

**Section 1003** would amend section 130e of title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), to authorize the Department of Defense to withhold sensitive, but unclassified, military tactics, techniques, or procedures, and military rules of engagement, from release to the public under section 552 of title 5, U.S.C. (known as the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)).

The decision of the Supreme Court in *Milner v. Department of the Navy*, 131 S. Ct. 1259 (2011), significantly narrowed the long-standing administrative understanding of the scope of Exemption 2 of the FOIA (5 U.S.C. 552(b)(2)). Before that decision, the Department was authorized to withhold sensitive information on critical infrastructure and military tactics, techniques, and procedures from release under FOIA pursuant to Exemption 2. Section 130e of title 10, U.S.C., was established in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 to reinstate protection of critical infrastructure security information. This proposal would amend the existing infrastructure provision to add protections for military tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), and rules of engagement. Military TTPs and rules of engagement are analogous to law enforcement techniques and procedures, which Congress has afforded protection under FOIA Exemption 7(E).

The effectiveness of United States military operations is dependent upon adversaries, or potential adversaries, not having advance knowledge of TTPs or rules of engagement that will be employed in such operations. If an adversary or potential adversary has knowledge of this information, the adversary will gain invaluable knowledge on how our forces operate in given situations. This knowledge could then, in turn, enable the adversary to counter the TTPs or rules of engagement by identifying and exploiting any weaknesses. From this, the defense of the homeland, success of the operation, and the lives of U.S. military forces will be seriously jeopardized.

This proposal additionally would make minor amendments in section 130e to: (1) clarify the citation for the purposes of the OPEN FOIA Act of 2009; (2) remove references to reflect the merger of the Director of Administration and Management with the Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of Defense; and (3) remove the prohibition on further delegation.

**Budget Implications:** Exemptions for the release of certain information under FOIA would generate minimal savings to the Administration by avoiding the preparation of select materials for release. The resources reflected in the table below are funded within the FY 2018 President’s Budget.

RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS (\$MILLIONS)									
	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	Appropriations From	Budget Activity	Dash-1 Line	Program Element

								Item	
FOIA Cost Avoidance Army	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	Operation and Maintenance, Army	Various	Various	Various
FOIA Cost Avoidance Navy	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	Operation and Maintenance, Navy	Various	Various	Various
FOIA Cost Avoidance Air Force	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	Operation and Maintenance, Air Force	Various	Various	Various
FOIA Cost Avoidance Defense-Wide	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	\$-.001	Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide	Various	Various	Various
Total	\$-.004	\$-.004	\$-.004	\$-.004	\$-.004	--	--	--	--

**Changes to Existing Law:** The proposal would make the following changes to existing law:

**TITLE 10, UNITED STATES CODE**

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**CHAPTER 3—General Power and Functions**

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- 130. Authority to withhold from public disclosure certain technical data.  
[130a. Repealed.]
- 130b. Personnel in overseas, sensitive, or routinely deployable units: nondisclosure of personally identifying information.
- 130c. Nondisclosure of information: certain sensitive information of foreign governments and international organizations.
- 130d. Treatment under Freedom of Information Act of certain confidential information shared with State and local personnel.
- 130e. ~~Treatment under Freedom of Information Act of critical infrastructure security information~~Nondisclosure of information: critical infrastructure; military tactics, techniques, and procedures; military rules of engagement.
- 130f. Congressional notification regarding sensitive military operations.

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**§130e. Treatment under Freedom of Information Act of critical infrastructure security information  
Nondisclosure of information: critical infrastructure; military tactics, techniques, and procedures; military rules of engagement**

(a) EXEMPTION.—The Secretary of Defense may exempt Department of Defense critical infrastructure security information, military tactic, technique, or procedure information, or rule of engagement information from disclosure pursuant to section 552(b)(3) of title 5, upon a written determination that—

- (1) the information is—
  - (A) Department of Defense critical infrastructure security information;

(B) military tactic, technique, or procedure information which identifies a method for using equipment and personnel to accomplish a specific mission under a particular set of operational or exercise conditions, including offensive, defensive, stability, civil support, freedom of navigation, and intelligence collection operations, the public disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to provide an operational military advantage to an adversary; or

(C) rule of engagement information, the public disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to provide an operational military advantage to an adversary; and

(2) the public interest consideration in the disclosure of such information does not outweigh preventing the disclosure of such information.

