The Consolidated NGA (CoNGA) Security Classification Guide (SCG)

(b)(3) 10 USC 424

7 June – GEOINT Symposium

NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL NGA INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

CoNGA Overview

- The Bottom Line on CoNGA SCG

- Security Classification Guide Observations

- CoNGA SCG Overview

  - Build Process

  - Introduction to Enhancement Statements

  - Original Classification Authority (OCA) Restructure

  - Derivative Classification

  - Rapid Inquire / Change Process

  - Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and Releasability

  - Metrics

  - What CoNGA SCG Will and Won't Do

- CoNGA SCG Online – The Security Management Resource Tool (SMaRT)

- Conclusions and Endorsements

- CoNGA SCG and NGA Program Protection

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The Bottom Line on CoNGA SCG

- **Purpose**
  - Consolidate all of the individual NGA classification guides into a single source and validate its content in keeping with NGA's current mission and functions.

- **Major Deliverables**
  - A revised and consolidated NGA classification guide – One document that contains an updated and modernized list of NGA information (i.e. line items).
  - A Security Management Resource Tool (SMaRT) – An online, searchable version of the CoNGA SCG that allows users greater access and availability.

- **Deliverable Metrics**

Reduced Redundancy	Improved Utility	Modernization
• SCG line item reduction **(2525)**	• Classification downgrades **(45)** • Line items added **(16)** • Line items revised to enable user derivative classification at the lowest level **(365)**	• Enhancement statements added **(292)**

- **Other Outcomes**
  - Elimination of CONFIDENTIAL
  - FOUO replaced by Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) TBD

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Security Classification Guide Observations

## SISCC Observations & Conclusions

- 65 separate classification guides in various stages of completion.
- Long timelines (~ 9 months) to get a classification guide approved and signed.
  - Lack of agility in updating classification guides.
- Line item redundancies, conflicting classifications, and external agency equities in NGA SCGs.

NGA Leadership Observations & Conclusions

- SCGs "based on old notions of TCPED...that could make it challenging for NGA to achieve future strategic objectives" (DD/NGA).
- The GEOINT SCG is more reflective of the "Cold War," not the "current environment" (NGA/CoS).

