



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

5720
Ser DNS-36RM/22U113362
April 5, 2022

Sent via email to: john@greenewald.com

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

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act (PA) request dated November 17, 2021. Your request was received in our office on the same day and assigned case number DON-NAVY-2022-001613.

In the course of processing your FOIA request this office contacted, Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic (AIRLANT) and the Navy Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) to conduct a search for applicable records. Accordingly, those offices searched their local files for records relating to "I respectfully request a copy of records (which includes videos/photos), electronic or otherwise, of the following: ALL documents pertaining to a January 2019 briefing by an F-18 pilot from VFA-103, stationed at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia Beach, Virginia. This briefing was revealed in FOIA Case DON-NAVY-2021-010546, and was referred to in the following way: "Anomalous Aerial Vehicle Encounter brief to SASC PSMS. On 16 Jan, an F/A-18 pilot from VFA-103, met with SASC PSMS. SASC PSMS have continuing interest in unidentified aerial vehicle intercepts that have occurred in the working airspace off the U.S. east coast, and gave a detailed brief on his personal encounter". I ask that you include all records that pertain to this briefing. This would include, but not be limited to, emails, reports, power point presentations, letters, memos, VIDEOS, PHOTOS, etc., that may pertain to this request. I ask that you use your best discretion on the officials searched for responsive emails. You can limit the scope of this request for documents dated January 1, 2018 through to the date of processing this request".

OLA has identified 1 document totaling 4 pages that are responsive to your request. Portion of this record have been deemed classified and are partially exempt from disclosure in under exemption **5 U.S.C. § 552 (b) (1)** which protects national

security information concerning the national defense or foreign policy from disclosure, provided that it has been properly classified in accordance with the substantive and procedural requirements of Executive Order 13526.

Upon review of this record, it has been determined that they contain instances of deliberative process privileged material, are predecisional in nature, and/or contain working versions of documents, and are thus exempt from disclosure under **5 U.S.C. § 552(b) (5)**. These records were originated by or in concert with OLA containing drafts and/or proposals of documents not in their final form, and, therefore, are partially exempt from disclosure.

It has also determined that they contain instances of personally identifiable information (PII), such as the names, email addresses, and telephone numbers of individuals. These instances of PII are exempt from disclosure under **5 U.S.C. § 552(b) (6)**, since release of this information would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of their personal privacy. The remainder of the document is released to you.

You have the right to an appeal. It must be received within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Please provide the appellate authority (see below) the following in an envelope marked "FOIA appeal":

- a letter requesting an appeal that explains what you are appealing with any supporting arguments or reasons you think may be worthy of consideration;
- a copy of your initial request;
- a copy of the letter of denial.

Also, please provide me a copy of your appeal letter at DONFOIA-PA@NAVY.MIL. There are two ways to file an appeal: through FOIA online or by mail.

1. Through 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 (this is a website that will appear as the top hit if you search the internet for "FOIA online"), 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 thereby created, you will have the power to file an appeal on FOIA online to any request you file on FOIA online thereafter. To do so, locate your request (enter a

keyword or the request tracking number in the "Search for" field on the "Search" tab), click on it, then the "Create Appeal" tab in the left-hand column. Complete the subsequent field, click "Save," and FOIA online will submit your appeal.

2. By mail. Address your appeal to:

Department of the Navy
Office of the Judge Advocate General (Code 14)
1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

For this determination, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from either the DoD Navy Component FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Chris Julka, at: Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil, via phone: (703) 697-0031; or by contacting the Office of Government Information Services at: (<https://ogis.archives.gov/>), (202) 741-5770, ogis@nara.gov.

Questions regarding the action this office has taken to process your request may be directed to our FOIA Service Center at (202) 685-0412 or via email at donfoia-pa@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

Gregory Cason

G. Cason
Deputy Director,
DON FOIA/PA Program Office

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.

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—Original Message—

From: [REDACTED] OLA, LA-598 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 2:24 PM
To: [REDACTED] OPNAV [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] OLA, LA-01 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], LA-5 [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
OLA, LA-001 [REDACTED] [REDACTED] OLA,
LA-001A [REDACTED] [REDACTED] OLA, LA-52
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] OPNAV, N2N61X1
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Subject: (U//FOUO) AAR for 16 January F/A-18 Pilot brief to SASC PSMs on Anomalous Aerial Vehicle Detection Event in 2015

Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Admiral,

Provided for your SA, the following is an AAR for the 16 Jan unclassified F/A-18 pilot brief given to SASC PSMs regarding an unresolved aerial vehicle detection event off the coast of Jacksonville in [REDACTED]. This AAR has not been coordinated with any outside office or forwarded to anyone else. [REDACTED]

(b)(5)

Summary: On 16 January, [REDACTED] gave SASC PSMs his account of an instance when he detected an anomalous air vehicle in the Warning Area located [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is currently serving as a pilot in [REDACTED]. During the time of the incident in [REDACTED], he was serving as a Naval Flight Officer (NFO) in [REDACTED]. The overall atmosphere in this meeting was very professional, the PSMs were genuinely interested to hear his account of what happened during his air vehicle detection in [REDACTED]. They continue to show interest in learning more about this types of detections, and they are curious as to the way ahead the Navy intends to take.

