



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
NAVAL SURFACE FORCE  
UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET  
2841 RENDOVA ROAD  
SAN DIEGO CALIFORNIA 92155-5490

IN REPLY REFER TO

5720

N00J/160

September 15, 2021

John Greenewald  
The Black Vault  
27305 W. Live Oak Road #1203  
Castaic, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald,

**SUBJECT: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST CASE NUMBER  
DON-NAVY-2021-005381**

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to this office on April 9, 2021, in which you requested: "all deck logs from USS RUSSELL (DDG 59) for the month of July 2019 and all reports, memos, letters, emails, videos pertaining to the USS RUSSELL (DDG 59) encountering unknown drones while operating of the coast of San Diego in July 2019." Your request was received on April 14, 2021, with assigned case number DON-NAVY-2021-005381 and assigned internal tracking number 2021-55.

Your request was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), Part 701 of Title 32 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and the Department of the Navy Freedom of Information Act Program (SECNAVINST 5720.42G).

For the purpose of assessing FOIA processing fees, you have been categorized as a "media" requester, and as such, only duplication fees are applicable to your request. In this instance, there are no fee charges for the processing of your request by this office.

Commander, Carrier Strike Group NINE, USS RUSSELL (DDG 59) and Naval History and Heritage Command (NNHC) conducted a thorough search of their spaces and provided responsive records for processing. Our review of the responsive records reveal that they contain personal identifiers of third parties (such as names and/or social security numbers), release of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Further, portion of the responsive material contains technical data with military or space application in the possession of, or under the control of, the Department of Defense. Pursuant to the provisions of FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) and (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. § 130, your request must be partially denied in order to withhold this information.

If you have questions regarding the processing of your request, you may contact Mr. Juan Lopez, Command FOIA Coordinator, at (619) 437-2206 or email: [juan.r.lopez@navy.mil](mailto:juan.r.lopez@navy.mil). With any adverse determination, you have the right to seek dispute resolution from the Department of the Navy FOIA Public Liaison by contacting Mr. Christopher Julka at (703) 697-0031 or email: [christopher.a.julka@navy.mil](mailto:christopher.a.julka@navy.mil).

September 15, 2021

You have the right to appeal if you are not satisfied with this response. It must be received within **90 calendar days** from the date of this letter. Please provide a letter requesting an appeal, with a copy of your initial request and a copy of the letter of denial, in an envelope marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal" or "Appeal of Records."

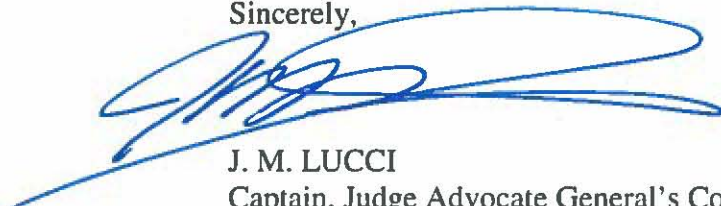
You are encouraged (though not required) to provide an explanation why you believe the redactions were inappropriate or our search was inadequate. You may file your appeal by one of the two methods below:

1. FOIA Online: This will work only if you set up an account on FOIA Online before you make the request that you would like to appeal. To set up an account, go to FOIA Online ([www.foiaonline.gov](http://www.foiaonline.gov)), and click "Create Account" (a link located within the blue banner at the top in the upper right corner). Enter your data into the field that subsequently appears and click "Save" (at the bottom left of the screen). With your account, you will have the ability to file an appeal on FOIA Online to any request you submit on FOIA Online. To submit your appeal, navigate to the "Search" tab and click on the "Search For" field. Enter your request tracking number or a keyword. When the request is populated, locate the "Create Appeal" tab on the left side of the screen. Complete the fields and "Save" and the system will automatically submit your appeal.

2. By Mail: Department of the Navy  
Office of the Judge Advocate General (CODE 14)  
1322 Patterson Ave, SE, Suite 3000  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

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: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at (202) 741-5770; toll free at (877) 684-6448 or fax at (202) 741-5769. For more information, visit: <https://www.archives.gov/ogis/about-ogis/contact-information>.

