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
Mr. John R. Greenewald  
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 April 26, 2019. Your request was received in our office on the same day and assigned case number DON-NAVY-2019-006272.

In the course of processing your FOIA request this office contacted the Deputy CNO for Information Warfare (OPNAV N2/N6) to conduct a search for applicable records. Accordingly, that office searched their local files for records relating to "ALL emails sent TO / FROM (or cc'd or bcc'd) Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, which include the following keyword: "UFO" and/or "unidentified aircraft..."".

OPNAV N2/N6 has identified 2 records totaling 63 pages that are responsive to your request. Upon review of these records, 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).

It has also determined that they contain instances of personally identifiable information (PII), such as the names and e-mail addresses. 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.

Because your request is partially denied, you are advised of your right to appeal this determination by writing to:

Office of the Judge Advocate General  
1322 Patterson Ave SE Ste 3000  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Your appeal must be postmarked within ninety calendar days from the date of this letter. A copy of your initial request and this letter must accompany the appeal. The appeal should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL" both on the envelope and the face of the 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 decision to be in error.
In this instance, the fees associated with the processing of your request are waived, but this action is not indicative of how future requests will be handled.

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,

[Signature]

R. Strong
Deputy Director,
DON FOIA/PA Program Office
We received this query about the “UFO” story that has been in the news cycle lately. There is a document that he is asking about regarding the release of information to the public. Can you advise please? Thank you.

V/r,

Hello,

This is [Non-DoD Source] We spoke on the phone this morning. I have attached a DD1910 Clearance Request that was released by KLAS in Las Vegas last night. I want to verify that the document is real and ask for any comments you all may have regarding the videos and/or the form. The DD1910 is for the release of FLIR videos captured by F18s, one of which has been making news.

Here is a link to the KLAS story: https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/exclusive-i-team-confirms-pentagon-did-release-info-videos/1963912703

Kind regards,
Good Morning Sir,

Is there a message that we would share with reporters? I'm not familiar with the normal practices on this kind of thing. Thank you!

V/r,

Sincerely,

One final question that I did not realize until after I pressed send.

I see the statement was updated, and it is no longer referenced as a draft, indicating that the message to the fleet has been sent. Is it possible to get a copy of this message?

Thank you again!
Good Morning,

Here is the updated statement on this

"There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated airspace in recent years. For safety and security concerns, the Navy and the USAF take these reports very seriously and investigate each and every report. As part of this effort, the Navy is updating and formalizing the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions can be made to the cognizant authorities. A message to the fleet details the steps for reporting each incident. In response to requests for information from Congressional members and staff, Navy officials have provided a series of briefings by senior Naval Intelligence officials as well as aviators who reported hazards to aviation safety." Attributed to Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare.

Thank you

V/r,
it is public? Also, are there any documents / releases to support the reporting by Politico? Lastly, does the NAVY feel this story is best representing the reality behind these new “regulations” that Politico cites? I appreciate your time. Any response to can offer is much appreciated! Sincerely, (b)(6)
Good afternoon Sir,

CBS this morning would still like to talk to you on background about the unidentified aerial phenomena issue still. What would be a good day for you? Thank you!

V/r,
(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2019 12:45 PM
To: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: CBS National News Request

Hi (b)(6),

I hope you’re doing well. Checking in to see if there may be a good time to chat with Mr. Grandisher soon. My schedule is mostly open. Please let me know when may be a good time.

Thank you for your help.

Best,

(b)(6)
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 3:03 PM  
To: [b](6)  
Subject: RE: CBS National News Request

<External Email>

Not a problem! I will get back to you on times next week. Thanks!

V/r,

----Original Message----
From: [b](6)  
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 2:52 PM  
To: [b](6)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: CBS National News Request

Hi [b](6)  

Thank you for getting back to me. I can wait until next week to chat, if that is easier. Please let me know when would be a good time. Thank you!

