# NATO SECURITY BRIEFING



#### Introduction

- Security standards and procedures for handling NATO information may be different than US information.
- This briefing explains the basic security standards and procedures for safeguarding NATO information.

### What is NATO?

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- Members include:
  - Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Latvia, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, UK, USA, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Stovenia
  - SecDef is the US NATO Security Authority, makes sure all security requirements are met.

# What is NATO Information?

- Information that has been generated by or for NATO
- Information released into the NATO system by a member nation
- Information marked NATO by originating Nation

#### Access

- Access to NATO information is determined by the holder.
- Restrictions may be specified by originator when released to NATO.

## NATO Markings

- Do not mark NATO unless informed in writing by originator
- Do not release into NATO system without written consent of originator
- Releasable to NATO on US material has been authorized releasable to NATO, only copies released to NATO shall be marked NATO.

# **Classification Markings**

- Four Levels
  - COSMIC TOP SECRET
  - NATO SECRET
  - NATO CONFIDENTIAL
  - NATO RESTRICTED
  - Certain information is further marked ATOMAL.
  - There is also official and unclassified information.

## COSMIC TOP SECRET

Cosmic Top Secret (CTS)

- This is applied to information the unauthorized disclosure of which would cause exceptionally grave damage to NATO.
- COSMIC is applied to TS material to signify it belongs to NATO. The term NATO TOP SECRET is not actually used.

### NATO SECRET

- NATO Secret (NS)
  - This is applied to information the unauthorized disclosure of which would cause serious damage to NATO.

### NATO Confidential

- NATO Confidential (NC)
  - This is applied to information the unauthorized disclosure of which would be damaging to NATO interests.

#### NATO Restricted

#### NATO Restricted (NR)

- This applies to information the unauthorized disclosure of which would be disadvantageous to the interests of NATO.
- Though similar safeguards are applied to FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY, OFFICIAL USE ONLY, or SENSITIVE, BUT UNCLASSIFIED information, NR is a security classification.

# ATOMAL

#### ATOMAL

- This information is US Restricted Data or Formerly Restricted Data that is classified per the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 or UK ATOMIC information that has been released to NATO.
- ATOMAL is marked COSMIC TOP SECRET ATOMAL (CTSA), NATO SECRET ATOMAL (NSA) or NATO CONFIDENTIAL ATOMAL (NCA).

### NATO Unclassified

- NATO Unclassified (NU)
  - This is applied to official information that is the property of NATO, but does not meet the criteria for classification. Access to information by non-NATO entities is permitted when such access would not be detrimental to NATO.

### **Access Authorization for NATO**

- Access in not based on position, rank or level of clearance.
- Based on Need-to-Know (NTK), proper level of clearance and proper access briefing for specific level and type of NATO/ATOMAL information.
- Make sure person(s) have met all requirements BEFORE granting access.

#### **Access Authorization for ATOMAL**

- DoD or contractors may have access to ATOMAL on a NTK basis.
- Must be cleared and briefed for Restricted Data.
- Interim Clearances shall not be accepted for access.

#### The Registry System

- A Central Registry has been established by each NATO member. The Central United State Registry (CUSR) is located in the Pentagon.
- The CUSR establishes all US sub-registries that account and secure NATO and ATOMAL material.

# Accounting for NATO Classified

#### CTS, NS and all ATOMAL

- Receipts and logs WILL be maintained on receipt, disposition, destruction and dispatch of CTS, NS and ALL ATOMAL.
- Individuals will execute a disclosure record upon acquiring access to CTS/NS.
- NC and NR
  - Maintain Administrative control adequate to preclude unauthorized access. Specific accounting records are only required if specified by the originator.

# Marking and Accounting US Documents with NATO info

- Highest Level of US or NATO information will be marked on the outside.
- NATO information is exempt from declassification or downgrading. "THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NATO CLASSIFIED INFORMATION" will be marked on the outside and safeguarded accordingly.
- Records of source NATO documents will be maintained.

#### Safeguarding NATO Material General

- CTS, NS and NC physical security requirements are the same as similarly marked US material.
- NR may be stored in a locked file cabinet as long as access is controlled.
- All person(s) with access to containers must be briefed and access level up to the NATO level held within.

# Safeguarding NATO material

#### Segregation

- Keep NATO, ATOMAL and US material separate.
  Different drawers or containers are acceptable.
- ATOMAL control records shall be separate as well.
- Combinations will be changed annually, when a person leaves or if believed to be compromised.

### **Transmission of NATO Material**

- CTS or CTSA shall be through the registry system using a cleared courier service.
- NS, NSA, NC and NCA will use by courier, cleared employees with courier ID or by US registered mail.
- Receipts are required for CTS, NS and all ATOMAL.

#### Automated Information Systems (AIS)

- AIS that have been accredited to process US information may process NATO information of the same or lower level.
- Organizations must issue instructions for processing, handling and accounting for NATO information in regards to AIS.

#### Destruction

 CTS, CTSA, NS, NSA and NCA material will be destroyed only by registry personnel using a destruction certificate and method approved for destruction of US material of the same level.

#### Reproduction

- Only the CUSR or a sub registry or control point may reproduce CTS, NS and all ATOMAL material.
- NC and NR material may be reproduced by holders of it as necessary.
- Reproduced copies will be accounted for and safeguarded as the originals.

#### **Security Violations**

- The violation/compromise will be handled in the same manner as US classified information.
- The servicing sub registry or control point must be informed in addition.