Sincerely,



J. M. LUCCI  
Captain, Judge Advocate General's Corps  
U.S. Navy  
Force Judge Advocate  
By Direction of the Commander

Enclosure: (1) Responsive records

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

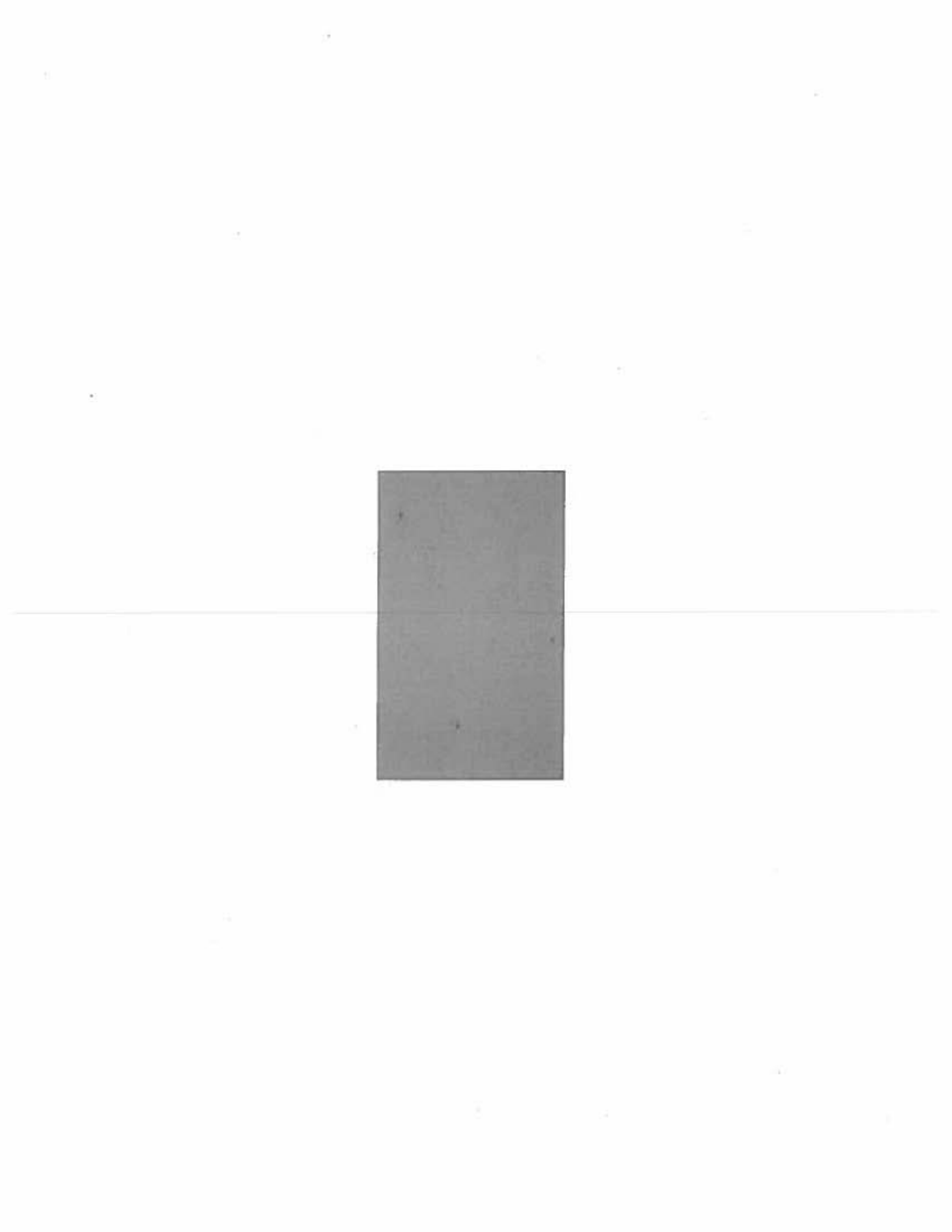
# The Black Vault

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document clearinghouse in the world. The research efforts here are  
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released by the U.S. Government & Military.

