



**DEPARTMENT OF WAR**  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR/JOINT STAFF**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**  
**1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

Ref: 20-F-0163  
April 22, 2026

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

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is a final response to your October 29, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. The Office of the Secretary of War/Joint Staff (OSW/JS) FOIA Requester Service Center received your request on October 30, 2019, and assigned it FOIA case number 20-F-0163. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of War for Public Affairs (OATSW(PA)), a component of OSW, conducted a search of their records systems and located 416 pages determined to be responsive to your request. Ms. Tanya Rose, Information Management Director, OATSW(PA); Mr. David Bennett, Director, DoD Office of Information Counsel Office of General Counsel; C.C. Davison, Chief, Records and Open Government, Defense Intelligence Agency; Mr. Mark Dorgan, Director, FOIA, Privacy and Civil Liberties Office, Department of Defense Office of Inspector General; and Mr. Richard Strong, Director Navy FOIA/PA Program Office, in their capacities as Initial Denial Authorities, have determined that portions of the 416 responsive pages are exempt from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(3), information specifically exempted by a statute establishing particular criteria for withholding, applying 10 U.S.C. § 424 which protects an organization or any function of an organization, and certain information pertaining to, employees of the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office, and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. Information was also withheld pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5), inter- and intra- agency memoranda which are deliberative in nature; this exemption is appropriate for internal documents which are part of the decision-making process, and contain subjective evaluations, opinions and recommendations; (b)(6), information which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of individuals. Please note that we have considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing records and applying exemptions under the FOIA in the processing of this request.

In this instance, fees for processing your request were below the threshold for requiring payment. Please note that fees may be assessed on future requests.

If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Brianna Johnson, at [brianna.n.johnson2.civ@mail.mil](mailto:brianna.n.johnson2.civ@mail.mil) or 571-372-0409. Additionally, if you have concerns about service received by our office, please contact a member of our Leadership Team at 571-372-0498 or Toll Free at 866-574-4970.

Should you wish to inquire about mediation services, you may contact the OSW/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Virginia Burke, by email at [osd.mc-alex.oatsd-pclt.mbx.foia-liaison@mail.mil](mailto:osd.mc-alex.oatsd-pclt.mbx.foia-liaison@mail.mil) or by phone at 571-372-0462. You may also 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, MD 20740  
E-mail: [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Mr. Michael Kremlacek, Acting Principal Deputy to the Secretary of War for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency (PCLT), Office of the Secretary of War, at: 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: PCLFD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox #24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700. Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. Alternatively, you may email your appeal to [osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil](mailto:osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil). If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference FOIA case number 20-F-0163 in any appeal correspondence.

We appreciate your patience in the processing of your request. As stated previously, please contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Brianna Johnson, and reference FOIA case number 20-F-0163, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


*For Charles C. Marye*

Pamela Andrews  
Chief, FOIA

Enclosures:  
As stated

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>

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** AATIP Elizondo & Mellon emails  
**Date:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 2:06:47 PM  
**Attachments:** (b)(5)

---

Bill,

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tue, 4 Jun 2019 12:58:49 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP  
**Attachments:** (b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)  
direct: (b)(6)  
mobile: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)  
www.defense.gov

---

**From:** CHRIS MELLON (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 12:36 PM  
**To:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

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Hi Chris:

Attached are a two examples of the documentation Lue may feel compelled to release if there is not a clarification of his continuing active

role in coordinating activities with Navy and other agencies related to UAP issues right up until his departure and resignation from OSD.

Frankly, it might well be to Lue's benefit and that of TTSA and the History Channel to have a pissing match about this with DoD/OSD but personally I'd hate to see that. I'm glad that does not seem to have occurred to Lue yet but it may become unavoidable if there is not some clarification since his integrity is publicly being called into question.

I also want to point out that Lue insists that he was NOT detailed to DIA, another falsehood according to Lue.

I know your office and its credo very well and fully understand that you and your colleagues are absolutely committed to being as transparent as possible. There is not the least question in my mind regarding your integrity or that of your colleagues in OSD Public Affairs based on serving in OSD during 2 Administrations. However, you have clearly have not been given a full or complete picture on this issue.

I hope this information proves useful. There is much more than this sample. Lue has a lot of friends on the inside who I believe will continue to push out more unclassified information on his behalf if this becomes a pissing match. Indeed one of them will soon be appearing on the History Channel show talking about their work with Lue on these matters AFTER the time period you seem to believe he was no longer involved with AATIP (although that individuals identify is protected).

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Sincerely,

~Christopher Mellon

(b)(6)

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**Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)**

---

**From:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 8:19 AM  
**To:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT (b)(5) letter (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Signed By:** (b)(6)

**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Getting spun back up. Will read and get thoughts back today or tomorrow (at Ft Meade half the day today).

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

**From:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:23 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** DRAFT (b)(5) letter (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Greetings Neil,

(b)(5), (b)(6)

Standing by...

V/R  
Lue

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Classified By:  
Derived From:  
Declassify On:

=====  
Thanks Lue. I'm around next week, but then gone week of the 25th on a/i. For specific date/time, just work with Catherine - I'm not allowed to muck around with my calendar... (but I am in the building all day the 20th).

Yep, have a discussion with (b)(6) tomorrow.  
Thanks  
Neill

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

From: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 3:41 PM  
To: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Subject: Update

Greetings Neil,  
A couple quick items for you...

(b)(5)

- 2) How does this Wednesday look for an hour discussion?
- 3) Lastly, (b)(6) is a friend of the program. I believe you may be speaking with him tomorrow. He is a good man. Just thought you should know...

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

June 24, 2009

Honorable William Lynn III  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
1010 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn:

Beginning this past September, the U.S. Senate has mandated that the Defense Intelligence Agency assess far-term foreign advanced aerospace threats to the United States. The scope of program interest covers from the present out to forty years and beyond. In order to further our effort in recognizing emerging disruptive aerospace technologies, technical studies are being conducted in regard to advanced lift, propulsion, the use of unconventional materials and controls, signature reduction, weaponry, human interface and human effects.

Since the Advanced Aerospace Threat and Identification Program (AATIP) and study were first commissioned, much progress has been made with the identification of several highly sensitive, unconventional aerospace-related findings. Given the current rate of success, the continued study of these subjects will likely lead to technology advancements that in the immediate near-term will require extraordinary protection. Due to the sensitivities of the information surrounding aspects of this program, I require your assistance in establishing a Restricted Special-Access-Program (SAP) with a Bigoted Access List for specific portions of the AATIP.

