

DEFENSE

Security of Information

Agreement between the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
and the **PHILIPPINES**

With Appendix

Signed at Quezon City November 18, 2024

Entered into force March 19, 2025



NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Pursuant to Public Law 89—497, approved July 8, 1966
(80 Stat. 271; 1 U.S.C. 113)—

“ . . .the Treaties and Other International Acts Series issued under the authority of the Secretary of State shall be competent evidence . . . of the treaties, international agreements other than treaties, and proclamations by the President of such treaties and international agreements other than treaties, as the case may be, therein contained, in all the courts of law and equity and of maritime jurisdiction, and in all the tribunals and public offices of the United States, and of the several States, without any further proof or authentication thereof.”

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
PHILIPPINES
CONCERNING SECURITY MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF
CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION

PREAMBLE

The Department of Defense of the United States of America ("U.S. DoD") and the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines ("Philippines DND") (each a "Party," and collectively the "Parties"),

Considering that the Parties cooperate in matters including, but not limited to, foreign affairs, defense, security, law enforcement, science, industry, and technology,

Recalling the Mutual Defense Treaty between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America, signed at Washington on August 30, 1951, and

Having a mutual interest in the protection of Classified Military Information exchanged in confidence between the Parties,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1 – DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Agreement:

1. **Classified Military Information:** Information generated by or on behalf of one of the Parties and provided to the other Party that is designated as classified by the releasing Party for national security purposes and therefore requires protection against unauthorized disclosure. The information may be in oral, visual, electronic, or documentary form, or in the form of material, including equipment or technology.
2. **Classified Contract:** A contract that requires, or will require, access to, or production of, Classified Military Information by a Contractor or by its employees in the performance of the contract.
3. **Contractor:** An individual or a legal entity, possessing the legal capacity to conclude contracts, who is a party to a Classified Contract.

4. Facility Security Clearance: A certification provided by the National Security Authority of a Party, as designated in Article 4, for a Contractor facility under the Party's jurisdiction that indicates the facility is cleared to a specified level and also has suitable security safeguards in place at a specified level to safeguard Classified Military Information. Such a certification shall signify that Classified Military Information at the CONFIDENTIAL / CONFIDENTIAL level or above shall be protected by the Contractor for which the Facility Security Clearance (FSC) is provided in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement and that compliance shall be monitored and enforced by the relevant National Security Authority. An FSC is not required for a Contractor to undertake Contracts that only require the receipt or production of Classified Military Information at the Philippines fourth-tier classification RESTRICTED level.

5. Personnel Security Clearance (PSC):

- a. A determination by the National Security Authority of a Party, as designated in Article 4, that an individual who is employed by a government agency of that Party or a Contractor under the jurisdiction of that Party is authorized to access Classified Military Information up to a specified level.
- b. A determination by the National Security Authority of a Party, as designated in Article 4, that an individual who is a citizen of one Party but is to be employed by the other Party or by one of the other Party's Contractors is authorized access to Classified Military Information up to a specified level.

6. Need to Know: A determination made by an authorized holder of Classified Military Information that a prospective recipient of Classified Military Information requires access to specific Classified Military Information in order to perform or assist in a lawful and authorized governmental function.

ARTICLE 2 – LIMITATIONS ON SCOPE OF THE AGREEMENT

1. This Agreement shall not apply to Classified Military Information within the scope of the terms of another agreement or arrangement between the Parties or agencies thereof providing for the protection of a particular item or category of Classified Military Information exchanged between the Parties or agencies thereof, except to the extent that such other agreement or arrangement expressly makes this Agreement's terms applicable. This Agreement also shall not apply to the exchange of Restricted Data, as defined in the U.S. Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (the "AEA"), or to Formerly Restricted Data, which is data removed from the Restricted Data category in accordance with the AEA but still considered to be defense information by the United States.

2. Restricted Data, as defined in the AEA, is distinct from Classified Military Information designated as RESTRICTED by the Philippines DND under Article 5 of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 3 – COMMITMENT TO THE PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION

1. Each Party shall protect Classified Military Information of the other Party according to the terms set forth herein.

2. Classified Military Information shall be protected by the recipient Party in a manner that is at least equivalent to the protection afforded to Classified Military Information by the releasing Party.

