

Overview

CUSR - The Central US Registry

The Central US Registry (CUSR) is the U.S. Government's sole central distribution point for North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) documents. It also handles the management and oversight of classified NATO documents and materials within the United States.

The CUSR is established under the Secretary of the Army by DOD Directive or DODD 5100.55. It operates under the policy guidance of the Secretary of Defense, who is the US Security Authority for NATO Affairs. The Secretary of Defense appointed the Secretary of the Army as the Executive Agency to operate, direct and control the CUSR.

Its primary purpose is to ensure the proper safeguarding, control, and dissemination of sensitive NATO information to authorized personnel and entities within the U.S. government, military, and associated organizations.

THE REGISTRY SYSTEM

A central registry has been established for each NATO member nation to ensure proper control and accountability of NATO classified documents. The Central U.S. Registry is located in Arlington, Virginia. As an official representative of the U.S. Security Authority for NATO, the CUSR oversees the administration of the U.S. registry system. The CUSR establishes all U.S. sub-registries to execute the accountability and security management of NATO and ATOMAL material at various U.S. locations throughout the world. These Sub-registries or control points operate at departmental, agency, or command levels.

The documents received by the CUSR are not created or owned by the CUSR. CUSR merely receives and disseminates them. NATO information is received in paper, compact disc, and electronic version. Records are maintained by series title (unique title assigned by NATO) and the year the record was generated.

Not all NATO information and material coming into the U.S. flows through the CUSR, but a large portion does. A substantial amount of the material is NATO classified information which requires specific handling and safeguarding procedures in accordance with NATO regulatory guidance. The registry system was established for NATO classified material to ensure it can be properly protected and accounted for. There are more than 130 sub-registries that form the U.S. Central Registry System.

The CUSR is the only registry of accountable NATO material for the United States. NATO information is information that has been generated by or for NATO, or member nation national information that has been released into the NATO security system. The protection of the information is controlled under NATO security regulations and access within NATO is

determined by the holder, unless restrictions are specified by the originator at the time of release to NATO. NATO has four levels of classified information:

- COSMIC TOP SECRET
- NATO SECRET
- NATO CONFIDENTIAL
- NATO RESTRICTED

The Depository Section of the CUSR receives one copy of every document received by the CUSR. These copies are retained for up to 90 days to support requests for extra copies of those documents for that period. After 90 days, paper copy documents are microfilmed for entry in the Registry's archive. The CUSR has copies of NATO documents since NATO's beginning in April 1949.

WHAT IS A NATO CONTROL POINT?

A NATO Control Point is a controlling office, subordinate to the Sub-Registry, responsible for receiving, recording, handling, and distributing NATO documents to personnel in the facility in which it serves. Control points function primarily at lower organizational levels and within contractor facilities performing on contracts with access to NATO classified information.

Component heads who have designated control points must follow the procedures outlined in Administrative Instruction (AI) 27 Control of NATO Classified Documents, to ensure NATO information is controlled, handled, and protected in accordance with NATO regulatory guidance.

INSPECTIONS

Sub-registries and control points will conduct onsite reviews or inspections of NATO Control Point programs to ensure compliance with the established NATO classified material control and accountability procedures in accordance with DOD Directive 5100.55, United States Security Authority for North Atlantic Treaty Organization Affairs (USSAN).

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

The CUSR maintains both classified and unclassified websites. They provide access to NATO security documents, updates on the security of NATO information and a profile of the CUSR.

If problems or specific questions arise concerning NATO classified information your security officer and sub-registry/control point can assist you. Further information is also available for users in .mil and .gov domains on the Central U.S. Registry website. The Non-classified Internet Protocol (IP) Router Network (NIPRNet) website is <https://cusrac.army.mil>.