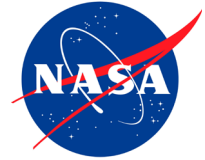


National Aeronautics and Space Administration



Headquarters

Washington, DC 20546-0001

May 16, 2022

Reply to attn. of: Office of Communications

John Greenewald
Black Vault
27305 W. Live Oak Road
Castaic, CA 91384

Re: NASA FOIA Tracking Number **22-HQ-F-00488**

Dear John Greenewald:

This is our final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), dated April 22, 2022, and received in this office on April 25, 2022. Your request was assigned the above-referenced tracking number. You seek:

All emails sent to/from (bcc'd or cc'd) NASA Administrator Bill Nelson (include ALL email addresses utilized by Mr. Nelson), which contain the following keywords:

"Airborne Object"

and/or

AOIMSG

and/or

AOIMEXEC

and/or

"Unidentified Aerial"

I agree to limit the scope of the search to records dated December 1, 2021, through to the date of processing this request. Also, please ensure that NIPR, SIPR and JWICS communications are searched, should that apply.

In response to your request, we conducted a search of NASA's Office of Information Technology, the Office of the Administrator, and the Office of Protective Services using the search terms provided above. Those searches identified records responsive to your request. We reviewed the responsive records under the FOIA to determine whether they may be disclosed to you. Based on that review, this office is providing the following:

___12___ page(s) are released in full (RIF);¹
 ___2___ page(s) are released in part (RIP);
 ___ page(s) are withheld in full (WIF);
 ___ page(s) are duplicate copies of material already processed;
 ___ page(s) not provided were referred to another entity.

NASA redacted from the enclosed documents certain information pursuant to the following FOIA exemptions:

Exemption 6, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

Exemption 6 allows withholding of “personnel and medical files and *similar files* the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)(emphasis added). NASA invokes exemption 6 to protect work cell phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Fees

Provisions of the FOIA allow us to recover part of the cost of complying with your request. In this instance, because the cost is below the \$50 minimum, there is no charge.

Appeal

You have the right to appeal my action regarding your request. Your appeal must be received within 90 days of the date of this response. Please send your appeal to:

Administrator
 NASA Headquarters
 Executive Secretariat
 ATTN: FOIA Appeals
 MS 9R17
 300 E Street S.W.
 Washington, DC 20546

Both the envelope and letter of appeal should be clearly marked, “Appeal under the Freedom of Information Act.” You must also include a copy of your initial request, the adverse determination, and any other correspondence with the FOIA office. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this initial determination should be reversed. Additional information on submitting an appeal is set forth in the NASA FOIA regulations at 14 C.F.R. § 1206.700.

¹ All page counts are approximate numbers.

Assistance and Dispute Resolution Services

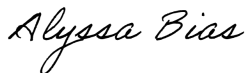
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Alyssa.k.bias@nasa.gov or (202) 358-4464. For further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request you may also contact:

Stephanie Fox
Chief FOIA Public Liaison
Freedom of Information Act Office
NASA Headquarters
300 E Street, S.W., 5P32
Washington D.C. 20546
Phone: 202-358-1553
Email: Stephanie.K.Fox@nasa.gov

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 it offers. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Important: Please note that contacting any agency official including myself, NASA's Chief FOIA Public Liaison, and/or OGIS is not an alternative to filing an administrative appeal and does not stop the 90 day appeal clock.

Sincerely,



Alyssa Bias
Government Information Specialist

Enclosure(s)

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>**

Fwd: Christmas Eve reading

From: Nelson, Bill (HQ-AA000) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3FA5333A4119409284AC2C5CF0B8534D-NELSON, C W>
To: (b) (6) @ (b) (6)
Sent: December 24, 2021 12:56:59 PM EST
Received: December 24, 2021 12:57:00 PM EST

Begin Forwarded Message:

From: "McGuinness, Jackie (HQ-NA000)" <jackie.mcguinness@nasa.gov>
Subject: Christmas Eve reading
Date: 24 December 2021 12:09
To: "Nelson, Bill (HQ-AA000)" <bill.nelson@nasa.gov>, "Bill Nelson" (b) (6) @ (b) (6)
Cc: "Etkind, Marc R. (HQ-NA000)" <marc.r.etkind@nasa.gov>

Hi sir – Happy Christmas Eve!