In addition to [REDACTED], two Naval Aviators from ONI [REDACTED] were also in attendance at this brief - (b) (6) [REDACTED] and (b) (6) [REDACTED]. Both of them had been a part of squadrons based out of NAS Oceana. While they offered no firsthand accounts of detecting anomalous aerial vehicles, they were very familiar with the occurrences and were queried by the PSMs a few times as to what they had observed and learned.

Background: In [REDACTED], (b) (6) [REDACTED] was serving as a Weapon Systems Officer in [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED]. At that time, the squadron was participating in COMPTUEX with the [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] as part of the pre-deployment workup cycle. Towards the end of one of the night flights [REDACTED] was conducting during the at-sea period, he and his pilot detected an air contact via [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] coming from the east and heading towards the ship. Initially thinking it may be a simulated adversary aircraft as part of the COMPTUEX scenario, he took a [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] lock to investigate further. The contact was at approximately [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED].

With a stable trackfile, the two aircrew determined that it was not a "false hit" and they were able to gain a lock via the [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED], which further indicated the vehicle had a [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED]. It became clear via [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED].

The pilot maneuvered the [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] to maintain [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] lock in an effort to [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED]. The air vehicle appeared to be shaped like [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] In Dec 2017, a portion of that video was aired by the press, and Congressional interest in these sightings began to grow.

PSM Interest Areas:

- The staffers asked if the objects seemed aware of the [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] or the Navy ships in the area. The staffers also asked [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] if he knew if the [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] observed the unidentified craft via radar as he did.
- Staffers were interested in the shape of the unidentified object and how it compared to the [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] objects identified by other pilots.
- Staffers were interested in the amount of experience [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] had and the amount of flight hours he had. They were very respectful of his opinions and thoughts based on his 700 plus hours of experience at the time.
- Staffers also asked about the action the Navy took following [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] return to the ship to include his debrief by the intelligence professionals and actions taken by the CVW Staff, Commander of the Strike Group and others throughout the Chain of Command. The staffers were disappointed by the lack of action taken by the Navy. They also wondered what happened to the video evidence of the encounter. The staffers also asked if [REDACTED] (b) (1) [REDACTED] was forced to take a drug test following the incident or was harassed.
- The staffers also asked about the chain of custody of the video of the encounter. The Staffers are generally disappointed that the Navy does not

save any video of these encounters and the chain of custody is lacking.

- Overall, the Staffers desired [redacted] to spread the word that Congress is interested in this topic and are willing to hear about their experiences.

- Staffers asked all three Naval Aviators why they had the perception that the unidentified objects were [redacted] (b)(1). The staffers were shocked that the range fowlers in 2014 - 2015 [redacted] (b)(1).

[redacted] (b)(1) That is the first time a pilot communicated to the staffers [redacted] to a large extent.

- Finally, The SSCI staffer wanted to know the official Navy response and reaction to these reports and observances.

- The staffers indicated that Sen Reed, Sen Durbin and Sen Menendez were all interested in this topic and will likely desire to talk with pilots directly who have observed these unexplained craft.

- The SASC staffers indicated there is a low possibility that this topic will come up during the CNO's posture hearings scheduled for Feb - Mar 2019.

[redacted] (b)(5)

V/r.

[redacted] (b)(5)

[redacted] (b)(6)
Navy Office of Legislative Affairs, Aviation Programs

[redacted] (b)(6)
[redacted] (b)(6)

Attendees:

- [redacted] (b)(6), SASC PSM
- [redacted] (b)(6), SASC PSM
- [redacted] (b)(6), SSCI PSM
- [redacted] (b)(6), SSCI Detailee for Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

Navy Attendees:

- [redacted] (b)(6)
- [redacted] (b)(6), ONI
- [redacted] (b)(6), ONI
- [redacted] (b)(6), ONI
- [redacted] (b)(6), N2/N6 AO

OLA Escorts:

- [redacted] (b)(6), Aviation Portfolio
- [redacted] (b)(6), Intelligence Portfolio (N2/N6)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Classification: ~~SECRET/NOFORN~~

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DERIVED FROM: UAP SCG ID# 04-030
DECLASSIFY ON: 20461231**

Classification: ~~SECRET/NOFORN~~