

ISOO Notice 2026-04: Agencies Eligible to Receive Referrals from Automatic Declassification at 25, 50, and 75 Years

August 3, 2026

Purpose and Background

1. Pursuant to section 3.3 of Executive Order 13526, “Classified National Security Information” (the Order), all classified records more than 25 years old determined to have permanent historical value shall be automatically declassified, whether or not the records have been reviewed, barring the pre-existing approval of an agency exemption to automatic declassification, as defined in section 3.3.
2. This Notice articulates which federal agencies are currently authorized to exempt certain information from automatic declassification after 25 years, including which specific information is authorized for exemption and how long that exemption is permitted to last.
3. Agencies with an authorized exemption are eligible to receive referrals for their declassification review of information that, absent such an exemption, would be automatically declassified without a referral. A referral, in this instance, is the process by which one agency requests that another agency review, for declassification, the latter agency’s information that is included in the former agency’s record.
4. This Notice rescinds and replaces ISOO Notice 2024-02, “Agencies Eligible to Receive Referrals from Automatic Declassification at 25, 50, and 75 Years.”

Responsibilities

5. Pursuant to section 3.3(b) of the Order, agency heads may exempt from automatic declassification specific information responsive to nine narrowly defined categories described in 3.3(b)(1)-(9).
6. Pursuant to section 5.3(b)(2) of the Order, the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP) is responsible for approving, denying, or amending agency exemptions from automatic declassification provided for in section 3.3 of the Order.
7. Pursuant to 32 CFR 2001.34(c), the Director of ISOO will publish annually a list of those agencies determined to be eligible to receive referrals for each calendar year.

Guidance

8. The following agencies have received ISCAP approval to exempt certain information from automatic declassification. Each agency listed in the tables below is authorized to apply only those exemptions listed in its respective table. Only those agencies listed in the tables below

are authorized to receive referrals for review of classified national security information that is older than 25 years old. In accordance with section 3.3(d)(3) of the Order, these agencies should not be sent referrals for information that they are not authorized to exempt from automatic declassification.

9. ISCAP Approved Exemptions from Automatic Declassification as of August 3, 2026

- Central Intelligence Agency (CIA):

CIA	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3		25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1	50X2	50X3		50X6	50X7	50X8	50X9
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD						
	75X:	75X1	75X2			75X6			

- Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA):

DIA	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3		25X6		25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1				50X6		50X8	50X9
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD						
	75X:								

- Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA):

DISA	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4		25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1			50X4			50X7		
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

- Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA):

DTRA	25X:	25X2	25X4	25X5	25X7	25X8
	50X:	50X2	50X4			50X8
	HUM/WMD:	50X2- WMD				
	75X:					

- Department of the Air Force (Air Force):

Air Force	25X:	25X1	25X2		25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1	50X2	50X3	50X4	50X5	50X6		50X8	50X9
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

- Department of the Army (Army):

Army	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1	50X2		50X4	50X5	50X6		50X8	
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

- Department of Energy (DOE):

DOE	25X:	25X1	25X2		25X4		25X6		25X8	25X9
	50X:		50X2		50X4					50X9
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

- Department of Homeland Security, only for the following two component organizations:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA):

FEMA	25X:								25X8	
	50X:								50X8	
	HUM/WMD:									
	75X:									

- United States Secret Service (USSS):

USSS	25X:	25X1				25X6	25X7	25X8		
	50X:						50X7			
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM								
	75X:						75X7			

- Department of Justice (DOJ), including the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)
(Note: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is listed separately below):

DOJ (including DEA)	25X:	25X1				25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:								
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM							
	75X:								

- Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI):

FBI	25X:	25X1		25X3		25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1				50X6			
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD						
	75X:								

- Department of the Navy (Navy):

Navy	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1	50X2	50X3	50X4	50X5	50X6	50X7	50X8	
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

- Department of State (State):

State	25X:	25X1	25X2			25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:					50X6			50X9
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM							
	75X:								

- Department of the Treasury (Treasury), only for the following two component organizations:
 - Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP):

Treasury: BEP	25X:							25X8	
	50X:								
	HUM/WMD:								
	75X:								

- United States Mint:

Treasury: Mint	25X:	25X8
	50X:	50X8
	HUM/WMD:	
	75X:	75X8

- Joint Staff, and the following Combatant Commands (each listed separately):

Joint Staff	25X:	25X1	25X2		25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8
	50X:					50X5		50X7	50X8
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD						
	75X:								

- United States Central Command (CENTCOM):

CENTCOM	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X5								
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

- United States European Command (EUCOM):

EUCOM	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9		
	50X:											
	HUM/WMD:										50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD
	75X:											

- United States Northern Command (NORTHCOM)/North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD):

NORAD/ NORTHCOM	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:									
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

PACOM	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:									
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

SOUTHCORP	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9	
	50X:						50X5				
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD								
	75X:										

STRATCOM	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8
	50X:					50X5			
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD						
	75X:								

TRANSCOM	25X:	25X1		25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:			50X5				
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD					
	75X:							

MDA	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X6
	50X:					
	HUM/WMD:					
	75X:					

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

NASA	25X:	25X1		25X3	25X4		25X8
	50X:				50X4		
	HUM/WMD:						
	75X:						

- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA):

NGA	25X:	25X1			25X6		
	50X:	50X1			50X6		50X9
	HUM/WMD:						
	75X:						

- National Reconnaissance Office (NRO):

NRO	25X:	25X1	25X2	25X3	25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1	50X2	50X3	50X4	50X5	50X6	50X7	50X8	50X9
	HUM/WMD:									
	75X:									

- Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC):

NRC	25X:						25X8	25X9
	50X:						50X8	50X9
	HUM/WMD:							
	75X:						75X8	

- National Security Agency (NSA):

