



**OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
**DEPARTMENT OF WAR**  
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

June 16, 2026  
Ref: DODOIG-2021-000806

**SENT VIA EMAIL TO: john@greenewald.com**

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.  
The Black Vault, Inc.  
27305 W. Live Oak Road, Suite 1203  
Castaic, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is the fourth interim response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for “a copy of records (which includes videos/photos), electronic or otherwise, pertaining to Project No. D2021-DEV0SN-0116.000.” We received your request on May 4, 2021, and assigned it case number DODOIG-2021-000806. By emails dated August 22, 2024, February 6, 2025, and July 15, 2025, we provided you with interim responses to your request.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

The Evaluations Component conducted a search and located records responsive to your request. Upon review, we determined that the enclosed five pages are appropriate for release in part pursuant to the following FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552) exemptions:

- (b)(1), which pertains to information that is currently and properly classified pursuant to Executive Order 13526, sections 1.4(a), military plans, weapons systems, or operations, and 1.4(g), vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to national security; and
- (b)(5), which pertains to certain inter-and intra-agency communications protected by the deliberative process privilege. The purpose for withholding such recommendations is to encourage the free and candid exchange of opinions and advice during the decision-making process. In applying the foreseeable harm standard, we determined that disclosure of this information is likely to diminish the candor of agency deliberations in the future.

Our review included consideration of the foreseeable harm standard, as stated in DoDM 5400.07. Under this standard, the content of a particular record should be reviewed and a determination made as to whether the DoW Component reasonably foresees that disclosing it, given its age, content, and character, would harm an interest protected by an applicable exemption.

If you consider this an adverse determination, you may submit an appeal. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 90 days of the date of our final response letter, clearly identify the determination that you would like to appeal, and reference to the FOIA case number above. Send your

*Pursuant to Executive Order 14347, “Restoring the United States Department of War,” September 5, 2025, the Department of Defense Inspector General (DoD IG) and Office of Inspector General (DoD OIG) use the secondary titles of the Department of War Inspector General (DoW IG) and Office of Inspector General (DoW OIG), respectively. The use of these secondary titles does not in any way affect the primary statutory title or authorities of the DoD IG under The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended (5 U.S.C. Chapter 4, Inspectors General), or the authorities or responsibilities of the DoD IG or DoD OIG pursuant to any laws, regulations, or policies.*

appeal via mail to the Department of War, Office of Inspector General, ATTN: FOIA Appellate Authority, Suite 10B24, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Alexandria, VA 22350-1500, via email to [foiaappeals@dodig.mil](mailto:foiaappeals@dodig.mil), or via facsimile to 571-372-7498. However, please note that FOIA appeals can only examine adverse determinations concerning the FOIA process. For more information on appellate matters and administrative appeal procedures, please refer to 32 C.F.R. Sec. 286.9(e) and 286.11(a).

During our review, we determined that the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) and the Office of the Secretary of War and Joint Staff (OSW/JS) are the release authorities for documents that may be responsive to your request. Accordingly, we have referred those pages to those offices for processing and direct response to you. If you would like to inquire about the status of this portion of your request, please contact those offices directly at the following:

Office of Naval Intelligence  
Staff Judge Advocate, Code: 00J  
4251 Suitland Road, Room 4E128  
Washington, DC 20395-5720  
<https://www.oni.navy.mil/Contact-Us/Freedom-of-Information-Act/>

OSW/JS FOIA Requester Service Center  
Freedom of Information Branch  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155  
<https://www.esd.whs.mil/FOID/Contact-Us/>

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at [FOIAPublicLiaison@dodig.mil](mailto:FOIAPublicLiaison@dodig.mil) or by calling 703-604-9785, for any further assistance with your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. Their contact information is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road—OGIS, College Park, MD 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov), or telephone at 202-741-5770 (toll free at 1-877-684-6448). However, OGIS does not have the authority to mediate requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974 (request to access one's own records).

Please note that your request remains open and there are 245 pages of potentially responsive records that remain to be processed and reviewed to complete your request. These records constitute coordination communications similar to those previously provided. However, we also understand that circumstances may have changed, and you may no longer be interested in the information you requested. Therefore, please advise this office whether you still wish to pursue this request. If we have not heard from you within 30 business days of the date of this letter, we will presume that you are no longer interested in the documents and your case will be administratively closed.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Joseph Kasper at 703-604-9775 or via email at [foiarequests@dodig.mil](mailto:foiarequests@dodig.mil).

Sincerely,




Searle Slutzkin  
Division Chief  
FOIA, Privacy and Civil Liberties Office

Enclosures:  
As stated

This document is made available through the declassification efforts  
and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

# The Black Vault



The Black Vault is the largest online Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)  
document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are  
responsible for the declassification of hundreds of thousands of pages  
released by the U.S. Government & Military.

