



AFRL

AFRL/PA SECURITY AND POLICY REVIEW (S&PR) TRAINING

AFRL PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 6 NOV 24



Great Power Competition

The current strategic landscape demands adaptation to meet present and future challenges. With multifaceted geopolitical tensions, the global ambitions of the People's Republic of China, and the rapid ascent of disruptive technologies, we cannot afford to underestimate the realities of the security environment we face today. In our increasingly complex world, change is an imperative. We cannot afford to fail. (Excerpt from USAF Case for Change, 13 Feb 24)

In the era of the Great Power Competition, the protection of our sensitive technical information is a first line of defense to help ensure continued superiority against a near peer adversary.



Why is AFRL/PA Involved in the S&PR Process?

Purpose. To inform and increase public understanding of USAF, USSF and AFRL missions, operations and programs in the protection of sensitive technology data with the goal of technological superiority



AFRL Security and Policy Review Process

- AFRLI 35-102 mandates use of the S&PR worksheet dated 17 Apr 24
- Must provide AFRL/PA a **minimum** of **5 working days**, not including the date of submission, to complete reviews
 - **Elevated cases can take longer to complete but AFRL/PA must allow for at least ten working days not including the date of submission from AFRL/PA**
- PA requests less than **5 working days** requires completed PA Expedite Request Memo
 - Can be signed by Division Chief, Deputy Director, or Director. NOTE: An Acting Division Chief can sign but this duty title must be identified in the expedite memo signature block
 - Expedited material is granted for local review only, if elevated the minimum 10-day (plus) window is required
- Requires use of AFRL Security and Policy Worksheet for ALL submissions
 - Allows for electronic, verifiable signatures
 - Prohibits changes to certified reviewer information
- Requires coordination by OPSEC, Security, STINFO and Technical SMEs prior to submission
- Electronic submission via SharePoint (https://cs2.eis.af.mil/sites/12080/AFRL_SPR/Forms/AllItems.aspx)
 - Includes links to AFRL, SAF and DoD guidance, S&PR worksheet, PA expedite memo, etc.
 - DOD Safe is second authorized option used for extremely large files
 - Emailed submissions will not be accepted



What is Elevation?

AFI 35-101 identifies topics for which review must be completed at the SAF and/or DoD level. This process is called elevation. SAF/PA has a minimum 10 working-day requirement **which is separate from the AFRL/PA S&PR 5 working day requirement.** The major subject categories below include but are not limited to:

- Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning
- COVID-19 testing, operations or research
- Animal testing
- Directed energy
- Military readiness
- UAS/UAV/RPAs (drones & remotely piloted aircraft)
- Hypersonics
- UPEs / OBOGS / hypobarica / hypoxia (unexplained physiological events, white brain matter, etc.)
- Information on unit's critical information list (refer to your OPSEC Office)

NOTE: Please refer to the AFRL Topics for Potential Elevation List document for a complete list of elevation topics.



OPSEC and AFRL/JA Involvement in the S&PR Process

- **Operational Security Risks**
- **Fair Use Reviews** – if a presentation for example contains copyrighted images but the presenter wishes to use these images, a Fair Use review must be completed by AFRL/JA IAW AFI 35-101 and U.S. Copyright Office requirements, **this should be accomplished by the submitter before sending to AFRL/PA.** JA will sign off on the S&PR worksheet as an additional reviewer. If JA determines the copyrighted images are authorized for use based on operational requirements, they will recommend approval for image use. If they don't recommend approval the images must be removed prior to publication.



Clearance vs. Release

- The security and policy review process **determines the suitability for public release** of information. **A clearance does not grant an approval to release** the information. **Release of information is the decision of the originator of the document**, often reached **through the coordination with his or her chain of command**. While the security portion of the security and policy process identifies classified or sensitive information, ***it does not classify or declassify information***.
- Air Force material submitted for review may be released to the public domain only after it has been reviewed for security and policy consistency and **cleared by an appropriate authority in Public Affairs**.