NGA's security classification guides must be modernized.
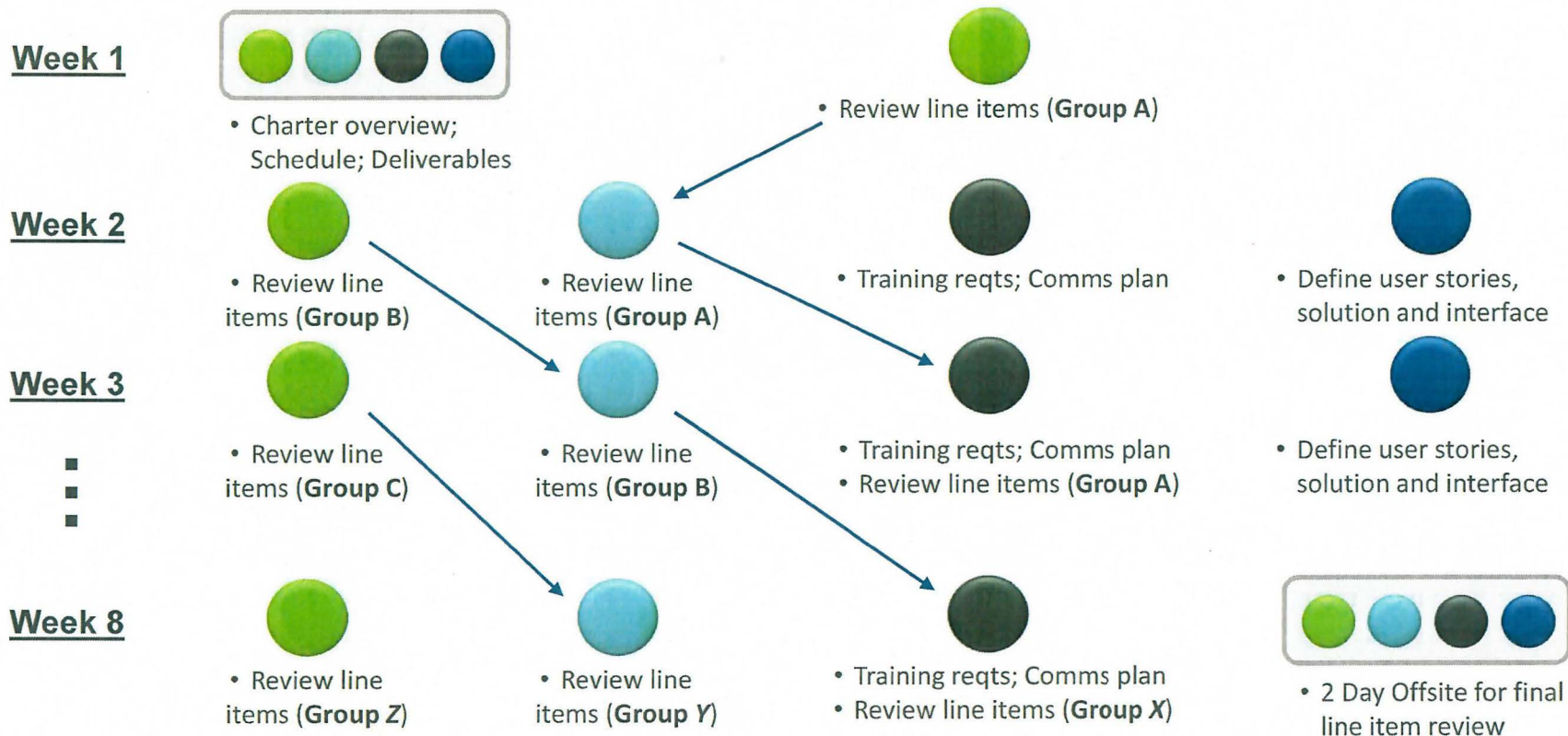
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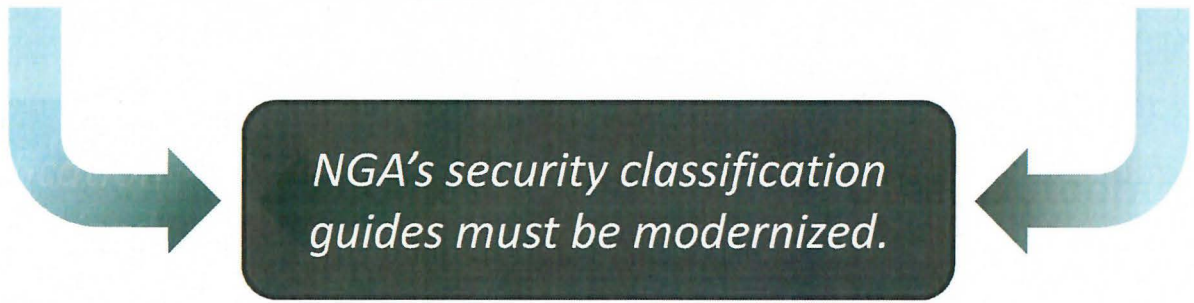
CoNGA SCG Overview – Build Process
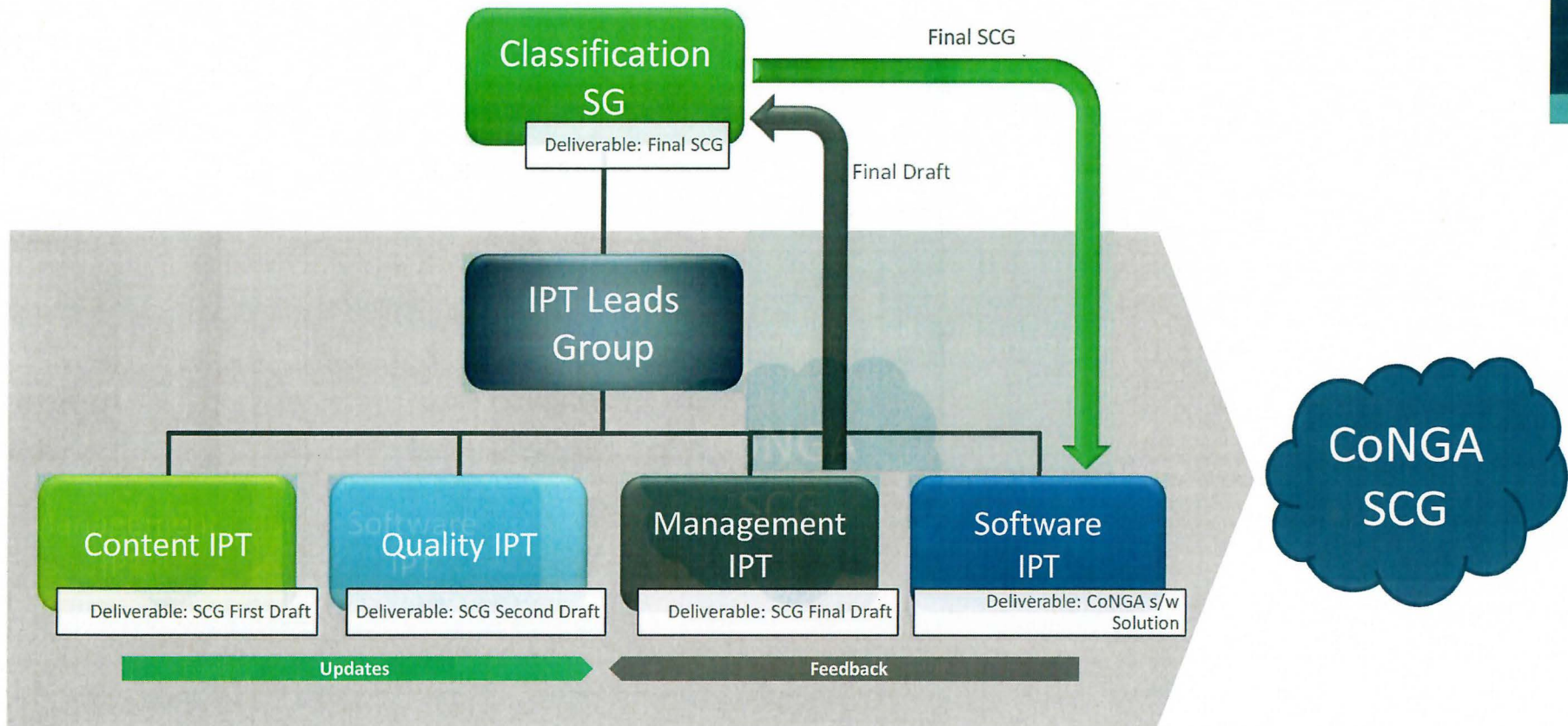
Note: Pertinent NGA KCs were represented on all IPTs (S, A, R, IA, OGC, CIO-T, OSO, SI).