Best,

[b](6)  

> On Apr 26, 2019, at 2:41 PM, [b](6) wrote:  
>  
> <External Email>  
>  
> > Good Afternoon [b](6),  
> >  
> > Our subject matter expert Mr. Joseph Gradisher is very busy today but  
> > could speak with you on background about this topic for 5 minutes  
> > around 4 pm. If you wanted to talk more in depth on background with  
> > him we could schedule sometime for next week. Please let me know, thanks.  
> >  
> > V/r,
Good afternoon,

here from CBS This Morning with Gayle King, Norah O’Donnell, and John Dickerson. I hope you’re doing well.

For an upcoming broadcast, we would like to take a closer look at the new guidelines proposed by the Navy for unexplained aerial phenomena:

I am hoping to speak with a public affairs officer to learn a bit more about what is being put in place and to see if anyone may be available for a short interview to explain the importance and significance of increased study on this matter.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this request. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Good afternoon Sir,

CBS this morning would still like to talk to you on background about the unidentified aerial phenomena issue still. What would be a good day for you? Thank you!

V/r,

-----Original Message-----
Hi LT,

I hope you’re doing well. Checking in to see if there may be a good time to chat with Mr. Grandisher soon. My schedule is mostly open. Please let me know when may be a good time.

Thank you for your help.

Best,
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 3:03 PM
To: >
Subject: RE: CBS National News Request

<External Email>

Not a problem! I will get back to you on times next week. Thanks!

V/r,

------Original Message------
From: >
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2019 2:52 PM
To: >
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: CBS National News Request

Hi LT,

Thank you for getting back to me. I can wait until next week to chat, if that is easier. Please let me know when would be a good time. Thank you!

Best,

> On Apr 26, 2019, at 2:41 PM, > wrote:
> 
> >
> > <External Email>
> >
> >
> > Good Afternoon,
> >
> > Our subject matter expert Mr. Joseph Gradisher is very busy today but could speak with you on background about this topic for 5 minutes around 4 pm. If you wanted to talk more in depth on background with him we could schedule sometime for next week. Please let me know, thanks.
> >
> > V/r,
Good afternoon,

here from CBS This Morning with Gayle King, Norah O'Donnell, and John Dickerson. I hope you're doing well.


I am hoping to speak with a public affairs officer to learn a bit more about what is being put in place and to see if anyone may be available for a short interview to explain the importance and significance of increased study on this matter.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this request. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Sir,

Here is another regarding some follow up questions on the UFO story.

V/r,

(B)(6)

-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:41 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Media Query from Navy.mil website (CAPTCHA verified)

Good evening. My name is (b)(6) and I'm a reporter for The Hill. Today I read a few reports saying that the Navy is standardizing its procedures for reporting UFO sightings and I was wondering if someone could tell me why this is being done? How frequently do Navy officers report seeing UFOs? I'm writing on deadline and would appreciate a quick reply. I can be reached at (b)(6)
Sir,

Got the below query from CNN, sent them the original statement for now.

V/r,

-----Original Message-----
From: Chinfo Duty Officer
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 12:34 PM
To: Chinfo Duty Officer
Subject: Media Query from Navy.mil website (CAPTCHA verified)

Hi all, I'm a writer with CNN working on a story about how the US Navy is changing its process by which personnel can report sightings of UFOs and UAPs—taking a more proactive approach in embracing investigations into the unknown. Is there someone who can talk with me about the process and how the Navy hopes to make those institutional changes? We're hoping to get a story out later this afternoon and email is Thanks so
Hi Navy, I’m a freelance contributing writer to Aerospace America, the magazine of the AIAA. I’m working on a feature story about the reporting of UFOs/UAPs by pilots, especially within the Navy, which has been in the news lately regarding the drafting of guidelines for such reports. I am hoping to speak with someone within the Navy briefly (~10 minutes) via phone as well to get some more information about the motivations, significance, and outlook for these new guidelines. As I understand Joseph Gradisher has fielded inquiries about these guidelines in the press, he may be the best point of contact. My deadline is 5/24, so please get back to me as soon as possible. Thank you for your help!
Sir,

Got some queries on this in the inbox for CHINFO duty, how would you like us to handle these? Thank you!