(b) DESIGNATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY INFORMATION.—In addition to any other authority or requirement regarding protection from dissemination of information, the Secretary may designate information as being Department of Defense critical infrastructure security information, including during the course of creating such information, to ensure that such information is not disseminated without authorization. Information so designated is subject to the determination process under subsection (a) to determine whether to exempt such information from disclosure described in such subsection.

(c) INFORMATION PROVIDED TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.—(1) Department of Defense critical infrastructure security information covered by a written determination under subsection (a) or designated under subsection (b) that is provided to a State or local government shall remain under the control of the Department of Defense.

(2)(A) A State or local law authorizing or requiring a State or local government to disclose Department of Defense critical infrastructure security information that is covered by a written determination under subsection (a) shall not apply to such information.

(B) If a person requests pursuant to a State or local law that a State or local government disclose information that is designated as Department of Defense critical infrastructure security information under subsection (b), the State or local government shall provide the Secretary an opportunity to carry out the determination process under subsection (a) to determine whether to exempt such information from disclosure pursuant to subparagraph (A).

~~(d) DELEGATION.—The Secretary of Defense may delegate the authority to make a determination under subsection (a) to the Director of Administration and Management.~~

~~(e) TRANSPARENCY.—Each determination of the Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, under subsection (a) shall be made in writing and accompanied by a statement of the basis for the determination. All such determinations and statements of basis shall be available to the public, upon request, though the Office of the Director of Administration and Management in accordance with guidelines prescribed by the Secretary.~~

(e) CITATION FOR PURPOSES OF OPEN FOIA ACT OF 2009.—This section is a statute that specifically exempts certain matters from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, as described in subsection (b)(3) of that section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, ~~t~~:

(1) ADVERSARY.—The term “adversary” means a party acknowledged as potentially hostile to a friendly party and against which the use of force may be envisaged.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY INFORMATION.—The term “Department of Defense critical infrastructure security

information” means sensitive but unclassified information that, if disclosed, would reveal vulnerabilities in Department of Defense critical infrastructure that, if exploited, would likely result in the significant disruption, destruction, or damage of or to Department of Defense operations, property, or facilities, including—

(A) information regarding the securing and safeguarding of explosives, hazardous chemicals, or pipelines, related to critical infrastructure or protected systems owned or operated by or on behalf of the Department of Defense;

(B) ~~including~~ vulnerability assessments prepared by or on behalf of the Department of Defense;

(C) explosives safety information, ~~(including storage and handling information);~~ and

(D) other site-specific information on or relating to installation security.

(3) PROCEDURE.—The term “procedure” means standard, detailed steps that prescribe how to perform a specific task.

(4) RULE OF ENGAGEMENT.—The term “rule of engagement” means a directive issued by a competent military authority that delineates the circumstances and limitations under which the armed forces will initiate or continue combat engagement with other forces encountered.

(5) TACTIC.—The term “tactic” means the employment and ordered arrangement of forces in relation to each other.

(6) TECHNIQUE.—The term “technique” means a non-prescriptive way or method used to perform a mission, function, or task.

# A BILL

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

1           *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America*

2           *in Congress assembled,*

3           **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4           This Act may be cited as the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year

5           2018”.