CoNGA SCG Overview – Build Process

Week 1

- Charter overview; Schedule; Deliverables

- Review line items (**Group A**)

Week 2

- Review line items (**Group B**)
- Review line items (**Group A**)
- Training reqts; Comms plan
- Define user stories, solution and interface

Week 3

- Review line items (**Group C**)
- Review line items (**Group B**)
- Training reqts; Comms plan
- Review line items (**Group A**)
- Define user stories, solution and interface

Week 8

- Review line items (**Group Z**)
- Review line items (**Group Y**)
- Training reqts; Comms plan
- Review line items (**Group X**)
- 2 Day Offsite for final line item review

5 Months | 30+ active participants | > 2000 hours

(In addition to their day jobs)

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CoNGA SCG Overview – Introduction to Enhancement Statements

Enhancement Statements – CoNGA SCG incorporates three amplifying statements for each classified line item. These three statements are labeled: **_Value_**, **_Damage_**, and **_Unclassified_**.

The **_Value_** statement explains why the information is being protected.

The **_Damage_** statement describes the potential impact to National Security should an unauthorized disclosure (UD) occur.

The **_Unclassified_** statement outlines how a user can address the classified line item in an unclassified manner.

Enhancement statements help users: **_manage risk_**, **_build appropriately classified products_**, and **_increase product dissemination._**

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8
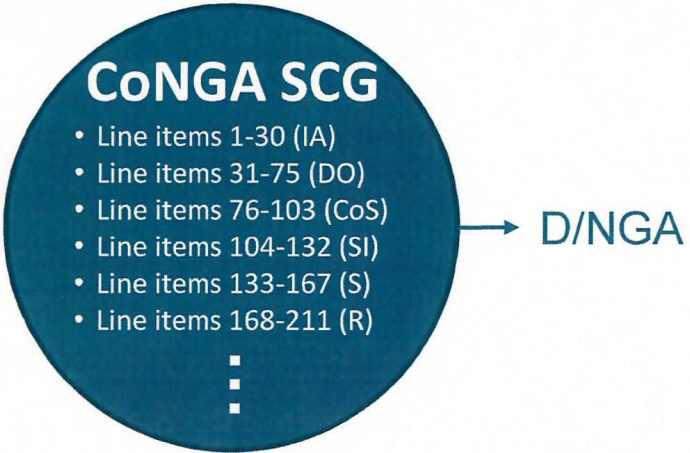
CoNGA SCG Overview – Original Classification Authority (OCA) Restructure

