ISOO Training Tip #19 March 2019

TOPIC: Need-to-Know

What is need-to-know?

In accordance with E.O. 13526 and 32 CFR Part 2001, "need-to-know" is a determination that an authorized person requires access to specific classified information in order to perform or assist in a lawful and authorized governmental function.

What is the definition of an "authorized person?"

An "authorized person" is someone who has:

- a favorable determination of eligibility for access to classified information
- has signed an approved nondisclosure agreement
- and has a need-to-know.

Having a security clearance and signing a nondisclosure agreement does not automatically allow you to have access to all classified information. If you don't have a need to see that information in order to perform your duties, then you shouldn't have access to it.

Reference: E.O. 13526, Sec. 6.1(dd) / 32 CFR 2001.40(d)



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