

JOINT NEW WEAPONS

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

15 March 1944.

MEMORANDUM TO: CHAIRMAN, ROCKET SUBCOMMITTEE

Subject: Top Secret Procedure.

1. The Combined Chiefs of Staff have agreed to the use of a new security classification called TOP SECRET. This includes secret documents, information and material, the security aspect of which is paramount and whose unauthorized disclosure would cause exceptionally grown descriptionally grown descriptional descriptional description descrip closure would cause exceptionally grave damage to the nation. As an example, critical information of new and important munitions of war, including scientific and technical developments, might be classified as TOP SECRET.

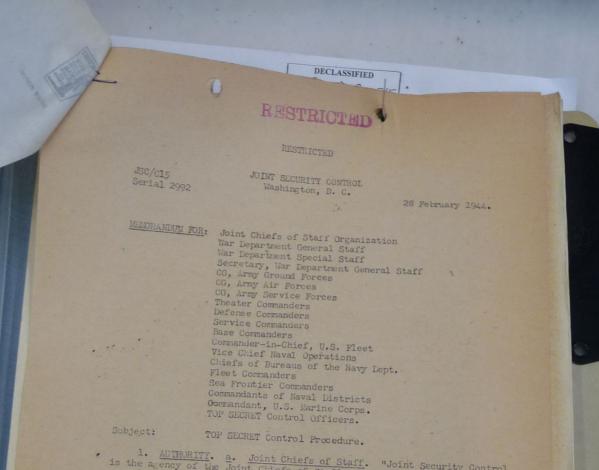
In implementation of the foregoing action by the Combined Chiefs of Staff, Joint Security Control has established by JSC/C15, the TOP SECRET control procedure. This procedure is attached hereto as Enclosure "A". Additional steps for the guidance of working or subcommittees dealing with TOP SECRET projects are provided in a memorandum on this subject from the Secretary, Joint Security Control, and attached as Enclosure "P".
Although "rockets" and "rocket propellants" are not classified as TOP SECRET, it is believed that your committees will have contact with certain incidential projects which are in that category.

BURTON L. LUCAS Colonel, G.S.C. BLL:gk Secretary.

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Procedure is, in general, functioning satisfactorily and will be continued with such modifications as appear below, under the new title of TOP SECRET CONTROL.

3. GLINERAL PRINCIPLES. The principal



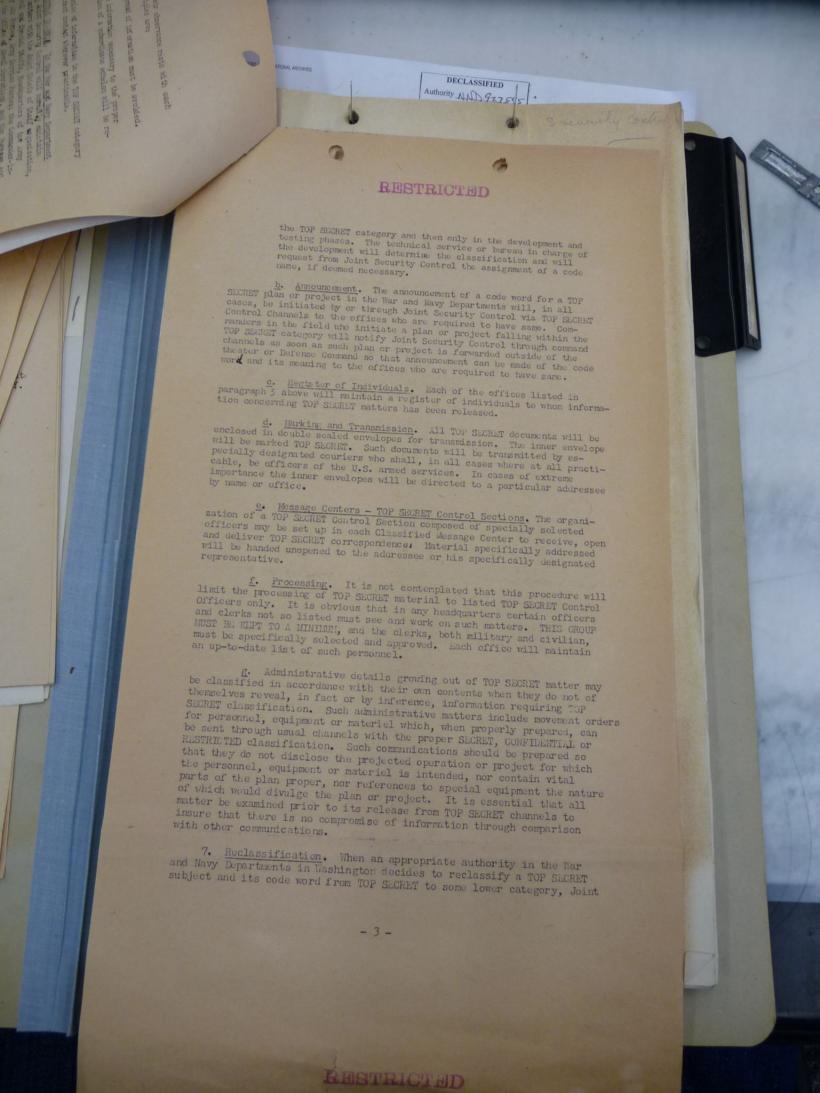
- 1. AUTHORITY. a. Joint Chiefs of Staff. "Joint Security Control is the agency of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Organization charged . . . with preventing information of military value from falling into the hands of the enemy . . . " (J.C.S. 234/2/D March 17, 1943).
- b. War Department. AR 380-5 provides the basis for safeguarding Department.