Here <<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://www.cnn.com/videos/tech/2021/12/24/nasa-space-telescope-bill-nelson-newday-vpx.cnn&data=04|01|bill.nelson@nasa.gov|54e4c1c62ea54ac5f7e108d9c7001fee|7005d45845be48ae8140d43da96dd17b|0|0|637759625611739610|Unknown|TWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzliLCJBTiI6lk1haWwILCJXVCi6Mn0=|3000&sdata=nO5tdZIG3Cj36hSQiKwjdplGT3tY1DXDqGTwdPCFY=&reserved=0>> is a link to your CNN interview this morning.

Your JWST op-ed ran in USA Today today, linked here
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnists/2021/12/24/nasa-james-webb-space-telescope-major/8914279002/&data=04|01|bill.nelson@nasa.gov|54e4c1c62ea54ac5f7e108d9c7001fee|7005d45845be48ae8140d43da96dd17b|0|0|637759625611739610|Unknown|TWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzliLCJBTiI6lk1haWwILCJXVCi6Mn0=|3000&sdata=F4WvfF19NYeCp+pEzH3V9kVnMsFo2dui2M/zhiN8Bk0=&reserved=0>>.

And the piece you requested from the Guardian
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/dec/24/bill-nelson-nasa-administrator-interview&data=04|01|bill.nelson@nasa.gov|54e4c1c62ea54ac5f7e108d9c7001fee|7005d45845be48ae8140d43da96dd17b|0|0|637759625611739610|Unknown|TWFPbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjojV2luMzliLCJBTiI6lk1haWwILCJXVCi6Mn0=|3000&sdata=KsjZ31w5h2wC4WE8aZrB+8v+kePPfznaMNSzgaicz0=&reserved=0>> is below.

Best,
jackie

'We're all citizens of planet Earth': former astronaut Bill Nelson on his mission at Nasa (The Guardian)

Nasa's new administrator discusses the space race with China, UFOs, billionaire 'astronauts' and building a 'mission control' for climate change

David Smith in Washington

Fri 24 Dec 2021 03.00 EST

When Apollo 11 launched in July 1969, Bill Nelson was an army lieutenant on leave behind the iron curtain, listening with colleagues to the BBC on shortwave radio.

"There were three young Americans standing on the hills overlooking Budapest, screaming at the top of our lungs, cheering as that rocket lifted off," Nasa's new administrator recalled in a video interview.

By the time Neil Armstrong stepped on to the lunar surface, Nelson was at a London hotel, watching on a grainy black and white TV at three in the morning. "This was all extremely fascinating to me and never in a million years did I think that I was going to end up being able to fly in space. Much more so, never in a million years would I have thought that I would try to offer some leadership to Nasa."

Advertisement

Hold the beef: McDonald's avoids the bold step it must take to cut emissions

Nelson, who at 79 is two months older than Joe Biden, was the first member of the House of Representatives to go into space. He went on to serve as a Democratic senator for Florida for 18 years. In May he was appointed by Biden to lead Nasa and earlier this month he was in the spotlight when Vice-President Kamala Harris chaired her first meeting of the National Space Council.

Nelson's priorities include the \$10bn James Webb Space Telescope, a successor to the Hubble telescope aiming to launch on Saturday after years of costly delays. Astronomers are on edge because a lot could go wrong. "There are some 300 things that have to work perfectly on this telescope," Nelson says. "And that's after a successful launch."

Then there is Nasa's high stakes effort to return to the moon after half a century. The Artemis programme, a sequel to Apollo, aims to put astronauts back on the lunar surface in 2025 or soon after, establishing the first "long-term human-robotic presence" on and around the moon and laying the groundwork for the first crewed mission to Mars in the late 2030s.