**Discover the Truth** at: <http://www.theblackvault.com>

# (U) OIG Project Proposal

(U) **Project Title:** Evaluation of the Department of Defense's Actions Regarding Unidentified Aerial Phenomena

(U) **Evaluation Proposal Number:** 585

(U) **Component / Directorate / Division:** Evaluations/SIEO

(U) **Source:** Self-Initiated

(U) **Projected Start:** 2021 3rd Quarter

(U) **Estimated Project Timeline:** 330 days

(U) **Total Number of Employees:** 4 + 1 Project Manager

**(U) Proposed Objective(s):**

(U) The objective of this evaluation is to determine the extent to which the DoD has taken intelligence and counterintelligence actions to detect, collect, exploit, analyze, and address Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP), at the DoD, Services, Combat Support Agencies, and the Military Criminal Investigation Organizations (MCIO).

**(U) Potential Benefit(s) of Performing:**

(S//REL TO USA, FVEY) DoW OIG: (b)(1) 1.4(a) & 1.4(g) [Redacted]

**(U) Proposal Details**

**(U) Background:**

**(U) Unidentified Aerial Phenomena**

(S//NF) DoW OIG: (b)(1) 1.4(a) & 1.4(g) [Redacted]

(S//NF) DoW OIG: (b)(1) 1.4(a) & 1.4(g)

(U) Public disclosures of DoD encounters over the past 16 years have generated significant public interest, including the Navy's public release of three UAP videos captured by U.S. Naval aircraft between 2004 and 2015. However, the DoD has not released any explanation for the documented encounters which has fueled public speculation. This speculation, coupled with extensive media interviews by former senior DoD and elected officials, has driven public and Congressional interest in UAP. The Director of National Programs Special Management Staff, within the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence which researched UAP, resigned in protest in 2017. The Director wrote in his resignation memo to the Secretary of Defense, "Despite overwhelming evidence at both the unclassified and classified levels, certain individuals in the Department remain staunchly opposed to further research on what could be a tactical threat to our pilots, sailors, and soldiers, and perhaps even an existential threat to our national security."

(U) The FY 2020 National Defense Authorization Act classified annex directed the DoD to establish a UAP task force. The DoD established the UAP Task Force in August 2020 within the Navy's Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare. The Office of Naval Intelligence leadership was directed to work across the DoD, the Intelligence Community, and the U.S. Government to address the reported UAP activities.

(~~CU~~) The Space, Intelligence, Engineering and Oversight leadership met with the UAP Task Force Director in late October 2020, DoW OIG (b)(5)

**(U) Scope and Methodology:**

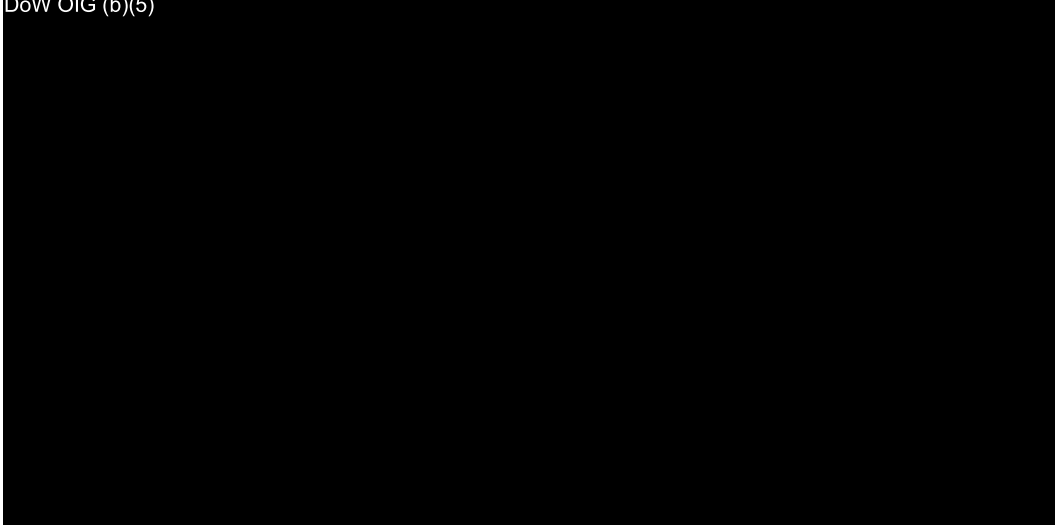
(U) Scope: The scope of this evaluation will include Offices of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Special Operations Command, U.S. Central Command, the Services, Combat Support Agencies, other Defense Agencies, and the MCIOs, as it relates to the actions taken to detect, collect, analyze, exploit, and address UAP.

