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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

FEB 10 2012

Mr. John P. Fitzpatrick
Director, Information Security Oversight Office
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick:

I am pleased to send you the Department of State's status update for the fundamental classification guidance review conducted under Executive Order 13526 along with a summary of other classification guidance efforts we recently have undertaken.

As detailed in our August 2011 update, the Department's senior agency official for E.O. 13526 circulated a draft of the revised Department of State Classification Guide (DSCG) to the heads of all bureaus and offices in the Department that classify information with the request that they undertake a critical review of the guide based on the criteria outlined in the ISOO Director's memorandum of January 27, 2011. Subsequently, the DSCG has been fully revised and updated based on the input received. This review did not result in the addition or deletion of any major categories of information for classification. Most of the proposals were directed at better defining the categories of information to be classified.

Over the past fiscal year, the Department has been actively working with the Departments of Energy and of Defense to identify information that had previously been classified under the Atomic Energy Act or various national security executive orders. Several categories of this information, including topics concerning nuclear weapons, weapons testing, improvised nuclear devices, and international cooperation relating to nuclear forensics, will be downgraded, classified for shorter durations, or declassified. As other agencies conduct their own fundamental classification reviews and contact the Department for concurrence in downgrading or declassifying certain information, our own guides will reflect these classification changes.

Also, as we previously reported, the Department has deployed an online training course through the Foreign Service Institute which trains all

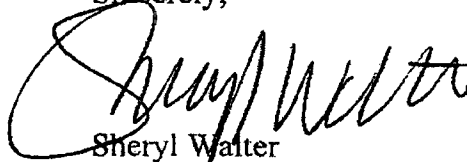
REVIEW AUTHORITY: Frank Perez, Senior Reviewer

Department employees in proper classification practices. Offices from several bureaus collaborated in creating the course, including Diplomatic Security, Information Resource Management, Administration, and the Foreign Service Institute. Writing content for the course required review of the Department's classification policies and incorporated feedback from a variety of employees who tested the course. The course is now available to all domestic and overseas employees and contractors who make classification and marking decisions on emails and cables. Since the course was released on July 1, 2011, 643 individuals have enrolled in the course, including 108 contractors.

While the *Diplomatic Telecommunications Service- Program Office (DTS-PO) Supplemental Classification Guide* is not due for revision for another two years (the 2009 revision declassified several categories of information previously classified), it is possible that we will update the guide this year as initial consultations for the revision have begun. The Bureau of Diplomatic Security's "*Security Classification Guide for Design and Construction of Overseas Facilities*" is presently under revision and we expect it to be fully revised and reissued by June, 2012.

Please feel free to contact me for any further information on the Department's fundamental review efforts, the DSCG, or the two classification guide supplements described above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheryl Walter", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Sheryl Walter
Director
Office of Information Programs and
Services