NSA	25X:	25X1		25X3		25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1		50X3		50X6	50X7	50X8	50X9
	HUM/WMD:								
	75X:	75X1		75X3		75X6	75X7		75X9

- National Security Council (NSC):

NSC	25X:	25X1	25X2		25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1					50X6	50X7		
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:									

- Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI):

ODNI	25X:	25X1		25X3	25X4		25X6		25X8	
	50X:									
	HUM/WMD:									
	75X:									

- Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD):

OSD	25X:	25X1	25X2		25X4	25X5	25X6	25X7	25X8	25X9
	50X:	50X1	50X2		50X4	50X5	50X6	50X7	50X8	50X9
	HUM/WMD:	50X1-HUM	50X2-WMD							
	75X:	75X1	75X2			75X5	75X6			75X9

10. When reviewing records containing information created by another agency, the reviewing agency should only refer information to the originating agency if the originating agency is authorized to exempt that specific information. All referrals must meet the standards in section 3.3(d)(3) of the Order. Agencies should consult existing agency referral waivers (See ISOO Notice 2026-03 and ISOO Notice 2021-02 for examples) and the receiving agency's declassification guide prior to referring.

25X Exemptions: Only agencies designated above as having ISCAP-approved 25X exemptions may receive declassification referrals for specific information contained in records subject to automatic declassification at 25 years.

50X Exemptions: Only agencies designated above as having ISCAP-approved 50X exemptions may receive referrals for specific information contained in records between 45 and 70 years of age. Section 3.3(h)(2) allows agencies to propose to exempt additional information within 5 years of the onset of declassification.

50X1-HUM and 50X2-WMD Exemptions: Information properly identified as information revealing the identity of a confidential human source or human intelligence source (50X1-HUM) or revealing key design concepts of weapons of mass destruction (50X2-WMD) is exempt from automatic declassification at 50 years. To exempt this information under these categories, it must fall within the

specific limitations in section 3.3(h) of the Order. Agencies that have not notified ISCAP of their intent to use these exemptions should refer this information to the agency with the appropriate expertise to make this determination. Depending on the origins of the information, the CIA, DIA, and FBI are most often the primary agencies to consult regarding 50X1-HUM. Similarly, the DOE is the primary agency to consult regarding nuclear 50X2-WMD and the Army is the primary agency to consult regarding chemical or biological 50X2-WMD.

75X Exemptions: Only agencies designated in the above tables as having ISCAP-approved 75X exemptions may receive referrals for specific information contained in records 70 years of age or older. Section 3.3(h)(3) allows agencies to propose to exempt additional information within 5 years of the onset of declassification.

11. While sections 3.3(b) and (h) of the Order allow agency heads to exempt specific information from automatic declassification at 25, 50, and 75 years, section 3.3(j) requires the agency head or senior agency official to seek ISCAP approval for such exemptions at least one year prior to the onset of automatic declassification and specifies the requirements to obtain this approval. 32 CFR 2001.32 regulates the declassification guide requirements for agencies, including their preparation, content, and the process for submitting these guides to the ISCAP for approval.

During the ISCAP's declassification guide review process, agencies are required to justify each information element proposed for exemption from automatic declassification at each milestone by describing the damage to national security that would occur if the information were to be prematurely declassified. The criteria for the exemption of information become more restrictive for 50X and 75X exemptions, which must be differentiated from 25X exemptions, since this will result in the continued classification of that information for a much longer period of time.

Agencies are reminded that section 3.3(d)(3) of the Order requires that only records containing classified information that can reasonably be expected to fall into an exemption detailed in the receiving agency's ISCAP approved declassification guide may be referred to that agency.

Additionally, section 3.7(b)(3) of the Order requires that agencies exchange detailed declassification guidance with each other under the coordination of the National Declassification Center to enable the proper identification and referral of information.

12. This Notice rescinds and replaces ISOO Notice 2024-02, revised to include recent ISCAP-approved exemptions for the NSA, FBI, and ODNI. The ODNI is the newest addition to this list as it reached the threshold for 25X exemptions upon reaching 20 years as an established agency in 2025. ODNI is now authorized to accept referrals for information that can reasonably be expected to fall into exemption categories of X1, X3, X4, X6, and X8.
13. In assessing other agencies' classified equities, reviewers are responsible for confirming that the declassification guide they are using is the current, ISCAP-approved version. Following are the dates of each agency's ISCAP-approved declassification guide:

Agency	Approved Declassification Guide Date
Air Force	4/30/2019
Army	3/17/2023
CIA	12/3/2018
DIA	12/31/2023
DISA	12/3/2018
DOE	9/6/2018
DOJ	12/3/2018
DTRA	7/24/2019
FBI	2/25/2025
FEMA	5/2019
Joint Staff	4/2019
- CENTCOM	3/20/2019
- EUCOM	3/20/2019
- NORAD/NORTHCOM	3/20/2019
- PACOM	3/20/2019
- SOUTHCOM	3/20/2019
- STRATCOM	3/20/2019
- TRANSCOM	3/20/2019
MDA	9/6/2018
NASA	12/3/2018
Navy	12/3/2018
NGA	1/2020
NRC	11/2023
NRO	12/3/2018
NSA	12/31/2024
NSC	9/6/2018
ODNI	5/19/2026
OSD	1/27/2023
State	12/3/2018
Treasury	12/3/2018
USSS	4/2024

Authorities

Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information

32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2001, Classified National Security Information. §
2001.34(c) Agencies eligible to receive referrals.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Thomas". The signature is stylized, with the first name "Michael" written in a cursive-like script, followed by "D." and "Thomas" in a more formal, blocky style.

Michael D. Thomas

Director