(U) Methodology:

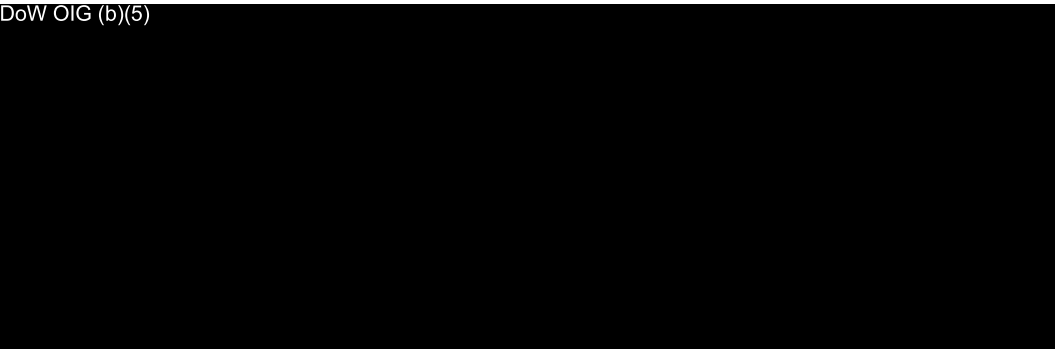
(U) We will conduct entrance conferences with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (OUSD) for Intelligence and Security, OUSD for Research and Engineering, combatant commands, the Services, Combat Support Agencies, defense agencies, and the MCIOs to obtain their perspectives and provide an overview of the evaluation.

1. (U) We will send out a request for information to understand the history, roles and responsibilities, and any documentation regarding UAP. Specifically, we will request:

1.1. (U) DoD, Service, Combat Support Agency, defense agency, and MCIO policies and procedures on reporting UAP. The purpose of this step is to determine whether:

- a. DoW OIG (b)(5)
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
- 

1.2. (U) UAP reports generated by DoD and subordinate organizations and determine whether:

- a. DoW OIG (b)(5)
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
- 

2. (U) We will conduct interviews, and site visits when applicable, with the following organizations, to include:

(U) Office of the Secretary of Defense components:

- (U) OUSD for Intelligence and Security
- (U) OUSD for Research and Engineering
- (U) Special Assistant to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense for Compartmented Activities
- (U) DoD SAPCO

(U) Combatant Commands

- (U) U.S. Special Operations Command
- (U) U.S. Central Command

(U) Service components:

- (U) Army Intelligence and Security Command

- (U) 16th Air Force
- (U) Marine Corps Intelligence Activity
- (U) Office of Naval Intelligence
- (U) Special Capabilities Office
- (U) Rapid Capabilities Office
- (U) National Air and Space Intelligence Center (NASIC)
- (U) Missile and Space Intelligence Center (MSIC)
- (U) Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition/Special Programs/Operational and Export Policy Division (SAF/AQL)
- (U) Service SAPCOs

(U) Combat Support Agencies:

- (U) Defense Intelligence Agency
- (U) National Security Agency
- (U) National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
- (U) National Reconnaissance Organization

(U) Defense Agencies:

- (U) Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
- (U) Missile Defense Agency
- (U) Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- (U) Defense Technology Security Administration (DTSA)

(U) MCIOs:

- (U) Air Force Office of Special Investigation
- (U) U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division
- (U) Naval Criminal Investigative Service

(U) The purpose of these interviews is to clarify internal policies, procedures, guidance, and actions taken to detect, collect, analyze, exploit, and address UAP activity.

3. (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) DoW OIG: (b)(1) 1.4(a) & 1.4(g) [Redacted]

4. (~~S//NF~~) DoW OIG: (b)(1) 1.4(a) & 1.4(g) [Redacted]

5. (~~S//REL TO USA, FVEY~~) DoW OIG: (b)(1) 1.4(a) & 1.4(g) [Redacted]

6. (U) DoW OIG (b)(5) [Redacted]

7. (U) DoW OIG (b)(5) [Redacted]

8. (U) DoW OIG (b)(5)

**(U) Expected Technical Assistance:** Yes

**(U) Criteria:**

(U) Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon (UAP) Security Classification Guide, ID# 04-030

(U) Current Counterintelligence Policy (TBD)

(U) DoDD 5240.02, Counterintelligence, Change 1, 16 May 2018

(U) DoDD 5240.04, Counterintelligence Investigations, Change 1, 01 Apr 2020

(U) DoDD 5240.06, Counterintelligence Awareness and Reporting, Change 3, 31 Aug 2020

(U) DoDI O-5240.10 Counterintelligence in the DoD Components, 27 Apr 2020

(U) DoDI S-5240.17 Counterintelligence Collection Activities (CCA), 14 Mar 2014 (S//NF)

(U) DoDI 5240.18 Counterintelligence (CI) Analysis & Reporting, Change 3, 24 Sep 2020

**(U) Prior Oversight Coverage:**

(U) TBD

Tab A: UAP Task Force Presentation (15 October 2020)