In order to support this national effort, a small but highly specialized cadre of Department of Defense (DoD) and private sector individuals are necessary. These individuals must be specialized in the areas of advanced sciences, sensors, intelligence/counterintelligence, and advanced aerospace engineering. Given the likelihood that these technologies will be applied to future systems involving space flight, weapons, communications, and propulsion, the standard management and safeguarding procedures for classified information are not sufficient. Even the use of conventional SAP protocols will not adequately ensure that all aspects of the project are properly secured. Although not every aspect of AATIP requires Restricted SAP read-on, the following portions should be maintained at the Restricted SAP level:

- **The methodology used to identify, acquire, study, and engineer the advanced technologies associated with AATIP.**
  - o Specific methodologies used to study unconventional technology may require nuanced approaches that will undoubtedly be of significant interest if not a top priority for adversarial Foreign Intelligence Security Services (FISS).

- o Undue attention by government, or private sector entities, not involved in AATIP or any international interest will directly or indirectly interfere with the daily AATIP mission and perhaps threaten the overall success of the program.
- **Allocation of personnel, support, and oversight.**
  - o Due to the highly specialized nature of the personnel involved with AATIP, the overt acknowledgement of their participation in the program will lead to an unnecessary security and counterintelligence risk.
  - o Occasional assistance from specialized individuals within DoD, the scientific community, or academia may be necessary from time to time based on demonstrated subject matter expertise. Adequate protection of their identities or affiliation is critical to avoid unnecessary scrutiny.
  - o Without the appropriate Restricted SAP protection, the cost associated with a compromise would be significantly higher than the cost associated with a properly administered Restricted SAP.
  - o Protection of industry partnerships and participation is critical. Public awareness of an industry's AATIP affiliation may discourage that industry's further participation with the U.S. Government in this program.
- **Application and engineering.**
  - o The nuanced manner in which some of these technologies will be collected, engineered and applied by the U.S. may require senior level government approval. These decision makers must be afforded the necessary time to make strategic decisions by restricting access to the "big picture" or overall intent of the program to those on a strict Bigoted List.
  - o Associated exotic technologies likely involve extremely sophisticated concepts within the world of quantum mechanics, nuclear science, electromagnetic theory, gravitics, and thermodynamics. Given that all of these have the potential to be used with catastrophic effects by adversaries, an unusually high degree of operational security and read-on discretion is required.

Due to the expertise required to carry out the objectives of this program, we will require a small, specialized group of DoD personnel, who are dedicated to performing the SAP-related functions and executing programmatic requirements within the program. It is essential that the Government & military personnel who are already involved with this program are assigned to further support this program in a Restricted SAP capacity (see Attachment 1). These individuals all currently possess the appropriate security clearances and are already providing unique support to AATIP.

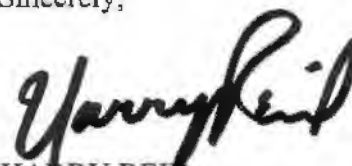
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Ultimately, the results of AATIP will not only benefit the U.S. Government but I believe will directly benefit DoD in ways not yet imagined. The technological insight and capability gained will provide the U.S. with a distinct advantage over any foreign threats and allow the U.S. to maintain its preeminence as a world leader.

Thank you in advance from your time and consideration of this request. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Bob Herbert of my staff at (202) 437-3162.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HARRY REID  
United States Senator

HR:rtb

**Attachment 1**

**Sponsoring Agency:** Undetermined (DEPSECDEF)

**Component-level SAP Central Office:** Undetermined (DEPSECDEF)

**Unclassified Nickname:** Advanced Acrospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP)

**Program Length:** FY09-FY13 (Preliminary)

**Program Funding:** FY09-O&M, FY10-FY13-TBD

**SAP Category Designation:** Intelligence, DoD Acquisition

**FY 10 Preliminary Bigoted List of Government Personnel:**

1. Honorable William Lynn III, Deputy Secretary of Defense (Gov't)
2. Honorable Senator Harry Reid of Nevada (Gov't)
3. Honorable Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii (Gov't)
4. Robert T. Herbert (U.S. Senate)
5. Dr. James Lacatski, DIA (Gov't)
6. Jay Stratton, ONI (Gov't)
7. Jessica Wyatt, DIA (Gov't)
8. Gary Ramsey, ONI (USN)
9. Michael Greene, ONI (USMC)
10. Special Agent Luis Elizondo, USDI (Gov't)
11. Mark Blackwelder, USDI (Gov't)

**FY 10 Preliminary Bigoted List of Contractor Personnel funded under the AATIP:**

1. Robert Bigelow, Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies LLC (BAASS), (CTR)
2. Dr. Colm Kelleher, BAASS (CTR)
3. Dr. Hal Puthoff, BAASS (CTR)

This document contains information exempt from mandatory disclosure under the FOIA. Exemptions 1 and 5 apply.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wed, 5 Jun 2019 10:33:29 -0400  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA); (b)(6)  
(US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP  
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Mr. Carranza,

(b)(5); (b)(6)

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V/r,

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(b)(6)

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**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

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V/r,

(b)(6)

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**From:** CHRIS MELLON (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 12:36 PM  
**To:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

---

Hi Chris:

Attached are a two examples of the documentation Lue may feel compelled to release if there is not a clarification of his continuing active role in coordinating activities with Navy and other agencies related to UAP issues right up until his departure and resignation from OSD.

Frankly, it might well be to Lue's benefit and that of TTSA and the History Channel to have a pissing match about this with DoD/OSD but personally I'd hate to see that. I'm glad that does not seem to have occurred to Lue yet but it may become unavoidable if there is not some clarification since his integrity is publicly being called into question.

I also want to point out that Lue insists that he was NOT detailed to DIA, another falsehood according to Lue.

I know your office and its credo very well and fully understand that you and your colleagues are absolutely committed to being as transparent as possible. There is not the least question in my mind regarding your integrity or that of your colleagues in OSD Public Affairs based on serving in OSD during 2 Administrations. However, you have clearly have not been given a full or complete picture on this issue.

I hope this information proves useful. There is much more than this sample. Lue has a lot of friends on the inside who I believe will continue to push out more unclassified information on his behalf if this becomes a pissing match. Indeed one of them will soon be appearing on the History Channel show talking about their work with Lue on these matters AFTER the time period you seem to believe he was no longer involved with AATIP (although that individuals identify is protected).

I hope this information proves useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Lue cherishes his relationship with DoD and does not want to escalate this but as you can imagine after the intercept story by Kloor pressure is building on him to respond.

In my view it is probably best for you to continue this discussion directly with Lue going forward; it is not really my affair, but I did want to give you a head's up as I can see where this may be heading and it seems to me to be preferable to avert a public clash over this if possible.

Sincerely,

~Christopher Mellon

(b)(6)

PS: Last week I appeared on GMA, Fox, Inside Edition etc. Below is a sample. I imagine I may be asked to comment publicly on this issue soon myself. If so, obviously I will have no choice but to set the record straight. Lue was clearly continuing to work the UAP issue at a high level right up until the end.