3. Each Party shall promptly notify the other of any changes to its country's laws and regulations that would affect the protection of Classified Military Information under this Agreement. The obligations in this Agreement shall not be affected by such changes in domestic law. In such cases, the Parties shall consult regarding possible amendments to this Agreement or other measures that may be appropriate to maintain protection of Classified Military Information exchanged under this Agreement.

ARTICLE 4 – NATIONAL SECURITY AUTHORITIES

1. The Parties shall inform each other of the National Security Authorities responsible for implementation of this Agreement and any subsequent changes to these Authorities. Any changes to the National Security Authorities shall not constitute or require an amendment to this Agreement.

2. For the purpose of this Agreement, the National Security Authorities shall be:

- a. for the United States Department of Defense: Assistant Director, International Engagement Directorate, Defense Technology Security Administration, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, U.S. Department of Defense
- b. for the Department of National Defense of the Philippines: Assistant Secretary, Office for Strategic Assessments and International Affairs, Department of National Defense

3. The Parties may conclude supplemental implementing arrangements to this Agreement where additional technical security measures may be required to protect Classified Military Information transferred to the recipient Party through foreign military sales or cooperative programs for co-production or co-development of defense articles or services. Such implementing arrangements may include Special Security Agreements or Industrial Security Agreements.

ARTICLE 5 – DESIGNATION OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION

1. Classified Military Information shall be designated, and stamped or marked where possible, by the releasing Party as classified at one of the following national security classification levels. For purposes of ensuring equivalent treatment, the Parties agree that the following security classification levels are equivalent:

U.S. DoD	Philippines DND
TOP SECRET	TOP SECRET
SECRET	SECRET
CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL
NO EQUIVALENT	RESTRICTED

2. During the implementation of this Agreement, if Philippines DND provides Classified Military Information designated as "RESTRICTED," U.S. DoD shall handle it in accordance with the Appendix to this Agreement.

3. Classified Military Information shall be designated, and stamped or marked where possible, with the name of the releasing Party.

ARTICLE 6 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION

The recipient Party shall be responsible for the protection of all Classified Military Information of the releasing Party in a manner that is at least equivalent to the protection afforded to Classified Military Information by the releasing Party while the Classified Military Information is under its control. While in transit, the releasing Party shall be responsible for all Classified Military Information until custody of the Classified Military Information is formally transferred to the recipient Party.

ARTICLE 7 – PROTECTION OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION

1. No individual shall be entitled to have access to Classified Military Information solely by virtue of rank, position, appointment, or PSC. Access to such information shall be granted only to individuals who have a Need to Know and who have been granted the requisite PSC in accordance with the prescribed standards of the recipient Party.

2. Except as otherwise provided in this Agreement, the recipient Party shall not release Classified Military Information of the releasing Party to any third party, including any third-party government, individual, firm, institution, organization, or other entity, without the prior written consent of the releasing Party. For the purposes of this Agreement, agencies of the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines other than U.S. DoD and Philippines DND are not considered third parties. The recipient Party shall not release Classified Military Information of the other Party to another agency of its Government unless the other agency agrees to and is capable of providing protections for the Classified Military Information equivalent to those in this Agreement.

3. The recipient Party shall not use or permit the use of Classified Military Information of the releasing Party for any other purpose than that for which it was provided without the prior written consent of the releasing Party.

4. The recipient Party shall respect any private rights that are associated with Classified Military Information of the releasing Party, including those rights with respect to patents, copyrights, or trade secrets, and shall not release, use, exchange, or disclose such Classified

Military Information in a manner inconsistent with those rights without the prior written authorization of the owner of those rights.

5. The recipient Party shall ensure that each facility or establishment that handles Classified Military Information covered by this Agreement maintains a list of individuals at the facility or establishment who are authorized to have access to such information.

6. Each Party shall develop accountability and control procedures to manage the dissemination of, and access to, Classified Military Information.

7. Each Party shall comply with any and all limitations on use, disclosure, release, and access to Classified Military Information as may be specified by the releasing Party when it discloses such Classified Military Information. If a Party is unable to comply with the specified limitations, that Party shall immediately consult with the other Party and shall undertake all lawful measures to prevent or minimize any such use, disclosure, release, or access.