Before CoNGA SCG | 32 SCGs signed by different OCAs

S

SI

A

CIO-T

R

DO

IA

CoS
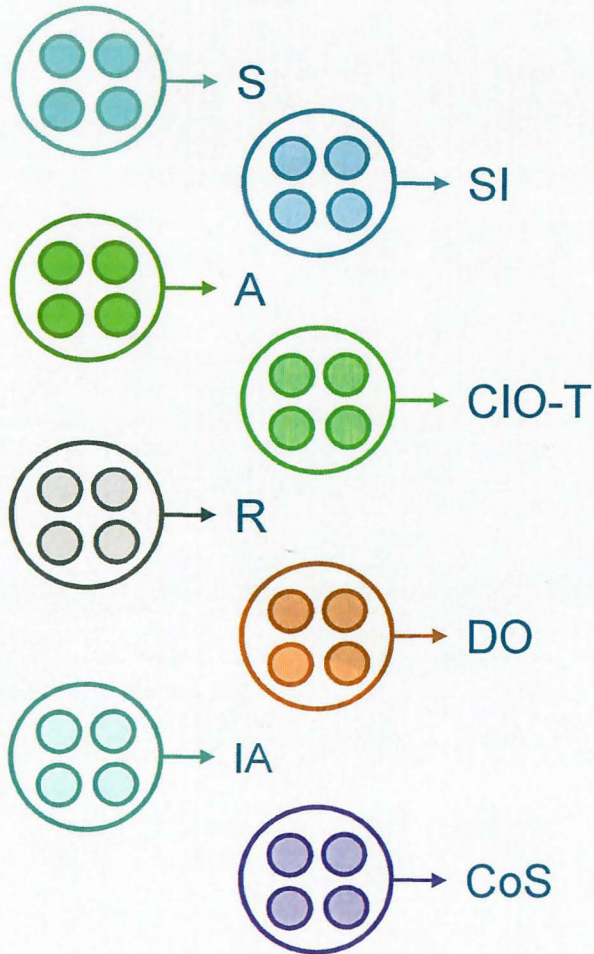
After CoNGA SCG | D/NGA-signed CoNGA SCG; Individual OCAs have authority over specific line items.

CoNGA SCG

- Line items 1-30 (IA)
- Line items 31-75 (DO)
- Line items 76-103 (CoS)
- Line items 104-132 (SI)
- Line items 133-167 (S)
- Line items 168-211 (R)

→ D/NGA
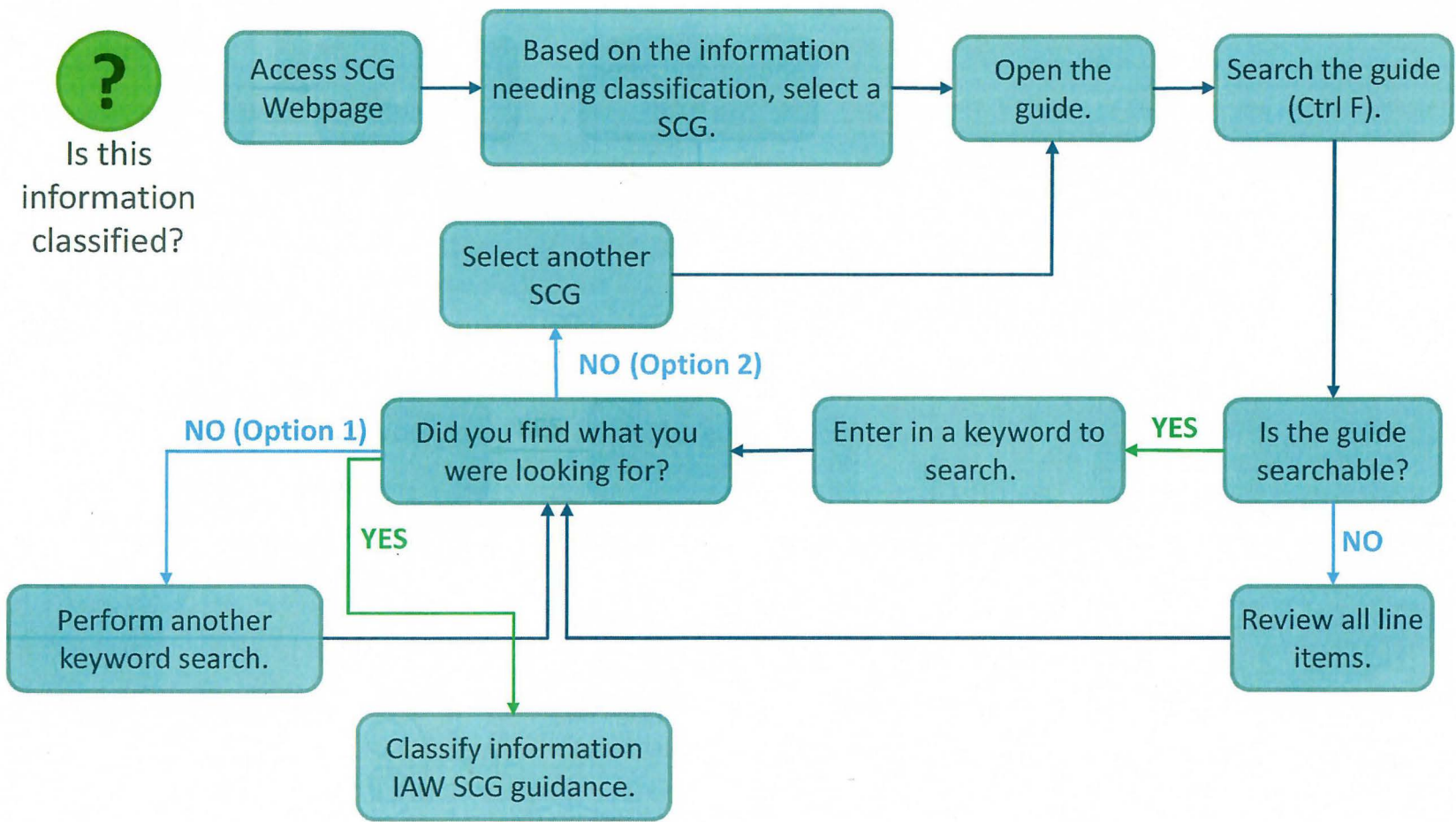
Line item numbering is for example only

