



# Information Security Oversight Office

National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20408



October 29, 2004

Mr. Steven Aftergood  
Director, Project on Government Secrecy  
Federation of American Scientists  
1717 K Street NW #209  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Aftergood:

This is in response to your letter of May 6, 2004 identifying your concerns with respect to the appropriateness of security classification assigned to a report entitled "Article 15-6 Investigation of the 800<sup>th</sup> Military Police Brigade." As I advised you on that same date, pursuant to Section 5.2 of Executive Order 12958, as amended, I have pursued with the Department of Defense (DoD) the issues you identified in your letter.

This is to advise you that I have been informed by DoD that they have declassified the majority of the classified information in the above referenced report to include the information originally referenced in your letter. In addition, they have undertaken a number of ancillary initiatives that include:

- A recent DoD-wide message from the Secretary of Defense emphasizing command responsibility for holding both original and derivative classifiers of information accountable for the accuracy of their classification decisions.
- The initiation of a DOD-wide "campaign" by the office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), which has already commenced, to reinforce sound classification management principles and to enhance internal oversight.
- Updated formal training which will be available to security classification practitioners DoD-wide.

I am impressed by the above actions undertaken by DoD. They are entirely consistent with the President's well-balanced policy for national security information of keeping the American people informed of the activities of their Government while at the same time maintaining essential information in confidence.

Thank you for bringing forward your concerns regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

*/signed – J. Wm. Leonard/*

J. WILLIAM LEONARD  
Director