



UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-5000

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INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY  
DEPARTMENTS  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
UNDER SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
ASSISTANT SECRETARIES OF DEFENSE  
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MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM ANALYSIS AND  
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DIRECTOR, NET ASSESSMENT  
DIRECTORS OF THE DEFENSE AGENCIES  
DIRECTORS OF THE DOD FIELD ACTIVITIES

SUBJECT: Use of the "Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals" (NOFORN)  
Caveat on Department of Defense (DoD) Information

Incorrect use of the "NOFORN" caveat on DoD information has impeded the sharing of classified national defense information with allies and coalition partners. This memorandum proscribes the use of the "NOFORN" caveat on DoD information except as described below. Addressees must ensure that personnel are trained and understand the correct use of the "NOFORN" caveat.

The NOFORN caveat will only be applied to intelligence information in accordance with DCID 6/6, Security Controls on the Dissemination of Intelligence Information, and 6/7, Intelligence Disclosure Policy. For intelligence under the purview of the DoD, originators shall use the "Releasable To" (Rel To) marking, and any subsequently approved releasability marking, to the maximum extent possible.




Only Senior Officials of the Intelligence Community (SOICs), original classification authorities (OCA) in SOIC organizations, the USD(I) or OCAs in USDI may determine what information warrants application of the “NOFORN” caveat in the first instance. DoD SOICs are the Deputy Chief of Staff, G2, Department of the Army; the Director of Naval Intelligence, Department of the Navy; Director of Intelligence, United States Marine Corps; Director of Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Department of the Air Force; the Director, National Security Agency; Director, Defense Intelligence Agency; the Director, National Reconnaissance Office; and the Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Derivative classifiers may only use the caveat when authorized by security classification guides or other properly marked source documents.

“NOFORN” shall not be applied to non-intelligence information except for Naval Nuclear Propulsion Information and the National Disclosure Policy document (NDP-1). There is no other DoD-authorized use of the “NOFORN” marking on non-intelligence information.

Within DoD, all classified information requires a positive foreign disclosure decision by the originator before it can be released to a foreign government. Addressees concerned about the potential for unauthorized disclosures of classified non-intelligence information are encouraged to review the implementation of the National Disclosure Policy within their organizations as described in DoD Directive 5230.11, “Disclosure of Classified Military Information to Foreign Governments and International Organizations.”

Challenges to the application of “NOFORN” to DoD information shall be submitted to the original classification authority for the information. If unresolved within 30 days, the matter shall be referred to the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Counterintelligence and Security).

  
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