

File 20120327.2244: Notes for viva:

The forty-third president of the United States found himself unexpectedly in a war, nine months into his first term. As a consequence of ad hoc revamping of information security regulations, much information was over-classified. The situation had happened before; the forty-second president had declassified material over-classified by his predecessor, the father of the forty-third. In January 2009, President Obama signed Executive Order 13526, declassifying certain national security information over-classified by the previous administration. In response to this, the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory issued a Broad Area Announcement calling for radically new ideas in technology for rapidly declassifying classified information in a safe manner. I wrote a proposal under the auspices of Lockheed Martin and competed for a contract, which was issued for three years. From 2009 through 2011, I directed a research project called ‘Probabilistic Redaction’.

It paid the bills.

References