

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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes and Ohio River Division, as contained in portions of the Department of Defense Inspector General Report titled "Improved Security Needed to Protect Infrastructure and Systems in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division," dated July 29, 2013.

Date: 2-15-2018



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 titled “Improved Security Needed to Protect Infrastructure and Systems in the Great Lakes and Ohio River Division” dated July 29, 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 that Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers qualifies as Department of Defense (DoD) critical infrastructure security information (DCRIT). As defined by 10 U.S.C. § 130e, DCRIT 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.”

The above-described information meets the definition of DCRIT 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 examined U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ dams in Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The report examined physical security controls and information assurance controls used to secure and protect those dams, which are critical infrastructure, against unauthorized access from physical and cyber threats. The report also identified vulnerabilities of the security controls at these critical water control structures and contains site-specific security information as well. 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 to improve security to prevent an attack. Release of this information would, thereby, create a threat to national security and the health and safety of DoD personnel and the members of the public in the surrounding communities.

I also considered the public interest in the disclosure of this information and have weighed it against the harm that would likely result if the subject information was 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.