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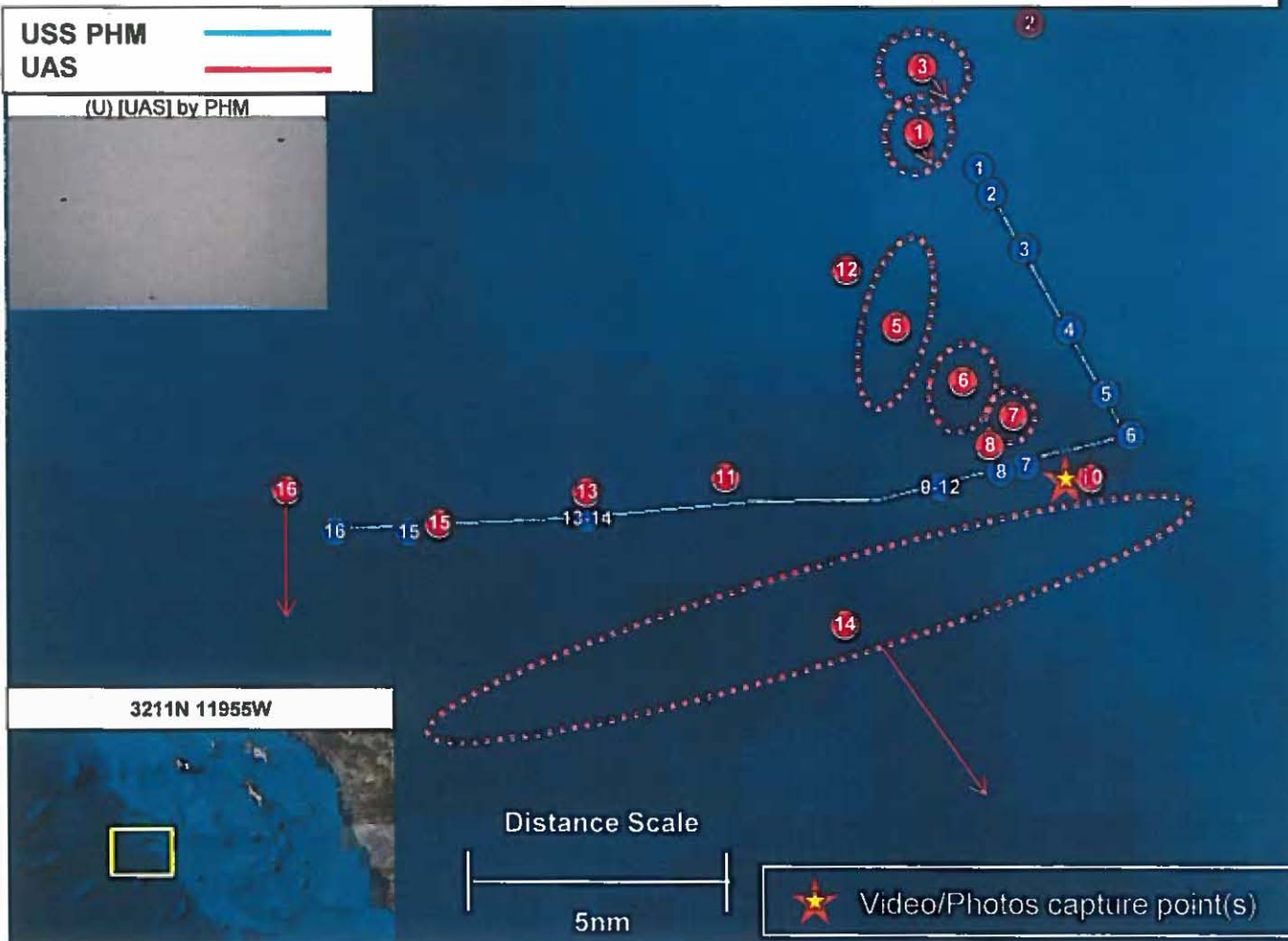
## 17 JUL 19: USS PAULHAMILTON Interaction with UAS



**BLUF:** (U) USS PAUL HAMILTON (PHM) conducting routine operations in the SOCAL OPAREA encountered multiple interactions with multiple UAS platforms approximately 80nm SW of San Clemente Island, CA. No impact to PHM mission.

USS PHM  
UAS

(U) [UAS] by PHM



### Timeline of Events

- 0256-0259Z: UAS @ 1NM BRG 340T -> 237T @ 2NM (3215.8N 11950.8W)
- 0302Z: UAS BRG 009T @ 10NM
- 0310Z-0316Z: UAS, BRG 312T @ 4NM -> BRG 307T @ 3NM -> BRG 300T @ 2NM
- 0321Z: 2 UAS BRG 003T; ONE SPLASH IN WATER
- 0326: MULTIPLE UAS BRG 268 - 322
- 0330-36Z: UAS BRG 318 @ 7NM -> BRG 307T @ 6.5NM (3211.3N 11947.9W)
- 0340Z: UAV APPR STB BM, 355T @ 3.5NM. BRIDGE SEE RED FLASHING LIGHTS
- 0346Z: POSS UAV BRG 340T (RED FLASHING LIGHTS) 500-800FT
- 0348-57Z: UAS BRG 317 @ 50-55NM, 400FT
- 0350Z: UAS SWARM AT 5NM 321021N 1195042W (3210.2N 11952.8W)
- 0354Z: UAS BRG 281T, 4.8NM, 1.5KFT
- 0356Z: UAS BRG 344, 4NM 2K FT
- 0511Z: UAV DIRECTLY OVERHEAD 2K FT MOVING SE (3209.9N 11958.9W)
- 0512Z: ALL UAVS APPEAR TO BE ON COURSE 152T AT 60KTS
- 0520: BRIDGE REPORTS 1 UAS ASTERN OUTBOUND SE
- 0539Z: BRIDGE REPORTS UAS ~2K FT CROSSING BOW STB -> PRT (3209.7N 12003.8W)

Current as of 170539Z JUL 2019

USS PAUL HAMILTON

UNCLASSIFIED

The Courage to Prevail