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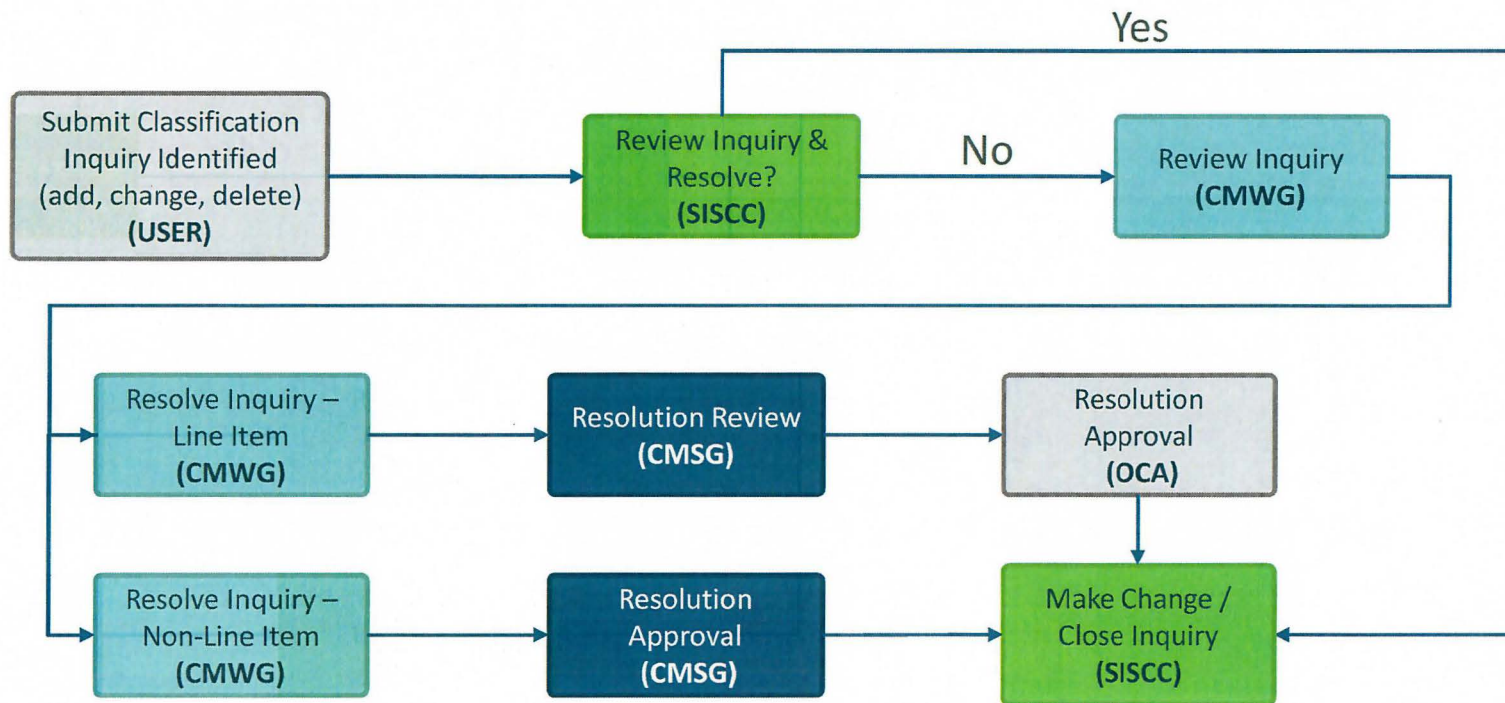# CoNGA SCG Overview - Previous Derivative Classification (Multiple SCGs)

? Is this information classified?

Access SCG Webpage → Based on the information needing classification, select a SCG. → Open the guide. → Search the guide (Ctrl F).

Select another SCG

NO (Option 2)

NO (Option 1) — Did you find what you were looking for? ← Enter in a keyword to search. ← **YES** — Is the guide searchable?

YES

Perform another keyword search.

Classify information IAW SCG guidance.

NO

Review all line items.

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CoNGA SCG Overview - Future Derivative Classification (CoNGA)

NO (Option 1)

Is this information classified?

Access CoNGA SCG → Search / Filter / Sort Line Items → Review Results → Did you find what you were looking for?

YES

Classify information IAW SCG guidance.