V/r,

-----Original Message-----
From: Grady, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 8:10 PM
To: Grady, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Subject: Media Query from Navy.mil website (CAPTCHA verified)

To whom it may concern, Today, Politico ran a story about new "UFO Regulations." For some background, I have produced (and am working on new) programs regarding this (and many other related) areas for networks such as History Channel, Discovery Channel, National Geographic Channel and more. For my credits, refer to: https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1825298/ That said, I'd like to enquire on how much truth there is to this article? There was no named source, but Politico referenced a "Navy Statement" (but failed to publish the entire thing, as of the writing of this letter.) Can I get a copy of this "statement"; as I assume it is public? Also, are there any documents/releases to support the reporting by Politico? Lastly, does the NAVY feel this story is best representing the reality behind these new "regulations" that Politico cites? I appreciate your time. Any response to can offer is much appreciated!

Sincerely,
I sent this to the Front office and N2N6 front office but not you. Sorry about that.

Did CHinfo reach out to you yet?

V/r

On Feb 25, 2019, at 9:52 AM, wrote:

Sir,

Please see below. Navy Chinfo will be contacting N2N6 to coordinate a response. FYSA, VADM Kohler did brief the SASC Seapower Subcommittee in December.

V/r

-----Original Message-----

From: 
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 9:06 AM
To: Stratton, John F (Jay) SES USN NIMITZ OPINTELcen DC (US)
Cc: 
Subject: FW: POLITICO query

Good morning. Please see below. BL: Reporters from Politico are asking around about things related to work. Chinfo will be contacting N2N6 directly to craft a message.
-----Original Message-----
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 12:36 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: POLITICO query

Do you know anything about below?

V/r

Sir,

Did OLA give a brief on this?

V/r

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 22, 2019 11:25:15 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: POLITICO query

Sir,
-----Original Message-----
From: Unknown
Sent: Thursday, February 21, 2019 12:22 PM
To: Unknown
Cc: Unknown
Subject: FW: POLITICO query

Team - Please see the below. Can you please check into it? I noticed on a previous OLA weekly there was a brief to some staffers on from a similar sounding program office. Happy to hand this over to whomever is best positioned to respond.

VR/

From: Unknown
Sent: Tuesday, February 19, 2019 3:02 PM
To: Unknown
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] POLITICO query

Sir,

Thanks for your help trying to catch this curve ball.

Here is my piece on the original Pentagon program established as a congressional earmark and subsequently wound down.


The Times also covered it at the time:

What I am trying to chase down now are details regarding what I am told was a recent briefing by a two-star admiral to nine senators – some members of armed services and some from intel -- on the these unexplained sightings by military pilots – including more recent ones.

I am also told that there is now a formal Navy effort to assess these reports (since the Pentagon office we wrote about is no longer operating) as a part of the growing interest in Congress.

Again, appreciate any help or guidance you can provide.

Happy hunting. 😊
Team - Please see the below. Can you please check into it? I noticed on a previous OLA weekly there was a brief to some staffers on from a similar sounding program office. Happy to hand this over to whomever is best positioned to respond.

VR/ Greg

Sir,

Thanks for your help trying to catch this curve ball.

Here is my piece on the original Pentagon program established as a congressional earmark and subsequently wound down.

[Non-DoD Source] POLITICO query


The Times also covered it at the time:


What I am trying to chase down now are details regarding what I am told was a recent briefing by a two-star admiral to nine senators – some members of armed services and some from intel -- on these unexplained sightings by military pilots – including more recent ones.

I am also told that there is now a formal Navy effort to assess these reports (since the Pentagon office we wrote about is no longer operating) as a part of the growing interest in Congress.