ARTICLE 8 – PERSONNEL SECURITY CLEARANCES

1. The Parties shall ensure that all individuals regardless of their rank, position, or appointment, who in the conduct of their official duties require access or whose duties or functions may afford access to Classified Military Information pursuant to this Agreement shall have an appropriate PSC before they are granted access to such information.

2. The Party granting the PSC shall conduct an appropriate investigation in sufficient detail to determine an individual's suitability for access to Classified Military Information. The determination to grant a PSC shall be made in accordance with the national laws and regulations of the granting Party.

3. Before an official or representative of one Party releases Classified Military Information to an official or representative of the other Party, the recipient Party shall provide to the releasing Party an assurance that the official or representative has the necessary PSC level and a Need to Know and that the Classified Military Information shall be protected by the recipient Party in accordance with this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9 – RELEASE OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION TO CONTRACTORS

1. Classified Military Information received by a recipient Party may be provided by the recipient Party to a Contractor or prospective Contractor whose duties require access to such information with the prior written consent of the releasing Party. Prior to releasing any Classified Military Information to a Contractor or prospective Contractor, the recipient Party shall:

a. Confirm that such Contractor or prospective Contractor and the Contractor's facility have the capability to safeguard the information in accordance with the terms of this Agreement;

b. Confirm that such Contractor or prospective Contractor and the Contractor's facility have been granted appropriate PSCs and FSCs, as applicable;

c. Confirm that the Contractor or prospective Contractor has procedures in place to ensure that all individuals having access to the information are informed of their responsibilities to protect the information in accordance with applicable laws and regulations;

d. Carry out periodic security inspections of cleared facilities to ensure that the information is protected as required by this Agreement; and

e. Confirm that the Contractor or prospective Contractor has procedures in place to ensure that access to the information is limited to those individuals who have a Need to Know.

ARTICLE 10 – CLASSIFIED CONTRACTS

1. When a Party proposes to place, or authorizes a Contractor in its country to place, a Classified Contract that is classified at the CONFIDENTIAL / CONFIDENTIAL level or above, with a Contractor in the country of the other Party, the Party that is to place or authorize the Contractor to place such Classified Contract shall request an assurance that an FSC has been issued from the National Security Authority of the other Party. The National Security Authority of the requested Party shall monitor and take all appropriate steps to ensure the security conduct by the Contractor will be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

2. The National Security Authority of a Party negotiating a Classified Contract to be performed in the country of the other Party shall incorporate in the Classified Contract, request for proposal, or subcontract document appropriate security clauses and other relevant provisions, including costs for security. This includes provisions requiring any Contractors to include appropriate security clauses in their subcontract documents.

ARTICLE 11 – RESPONSIBILITY FOR FACILITIES

Each Party shall be responsible for the security of all government and private facilities and establishments where it stores Classified Military Information of the other Party and shall ensure that such facilities or establishments have qualified and appropriately cleared individuals appointed with the responsibility and authority for the control and protection of such information.

ARTICLE 12 – STORAGE OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION

Classified Military Information exchanged between the Parties shall be stored in a manner that ensures access only by those individuals who have been authorized access.

ARTICLE 13 – TRANSMISSION

1. Classified Military Information shall be transmitted between the Parties through government-to-government channels or other channels mutually approved in advance in writing.

2. The minimum requirements for the security of Classified Military Information during transmission shall be as follows:

a. Documents or other media:

(1) Documents or other media containing Classified Military Information shall be transmitted in double, sealed envelopes. The inner envelope shall indicate only the classification of the documents or other media and the organizational address of the intended recipient. The outer envelope shall indicate the organizational address of the intended recipient, the organizational address of the sender, and the document control number, if applicable.

(2) No indication of the classification of the enclosed documents or other media shall be made on the outer envelope. The double sealed envelope shall be transmitted according to the prescribed procedures of the Parties.

(3) Receipts shall be prepared by the recipient for packages containing documents or other media containing Classified Military Information that are transmitted between the Parties, and such receipts shall be signed by the final recipient and returned to the sender.

b. Material:

(1) Material, including equipment, that contains Classified Military Information shall be transported in sealed, covered vehicles, or shall otherwise be securely packaged or protected in order to prevent identification of its shape, size, or contents, and kept under continuous control to prevent access by unauthorized persons.