NO (Option 2)

Contact NGA Classification Management for resolution
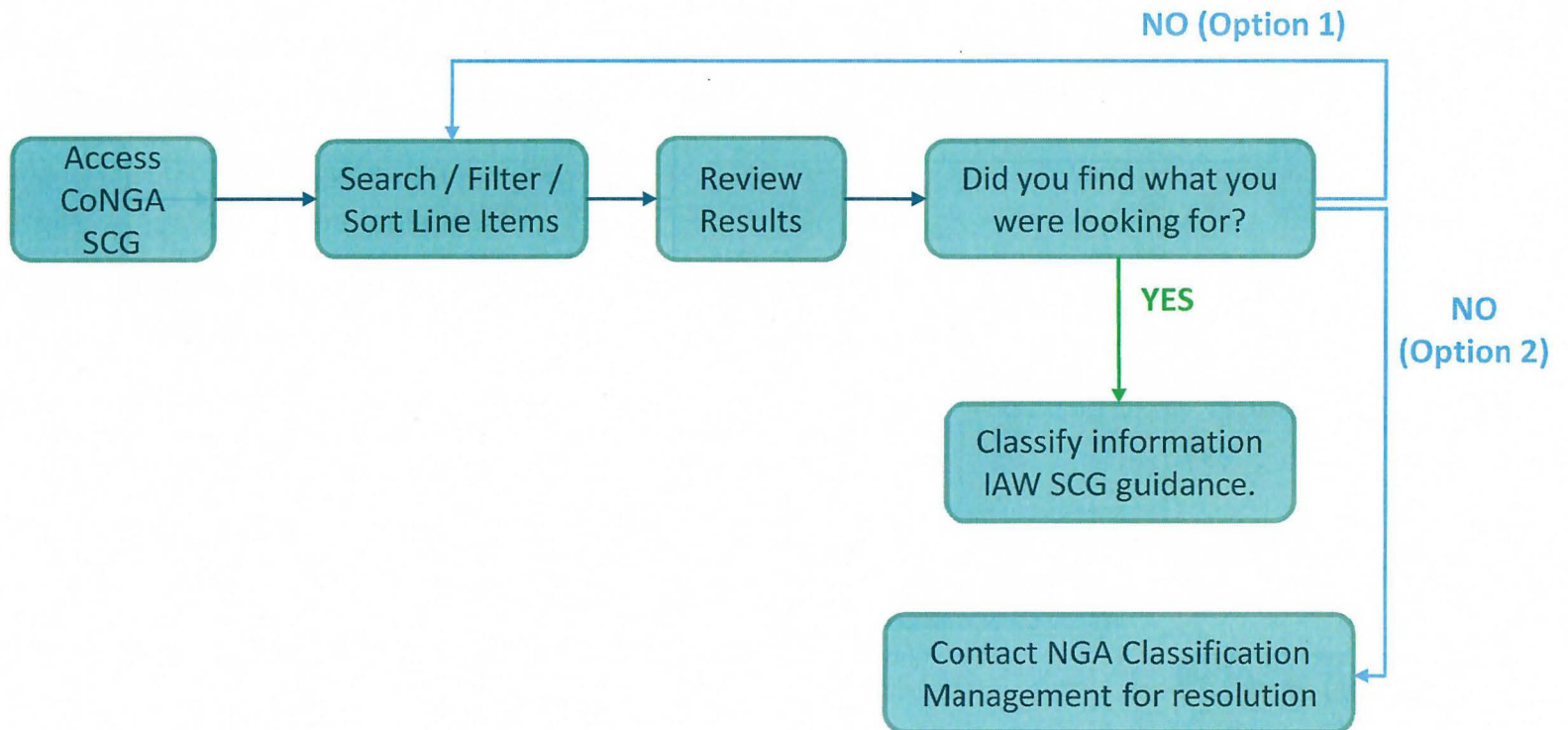
# CoNGA SCG Overview – Rapid Inquiry / Change Process (DRAFT)

Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) and Releasability

- CoNGA SCG does not explicitly address Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) at this time.
    - DoD instructions on the use and protection of CUI are forthcoming.
- Releasability for classified and unclassified information is still controlled by the designated authorities (e.g. NDRO, International Affairs, etc.).
- Existing releasability processes are still in effect.

Unclassified markings do not constitute public release

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CoNGA SCG Overview - Metrics

