record must review that record for all other agency equities and, if appropriate, refer the record to those agencies. The proper application of this partial waiver will ensure the protection of classified national security information while at the same time increasing the efficiency of the declassification process.

Please direct any questions regarding this ISOO Notice to: isoo@nara.gov.

Attachment A: Presidential Policy Directives, 1947-1997

Attachment B: NSC Sub-Groups, 1947-1997

Attachment A: Presidential Policy Directives, 1947-1997

NSC	National Security Council policy documents; Truman-Eisenhower Administrations, 1947-61
NSCID	National Security Council Intelligence Directives; Truman-Ford Administrations, 1947-77
NSAM	National Security Action Memorandums; Kennedy-Johnson Administrations, 1961-69
NSDM	National Security Decision Memorandums; Nixon-Ford Administrations, 1969-77
NSSM	National Security Study Memorandums; Nixon-Ford Administrations, 1969-77
PD	Presidential Directives; Carter Administration, 1977-81
PRM	Presidential Review Memorandums; Carter Administration, 1977-81
NSDO	National Security Division Directives; Reagan Administration, 1981-89
NSSO:	National Security Study Directives; Reagan Administration, 1981-89
NSD	National Security Directives; George H. W. Bush Administration, 1989-93
NSR	National Security Reviews; George H. W. Bush Administration, 1989-93
PDD	Presidential Decision Directives; Clinton Administration, 1993-1997
PRD	Presidential Review Directives; Clinton Administration, 1993-1997

Attachment B: NSC Sub-Groups, 1947-1997

Truman-Eisenhower Administrations (1947-1961)

Operations Coordinating Board (OCB)

Psychological Strategy Board (PSB)

Kennedy-Johnson Administrations (1961-1969)

Executive Committee of the NSC (EXCOM)

Senior Interdepartmental Group (SIG)

NSC Standing Group

Special Committee of the NSC

Nixon-Ford Administrations (1969-1977)

Defense Program Review Committee (DRP)

NSC Intelligence Community (NSCIC)

National Security Council Review Group (NSCRG)

Senior Review Group (SRG)

Verification Panel (VP)

Vietnam Special Studies Group (VSSG)

Washington Special Action Group (WSAG)

Carter Administration(1977-1981)

Presidential Review Committee/Policy Review Committee (PRC)

Mini-PRC Meeting (PRCM)

Special Coordinating Committee (SCC)

Mini-SCC Meeting (SCCM)

Counter Intelligence Working Group (CIWG)

Reagan Administration (1981-1989)

Crisis Pre-Planning Group (CPPG)

National Security Planning Group (NSPG)

Policy Coordination Group (PCG)

Policy Review Group (PRG)

Special Situation Group (SSG)

Senior Interagency Group (SIG)

Bush Administration (1989-1993)

Principals Committee (PC)

Deputies Committee (DC)

Policy Coordinating Committee (PCC)

Clinton Administration (1993-1997)

Principals Committee (PC)

Deputies Committee (DC)

Foreign Policy Team Meetings

Interdepartmental Working Group (IWG)

Counter-terrorism Security Group (CSG)

Coordinating Sub-Group on Counter-terrorism

Counter-terrorism Sub-group