Here is where I am coming from on the larger UAP issue if interested:

Caution-

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> < Caution-

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> >

**Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)**

---

**From:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 8:19 AM  
**To:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT (b)(5) letter (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Signed By:** (b)(6)  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Getting spun back up. Will read and get thoughts back today or tomorrow (at Ft Meade half the day today).

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

**From:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:23 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** DRAFT (b)(5) letter (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Greetings Neil,

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Standing by...

V/R  
Lue

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Classified By:  
Derived From:  
Declassify On:

=====  
Thanks Lue. I'm around next week, but then gone week of the 25th on a/l. For specific date/time, just work with Catherine - I'm not allowed to muck around with my calendar... (but I am in the building all day the 20th).

Yep, have a discussion with (b)(6) tomorrow.  
Thanks  
Neill

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

From: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 3:41 PM  
To: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Subject: Update

Greetings Neil,  
A couple quick items for you...

(b)(5)

- 2) How does this Wednesday look for an hour discussion?
- 3) Lastly (b)(6) is a friend of the program. I believe you may be speaking with him tomorrow. He is a good man. Just thought you should know...

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

June 24, 2009

Honorable William Lynn III  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
1010 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn:

Beginning this past September, the U.S. Senate has mandated that the Defense Intelligence Agency assess far-term foreign advanced aerospace threats to the United States. The scope of program interest covers from the present out to forty years and beyond. In order to further our effort in recognizing emerging disruptive aerospace technologies, technical studies are being conducted in regard to advanced lift, propulsion, the use of unconventional materials and controls, signature reduction, weaponry, human interface and human effects.

Since the Advanced Aerospace Threat and Identification Program (AATIP) and study were first commissioned, much progress has been made with the identification of several highly sensitive, unconventional aerospace-related findings. Given the current rate of success, the continued study of these subjects will likely lead to technology advancements that in the immediate near-term will require extraordinary protection. Due to the sensitivities of the information surrounding aspects of this program, I require your assistance in establishing a Restricted Special-Access-Program (SAP) with a Bigoted Access List for specific portions of the AATIP.

In order to support this national effort, a small but highly specialized cadre of Department of Defense (DoD) and private sector individuals are necessary. These individuals must be specialized in the areas of advanced sciences, sensors, intelligence/counterintelligence, and advanced aerospace engineering. Given the likelihood that these technologies will be applied to future systems involving space flight, weapons, communications, and propulsion, the standard management and safeguarding procedures for classified information are not sufficient. Even the use of conventional SAP protocols will not adequately ensure that all aspects of the project are properly secured. Although not every aspect of AATIP requires Restricted SAP read-on, the following portions should be maintained at the Restricted SAP level:

- **The methodology used to identify, acquire, study, and engineer the advanced technologies associated with AATIP.**
  - o Specific methodologies used to study unconventional technology may require nuanced approaches that will undoubtedly be of significant interest if not a top priority for adversarial Foreign Intelligence Security Services (FISS).

- o Undue attention by government, or private sector entities, not involved in AATIP or any international interest will directly or indirectly interfere with the daily AATIP mission and perhaps threaten the overall success of the program.
- **Allocation of personnel, support, and oversight.**
  - o Due to the highly specialized nature of the personnel involved with AATIP, the overt acknowledgement of their participation in the program will lead to an unnecessary security and counterintelligence risk.
  - o Occasional assistance from specialized individuals within DoD, the scientific community, or academia may be necessary from time to time based on demonstrated subject matter expertise. Adequate protection of their identities or affiliation is critical to avoid unnecessary scrutiny.
  - o Without the appropriate Restricted SAP protection, the cost associated with a compromise would be significantly higher than the cost associated with a properly administered Restricted SAP.
  - o Protection of industry partnerships and participation is critical. Public awareness of an industry's AATIP affiliation may discourage that industry's further participation with the U.S. Government in this program.
- **Application and engineering.**
  - o The nuanced manner in which some of these technologies will be collected, engineered and applied by the U.S. may require senior level government approval. These decision makers must be afforded the necessary time to make strategic decisions by restricting access to the "big picture" or overall intent of the program to those on a strict Bigoted List.
  - o Associated exotic technologies likely involve extremely sophisticated concepts within the world of quantum mechanics, nuclear science, electromagnetic theory, gravitics, and thermodynamics. Given that all of these have the potential to be used with catastrophic effects by adversaries, an unusually high degree of operational security and read-on discretion is required.

Due to the expertise required to carry out the objectives of this program, we will require a small, specialized group of DoD personnel, who are dedicated to performing the SAP-related functions and executing programmatic requirements within the program. It is essential that the Government & military personnel who are already involved with this program are assigned to further support this program in a Restricted SAP capacity (see Attachment 1). These individuals all currently possess the appropriate security clearances and are already providing unique support to AATIP.

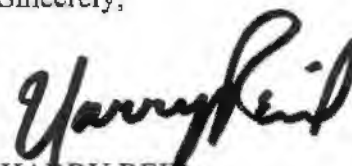
- o Undue attention by government, or private sector entities, not involved in AATIP or any international interest will directly or indirectly interfere with the daily AATIP mission and perhaps threaten the overall success of the program.
- **Allocation of personnel, support, and oversight.**
    - o Due to the highly specialized nature of the personnel involved with AATIP, the overt acknowledgement of their participation in the program will lead to an unnecessary security and counterintelligence risk.
    - o Occasional assistance from specialized individuals within DoD, the scientific community, or academia may be necessary from time to time based on demonstrated subject matter expertise. Adequate protection of their identities or affiliation is critical to avoid unnecessary scrutiny.
    - o Without the appropriate Restricted SAP protection, the cost associated with a compromise would be significantly higher than the cost associated with a properly administered Restricted SAP.
    - o Protection of industry partnerships and participation is critical. Public awareness of an industry's AATIP affiliation may discourage that industry's further participation with the U.S. Government in this program.
  - **Application and engineering.**
    - o The nuanced manner in which some of these technologies will be collected, engineered and applied by the U.S. may require senior level government approval. These decision makers must be afforded the necessary time to make strategic decisions by restricting access to the "big picture" or overall intent of the program to those on a strict Bigoted List.
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Ultimately, the results of AATIP will not only benefit the U.S. Government but I believe will directly benefit DoD in ways not yet imagined. The technological insight and capability gained will provide the U.S. with a distinct advantage over any foreign threats and allow the U.S. to maintain its preeminence as a world leader.

Thank you in advance from your time and consideration of this request. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Bob Herbert of my staff at (202) 437-3162.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Reid", written in a cursive style.

