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### Skunk Works Mailing List

# 18 U.S.C. 795-797

From: "Allen Thomson"  
Subject: 18 U.S.C. 795-797  
Date: Sat, 19 Jun 1999 13:28:43 -0500

All this talk of classification got me wondering (again) about 18 U.S.C. 795-797, which may be viewed at <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/795.html> through /797.html .

In particular, Sec. 797 sez,

"Sec. 797. Publication and sale of photographs of defense installations

"On and after thirty days from the date upon which the President defines any vital military or naval installation or equipment as being within the category contemplated under section 795 of this title, whoever reproduces, publishes, sells, or gives away any photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map, or graphical representation of the vital military or naval installations or equipment so defined, without first obtaining permission of the commanding officer of the military or naval post, camp, or station concerned, or higher authority, unless such photograph, sketch, picture, drawing, map, or graphical representation has clearly indicated thereon that it has been censored by the proper military or naval authority, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both. "

So have all those folks who've taken pictures of A51, not to mention the

local  
air field, naval base, etc eligible for time in jail? If not, there seem to be two plausible explanations (not mutually exclusive).

1) The government realizes that the law is foolish and unenforceable, and therefore doesn't bother to try.

2) No president has ever made the proclamation required under Sec. 797.

With regard to 2), does anyone know if there actually is a list of such presidentially forbidden sites?

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