



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES EUROPE
UNITED STATES NAVAL FORCES AFRICA
UNITED STATES SIXTH FLEET
PSC 809 BOX 70
FPO AE 09622

5720
Ser N02/131
May 12, 2022

VIA E-MAIL ONLY TO: john@greenewald.com
Mr. John Greenewald
The Black Vault
27305 W. Live Oak Road, Suite #1203
Castaic, California 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST (DON-NAVY-2020-006785)

This letter responds to your FOIA request dated April 16, 2020, in which you requested “a copy of records, electronic or otherwise, pertaining to the April 15, 2020, ‘unsafe’ Russian Intercept over Mediterranean Sea of the Navy’s P-8A Poseidon aircraft.” This office received your request on April 16, 2020. Your request was assigned case number DON-NAVY-2020-006785 through the FOIA online tool.

Based on your request, we sent out a tasker to the appropriate directorates within NAVEUR/NAVAF/SIXTHFLT describing your request and asking the directorates to provide any records they had. We have enclosed 101 photographs and one Incident at Sea (INCSEA) summary slide that were identified during the search, which are being released to you in full. Approximately 30 pages of records and 1 video have been withheld pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(1) of 5 U.S.C. § 552, which protects classified records from release.

We assessed your FOIA requester fee category as “representative of the news media.” No fees have been assessed in connection with the processing of your request.

Because your request has been denied in part, you are advised of your right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Department of the Navy FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Christopher Julka, at christopher.a.julka@navy.mil or (703) 697-0031.


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. 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.

You are further advised of your right to appeal this determination. Your appeal must be submitted electronically or postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this letter. Please

note that the burden of proving timely submission falls on the requester. Within FOIA online, you may submit an appeal electronically by selecting the "Appeal this FOIA Request" button on the left side of the Request Details screen and following the subsequent directions.

Alternatively, you may mail your appeal to the Judge Advocate General of the Navy (Code 14), 1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374-5066. A copy of your initial request and this letter must accompany the appeal. The appeal should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT APPEAL" both on the envelope and on the face of the letter. You must include an explanation of why your appeal should be granted; you are also encouraged to include a copy of this letter. 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 decision to be in error.

Your point of contact in this matter is Paralegal Specialist, Leslie O'Steen. Please do not hesitate to contact her if you have any further questions regarding this matter. She may be reached by telephone at 011-39-081-568-4792 or by email at leslie.osteen@eu.navy.mil.




N. S. L.
Chief of Staff

Enclosure: 101 Photographs
1 INCSEA Summary Slide

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
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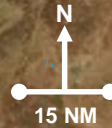


P-8A UNSAFE Intercept by 1x RUS Su-35 FLANKER

150923Z - 151005Z APR 20



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Temperature: -13C
Winds: 223T / 10KTS
Visibility: UNR

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(U) **BLUF:** While conducting a flight in the Eastern Mediterranean, P-8A was intercepted by 1x RUS Su-35 FLANKER. Interceptor was wings dirty. CPA of interceptor was 25FT LAT / CO-ALT VERT. Intercept characterized as UNSAFE and UNPROFESSIONAL.

(U) TIMELINE OF EVENTS:

(U) 0923Z: P-8A gained visual of Su-35 at altitude 18,000FT at a heading of 359T at 255KTS. Visual detection of Su-35 occurred with Su-35 1500FT below with approach from starboard side at 250T at 400KTS. Su-35 crossed under P-8 to port side for a momentary position 100FT low vertical, 25FT lateral.

(U) 0923Z: Su-35 came up from under P-8A, and crossed inverted 25FT in front of P-8A nose, passing from left to right. P-8A experienced wake turbulence due to Su-35 flight path. CPA occurred at 25FT LAT / CO-ALT VERT.

(U) 0924Z-1005Z: After unsafe maneuver, Su-35 conducted a full 360 roll and leveled off 1000FT below P-8A on starboard side. Su-35 remained at 1000FT from P-8A for remainder of intercept.

(U) 1005Z: P-8A lost visual of intercepting aircraft. Interceptor's heading was 015T and 445KTS.

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(U) **Mission Commander's Assessment:** P-8A was intercepted by 1x RUS Su-35 FLANKER (Side Number: #24) while conducting a flight in the EMED. Intercept was assessed as UNSAFE and UNPROFESSIONAL due to close CPA of inverted roll in front of P-8A nose. No radio communications were established.

Enclosure 2

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