AFRL/PA S&PR and Sending the Right Message

- Role of S&PR is to showcase key AFRL technological advancements as much as possible contributing to continued technological superiority without releasing critical information.
- The S&PR process supports local and national/world-wide AFRL S&T communities.
- The S&PR process plays an important part of AFRL's role DAF S&T cycle--our efficient process aids in speeding up the timeline through release of technical/non-technical information to field capability and beyond to consumer usage.
- Publicly released S&T data highlights AFRL partnership with the military and civilian S&T community.
- We all have an important role in advancing AFRL's vast mission goals. The S&PR process helps to ensure all appropriately releasable information is available to the public.





Directive Guidance

AIR FORCE

- **AFRLI 35-102**
- **AFI 35-101** Security and Policy Review
- AFI 33-129 Web Management and Internet Use
- AFI 33-332 Air Force Privacy and Civil Liberties Program
- AFI 35-104 Media Operations
- AFI 35-107 Public Web Communications
- AFI 35-109 Visual Information
- AFI 35-114 Air Force Trademark and Licensing Program
- AFI 61-204 Disseminating Scientific and Technical Information
- AFI 90-401 Air Force Relations with Congress
- AFI 91-204 Safety Investigations and Reports
- Air Force Social Media Guide

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

- **DoDD 5230.09** Clearance of DoD information for Public Release
- DoDI 5220.22 National Industrial Security Program
- **DoDI 5230.24** Distribution Statements on Technical Documents
- DoDI 5230.27 Presentation of DoD-related Science and Technical papers
- DoDI 5230.29 Security and Policy Review of DoD information for Public Release
- DoDI 5410.20 Public Affairs relations with Business and non-governmental Agencies
- DoDD 5535.4 Copyrighted Sound and Video Recordings
- DoDD 5500.7 Standards of Conduct
- DoDI 8550.01 DoD Internet Services and Internet-based Capabilities
- ITAR Regulation part 121 (munitions list)



What Needs to Be Submitted?

Examples for Security and Policy Review

- Presentations (briefings, posters for conferences, etc.)
- Papers (scientific articles, journal articles, abstracts, case studies, etc.)
- Multimedia and visual information material (videos, photos, animations, graphical illustrations, etc.)
- Information proposed for release to public web sites, (all content intended for web to include marketing, tech transfer, partnering, etc.)
- Contractor generated news releases / imagery
- Professional biographies not for use on USG web sites
- Books/book chapters based on USG projects or work



Products that do not require review

- Personal letters to the editor
- Books or theatrical review **when expressing a personal opinion and not affiliated with the USG**
- **Works of fiction not sourced from military experience** (termed active duty, but applies to Guard and Reserve)
- Air Force publications





AFRL/PA S&PR Reference Site

Where can I go for policy references and related documents?

AFRL/PA S&PR SharePoint page at: https://usaf.dps.mil/sites/12080/AFRL_SPR/Forms/AllItems.aspx

The site contains reference material links to:

- S&PR Process Policy Guidance (DoD, AF, AFRL)
- Frequently Asked Questions
- U.S. Copyright Office Fair Use Index
- Air Force/USSF Trademark and Licensing Program
- Security and Policy Review Fact Sheet
- AFRL S&PR S&T Block 19 Signature Authority Memorandum
- Templates (S&PR worksheet, PA Expedite Review request, Triggers for Potential Elevation document, Data and Software Release, etc.)



Information that is Not Released

The Public Affairs Security & Policy Review process ensures the following are protected from release:

- **Classified information**
- Operations Security (OPSEC) protected **Critical Information**
- Sensitive Science and Technical Information (STINFO)
 - **Distribution B, C, D, E, F, X (Distribution A is strictly for public release level)**
- Military **Critical Technologies Information** List
- International Traffic-in-Arms Regulations (**ITAR**) and **Export Controlled** information
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) exempted information
- Controlled Unclassified Information (formerly FOUO), Privacy Act protected information or Personally Identifying Information (PII)
- Proprietary information not owned by USG
- Exempted by other statute



Operational Security Risks are Part of S&PR

A compilation of unclassified information relating to AFRL research has the potential to provide our adversaries with the data necessary to use against the United States and its allies. The 2018 OPSEC Reset and the 2020 SECDEF reinforcement memorandums addressed the importance of OPSEC and highlighted the significance of the Department of Defense Public Release process, ensuring the protection of our critical technologies, and research development.