HARRY REID  
United States Senator

HR:rtb

**Attachment 1**

**Sponsoring Agency:** Undetermined (DEPSECDEF)

**Component-level SAP Central Office:** Undetermined (DEPSECDEF)

**Unclassified Nickname:** Advanced Acrospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP)

**Program Length:** FY09-FY13 (Preliminary)

**Program Funding:** FY09-O&M, FY10-FY13-TBD

**SAP Category Designation:** Intelligence, DoD Acquisition

**FY 10 Preliminary Bigoted List of Government Personnel:**

1. Honorable William Lynn III, Deputy Secretary of Defense (Gov't)
2. Honorable Senator Harry Reid of Nevada (Gov't)
3. Honorable Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii (Gov't)
4. Robert T. Herbert (U.S. Senate)
5. Dr. James Lacatski, DIA (Gov't)
6. Jay Stratton, ONI (Gov't)
7. Jessica Wyatt, DIA (Gov't)
8. Gary Ramsey, ONI (USN)
9. Michael Greene, ONI (USMC)
10. Special Agent Luis Elizondo, USDI (Gov't)
11. Mark Blackwelder, USDI (Gov't)

**FY 10 Preliminary Bigoted List of Contractor Personnel funded under the AATIP:**

1. Robert Bigelow, Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies LLC (BAASS), (CTR)
2. Dr. Colm Kelleher, BAASS (CTR)
3. Dr. Hal Puthoff, BAASS (CTR)

This document contains information exempt from mandatory disclosure under the FOIA. Exemptions 1 and 5 apply.



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 6 Jun 2019 09:21:24 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo  
**Attachments:** Lue\_Elizond\_Mission\_Transfer\_Documentation(2).pdf, smime.p7s

(b)(6) received this from Mr. Elizondo.

(b)(6)  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)  
direct: (b)(6)  
mobile: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)  
[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** Lue Abcde (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 3:47 PM  
**To:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo

Hi Chris:

I am reaching out in a final effort to avoid seeing this unfortunate situation escalate. As a soldier and public servant with decades of unblemished service, these false accusations are personally painful as you can well imagine. Moreover, the clearly inaccurate information released by your office has the potential to profoundly damage my career and with it my ability to provide for my wife and family.

In that regard, attached you will find a sample of unclassified correspondence that clearly demonstrates how active I remained on the UAP issue right up until my departure, to include interagency coordination with the IC on this important issue and operational collaboration with the US Navy. The transition plans referenced herein were briefed to and approved by a senior political appointee who reported directly to General Mattis. Some of the F-18 pilots and Navy officials can confirm multiple briefings and discussions with this individual and others, to include Congress. Some of these discussions and briefings actually occurred inside the SecDef's personal office suite. That is why my emails reference "the front office."

Officials from other agencies and departments (ie DIA and CIA) attended meetings I held to coordinate activities on this topic in support of the men and women in the US Navy, who as you know were and still are deeply perplexed and concerned by this phenomenon. AATIP was an official program that was never shut down, when the funding dried-up I continued to lead and interact with

officials in DoD and other agencies to the best of my ability in the interest of national security. When I departed, as is clear from my resignation letter, it was purely out of frustration with my ability to gain additional traction and support. But I put my shoulder to the wheel all those years and worked diligently to maintain a focus on the AATIP issue and continued to coordinate and promote collection and analysis. Call it an "activity" vs a "program" if you will, but if this escalates it will be easy to prove how active I remained in support of our men and women in uniform, especially in the US Navy. If some who were not privy to my actions want to portray me as a rogue, well bad on them for sitting on their hands and doing nothing about recurring intrusions into US airspace and military operating areas and good on me for continuing to risk my reputation and career in support of the US Navy and the nation. Personally, it is outrageous so many others did so little in the face of what the Navy now publicly acknowledges is serious national security issue. The plain truth is that I did everything I could to maintain focus and attention on this vital issue when so many others continued to sweep it under the rug purely for fear of the stigma and possible impact on their reputations. And for that the department wants to make me out to be the bad guy? An imposter? For showing initiative and support to the Navy and others? For keeping this effort going as best I could -- an effort now fully vindicated by the Navy itself?

As you can well imagine, I am not only hurt and disappointed but angry. I should if anything be getting accolades for persistence and initiative, especially since the Navy has now publicly acknowledged the seriousness of the issue, something that only occurred because of my efforts. Instead, a knife in the back? Wow, thanks guys! If the department wants to have this out in public we can certainly do so. I can easily establish that Neil took the meetings referenced in these emails and that this plan was blessed by an individual who has departed but was at the time a senior Administration appointee and directly reported to General Mattis. Do you honestly think I made up the stuff in these emails? Really? Check Neil's calendars and you will see these meetings occurred (as well as innumerable other meetings on my calendars).

I am providing these documents to you to afford you and the Department a final opportunity to correct the record. Meanwhile, I am being pushed into a corner as you can well imagine and will soon be forced to engage an attorney and respond. The oversight committees are also well aware of my role and I believe appreciative of my efforts.

In conclusion, it seems clear to me and others that there exists an extreme miscommunication among OUSDI staff. I truly hope we can resolve this amicably. What a sad statement it is that instead of being rewarded for my initiative and persistence, for diligently pursuing an issue so many others were willing to duck, some in the department are instead trying to destroy my career and reputation by sowing disinformation. To reiterate, I was an OUSDI staff member while working with the AATIP portfolio up until the point of my departure. This was previously verified by the DoD Press Secretary in 2017. Check Neil's calendar and you will be able to confirm these meetings occurred -- a small sample of the total number of meetings I was having on a weekly and near daily basis at the time.

I know that you are trying to be a fair and honest broker. I hope you will therefore take this letter in the spirit of a former colleague merely seeking to set the record straight.

Please advise receipt of this communication if you would at your earliest convenience. I am holding off media requests and will continue to do so until I hear from you. As you can imagine, the pressure is growing.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Lue Elizondo

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 6 Jun 2019 09:21:24 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo  
**Attachments:** Lue\_Elizond\_Mission\_Transfer\_Documentation(2).pdf, smime.p7s

(b)(6) received this from Mr. Elizondo.

(b)(6)  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)  
direct: (b)(6)  
mobile: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)  
[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

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**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 3:47 PM  
**To:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo

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Please advise receipt of this communication if you would at your earliest convenience. I am holding off media requests and will continue to do so until I hear from you. As you can imagine, the pressure is growing.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Lue Elizondo

Classified By:  
Derived From:  
Declassify On:

=====  
Thanks Lue. I'm around next week, but then gone week of the 25th on a/l. For specific date/time, just work with Catherine - I'm not allowed to muck around with my calendar... (but I am in the building all day the 20th).

Yep, have a discussion with (b)(6) tomorrow.  
Thanks  
Neill

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

From: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 3:41 PM  
To: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Subject: Update

Greetings Neil,  
A couple quick items for you...