(2) Material, including equipment, that contains Classified Military Information that must be stored temporarily awaiting shipment shall be placed in protected storage areas. Such areas shall be protected by intrusion detection equipment or guards with requisite PSCs who shall maintain continuous surveillance of those areas. Only authorized personnel with the requisite PSC shall have access to the protected storage areas.

(3) Receipts shall be obtained whenever material that contains Classified Military Information, including equipment, changes hands during transit, and a receipt for such material shall be signed by the final recipient and returned to the sender.

c. Electronic transmissions:

(1) Classified Military Information that is classified at the CONFIDENTIAL / CONFIDENTIAL level or above that is to be transferred electronically shall be transmitted using secure means that have been approved by each Party's National Security Authority.

ARTICLE 14 – VISITS TO FACILITIES AND ESTABLISHMENTS OF THE PARTIES

1. Visits by representatives of one Party to facilities and establishments of the other Party that require access to Classified Military Information, or visits for which a PSC is required to permit access, shall be limited to those necessary for official purposes. Authorization shall only be granted to representatives who possess a valid PSC.

2. Authorization to visit such facilities and establishments shall be granted only by the Party in whose territory the facility or establishment to be visited is located. The visited Party, or

its designated officials, shall be responsible for advising the facility or establishment of the proposed visit, and the scope and highest level of Classified Military Information that may be furnished to the visitor.

3. Requests for visits by representatives of the Parties shall be submitted through the Embassy of the United States in Manila in the case of U.S. visitors, and through the Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines in Washington, D.C., in the case of Filipino visitors.

ARTICLE 15 -- SECURITY VISITS

Implementation of security requirements set out in this Agreement may be verified through reciprocal visits by security personnel of the Parties. The security representatives of each Party, after prior consultation, shall be permitted to visit the other Party to discuss and observe the implementing procedures of the other Party in the interest of achieving reasonable comparability of security systems. The host Party shall assist the visiting security representatives in determining whether Classified Military Information received from the other Party is being adequately protected.

ARTICLE 16 -- SECURITY STANDARDS

On request, each Party shall provide the other Party with information about its security standards, practices, and procedures for safeguarding of Classified Military Information.

ARTICLE 17 -- REPRODUCTION OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION

When Classified Military Information is reproduced, all of the original security markings thereon shall also be reproduced, stamped, or marked on each reproduction of such information. Such reproductions shall be subject to the same controls as the original information. The number of reproductions shall be limited to the minimum number required for official purposes.

ARTICLE 18 -- DESTRUCTION OF CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION

1. Documents and other media containing Classified Military Information shall be destroyed by burning, shredding, pulping, or other means that prevent reconstruction of the Classified Military Information contained therein.

2. Material, including equipment, containing Classified Military Information shall be destroyed through means that render it no longer recognizable so as to preclude reconstruction of the Classified Military Information in whole or in part.

ARTICLE 19 -- DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

1. The Parties agree that Classified Military Information should be downgraded in classification as soon as the information ceases to require that higher degree of protection or should be declassified as soon as the information no longer requires protection against unauthorized disclosure.

2. The releasing Party has complete discretion concerning downgrading or declassification of its Classified Military Information. The recipient Party shall not downgrade the security

classification or declassify Classified Military Information received from the releasing Party, notwithstanding any apparent declassification instructions on the document, without the prior written consent of the releasing Party.

ARTICLE 20 – LOSS OR COMPROMISE

The recipient Party shall inform the releasing Party immediately upon discovery of all losses or compromises, as well as possible losses or compromises, of Classified Military Information of the releasing Party. In the event of an actual or possible loss or compromise of such information, the recipient Party shall initiate an investigation immediately to determine the circumstances of the actual or possible loss or compromise. The results of the investigation and information regarding measures taken to prevent recurrence shall be provided to the releasing Party.

ARTICLE 21 – DISPUTES

Disagreements between the Parties arising under or relating to this Agreement shall be settled solely through consultations between the Parties and shall not be referred to a national court, an international tribunal, or any other person or entity for settlement.