When submitting materials for public release, consider the important factors below:

- Review your respective Mission Orgs Critical Information & Indicator List (CIIL) ensuring critical information is not included.
- Are capabilities/vulnerabilities identified which could compromise the warfighters advantage?
- Are there any specifics relating to current postures and future readiness operations?
- Are details regarding the number, and location of DoD assets compromising our National Security?
- When possible, restrict (who, how, what and why) detailing information regarding failures and successes of AFRL research.
- Ultimate goal is to reveal all publicly releasable information possible while concealing sensitive information from adversaries to ensure we can compete, deter, and win in this contested domain (hypersonics, AI/ML, etc.)



Security and Policy Review Provides Safeguards Ensuring Information:

- Adheres to AF and DoD policy AND current guidance and directives
- Is adequately reviewed by other stakeholders to the information
- Is elevated for HHQ review per DoD, AFI and HHQ guidance
- Does not contain Privacy Act protected information/Personally Identifying Information (PII)
- Does not contain proprietary information not owned by USG (including copyright, trademark, etc.)
- Meets AFRL Brand Book policies (approved template, AFRL logo, etc.)
- Does not contain information exempted from release by other statute (Classified, CUI, PII, limited distribution documents i.e. Dist B, C, D, E, etc.)



Critical Information (We want to ensure this is not released)

Critical information includes, but is not limited to, classified or sensitive details of potential benefit to adversaries in the following general areas:

- Presence
- Capability
- Strength
- Readiness
- Timing (i.e. arrival/departure times)
- Location
- Methods
- Movements
- Tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs)
- Other information which could be used to target personnel/equipment or negatively impact mission accomplishment





AFRL S&PR Topics for Potential Elevation

TRIGGERS FOR POTENTIAL ELEVATION OF SECURITY AND POLICY REVIEW CASES

- A-10 Modernization within divestment sunset window
- ABMS, Networked sensors and sensing
- Advance Manufacturing and Materials
- AETD Engine Technology

- Affects national security policy or foreign relations

- AIM-260 JATM, JASSM-ER, other advanced weapons and weapons replenishment

- Animal testing
- Any other contemporary topic that is designated by the Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review (DOPSR) or SAF/PA (i.e. personnel readiness)

- Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Human-machine interfaces

- B-21
- Big Safari
- Biotech/Synthetic biology

- Chemical and biological warfare issues; biological and toxin research

- Collaborative Combat Aircraft

- Concerns subjects of potential controversy among DoD components or with other Federal agencies
- Contains technical data, including data developed under contract or independently developed and controlled by the
- International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITARs)

- COVID-19 testing, operations or research

- cUAS, cSUAS

- Information that reveals tactics, techniques and procedures
- IoBT – Internet of Battlefield Things

- Information that is presented by a DoD employee who, by virtue of rank, position, or expertise, would be considered an official DoD spokesperson

- Is, or has the potential to become, an item of national or international interest

- Joint Simulation Environment

- KC-46A deficiencies

- Low Observables

- MC-130J/lasers

- MH-139A

- Microelectronics

- Military activities or applications in space, nuclear weapons, including weapon-effects research

- Military operations, significant exercises, and operations security

- MQ-9 modernization

- MQ-Next

- New weapons or weapon systems, significant modifications or improvements to existing weapons or weapon systems, equipment, or techniques

- NGAD

- Nuclear modernization/NC3/GBSD/LRSO/Mk-XX

- Originates, or is proposed for release, in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area

- Cyber warfare, cyber vulnerabilities, cyber research

- Deployment schedules or locations

- Detailed descriptions of a sequence of events in an operational or training scenario, or exercise to include major exercises such as operational readiness inspections or Flag/major training exercises

- Detailed descriptions that reveal capability of unique command and control node (Space Operations Centers, Air Operations Centers, etc.)