Again, appreciate any help or guidance you can provide.

Happy hunting. 😊
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 30, 2019 12:53 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: D e N O N 2 N6 (US)
Subject: FW: US Navy Statement

Can you update our UFO PAG with the below statement and send to (b)(6) and Mr. Gradisher today?

Thank you. See below.

Best and v/r,

From: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)  
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 4:36 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: US Navy Statement

This was in response to a query that came into the desk while I was there a short while ago....

Joe Gradisher
Captain, U.S. Navy (ret)
N2N6 Strategic Engagements

From: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)  
Sent: Monday, April 29, 2019 4:35 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: US Navy Statement

Here’s what we’ve released.
"There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space in recent years. For safety and security concerns, the Navy and the USAF take these reports very seriously and investigate each and every report. As part of this effort, the Navy is updating previous guidance and formalizing the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions can be made to the cognizant authorities. A message to the fleet details the steps for reporting each incident. In response to requests for information from Congressional members and staff, Navy officials have provided a series of briefings by senior Naval Intelligence officials as well as aviators who reported hazards to aviation safety."

Attributed to Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare.

Joe Gradisher
Captain, U.S. Navy (ret)
N2N6 Strategic Engagements

(b)(6)
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 4:00 PM
To: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: Hill Interest in Politico “UFO” article
Signed By: (b)(6)

Joe,


OLA is responding to interest from staff members of both chambers of Congress, led by the national security advisors to Senators McConnell (majority leader) and Schumer (minority leader) and will also likely include House staff, as well as staff from the Armed Services Committees. With N2N6 concurrence, Mr. Jay Stratton (DISL, ONI NIMITZ) will brief Congressional staff in a classified session on Tues 7 May on the Navy’s efforts in this area.

Primary OLA POC will be (b)(6) secondary will be myself (supporting).

V/r, (b)(6)
Dear Mr. Gradisher,

I hope this email meets you well. I work as a television producer and writer in Los Angeles. I can get you a list of credits, if needed. I also have a very large archive of government records, in which I write extensively about various issues, along with appearing on various television shows and radio programs. (I say those things only to express the media background – if you need additional information, let me know).

I had a few questions relating to the recent announcement of the Navy’s “UFO” Guidelines, and your recent statement that the public will not gain access to any of the information.

Would you mind if I sent you some questions via email? What concerns me, if you are unaware, is the corporation “To The Stars Academy of Arts and Science” led by rock star Tom DeLonge, has been taking credit for the Navy’s change of policy via his Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/officialtomdelonge/ . Chris Mellon, a board member of the same corporation, is also taking credit via media channels: https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/exclusive-isteam-confirms-pentagon-did-release-ufo-videos/1963912703 And lastly, Luis Elizondo, another board member of the same corporation, is giving quotes through a blogger that despite the official Navy statement by yourself, that there will be a public aspect of all of this, essentially going against the Navy’s statement. His words through the blogger, are located here: https://www.facebook.com/alejandro.rojas.in.space

Although I do have a few questions, the most pressing (since I will be doing some radio and an upcoming television interview about this) is authenticating what this corporation is saying in relation to the change in Navy policy.

Most pressing question: is there truth to what the board members of To The Stars Academy are saying? The first part of the question, is authenticate them taking credit for causing the change, and the second part, is despite the Navy’s official position, Mr. Elizondo seemingly is speaking publicly (through bloggers) essentially like a spokesperson, and I am curious if he is even cleared to offer such statements? Since his background as a government employee through OSD (and claim that he headed a UFO Project there) is seemingly paving the way for him to make statements, and allow him to say there “will definitely be” public aspects. I am seeking to authenticate that all.

I appreciate your insight to the above, and hope I can shoot a few more questions, if that’s ok?

Thank you!

Sincerely,
1) Good Morning Sir,

Here is the response to your query:

1) Why was the program going to be put in place?