(b)(5)

- 2) How does this Wednesday look for an hour discussion?
- 3) Lastly, (b)(6) is a friend of the program. I believe you may be speaking with him tomorrow. He is a good man. Just thought you should know...

**Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI**

---

**From:** Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 11:17 AM  
**To:** Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** RE: Program Meeting

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

Thanks Lue. All good - although, at some point I need to know what this actually "is" ....

Thanks  
Neill

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

**From:** Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** RE: Program Meeting

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

Neil, as discussed, thanks for your time with this. As the principal SES in your Directorate, I think you are certainly the appropriate representative to help take our effort to a new level.

I think by now you probably already know I have been managing another "nuanced" effort within the Department for some time. In fact, even when I worked for you years ago your probably guessed I was also working another effort for the Department given some of our discussion and raw video.

I can't overstate how important I believe this portfolio is with respect to our collective National Security (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5) Initially, I was going to approach (b)(6) but when he handed over the reigns to you, I figured you would be the perfect fit.

In the coming weeks, I ask you to attend a few meetings with me at the front office in order that you can meet the rest of the players within the building. Later, I will also introduce you to some of our partners in industry and other agencies who are helping lead the charge. Ultimately, I will need your help analyzing and exploiting material (this was the area Mark Sanders was particularly helpful with). I have a facility I need to show you that you will be able to use.

As always, I sincerely appreciate your help with this and look forward to working with/for you once again. I can't think of a better guy to be involved with this.

Best,  
Lue

P.S. let me know when you want to go kill some fish! I have access to an awesome 35 Trojan that is a serious fishing machine in the Bay! I'll buy the bait!

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

From: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 8:05 AM  
To: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI; (b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(6)  
Subject: RE: Program Meeting

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====

Thanks Lue.

Added (b)(6) (TCSP CoS) to help with scheduling.  
Thanks  
Neill

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

From: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 3:17 PM  
To: (b)(6)  
Cc: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Subject: Program Meeting

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====

Greetings (b)(6)

I briefly spoke to Mr. Neil Tipton (CC'd above) about our collective efforts and the interest expressed by the front office. Upon your return, I recommend we meet with Mr. Tipton briefly in person. He is amicable for a discussion and is aware of Mark Sander's previous portfolio. Mr. Tipton is now the Acting Director, Defense Intelligence for Technical Collection and Special Programs.

Neil, as soon as (b)(6) returns from leave, we will schedule a quick meeting as promised. (b)(6) is our Navy counterpart.

Very Best/Very Respectfully,  
Lue

=====  
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====

=====  
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====

=====  
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

=====

=====  
Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 6 Jun 2019 09:51:40 -0400  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA); (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP  
**Attachments:** (b)(5)  
(b)(5)

Mr. Carranza,

(b)(5), (b)(6)

Media outlets outstanding queries:  
The Intercept, Keith Kloor  
POLITICO, Bryan Bender  
VICE, MJ Banias  
HUFFPOST, Alejandro Rojas  
The War Zone, Joseph Trevithick  
UFO-aktuell, Roger Glassel

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon (b)(6)  
direct: (b)(6)  
mobile: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)  
www.defense.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 10:33 AM  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

Mr. Carranza,

(b)(5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid grey fill. The redaction covers the majority of the email's body text.

Here is the first of six weekly installments of the History Channel series "Unidentified: Inside America's UFO Investigation." As discussed, we'll send the next five installments (minus transcript) as they air.

[http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2580&DateTime=5/31/2019%2010:03:40%20PM&playlist=true&pbcc=search%3a%2b\(pentagon\)](http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2580&DateTime=5/31/2019%2010:03:40%20PM&playlist=true&pbcc=search%3a%2b(pentagon))

V/r,

(b)(6)

---

Christopher Sherwood  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)  
direct: (b)(6)  
mobile: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)  
www.defense.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:59 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

---

**From:** CHRIS MELLON (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 12:36 PM  
**To:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

---

Hi Chris:

Attached are a two examples of the documentation Lue may feel compelled to release if there is not a clarification of his continuing active role in coordinating activities with Navy and other agencies related to UAP issues right up until his departure and resignation from OSD.

Frankly, it might well be to Lue's benefit and that of TTSA and the History Channel to have a pissing match about this with DoD/OSD but personally I'd hate to see that. I'm glad that does not seem to have occurred to Lue yet but it may become unavoidable if there is not some clarification since his integrity is publicly being called into question.

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I hope this information proves useful. There is much more than this sample. Lue has a lot of friends on the inside who I believe will continue to push out more unclassified information on his behalf if this becomes a pissing match. Indeed one of them will soon be appearing on the History Channel show talking about their work with Lue on these matters AFTER the time period you seem to believe he was no longer involved with AATIP (although that individuals identify is protected).

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~Christopher Mellon

(b)(6)

PS: Last week I appeared on GMA, Fox, Inside Edition etc. Below is a sample. I imagine I may be asked to comment publicly on this issue soon myself. If so, obviously I will have no choice but to set the record straight. Lue was clearly continuing to work the UAP issue at a high level right up until the end.

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Caution-


<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> < Caution-  
<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> >

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 6 Jun 2019 09:51:40 -0400  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP  
**Attachments:** RE: Elizondo & Transfer of AATIP, [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo, smime.p7s

Mr. Carranza,

(b)(5); (b)(6)



Media outlets outstanding queries:

The Intercept, Keith Kloor

POLITICO, Bryan Bender

VICE, MJ Banias

HUFFPOST, Alejandro Rojas

The War Zone, Joseph Trevithick  
UFO-aktuell, Roger Glassel

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR:

www.defense.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 10:33 AM

**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

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(b)(5)

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V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon,

(b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

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[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

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**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:59 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

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(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon,

(b)(6)

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To: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)  
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

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~Christopher Mellon

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<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> >

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wed, 5 Jun 2019 20:03:40 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
\\(USA\\)  
**Cc:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL \\(USA\\); Cummings, Matthew C \\(Matt\\) SES  
OSD OUSD INTEL \\(USA\\); (b)(6)  
\\(US\\); Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 \\(US\\); (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Elizondo & Transfer of AATIP  
**Attachments:** smime.p7m

**From:** Lue Abcde  
**Sent:** Wed, 5 Jun 2019 15:47:07 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo  
**Attachments:** Lue\_Elizond\_Mission\_Transfer\_Documentation(2).pdf

Hi Chris:

I am reaching out in a final effort to avoid seeing this unfortunate situation escalate. As a soldier and public servant with decades of unblemished service, these false accusations are personally painful as you can well imagine. Moreover, the clearly inaccurate information released by your office has the potential to profoundly damage my career and with it my ability to provide for my wife and family.