- Directed energy

- E-7A Wedgetail

- E-8C JSTARS

- Electronic/Spectrum Warfare

- F-15EX

- F22 / F35

- High-energy lasers and particle beam technology; and arms control treaty implementation

- Hypersonics (including HiFire)

- Hypersonics, AGM-183A ARRW, HACM

- Information related to current operations, readiness or posture for future operations

- PFOS/PFAS/water contamination issues

- Quantum computing

- Rapid Dragon

- References President and Secretary of Defense authority

- Renewable Energy Generation/Storage

- Significant Aircraft/Weapon System/Fleet issues with - significant operational/sustainment/ availability/readiness impacts, and major capability enhancements

- Space Technologies and Systems, Domain Awareness

- Tests/experimentation/exercises/involving foreign partners UAS/UAV/RPAs (drones & remotely piloted aircraft)

- Ukraine Support

- UPEs / OBOGS / hypobaria / hypoxia (unexplained physiological events, white brain matter, etc.)

- Work in conjunction with a sister service or other DoD component that has had no coordination documented when we receive materials

- Work with another AF installation or Wing that has had no coordination documented when we receive materials



Series of Release Determinations

Originators must not release information outside official USG channels until security and policy review confirms clearance to do so.

- Don't publicly brief, publish, post to a public website or otherwise disseminate outside of official USG channels until suitability for public release is determined.
- PA Review Determinations:

Cleared

The material was assigned a clearance of CLEARED on 25 Oct 2023. If you have any questions concerning your case, please contact Carlos Pineiro carlos.pineiro.3@us.af.mil.

Cleared with Recommendation

The material was assigned a clearance of CLEARED W/RECOMMENDATION on 11 Oct 2023. If you have any questions concerning your case, please contact Carlos Pineiro carlos.pineiro.3@us.af.mil.



Series of Release Determinations

Cleared as Amended

The material was assigned a clearance of CLEARED AS AMENDED on 23 Oct 2023. If you have any questions concerning your case, please contact Carlos Pineiro carlos.pineiro.3@us.af.mil.

Return – No Action

The material was assigned a clearance of RETURN/NO ACTION on 17 May 2023. If you have any questions concerning your case, please contact Carlos Pineiro carlos.pineiro.3@us.af.mil.

Air Force No Objection

The material was assigned a clearance of AF NO OBJECTION on 30 Aug 2023. If you have any questions concerning your case, please contact Carlos Pineiro carlos.pineiro.3@us.af.mil.

Not Cleared

The material was assigned a clearance of NOT CLEARED on 06 Mar 2023. If you have any questions concerning your case, please contact Carlos Pineiro carlos.pineiro.3@us.af.mil.



Series of Release Determinations

Air Force Objection

The material was assigned a clearance of OBJECTION on 24 May 2023. If you have any questions concerning your case, please contact Carlos Pineiro carlos.pineiro.3@us.af.mil.

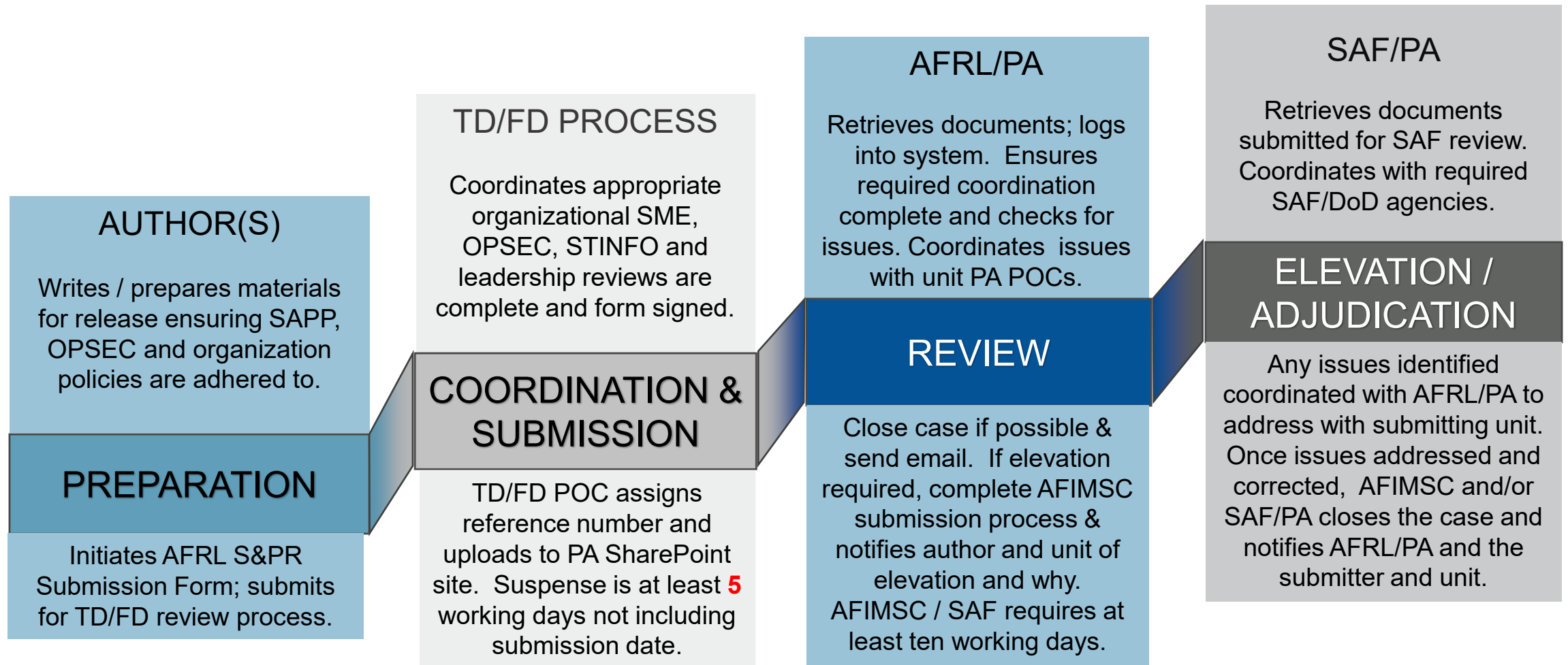
- Only submit when there is a true need to qualify the submitted materials to bear this statement:

Distribution A

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited



AFRL Security and Policy Review Process





AFRL Security and Policy Review Process

- AFRL/PA, under the direction of SAF/PA, serves as the single focal point for clearance of all materials originating from all AFRL TDs/FDs. Materials may not be released into the public domain until they have been reviewed and approved for public release by AFRL/PA or SAF/PA.
- SAF/PA reviews and coordinates with MAJCOM SMEs as needed.
- SAF/PA coordinates elevated cases with Air Staff and/or DoD.
- In all instances, a PAIRS system-generated email will be sent when a case has been completed at any level with final disposition information.



RE: _____

4. POC for this request is at phone #

Insert signature block of division chief, directorate level director/commander or deputy.

AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY



- All blocks marked with an asterisk are mandatory fill items
- Need/event dates Blocks 1 and 7
- Conf/Event/Publication/Website Block 6
- Sponsor/Owner Block 8, ensure appropriate block is checked (industry versus prof association, etc.
- Budget Category/Project Type Blocks 11 and 13
- DoD Originator/Technical Reviewer Blocks 15 and 16

AIR FORCE RESEARCH LABORATORY



What does Higher Headquarters Elevation Mean?

AFI 35-101 identifies topics for which review must be completed at the SAF and/or DoD level. This process is called elevation. Major subject categories include:

- Originates, or is proposed for release, in the DC metro area. *(Not including tech papers for conferences or meetings unless it meets another requirement)*
- Is, or has the potential to become, an item of national or international interest, including all 3 & 4 star GOs and civilian equivalents' public presentations. AFI 35-107 Public Web Communications
- References President and SECDEF.
- Affects national security policy or foreign relations.
- Concerns subjects of potential controversy among DoD components or with other Federal agencies.
- Information presented by a DoD employee who, by virtue of rank, position, or expertise, is considered an official DoD spokesperson.
- Military operations, significant exercises, and OPSEC.
- Chemical and biological warfare issues / biological and toxin research.
- Contains technical data, including data developed under contract or independently developed and controlled by ITAR that may be militarily critical but on which a distribution determination has not been made.
- New weapons or weapon systems, significant modifications or improvements to existing weapons or weapon systems, equipment, or techniques.
- Military activities or applications in space.
- Nuclear weapons, including weapon-effects research.
- High-energy lasers and particle beam technology.
- ***Any other contemporary topic designated by DOPSR.***



AFRL Security and Policy Review Team Members

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AFRL Security and Policy Review Process

Please keep in mind we're always
here to help!

Feel free to reach out to us if you have
any questions.