The wide proliferation and availability of inexpensive unmanned aerial systems (UAS), such as commercially available quadcopters, has increasingly made airspace de-confliction an issue for our aviators. In this increasingly complex airspace including both military and civilian aviation environments, the US Navy is proactive in exercising due diligence in investigating any observation in training areas that could affect the safety of our aircrews. Based on this increased airspace complexity, US Navy aircrews were provided with reporting instructions in order to determine the frequency and location of any UAS operating in our training areas.

2) Why is it important that these procedures are in place?

Military and civilian aviation have always had channels for reporting airspace violations and hazards to aviation safety authorities. However, they recognized that more specific guidelines were needed in order to bring consistency to the reporting. The US Navy continues to operate and train safely throughout the world.

3) Will the reports of the service be made available to the public? If not, why not?

The information obtained from each individual report of any suspected training range incursion will continue to be investigated in its own right. The information obtained in these reports will be catalogued and analyzed for the purpose of identifying any hazard to our aviators. This process could involve multiple Department of Defense and Intelligence Community organizations. Military aviation safety organizations always retain reporting of hazards to aviation as privileged information in order to preserve the free and honest prioritization and discussion of safety among aircrew. Furthermore, any report generated as a result of these investigations will, by necessity, include classified information on military operations. Therefore, no release of information to the general public is expected.

Thank you.

V/r,

(b)(6)
Subject: CTV News - request for comment on Navy draft on UFO reporting by pilots

Date: May 6, 2019 at 9:22:28 AM CDT

To: "(b)(6)"

Morning,

My name is (b)(6) a reporter from CTV News in Canada and I’m hoping to match the statement being given to outlets like Politico and The Washington Post about the U.S. Navy drafting a procedure to investigate and catalogue reports of unidentified flying objects coming in from its pilots. I’m hoping to be connected with Joe Gradisher, a spokesman for the office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare.

Please let me know who can help!

I’d like to know:

1) Why was the program going to be put in place?
2) Why is it important that these procedures are in place?
3) Will the reports of the service be made available to the public? If not, why not?
   a. Couldn’t the Navy theoretically release broad stats about sightings and the results of investigations without disclosing classified information.
4) Former U.S. officials told the Washington Post that with a more formalized, way to investigate reports from pilots, there will be less of a stigma of armed forced of reporting such incidents. Why do you think there was a stigma in reporting it?

My number is (b)(6) if it’s easier to respond by phone.
The message is out... but due to the operational and aircraft specific nature of these guidelines, security considerations preclude their disclosure.

Joe Gradisher
Captain, U.S. Navy (ret)
N2N6 Strategic Engagements

I will have to defer to Mr. Gradisher on that one (CC’ed).

Vr.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)
On Apr 25, 2019, at 2:43 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for the call. Below is the statement as discussed. You may attributed it to Mr. Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare.

“There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space in recent years. For safety and security concerns, the Navy and the USAF take these reports very seriously and investigate each and every report. As part of this effort, the Navy is updating and formalizing the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions can be made to the cognizant authorities. A message to the fleet details the steps for reporting each incident. In response to requests for information from Congressional members and staff, Navy officials have provided a series of briefings by senior Naval Intelligence officials as well as aviators who reported hazards to aviation safety.”

Vr,
(b)(6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)
Hi,

Here’s the email follow-up.

If I could get the various Navy comments used by Politico and Wash Post on the upcoming Navy guidance, that would be great.

Thanks!

Military Writer

500 Ala Moana Blvd., Tower 7, Suite 210
Honolulu, HI 96813
Office
Cell
Email:
From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, May 7, 2019 7:58 AM
To: Gradisher, Joseph F (IV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] UFOs

Bueno--thanks!

-----Original Message-----
From: Gradisher, Joseph F (IV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Sent: Monday, May 06, 2019 5:03 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] UFOs

Actually, Jay Stratton at ONI provided most of the info I used to respond to media queries.