In that regard, attached you will find a sample of unclassified correspondence that clearly demonstrates how active I remained on the UAP issue right up until my departure, to include interagency coordination with the IC on this important issue and operational collaboration with the US Navy. The transition plans referenced herein were briefed to and approved by a senior political appointee who reported directly to General Mattis. Some of the F-18 pilots and Navy officials can confirm multiple briefings and discussions with this individual and others, to include Congress. Some of these discussions and briefings actually occurred inside the SecDef's personal office suite. That is why my emails reference "the front office."

Officials from other agencies and departments (ie DIA and CIA) attended meetings I held to coordinate activities on this topic in support of the men and women in the US Navy, who as you know were and still are deeply perplexed and concerned by this phenomenon. AATIP was an official program that was never shut down, when the funding dried-up I continued to lead and interact with officials in DoD and other agencies to the best of my ability in the interest of national security. When I departed, as is clear from my resignation letter, it was purely out of frustration with my ability to gain additional traction and support. But I put my shoulder to the wheel all those years and worked diligently to maintain a focus on the AATIP issue and continued to coordinate and promote collection and analysis. Call it an "activity" vs a "program" if you will, but if this escalates it will be easy to prove how active I remained in support of our men and women in uniform, especially in the US Navy. If some who were not privy to my actions want to portray me as a rogue, well bad on them for sitting on their hands and doing nothing about recurring intrusions into US airspace and military operating areas and good on me for continuing to risk my reputation and career in support of the US Navy and the nation. Personally, it is outrageous so many others did so little in the face of what the Navy now publicly acknowledges is serious national security issue. The plain truth is that I did everything I could to maintain focus and attention on this vital issue when so many others continued to sweep it under the rug purely for fear of the stigma and possible impact on their reputations. And for that the department wants to make me out to be the bad guy? An imposter? For showing initiative and support to the Navy and others? For keeping this effort going as best I could -- an effort now fully vindicated by the Navy itself?

As you can well imagine, I am not only hurt and disappointed but angry. I should if anything be getting accolades for persistence and initiative, especially since the Navy has now publicly acknowledged the seriousness of the issue, something that only occurred because of my efforts. Instead, a knife in the back? Wow, thanks guys! If the department wants to have this out in public we can certainly do so. I can easily establish that Neil took the meetings referenced in these emails and that this plan was blessed by an individual who has departed but was at the time a senior Administration appointee and directly reported to General Mattis. Do you honestly think I made up

the stuff in these emails? Really? Check Neil's calendars and you will see these meetings occurred (as well as innumerable other meetings on my calendars).

I am providing these documents to you to afford you and the Department a final opportunity to correct the record. Meanwhile, I am being pushed into a corner as you can well imagine and will soon be forced to engage an attorney and respond. The oversight committees are also well aware of my role and I believe appreciative of my efforts.

In conclusion, it seems clear to me and others that there exists an extreme miscommunication among OUSDI staff. I truly hope we can resolve this amicably. What a sad statement it is that instead of being rewarded for my initiative and persistence, for diligently pursuing an issue so many others were willing to duck, some in the department are instead trying to destroy my career and reputation by sowing disinformation. To reiterate, I was an OUSDI staff member while working with the AATIP portfolio up until the point of my departure. This was previously verified by the DoD Press Secretary in 2017. Check Neil's calendar and you will be able to confirm these meetings occurred -- a small sample of the total number of meetings I was having on a weekly and near daily basis at the time.

I know that you are trying to be a fair and honest broker. I hope you will therefore take this letter in the spirit of a former colleague merely seeking to set the record straight.

Please advise receipt of this communication if you would at your earliest convenience. I am holding off media requests and will continue to do so until I hear from you. As you can imagine, the pressure is growing.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Lue Elizondo

Classified By:  
Derived From:  
Declassify On:

=====  
Thanks Lue. I'm around next week, but then gone week of the 25th on a/l. For specific date/time, just work with Catherine - I'm not allowed to muck around with my calendar... (but I am in the building all day the 20th).

Yep, have a discussion with (b)(6) tomorrow.  
Thanks  
Neill

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

From: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 3:41 PM  
To: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Subject: Update

Greetings Neil,  
A couple quick items for you...

(b)(5)

2) How does this Wednesday look for an hour discussion?

3) Lastly, (b)(6) is a friend of the program. I believe you may be speaking with him tomorrow. He is a good man. Just thought you should know...

**Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI**

---

**From:** Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 11:17 AM  
**To:** Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** RE: Program Meeting

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

Thanks Lue. All good - although, at some point I need to know what this actually "is" ....  
Thanks  
Neill

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

**From:** Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2017 10:35 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
**Subject:** RE: Program Meeting

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
=====

Neil, as discussed, thanks for your time with this. As the principal SES in your Directorate, I think you are certainly the appropriate representative to help take our effort to a new level.

I think by now you probably already know I have been managing another "nuanced" effort within the Department for some time. In fact, even when I worked for you years ago your probably guessed I was also working another effort for the Department given some of our discussion and raw video.

I can't overstate how important I believe this portfolio is with respect to our collective National Security (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Initially, I was going to approach (b)(6) but when he handed over the reigns to you, I figured you would be the perfect fit.

In the coming weeks, I ask you to attend a few meetings with me at the front office in order that you can meet the rest of the players within the building. Later, I will also introduce you to some of our partners in industry and other agencies who are helping lead the charge. Ultimately, I will need your help analyzing and exploiting material (this was the area Mark Sanders was particularly helpful with). I have a facility I need to show you that you will be able to use.

As always, I sincerely appreciate your help with this and look forward to working with/for you once again. I can't think of a better guy to be involved with this.

Best,  
Lue

P.S. let me know when you want to go kill some fish! I have access to an awesome 35 Trojan that is a serious fishing machine in the Bay! I'll buy the bait!

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

From: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI

Sent: Wednesday, August 23, 2017 8:05 AM

To: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI; (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Program Meeting

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====

Thanks Lue.

Added (b)(6) (TCSP CoS) to help with scheduling.

Thanks

Neill

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

From: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI

Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 3:17 PM

To: (b)(6)

Cc: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI

Subject: Program Meeting

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====

Greetings (b)(6)

I briefly spoke to Mr. Neil Tipton (CC'd above) about our collective efforts and the interest expressed by the front office. Upon your return, I recommend we meet with Mr. Tipton briefly in person. He is amicable for a discussion and is aware of Mark Sander's previous portfolio. Mr. Tipton is now the Acting Director, Defense Intelligence for Technical Collection and Special Programs.

Neil, as soon as (b)(6) returns from leave, we will schedule a quick meeting as promised. (b)(6) is our Navy counterpart.

Very Best/Very Respectfully,

Lue

=====

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

=====

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

=====

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thu, 6 Jun 2019 17:52:33 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: former senior adviser to Secretary Mattis // + a former DASD(I)  
**Attachments:** smime.p7s

(b)(6)

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 5:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: former senior adviser to Secretary Mattis // + a former DASD(I)

(b)(6)

Another person, former DASD(I) Chris Mellon, called to say he talked with Mr. Byers (who turns out to have been the White House liaison officer) and has additional information, plus a suggestion, for you. His number is (b)(6) I will call you to make sure you see this email.

