

DETERMINATION OF THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Under the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of Defense, I have determined that the following information is exempt from disclosure under Exemption 3 of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3)) because it meets the requirements for exemption under 10 U.S.C. § 130e:

The procedures and security controls employed to protect against unauthorized access from physical and cyber threats to information systems that operate water control structures in the Pacific Northwest, as contained in portions of the Department of Defense Inspector General Report "Improvements Are Needed to Strengthen the Security Posture of USACE, Civil Works, Critical Infrastructure and Industrial Control Systems in the Northwestern Division," dated January 14, 2013.

Date:

3.1.2017



Michael L. Rhodes
Director of Administration

STATEMENT OF THE BASIS FOR THE DETERMINATION BY
THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

In accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 130e, I reviewed information provided to me by the Department of Defense Inspector General regarding its report "Improvements Are Needed to Strengthen the Security Posture of USACE, Civil Works, Critical Infrastructure and Industrial Control Systems in the Northwestern Division," dated January 14, 2013. I have determined that information within this report that describes the procedures and security controls to protect against unauthorized access from physical and cyber threats to information systems that operate water control structures in the Pacific Northwest qualifies as Department of Defense (DoD) critical infrastructure security information (CISI). As defined by 10 U.S.C. § 130e, CISI includes:

“...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 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, including vulnerability assessments prepared by or on behalf of the Department of Defense, explosives safety information (including storage and handling), and other site-specific information on or relating to installation security.”

This information meets the definition of CISI because it pertains to the physical and cyber security and potential vulnerabilities of critical water control structures. If disclosed, it would reveal vulnerabilities that, if exploited, would likely endanger public health and safety and would likely result in significant disruption, destruction, or damage of or to DoD operations, property, or facilities.

The report concerns U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams in Oregon and Washington. The report examines physical security controls and information assurance controls used to secure and protect critical infrastructure and industrial control systems against unauthorized access from physical and cyber threats. By its very purpose, the report assessed the vulnerabilities of the security controls at critical water control structures and contains site-specific information relating to the security of those systems and structures. If exploited, this information could provide potential attackers with information that would aid them in the execution of a physical or cyberattack on the water control structures. Thus, the release of this information would be counter-productive to its purpose and intent, which is improve the provision of security to prevent an attack, and a complete release would thereby create a threat to national security, the health and safety of DoD personnel, and the health and safety of the public in the surrounding communities.

I also considered the public interest in the disclosure of this information and have weighed this against the harm that would likely result if it the subject information was to be disclosed. The harm that would likely result from disclosure of the complete report is very serious and extremely significant. Therefore, the public interest consideration in the disclosure of this information does not outweigh preventing the disclosure of the information.