4 **SEC. 1003. EXEMPTION OF INFORMATION ON MILITARY TACTICS,**  
5 **TECHNIQUES, AND PROCEDURES, AND OF MILITARY RULES OF**  
6 **ENGAGEMENT, FROM RELEASE UNDER FREEDOM OF**  
7 **INFORMATION ACT.**

8 (a) EXEMPTION.—Subsection (a) of section 130e of title 10, United States Code, is  
9 amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “, military tactic,  
11 technique, or procedure information, or rule of engagement information” after  
12 “security information”; and

13 (2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

14 “(1) the information is—

15 “(A) Department of Defense critical infrastructure security  
16 information;

17 “(B) military tactic, technique, or procedure information which  
18 identifies a method for using equipment and personnel to accomplish a  
19 specific mission under a particular set of operational or exercise conditions,  
20 including offensive, defensive, stability, civil support, freedom of navigation,  
21 and intelligence collection operations, the public disclosure of which could  
22 reasonably be expected to provide an operational military advantage to an  
23 adversary; or

1                   “(C) rule of engagement information, the public disclosure of which  
2                   could reasonably be expected to provide an operational military advantage to  
3                   an adversary;”.

4           (b) DELEGATION AND TRANSPARENCY.—Such section is further amended—

5                   (1) by striking subsection (d);

6                   (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d); and

7                   (3) in subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (2)—

8                               (A) by striking “, or the Secretary’s designee,”; and

9                               (B) by striking “through the Office of the Director of Administration  
10                              and Management” and inserting “in accordance with guidelines prescribed by  
11                              the Secretary”.

12           (c) CITATION FOR PURPOSES OF OPEN FOIA ACT OF 2009.—Such section is further  
13 amended—

14                   (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1) of subsection (a), as amended by  
15                   subsection (a) of this section, by striking “pursuant to section 552(b)(3) of title 5”;  
16                   and

17                   (2) by inserting after subsection (d), as redesignated by subsection (b)(2), the  
18                   following new subsection:

19                   “(e) CITATION FOR PURPOSES OF OPEN FOIA ACT OF 2009.—This section is a statute  
20                   that specifically exempts certain matters from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, as  
21                   described in subsection (b)(3) of that section.”.

22           (d) DEFINITIONS.—Subsection (f) of such section is amended to read as follows:

23                   “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) ADVERSARY.—The term ‘adversary’ means a party acknowledged as  
2 potentially hostile to a friendly party and against which the use of force may be  
3 envisaged.

4           “(2) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY  
5 INFORMATION.—The term ‘Department of Defense critical infrastructure security  
6 information’ means sensitive but unclassified information that, if disclosed, would  
7 reveal vulnerabilities in Department of Defense critical infrastructure that, if  
8 exploited, would likely result in the significant disruption, destruction, or damage of  
9 or to Department of Defense operations, property, or facilities, including—

10                   “(A) information regarding the securing and safeguarding of  
11 explosives, hazardous chemicals, or pipelines, related to critical infrastructure  
12 or protected systems owned or operated by or on behalf of the Department of  
13 Defense;

14                   “(B) vulnerability assessments prepared by or on behalf of the  
15 Department of Defense;

16                   “(C) explosives safety information, including storage and handling;  
17 and

18                   “(D) other site-specific information on or relating to installation  
19 security.

20           “(3) PROCEDURE.—The term ‘procedure’ means standard, detailed steps that  
21 prescribe how to perform a specific task.

22           “(4) RULE OF ENGAGEMENT.—The term ‘rule of engagement’ means a  
23 directive issued by a competent military authority that delineates the circumstances

1 and limitations under which the armed forces will initiate or continue combat  
2 engagement with other forces encountered.

3 “(5) TACTIC.—The term ‘tactic’ means the employment and ordered  
4 arrangement of forces in relation to each other.

5 “(6) TECHNIQUE.—The term ‘technique’ means a non-prescriptive way or  
6 method used to perform a mission, function, or task.”.

7 (e) SECTION HEADING AND CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—

8 (1) The heading of such section is amended to read as follows:

9 **“§130e. Nondisclosure of information: critical infrastructure; military tactics,**  
10 **techniques, and procedures; military rules of engagement”.**

11 (2) The item relating to such section in the table of sections at the beginning  
12 of chapter 3 of such title is amended to read as follows:

“130e. Nondisclosure of information: critical infrastructure; military tactics, techniques, and procedures; military rules of  
engagement.”.