Joe

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

Hey Joe!

Remember me from Navy FLO...the guy before the famous... First, I hope all is well. Anyway...I'm here at ODNI working this and that. Here a group was discussing the press reports about the Navy's new process, office (?) for dealing with aviators' reports of "UFOs". They remembered that I'm former Navy and asked who might know more about this report. I first just told them to call CHINFO, but then I saw your name in one story and I got a lightbulb over my head, so I figured I just ask if you knew anyone that knew the 5Ws, etc. No research project, just if you happen to know. Hey, you never know!

Anyway, all the best to the N2N6 and all that-and thanks!
That’s helpful. We will advise the LT accordingly. His call on whether he wants to speak about his personal experience. We have the PAG and can refer to ARLANT or N2/N6 if they want to go there.

V/R,

From: [b][6]
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 9:47 AM
To: [b][6]
Cc: [b][6]
Subject: RE: Queries about UFO Sighting

Thanks for the note. Attached is the latest UAP PAG with statement that was cleared through CNO and N2/N6. Looping in Mr. Gradisher and Gold Team if you need anything else.

v/r

[b][6]
From: [b](6)
Sent: Thursday, May 9, 2019 12:00 PM
To: [b](6)
Cc: Hicks, Gregory L CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA)

Subject: Queries about UFO Sighting

[b],

A VT-9 instructor pilot has been contacted by NYT and A&E about a potential UFO sighting which occurred in the Atlantic in 2015. He was flying with his WSO from THEODORE ROOSEVELT when they noticed a flying object that had a heat signature that was unlike any aircraft they had seen.

The WSO—who now works at the Pentagon—has already spoken to A&E and NYT, and given our guy to them as a potential person who could corroborate his story.

We will not speak to the press...just wondering what guidance you have for us...as we’ve seen stories recently on this issue. He will not respond until he gets clearance from us. Please advise your thoughts on this query.

V/R,

[b]
- thank you again for the heads up on this issue. Sorry our schedules did not align, but I did have the opportunity to review the documents today.

Greatly appreciated.

Moving forward, let me know if/how I can help.

All the best -

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)
From: Miller, DeWolfe H VADM USN COMNAVAIRPAC SAN CA (USA)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 5:03 PM
To: Wright, B Lynn SES USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) >
Cc: Kohler, Matthew J VADM USN (USA), Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) ; Reynolds, Jason A SES USN (USA)
Subject: RE: WASHINGTON POST follow-up Query on Politico story

- good timing. I will be in the building tomorrow and Friday.

My Friday meetings end before noon, so I’ll have my Aide see if we can align schedules to discuss, or at a minimum, provide me the opportunity to swing by and read the background paper.

Thanks and VR -

Sent with BlackBerry Work (www.blackberry.com)

From: Wright, B Lynn SES USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)
Date: Wednesday, Apr 24, 2019, 3:34 PM
To: Miller, DeWolfe H VADM USN COMNAVAIRPAC SAN CA (USA)
Cc: Kohler, Matthew J VADM USN (USA), Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Subject: FW: WASHINGTON POST follow-up Query on Politico story

Wanted to make sure you are tracking an uptick in press interest in the range fouling activity for Oceana. Politico article came out last night, dealing with WASHPOST and potentially a NY Times article this afternoon. Potentially Fox News Network today as well.

**U.S. Navy drafting new guidelines for reporting UFOs**
The service says it has also "provided a series of briefings by senior Naval Intelligence officials as well as aviators who reported hazards to aviation safety."

Read in POLITICO: [https://apple.news/ARhbdnHlfr3aFQYaC0tevsw](https://apple.news/ARhbdnHlfr3aFQYaC0tevsw)

Below is our response to the follow-up questions from the Washington Post. We will send to Jason on JWICS the background paper for your information.