Reduced Redundancy – *Line Item Reduction*
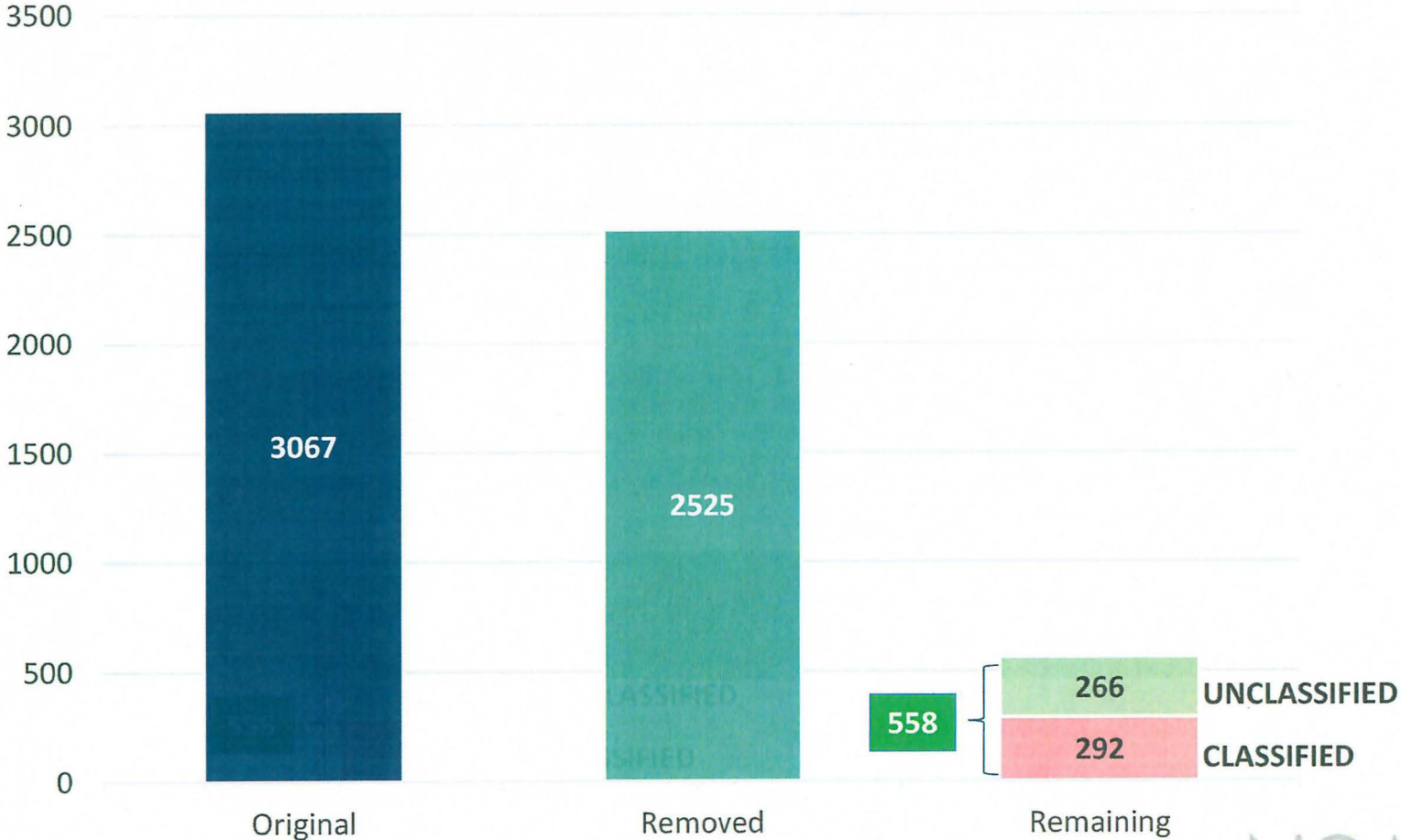
Note: The remaining line item total of 558 includes 16 added line items.

CoNGA SCG Overview - Metrics

Improved Utility – *Classification Downgrades; Line Items Added; Line Items Revised*

Modernization – *Enhancement Statements Added*

	Total Line Items	Classification Downgrades	Line Items Added	Line Items Revised	Enhancement Statements
Value	558	45	16	365	292