"Why the moon?" Nelson says. "Because the goal is Mars. What we can do on the moon is learn how to exist and survive in that hostile environment and only be three or four days away from Earth before we venture out and are months and months from Earth. That's the whole purpose: we go back to the moon, we learn how to live there, we create habitats."

In 2023 a probe will dig down at the south pole of the moon to learn how much water there is beneath the surface. "Because if there's water, then we've got rocket fuel, we've got hydrogen and oxygen."

Last time around the US was spurred to the moon by the Soviet Union, which had beaten it to putting the first satellite (Sputnik) and first person (Yuri Gagarin) in space.

Today the principal rival is China, which Biden has made an organising principle of his presidency, and space is no exception. China established its own space station with alacrity and is only the second country to have landed a rover on Mars.

Is a new space race under way and, on the basis that competition breeds success, might that be a good thing? "Yes to the space race," Nelson replies. "I think their intention is to bring back a sample from Mars earlier than ours. I think their intention is to try to land on the moon before we land. The facts are the facts and America better pay attention."

"But is that a good thing? Not really. What would be a better thing is if they were a partner like Russia has been since 1975."

Leaders of the American and Russian space agencies had a constructive relationship during the later part of the cold war; can Nelson establish a similar channel to his Chinese counterpart? "If I had my druthers I would, but you can't have a relationship if the other party doesn't want to have a relationship. It takes two to tango. They have indicated no interest in the two of us doing the tango."

He adds: "They're good but they're secretive. They're not collaborative. They're not transparent."

All 12 people who walked on the moon between 1969 and 1972 were white American men. In his public remarks, Nelson typically makes a point of saying that Artemis will put the first woman and first person of colour on the moon. Nasa has also produced a graphic novel, First Woman, about a fictional character called Callie Rodriguez who achieves both distinctions.

What impact does he think that moment would have on girls and children of colour around the world? "Well, look what female and minority astronauts have already done. It's caused little girls to dream dreams that they didn't ever think possible before. Same thing with minorities."

But for now many of the headlines are stolen by billionaire white men such as Jeff Bezos, Richard Branson and Elon Musk. Nelson does not seem perturbed about Nasa's thunder being stolen, however.

"I think it's great they are spending their money advancing technology. They are opening up press attention and excitement by American people and then, when you add that to the Nasa programme, of which SpaceX is a big part now, it's all the more exciting."

Musk's SpaceX is developing a "Starship" lunar lander that can carry a gamechanging 100 tons of cargo. Enough to start building a moon base? "I hope so, but it hasn't flown." An unsuccessful legal challenge by Bezos's rocket company, Blue Origin, caused a delay but Nasa is still targeting February for the first test flight of its moon rocket, the Space Launch System.

Raised in Melbourne, Florida, Nelson studied at the University of Florida, Yale and University of Virginia Law School and served on active duty in the army. He began practising law then went into politics, first in the Florida state legislature, then in the US Congress.

In 1986 he went from the Washington swamp to the stars on the space shuttle Columbia, orbiting the Earth 98 times over six days and conducting 12 medical experiments, including the first American stress test in space. (Just 10 days after he landed, another shuttle, Challenger, launched and almost immediately exploded, killing all seven crew members.)

Michael Collins, the Apollo 11 command module pilot, once described Earth as "blue, white, very shiny ... such a beautiful tiny thing, nestled in this black velvet of the rest of the universe". William Shatner, 90, famed for playing Captain Kirk in Star Trek, rode aboard a Blue Origin rocket in October to become the oldest person in space and was struck by "the covering of blue, this sheet, this blanket, this comforter of blue that we have around us".

Nelson, too, has vivid memories of seeing Earth from afar. "It is so beautiful. It is so colourful. It is suspended in nothing. There's home and yet it looks so fragile. That experience informed a lot of my public life because I wanted to be, when I returned, a better steward of our planet.

"So I think you can just basically boldly say I became more of an environmentalist when I went into space, and that has informed my environmental record now going on 44 years of public service.

