ISOO Notice 2011-01: Review and Approval of Exemptions to Automatic Declassification Pursuant to Sections 3.3(b) and 3.3(h) of Executive Order 13526

April 28, 2011

The authority for Federal agencies to exempt specific information from automatic declassification may be granted by the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP) prior to the onset of automatic declassification. The significant changes in declassification policy mandated by Executive Order 13526, “Classified National Security Information” (the Order) and 32 C.F.R. Part 2001 (the Directive), which implements the Order, require that agencies that have been granted this authority update their declassification guides and submit to the ISCAP revised declassification guides for information proposed for exemption under section 3.3(b) of the Order that conform to the requirements of the Order and the Directive by December 31, 2011.

Agencies that currently do not have the authority to exempt information from automatic declassification at 25 years may seek that authority for information contained in records created in 1987 or later.

Additionally, any agency head who proposes to exempt information from automatic declassification at 50 and 75 years under section 3.3(h)(2) and (3) of the Order must seek approval for such “extraordinary cases” from the ISCAP no later than December 31, 2011, one year before the effective date of the provisions of section 3.3(h). Such proposals may be included within a revised declassification guide provided it clearly delineates between information proposed for exemption from automatic declassification at 25 years under section 3.3(b), at 50 years under section 3.3(h)(2), and at 75 years under section 3.3(h)(3) of the Order.

When submitting guides to the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office, serving as the Executive Secretary of the ISCAP, agencies should pay special attention to the requirements in section 3.3(j)(1) of the Order and in 32 C.F.R. Part 2001.32.

Please direct any questions regarding this ISOO Notice to: iscap@nara.gov.