Vr/

(b)(6)

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 4:50 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: former senior adviser to Secretary Mattis

(b)(6)

Thank you.

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)  
direct: (b)(6)  
mobile: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)  
[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 4:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)  
Subject: former senior adviser to Secretary Mattis

(b)(6)

Brad Byers, who said he is a former senior adviser to Secretary Mattis, hopes to discuss with you a topic that has been in the news recently. His number is (b)(6)

The topic involves Lou Alessandro (sic) and a show on the history channel. It sounded as if Mr. Byers would be OK with talking on Friday.

Vr/

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

OSD public affairs operations (reserve staff)

Pentagon (b)(6)

(b)(6)

---

+ (b)(6)

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From: (b)(6)

Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 5:41 PM

To: (b)(6)

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Subject: RE: former senior adviser to Secretary Mattis // + a former DASD(I)

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Office of the Secretary of Defense  
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From: (b)(6)

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Vr/

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

OSD public affairs operations (reserve staff)

Pentagon

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: [aviationweek@aviationweek.com](mailto:aviationweek@aviationweek.com)  
Date: Monday, August 24, 2020, 11:42 AM  
Subject: DOD Issues \$7.3 Million To Aircraft Engine Repair, Satcom Companies

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

## DOD Issues \$7.3 Million To Aircraft Engine Repair, Satcom Companies

By Hudson • <https://aviationweek.com/author/hudson/> • August 21, 2020



Credit: U.S. Department of Defense

The Pentagon on Aug. 21 awarded a total of \$7.3 million under Defense Production Act Title III to invest in the aircraft engine repair and satellite-communications industrial base.

The awards are aimed at strengthening security in the face of the spread of COVID-19.

The Defense Department • <https://aviationweek.com/author/hudson/> • paid \$1.7 million to Studebaker, California-based Aero Turbine for Diamond Engines • <https://aviationweek.com/author/hudson/> • 285 engine parts and manufacturing. The Air Force intends to use the single-shaft turboprop powerplant through 2040.

Aero Turbine is a small business that provides turbine engine and accessory overhaul, repair and testing services to the Air Force, Army and Navy. The funds were authorized and appropriated under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

"The investment will positively impact operational readiness by reducing delay times and driving time and cost savings for the U.S. government," the Pentagon said. "Additionally, Aero Turbine will be able to retain critical workforce capabilities throughout the disruption caused by COVID-19 and to resume their jobs line due to the pandemic."

Additionally, the Pentagon paid \$3.6 million to Nucleus, New Hampshire-based AQTR Technologies to sustain and expand production of the Global Broadcast Service Portable Receiver Suite.

AQTR is classified as a small business innovation research company and is the sole-source supplier of portable receiver-suite tactical and portable terminals. This platform streams video, imagery, geospatial data and other intelligence products, while reducing the chance of detection from signal-detection systems.

These CARES Act funds will ensure the government receives long-term industrial capacity and protect the skilled workforce that was disrupted by COVID-19, according to the Pentagon.

## Five Companies Eligible To Sell Small UAS To U.S. Government

By Hudson • <https://aviationweek.com/author/hudson/> • August 20, 2020



Credit: Research

By the end of September, the Pentagon will have chosen five companies—Alarix, Perot, Skydio, Toad and Vantage Robotics—to sell their small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) to the U.S. government.

For 18 months, the Defense Innovation Call (DIC) and the Army's short-range reconnaissance program focused on purchasing sUAS worked together to clear an expensive, risk-averse, vertical-takeoff-and-landing system for small units.

China has dominated the sUAS market as the U.S. effort was focused on establishing domestic alternatives.

DIU dubbed its approach Blue sUAS, building off the Army's initial success. It provides alternative ground-control and radio configurations that can accommodate users across the federal government.

"Blue sUAS showcases how we can both work with small, nontraditional companies and our allies and partners to quickly pilot cutting-edge technologies that support our mutual defense," Michael Kratich, acting secretary of defense for research and engineering, said in an Aug. 20 statement.

The sUAS will be available from the General Services Administration, or the military can purchase them using other transaction authority.

"Blue sUAS is a great example of Defense Department • <https://aviationweek.com/author/hudson/> • (DOD) acquisition reform by lowering the barrier to entry for non-traditional companies to rapidly iterate shoulder to shoulder with warfighters to deliver highly capable sUAS tailored to mission needs," said Ellen Lord, undersecretary of defense for acquisition and statement, in an Aug. 20 statement.

Separately, on the same day, the Pentagon confirmed to Aerospace Daily the \$13.4 million awarded under Defense Production Act Title III in July to support the sUAS industrial base is an unrelated effort.

The funding is spread across five companies via the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to enhance military personnel situational awareness, improve human-machine teaming and provide engineering support for sUAS integration. The contracts were issued through DIU.

The CARES Act funding saved 14 jobs and created 20 new positions, according to the Pentagon. The bulk of the funding—\$4 million—went to Skydio of Redwood City, California, to help improve its sUAS flight controller hardware/software and data link.

Alarix, based in Santa Monica, California, received \$3.3 million for product development and engineering support for integration of sUAS mission planning, post-mission analysis and unattended traffic-management software.

Modular, based in San Diego, set to \$2 million to develop its next-generation flight controller, which is intended to enable advanced autonomy improvements including GPS-denied navigation and all-environment obstacle avoidance.

Another San Diego company, Obstacle Sensors, received \$1.6 million to build a low-cost, dual-thread sUAS sensor that can be mounted onto a stabilizer to enable small intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems.

The only non-California company, Deafin Perceptics, has been awarded \$1.5 million. The company is based in Somerset, New Jersey, and is expected to qualify its commercial data link for DOD sUAS operations in restricted-frequency bands. The company is expected to reduce the size, weight and power of the hardware, and develop software to improve data-link security and resilience.

## DOD Official: F-35 Sale To Poland May Quicken Future Deal Closings

By Hudson • <https://aviationweek.com/author/hudson/> • August 20, 2020





# AMMATION MEREK

INDONESIA

BY INFOCOM



F-35s at Al Dhafra air base, UAE.  
Credit: U.S. Air Force

The jets of Lockheed Martin < <https://aviationweek.com/author/lockheed-martin> > <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/27791> > F-35s < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/613> > in Poland pass the way for future Joint Strike Fighter deals to close within six months of the initial agreement, according to the Pentagon acquisition executive.

Defense trade modernization is a "key initiative" for Defense Secretary Mark Esper because the U.S. wants to support its partners and allies by supplying equipment, Ellen Lord, the Defense Department < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/29172> > (DOD) undersecretary for acquisition and sustainment, told reporters Aug. 20. It is helpful for U.S. partners and allies to have interoperable equipment while also blocking Russia from selling its platforms, she explained.

