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Information a real.

check rising government secrecy and create an institutional mechanism under the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), **the National Security Archive** is a post-war counter-institution into the U.S. outpost of a global freedom of information. It combines a unique range of functions: investigative journalism center, international affairs library and archive of declassified U.S. documents ("the world's largest nongovernmental library" according to the *Los Angeles Times*), leading non-profit user of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, a law firm defending and expanding public access to government information, and indexer and publisher of former secrets.

Based at George Washington University's Gelman Library, the Archive relies for its budget on publication revenues and grants from foundations and individuals. *Time* Best Non-Fiction award,

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**THE TEN OLDEST PENDING FOIA REQUESTS:
A Series of Three FOIA Audits**

Justice Delayed is Justice Denied (November 17, 2003)

To measure the problem of delay in the federal FOIA system, the Archive filed FOIA requests with the **35 federal agencies**

PSEUDO-SECRETS:

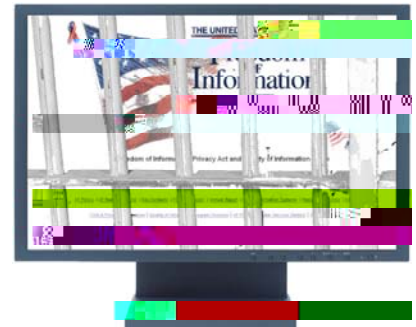
A Freedom of Information Audit of the U.S. Government's Policies on Sensitive Unclassified Information (March 14, 2006)

Full report available at: <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB183/press.htm>

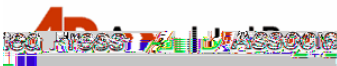
In the first-ever government-wide audit of federal agencies' practices of marking and protecting information that is sensitive but unclassified, the Archive sent Freedom of Information requests to more than **40 federal agencies** seeking copies of their policies and guidelines on "sensitive unclassified information." Reviewing a diverse range of agency policies among the agencies and components that together handle the vast majority of FOIA requests in the federal government, the Archive identified 28 distinct policies for protection of sensitive unclassified information and found that, unlike classified records or ordinary agency records subject to FOIA, there is no monitoring of or reporting on the use or impact of protective sensitive unclassified information markings. Nor is there a procedure for the public to challenge protective markings. Some policies conflate information safeguarding markings with FOIA exemptions and some include definitions for protected information ranging from very broad or vague to extremely focused or limited. In the current system, it is unlikely that Congress or the public will be able to assess whether these policies are being used effectively to safeguard the security of the American public, or abused for administrative convenience or for improper secrecy.

FILE NOT FOUND:

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SELECTED PRESS COVERAGE



Testimony of Meredith Fuchs before the House Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment, “Over-classification and Pseudo-classification: The Impact on Information Sharing” (March 22, 2007).

Testimony of Meredith Fuchs, National Security Archive General Counsel, before the House of Representatives Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management Statement, Hearing on “Classification of National Security Information and its Implications for the Intelligence Community” (July 12, 2007).

IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT POLICY

Executive Order 13,392 on “Improving Agency Disclosure of Information”