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EYES ONLY COL BOTZONGDEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON 20330

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

30 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL BOTZONG, SAMSO

SUBJECT: Proposed Program Security Classification Guide

We appreciate and welcome the opportunity to comment on your proposed new security guide. We also appreciate that the lack of opportunity to converse with you about some of the classification decisions may make some of our comments somewhat inappropriate because of our distance from your problems.

The chief security problem from our standpoint is the protection of the covert nature of the link to OSAF that existed in the early days. This comes up chiefly in the protection of old briefing charts, development plans, accounting records, and so on. You might consider a separate, tightly held security guide for dealing with pre-1965 material that might fall into this category.

We recommend that the number 417 be deleted wherever it appears in the guide. Overuse of the program number can lead to compromise (and number change). There appears to be no good reason why the expression "the program number" cannot be used instead. A cover letter for the guide can identify the program and circumvents the problem of early obsolescence.

A statement should be made in the general security instructions that this program is a controlled special access required program. The distinction between this and other AFR 205-23 programs should be explained. A useful negative remark might be "Caution: This program is not just another SAR STIC program. Access to any or all other SAR programs does not grant access to this program." Of course, the best security guidance is provided by an initial program briefing which has a clear explanation of why 417 is classified. (In the past, we found not all contractor personnel were so briefed.)

We have very recently discovered a considerable problem related to the use of AFR 205-23 in implementing 417 security procedures. When documents are sent to this office marked

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"Special Access Required, Program 417" and not marked "Eyes Only Major Geer," the OSAF mail room tends to open the package to affix distribution sheets. The reason is that the mail room people have STIC clearance across the board for SAR programs and do not stop to consider whether they have 417 clearance. The "SAR" marking tends to drown out the "417" marking.

An appropriate notation in the security guide reinstating the "Eyes Only" marking for documents going through non-cleared mail rooms would appear to be in order. After all, sensitive material ought never be sent out in the blind but always to someone.

In reference to your Section II, page 14, paragraph 1, et seq, we note that AFR 190-12 requires all initial information releases to be reviewed and cleared by OSAF (SAFOI). You will wish to ensure that any such proposed releases do come through the Office of the Secretary for clearance and specifically through us. We believe that this Section would be strengthened by a statement that there will be, as a matter of policy, no releases on the program. Many of us feel you can talk about a program and not have it, or you can have a program and not talk about it.

Now for a few specific comments: Page 17 lists the association of 417 and the 4000th as U, FOUO. Why is this not Secret or at least Confidential? The fact that the 4000th has a C and C function is Secret, but what other function would they have? launch agency? - that is Confidential; user? - that is Secret. I doubt that the State Department would be happy to hear about a SAC satellite in polar orbit. Of course, the previous guide lists this as U, FOUO, and it may be that this link is just too difficult to protect. The statement that there is a "using agency" (page 17) may make the guide itself Secret, SAR, since it connotes an operational system.

Page 18 states that a complete list of prime contractors is unclassified (Item 5). Since Douglas makes only Thors and Saturns and Boeing only makes Burner II's and no other booster contractors are listed, that pretty well ties down the launch vehicle. Ought this not be Confidential? The same reasoning holds for Item 7. I don't understand Item 8 on that same page. What sponsoring agency is meant?

Item 6, page 20, might better have a phrase added as follows: "(Fund citation), current fiscal year." This would permit the classification of previous fund cites as required.

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Item 2a and b, page 27, confuse me. Could you give some examples of what is SAR and what is not in scheduling?

I think a classification was left out on Item 15b(2), page 31.

Good luck in your joint-service venture. We all are looking forward with considerable anticipation to the first of the new block.

*Dwg*

RICHARD L. GEER  
Major, USAF  
Asst Dep Director for R&D  
Office of Space Systems

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