



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON DC 20310  
August 2, 2002



MEMORANDUM FOR ALL ARMY PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Army Directive #4 – Handling Classified Information

The unauthorized intentional release of classified information is absolutely unacceptable and is punishable by law. At best, such leaks compromise the options of our policymakers at the national level. At worst, they kill people.

Discussing details of classified operational plans with people who do not have the proper clearances or need to know preempts decision makers at the highest levels. There is a healthy tension between the American public's right to know the activities of its military and the need for operational security, but it is not the responsibility of the members of the Army to resolve that tension. That is the purview of our elected officials.

Much of our success in defeating terrorist organizations will depend on human intelligence provided by individuals who do so at great personal risk. Leaks degrade the credibility of our collection efforts by undermining the confidence of human intelligence sources that their identities are secure. The loss of these sources translates directly into increased risk - - and potentially greater casualties - - for our countrymen at home and abroad.

We know we can count on all members of the Army to do their part in safeguarding the information that will enable us to win the war on terrorism.

Eric K. Shinseki  
General, United States Army  
Chief of Staff

Thomas E. White  
Secretary of the Army