VR, Lynn

**B. Lynn Wright**
Safety of aircrew is always a paramount concern to the US Navy and the Department of Defense. The wide proliferation and availability of inexpensive unmanned aerial systems (UAS) such as commercially available quadcopters has increasingly made airspace de-confliction an issue for our aviators. In this increasingly complex airspace including both military and civilian aviation environments, the US Navy is proactive in exercising due diligence in investigating any observation in training areas that could affect the safety of our aircrew. Based on this increased airspace complexity, US Navy aircrew were provided with reporting instructions in order to determine the frequency and location of any UAS operating in our training areas.

In response to past reports, the US Navy issued guidelines for responses to observations. Based on continued reporting under those guidelines, the US Navy has decided to further develop ways to help better understand the source and nature of the observations. As an example, in 2012 there were a number of lasing events near Naval Air Station Oceana, the US Navy took these hazards to aviation very seriously and working with Law Enforcement identified and prosecuted the individual. While the US Navy acknowledges that these hazards to aviation may be inadvertent or unintended, just as with the lasing events, the US Navy remains vigilant in addressing any and all hazards to aviation.

We are currently updating guidelines to be more aircraft specific in order to facilitate reports that support an objective data driven analysis while helping to remove any stigmas from reporting anything unknown in the airspace. Due to the operational and aircraft specific nature of these guidelines, security considerations preclude their disclosure. The US Navy is at the forefront of this effort but works across the Department of Defense to ensure other service partners maintain awareness for the safety of their aircrew. The US Navy is not working with any entities outside of the US government.

Military and civilian aviation has always had channels for reporting airspace violations and hazards to aviation safety. However, based on the enhanced guidelines that were implemented reporting became more consistent which lead to our recognition that more specific guidelines were needed. The US Navy continues to operate and train safely throughout the world.
Will have something in the next 90 minutes or so.

Make sure the Post understands that – we will have good answers that will be helpful for the article. Just need a little time.

Thanks, lynn

From: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) <b[6]>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 12:10 PM
To: Wright, B Lynn SES USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) <b[6]>; Stratton, John F (Jay) SES USN NIMITZ OPINTELCEN DC (USA) <b[6]>
Hicks, Gregory L CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) <b[6]>
Subject: WASHINGTON POST follow-up Query on Politico story

Not surprisingly, in response to the Politico article, CHINFO has received queries from a number of other media outlets.

In response, they provided the statement we used for politico (attached).

In the email below to CHINFO, the Washington Post had some follow-up questions.

Can we put together something to responds to the Post?

Has the draft guidance been finalized/released? Is it a classified or unclassified directive?

They want to publish this afternoon!

Regards,

Joe

Joe Gradisher
Captain, U.S. Navy (ret)
N2N6 Strategic Engagements
Hello, I’m still waiting to receive the official statement from you.

As a matter of expediency, below are follow up questions. I’d appreciate the opportunity to speak with someone this morning. We’re aiming to publish early afternoon.

- What does the U.S. Navy constitute as a strange aerial sighting, for purposes of the new guidelines?
- The statement published by POLITICO says, “There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space in recent years.” Can you elaborate on what this means?
  - Is “recent years” the last two years? Five? Ten?
  - Has there been an increase in sighting over that time period or has it remained constant? What prompted the Navy to draft these guidelines now?
  - How many sightings have there been?
- What are the drafted guidelines? Could you provide us with a copy of them?
- Prior to this, was there anything similar in place for unidentified aircraft sightings?
- Are there parallel guidelines for other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, like the Air Force?
- What type of analysis will be conducted?

Thanks so much for sending the statement. Will send follow up questions once received.
Joe,

Enjoying my last day of Leave with the morning paper and a cup of coffee ... and whose name do I see in an article? Bravo Zulu!

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/navy-no-release-of-ufo-information-to-the-general-public-expected/2019/05/01/25ef6426-6b82-11e9-9d56-1c0cf2c7ac04_story.html

The downside is that you will now undoubtedly end up in UFO conspiracy theorist archives!

V/R,