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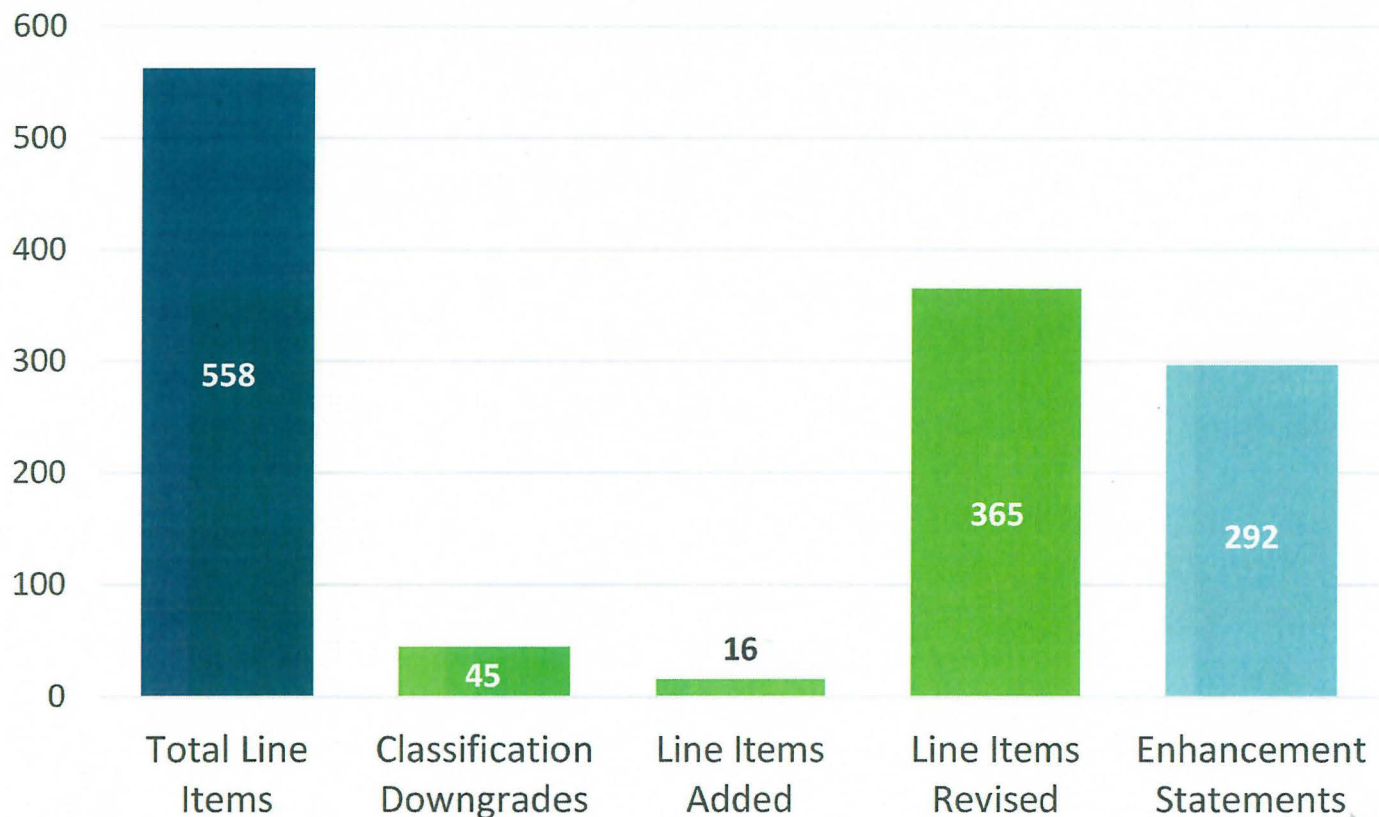
CoNGA SCG Overview - What It Will and Won't Do

CoNGA SCG Will...

Allow users to build products at a desired classification level

Enable accurate classification

Refer you to release processes and authorities

Enhance your Derivative Classification Authority (DCA)

Focus on GEOINT and NGA's equities

CoNGA SCG Won't...

Make your information unclassified

Make classification decisions for you

Allow unclassified public release

Make you an Original Classification Authority (OCA)

Classify external agency equities

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CoNGA SCG Online– The Security Management Resource Tool (SMaRT)

- Key user stories (short-term plans)
    - Core
        - Type a keyword(s) into a textbox and the system returns CoNGA SCG line items.
        - Access CoNGA SCG via a web browser.
        - Log into the CoNGA SCG web site using my PKI (NOT username+password).
    - Search
        - See search results which give at least a few lines of information per item.
        - Use boolean logic in my search parameters (i.e. AND, OR, NOT, etc.).
        - Perform "Advanced Search" (incl. narrowed searches based on fields I select).
    - Ancillary
        - Quickly access a glossary of "Acronyms" and "Definitions".
        - See FAQ information pertaining to how to use the CoNGA SCG.
        - See announcements about recent decisions, adjudications.
    - Enhancements
        - Click a link which opens an email to the NGA Classification Management and Program Protection team.

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17

CoNGA SCG - Conclusions and Endorsements

- **NGA is leading the DoD and IC in Classification Management transformation:**
  - Fully embracing the principles of the Reducing Overclassification Act.
  - Enabling greater transparency and information sharing.
  - Better identification and protection of the truly important information - higher walls around fewer secrets.

- **Setting the scene to enable greater analytical and general user risk management and flexibility,** by delivering clear and concise classification guidance to GEOINT producers and users, worldwide, 24 x 7.

- **Making a complex task (accurate derivative classification) simpler and easier to do.**

- **Positive feedback for CoNGA SCG:**
  - "... Our highest possible endorsement of what NGA is doing here...extremely impressive, groundbreaking work ...clearly, a possible example or model for how to achieve transformation, for the IC and Nationally ..." (ODNI).
  - "This isn't just a concept for NGA but a necessity for DoD and the IC" (OUSD(I)).

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CoNGA SCG and NGA Program Protection

CoNGA SCG provides information security guidance through the accurate classification and dissemination of information.

NGA programs submit updates to CoNGA SCG as new programmatic information is discovered and/or developed.