 Department and commanders within all echelons of the War
- c. Navy Department. U.S. Navy Regulations, Articles 75½ and 76 stations, and forces of the Navy.
- d. Joint Agreement. The Combined Security Classification Agreement will cause the Regulations of the Var and Navy Departments mentioned above to be revised. This agreement has been issued to U.S. and British armed services and will be the guide to classification on and after introduces a category called TOP SECRET, which is new to the U.S. armed services.
- 2. ADDITIONAL MEASURES. Additional precautionary measures necessary to safeguard all matters falling within the TOP SECRET category are laid down herein and will be referred to as TOP SECRET CONTROL PROCEDURE and TOP SECRET CONTROL CHANNELS. The current Security Control Procedure is, in general, functioning satisfactorily and will be continued with such modifications as appear below, under the new title of TOP SECRET CONTROL.
- 3. GENERAL PRINCIPLES. The principles set forth below must guide each individual who originates a paper falling within the TOP SECRET category, and similarly, each individual who receives such a paper for

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action. The responsibility for their observance rests with each commander concerned. These principles are:

- a. The unnecessary spread of information must be avoided.
- b. Only the minimum information necessary to the proper planning and appropriate action of a subordinate echelon will be released to it.
- c. The transmission of information in the TOP SECRET category should be effected by direct contact wherever practicable.
- 4. TOP SECRET CONTROL CHANNELD. In the War and Navy Department offices in Washington Joint Security Control will normally maintain contact in security matters with the Joint Chiefs of Staff organization, war Department General and Special Staffs, Headquarters of the Army Ground Forces, Army Air Forces, Army Service Forces; the Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Fleet, the Office of Naval Operations, and the Bureaus and Offices of the Navy, through officers specifically designated in each agency. These officers are known as TOP SECRET Control Officers and all TOP SECRET Control matters will be transmitted through them. This method of transmission will be referred to as the TOP SECRET Control Channel. The appointment of TOP SECRET Control Officers in the lower echelons of the major components mentioned above is authorized. Theater, Defense and Service Commands of the Army and Fleet and Sea Frontier Commanders and Commandants of Naval Districts of the Navy will be responsible for establishing the necessary TOP SECRET Control channels in their commands.
- 5. REGISTER OF CONTROL OFFICERS. Joint Security Control maintains an accurate up-to-date register of TOP SECRET Control Officers of the offices named in paragraph 4, plus the offices of certain civilian agencies in Washington. The headquarters of each Theater Commander, Derense Commander, and Commanding General, Service Command of the Army, and the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Fleet and each Fleet and Sea Frontier Commander and Commandant of a Naval District of the Navy will maintain a similar Register in their own organizations.
- 6. TOP SECRET CONTROL PROCEDURE. a. Purpose. This procedure is designed primarily to safeguard and limit the spread of information falling within the TOP SECRET category.
 - (1) In the case of plans or particulars of future major or special operations such information includes the plans proper, their code names, contemplated areas of action, dates, certain special equipment, and all matters which tend to reveal the foregoing.
 - (2) In the case of particulars of important dispositions or impending moves of our forces or convoys in connection with future major or special pperations such information includes:
 - (a) Movement of our forces (Army, Naval or Air) from a rear area in a theater of operation to the battle or assault area by land, by sea, or by air.
 - (b) The movement of a convoy carrying troops including the particulars of the dates, rendezvous, composition, route and destination
 - (3) In the case of critical information of new and important munitions, including approved scientific and technical developments, the material itself will seldom, if ever; be placed in



Security Control will be notified and will be responsible for notifying all others in the War and Navy Departments who are concerned. Theater and Defense Commanders who take similar classifying action will themselves notify all concerned. 8. RESCISSIONS. Memorandum, this office, dated 23 June 1943, subject: "Security Control Procedure," is rescinded 15 March 1944. R. E. SCHUIRMANN
Rear Admiral, U. S. N.
Member, Joint Security Control. CLAYTON BISSELL
Major General
Member, Joint Security Control.