"It also struck me as a politician that when I looked, as we orbited the Earth every 90 minutes, I didn't see racial divisions and I didn't see religious divisions and I didn't see political divisions – the things that bedevil us here on the face of the Earth. What I saw, we were all citizens of planet Earth, and that's informed my public service as well."

By way of example he describes Nasa as "the point of the spear" on the climate crisis, designing, building and launching instruments that measure the delicate balance of the environment. Nelson reveals that the agency is planning to set up a "mission control" for climate change at a still-to-be-determined location.

"We're going to allow the public to access it virtually. We're going to encourage state and local governments as well as our fellow agencies and the federal government to access the data and make it easy for everybody so they can have informed decisions."

Whatever the shortcomings of Cop26, Nelson believes there has been a perceptible shift in public and political opinion on the issue. He notes that Republican senator Ted Cruz – who was the first to call him when news of his nomination for Nasa was leaked by the White House – "was an absolute out and out climate denier and you don't hear him saying that that much now".

Another subject that has gone increasingly mainstream in Washington is unidentified flying objects. In June a report found that although intelligence officials do not believe aliens are responsible for dozens of accounts of unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), they cannot fully explain what is.

Nelson comments: "You've seen those films now made public. They [navy pilots] know they saw something. What is it? I don't know. Is it an adversary on Earth that has that kind of technology? I hope not.

"Do I think that there is life in the universe? The answer to that is clearly I do and we are searching for it. How can I limit a universe that is so big that I cannot see how big it is, where we are in a galaxy with billions if not trillions of stars and there are additional billions if not trillions of galaxies, and the universe is expanding?"

He adds with a chuckle: "Like people that tried to limit Copernicus and Galileo that the Earth didn't revolve about the sun, that everything revolved around the Earth. So, you get the drift."

What first contact with an alien civilisation would mean for humanity has long been the stuff of science fiction. But politicians take it seriously. After a conversation with his American counterpart in 1985, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev recalled: "President Reagan suddenly said to me, 'What would you do if the United States were suddenly attacked by someone from outer space? Would you help us?' I said, 'No doubt about it.' He said, 'We too.' So that's interesting."

Nelson, astronaut turned senator turned secretary of space, must be hoping that China's Xi Jinping feels the same way about saving the planet from greenhouse gases.

Jackie McGuinness

Press Secretary

Office of the Administrator

C: (b) (6)

Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

From: Nelson, Bill (HQ-AA000) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=3FA5333A4119409284AC2C5CF0B8534D-NELSON, C W>
To: kayla.r.ratnasamy@nasa.gov
Sender: Ratnasamy, Kayla R. (HQ-AA000) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5ECCDC78F2064815A597591B357570F1-RATNASAMY,>
Sent: March 29, 2022 11:15:34 AM EDT
Received: March 29, 2022 11:15:34 AM EDT
Attachments: Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

Attachment

1. Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

Type: text/calendar
Size: 732 bytes

Attachment #1

Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

Bias, Alyssa K. (HQ-NA040)

Subject: Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

Location: The Administrator's Office

Start: Tue 4/12/2022 9:30 AM

End: Tue 4/12/2022 10:00 AM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Ratnasamy, Kayla R. (HQ-AA000)

Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

From: Nelson, Bill (HQ-AA000) </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE
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8534D-NELSON, C W>
To: kayla.r.ratnasamy@nasa.gov
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Sent: April 5, 2022 8:58:54 AM EDT
Received: April 5, 2022 8:58:54 AM EDT
Attachments: Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

Attachment

1. Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

Type: text/calendar
Size: 495 bytes

Attachment #1

Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

Bias, Alyssa K. (HQ-NA040)

Subject: Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Meeting

Location: The Administrator's Office

Start: Tue 4/12/2022 9:30 AM

End: Tue 4/12/2022 10:00 AM

Show Time As: Tentative

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Not yet responded

Organizer: Ratnasamy, Kayla R. (HQ-AA000)