ARTICLE 22 – COSTS

Each Party shall be responsible for bearing its own costs incurred in implementing this Agreement. All obligations of the Parties under this Agreement shall be subject to the availability of funds.

ARTICLE 23 – FINAL PROVISIONS

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the later note in an exchange of diplomatic notes by which the Parties indicate that each Party has completed its necessary internal procedures for the entry into force of this Agreement.
2. The Parties may amend this Agreement upon their mutual written agreement in accordance with each Party's necessary internal procedures.
3. Either Party may terminate this Agreement through the notification by its Government to the Government of the other Party in writing through diplomatic channels of the Party's intent to terminate the Agreement. Termination shall occur ninety (90) days from the date of such written notification.
4. Notwithstanding the termination of this Agreement, all Classified Military Information exchanged or otherwise provided pursuant to this Agreement shall continue to be protected in accordance with the provisions set forth herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

Done in duplicate at Quezon City, Philippines this 18th day of November 2024, in the English language.

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**


LLOYD J. AUSTIN III
Secretary of Defense

**FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF
NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**


GILBERTO C. TEODORO, JR.
Secretary of National Defense

APPENDIX

PROCEDURES FOR PROTECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES RESTRICTED CLASSIFIED MILITARY INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Upon receipt, the Philippines DND Classified Military Information provided to the U.S. DoD and designated as "RESTRICTED" shall be protected by the United States in accordance with the following procedures.
2. Information designated as "RESTRICTED" shall be stored in locked containers or closed areas that prevent access by unauthorized personnel.
3. "RESTRICTED" information shall not be disclosed to unauthorized persons or entities without prior written approval from the Philippines DND except as required by U.S. law, including the Freedom of Information Act. In the case of the latter, the U.S. DoD shall make every effort to notify the Philippines DND thirty (30) days prior to any disclosure of "RESTRICTED" information. The Philippines DND withholds "RESTRICTED" information from public disclosure and may provide "RESTRICTED" information to the U.S. DoD on the condition that such information not be released to the public. In the event the U.S. DoD receives a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act that includes "RESTRICTED" information, the U.S. DoD shall use all available legal remedies to withhold release of "RESTRICTED" information to the public.
4. "RESTRICTED" information shall, as applicable, be stored, processed, or transmitted electronically using government- or Contractor-accredited systems. In particular, before any system is used to store, process, or transmit "RESTRICTED" information, it must receive security approval, known as Accreditation. An Accreditation is a formal statement in writing by the appropriate accrediting authority confirming that the use of a system meets the appropriate security requirements and does not present an unacceptable risk. Security Standard Operating Procedures are technical procedures to implement security policies and requirements unique to a specific facility to protect automated information systems processing Classified Military Information. For stand-alone automated information systems such as desktop and laptop computers utilized in U.S. Government establishments, the system registration document together with the Security Standard Operating Procedures shall fulfill the role of the required Accreditation. For Contractors, guidance on the use of communications and information systems shall be incorporated into the Restricted Conditions Requirements Clause in the Contract.
5. "RESTRICTED" information shall be transmitted by first class mail within the United States in one sealed envelope. Transmission outside the United States shall be in double, sealed envelopes, with the inner envelope marked "the Republic of the Philippines RESTRICTED." Transmission outside the United States shall be by traceable means such as commercial courier or other means agreed upon by the Parties in writing.
6. U.S. documents that contain "the Republic of the Philippines RESTRICTED" information shall bear on the cover and the first page the marking "the Republic of the Philippines RESTRICTED." The portion of the documents containing "the Republic of the Philippines RESTRICTED" information also shall be identified with the same marking.

7. "RESTRICTED" information may be transmitted or accessed electronically via a public network like the Internet using government or commercial encryption devices mutually accepted by the Parties. Telephone conversations, video conferencing, or facsimile transmissions containing "RESTRICTED" information may be conducted if an encryption system is not available and subject to the approval of the releasing Party's National Security Authority.

8. An FSC is not required for a Contractor to undertake contracts that require only the receipt or production of Classified Military Information at the "RESTRICTED" level.

9. Access to such "RESTRICTED" information shall be granted only to those individuals who have a Need to Know. A PSC is not required to access "RESTRICTED" information.