

Individuals who worked in the State Bureau of Public Affairsⁱⁱⁱ often accessed classified information to understand the context of unclassified information that was to be disseminated publicly.⁴⁰⁹ The Public Affairs officials primarily relied upon reporting from country desk officers to generate talking points and believed the country desk officers were experienced in protecting sensitive information within their reporting.⁴¹⁰ The Public Affairs officials were also responsible for notifying State leadership of impending reports by the news media regarding sensitive or controversial topics.⁴¹¹ Furthermore, a former DOD official explained that he sent an e-mail, since deemed to contain classified information, in order to quickly coordinate public affairs responses by State and DOD with respect to a specific incident referenced in the e-mail.⁴¹²

(U//~~FOUO~~) Individuals, including those in the State Operations Center (Ops Center),^{mmmm} who were responsible for passing information to high-level State officials, worked to identify and disseminate the information they deemed critical for review by State leadership.^{413,414} These individuals noted that such information was generally sent on State unclassified e-mail systems because of the need to quickly elevate information at times when the intended recipients did not all have immediate access to classified e-mail accounts.^{nnn,415,416}

(U//~~FOUO~~) Investigation identified seven e-mail chains comprised of 22 e-mails on Clinton's server classified by the USIC as TOP SECRET/SAP. State Department officials, both in Washington, D.C. and overseas, were briefed into the SAP and communicated both internally and with other USIC officials about the program.^{417,418,419,420} Only internal State e-mails regarding the SAP were forwarded to Clinton, all of which were sent to Clinton's server by Sullivan. Clinton and Sullivan engaged in discussions regarding the SAP in four of the seven e-mail chains.

(S//~~OC/NF~~) During FBI interviews, State employees explained the context for why classified material [redacted] was sent and provided reasons to explain why they did not believe information in the e-mails was classified.^{421,422,423,424} [redacted]

[redacted] stated that [redacted]

b1
b3
b6
b7C

[redacted]⁴²⁷ [redacted] stated the right method of communication was whichever method allowed for the fastest possible dissemination of the message.⁴²⁸ He also stated that information he received from other USG agencies was "technically probably classified" but that "you can't do business

ⁱⁱⁱ (U//~~FOUO~~) According to State's website, the Bureau of Public Affairs "engages domestic and international media to communicate timely and accurate information with the goal of furthering US foreign policy and national security interests as well as broadening understanding of American values."

^{mmmm} (U//~~FOUO~~) The Ops Center is staffed 24 hours a day and constantly monitors reporting from State cables, other USG agencies, and open source news outlets for information of interest to State leadership.

ⁿⁿⁿ (U//~~FOUO~~) Individuals who inputted classified information into e-mail chains to pass to high-level State officials indicated that at times they were relying on information that others had summarized and provided to them.