Poland announced last summer it intended to purchase F-35As < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/613> >. The NATO < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/12056> > ally signed a contract for 32 of the jets in January.

"I think the Poland effort really shows what happens when all the agencies, such as [Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA)] and other DOD components, work very closely with the State Department < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/12327> >," Lord said.

The New York Times reported Aug. 19 the Air Force provided a classified briefing on the F-35 < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/613> > to the United Arab Emirates < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/12057> >. When pressed if selling F-35s < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/613> > to the UAE fit on the table, Lord deferred to the State Department < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/12187> >.

"I will say the spent quite a bit of time in the region over the years in this role actively talking about F-35 < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/613> > upgrades. That has been an ongoing discussion that DSCA and the Air Force have worked on," Lord said.

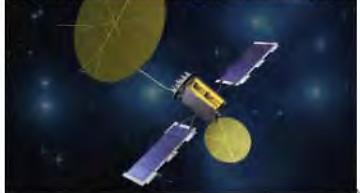
Separately, Lord plans to visit NAS Pensacola River, Maryland, next week to view the F-35 < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/613> >. Juan Simulacion Environment (JSE) also said the Pentagon will queue the F-35 < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/613> > will enter full-scale production in March areas.

"There have been setbacks within the JSE from COVID. It is a very close working environment," Lord said.

The purpose of Lord's visit is to understand where the team is in the test program and ensure the program has the resources it needs, she added.

## U.S. Navy Mulls Buying Two More MUOS Satellites

Lee Hudson < <https://aviationweek.com/author/lee-hudson> > August 18, 2020



Credit: Lockheed Martin

The U.S. Navy < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/29046> > plans to procure industry with a plan for purchasing two additional satellites for the Mobile User Objective System < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/1077> > (MUOS < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/1077> >) constellation because the military anticipates losses of communication assets.

The service has scheduled a virtual event via Microsoft Teams Sept. 24 for the MUOS < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/1077> > Service Life Extension Industry Day to discuss the possibility of purchasing two Wideband Code Division Multiple Access satellite-communication spacecraft to add to the constellation in 2021-22.

The current constellation comprises four orbiting satellites, four relay ground stations and one on-orbit spares. The MUOS < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/1077> > program cost is pegged at \$7.7 billion.

The Navy is linking to industry for feedback on contract structures, time lines, markets, risks and opportunities. Lockheed Martin < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/27101> > is the prime contractor for the MUOS < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/1077> > program.

The Pentagon conducted various studies in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to update the performance and operational requirements for additional MUOS < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/1077> > satellites, specifically, the military assessed system threats, electromagnetic interference, cryptographic modernization, updated internal control documents and evaluated costing specifications.

MUOS < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/1077> > is the upgrade to the legacy 1990s Ultra High-Frequency Follow-On satellite-communication system and provides 10 times more communication capacity. Users are promised secure worldwide data and voice communications satellite-to-satellite.

## USAF Taps Oregon Air National Guard Unit As First F-15EX Home

Lee Hudson < <https://aviationweek.com/author/lee-hudson> > August 18, 2020



Credit: Boeing

The U.S. Air Force < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/21170> > has selected an Oregon Air National Guard < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/12327> > (ANG) squadron as the first home for a Boeing < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/12083> > F-15EX operational unit, in 2023.

Air Force Secretary Barbara Barrett notified the Oregon ANG Aug. 24 that its Portland base will be the first to replace its aging F-15C/D Eagles with the updated F-15EXs. Additionally, Kingsley Field in Klamath Falls, Oregon, is scheduled to transition to the F-15EX training mission in 2022. All active and reserve F-15C/D pilots complete their training in Oregon. Boeing < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/12083> > is slated to deliver the first aircraft, dubbed EX-1, in August 2022.

Other ANG bases operating legacy F-15C/Ds are Westfield-Barnes Airport in Massachusetts, Stevena Vonnort International Airport < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/14327> > in California and NAS Joint Reserve Base New Orleans. Their aging Eagles will be replaced by either F-15EXs or Lockheed Martin < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/27101> > F-35As < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/613> >.

The service intends to purchase a minimum of 141 F-15EXs. The first eight jets purchased in Lot 1 will be powered by GE Aviation < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/28625> > F414-1B < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/company/12024> > -120 engines, but the Air Force may implement a competitive procurement strategy in subsequent lots. Pratt & Whitney < <https://aviationweek.com/aviation/program/623> > & Whittier is pitching the F410-PW-330 as an alternative engine.

The F-15EX features an AN/APG-82 radar, the Enhanced Passive Active Warning Survivability System, fly-by-wire flight controls and large-area display.

The Air Force previously announced flight testing will kick off in early 2021 at Eglin AFB, Florida. Developmental and operational testing will take about 18 months.

# Pentagon Forms Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force

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The Pentagon has convened a task force to study unidentified aerial phenomena (UAP), historically referred to as unidentified flying objects (UFO).  
Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin formed the task force Aug. 4 and directed the Navy under the purview of the Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security to spearhead the effort.  
The Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force (UAPTF) is charged with improving the U.S. military's understanding of the nature and origins of UAP's according to an Aug. 12 Pentagon statement.

Additionally, the new body is to detect, analyze and mitigate UAPs that could threaten U.S. national security.  
"The U.S. military has long been interested in UAPs, and the military departments take any incursion by unidentified aircraft into our training ranges or designated airspace very seriously and examine such reports," the statement reads. "This includes identifying and understanding the nature of UAPs and the objective capability to identify what they are and to track them."  
In June, the Senate Intelligence Committee voted that the Pentagon and intelligence community leaders should provide a public analysis of the phenomenon.  
Previously, the Pentagon was tight-lipped on the existence of UAPs. However, in April, the Pentagon declassified three videos, one from November 2004 and two from January 2015, recorded by Navy pilots. One of the videos include pilot's commentary on how quickly the UAP moves while another reveals that a service member believes it could be an unmanned aerial system.  
"Jude, this is a f—ing drone, bro," one pilot said. A second service member said, "There's a whole fleet of them."  
"They're all going against the wind. The wind's coming to the west. Look at that thing, dude!" the first person said. "It's rotating!"

Lee Hudson



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Lee Hudson@hudsonlee.com | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [RSS](#) | [About](#) | [Contact](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Service](#)

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Information Classification: General

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** DODIG Brief participants  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 12:35:44 PM

---

FYSA, below is the list of DODIG folks getting briefed tomorrow.

**From:** (b)(6) OIG DoD <(b)(6)@dodig.mil>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 8:08 AM

**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Query

Good Morning,

I look forward to our briefings tomorrow. I wanted to provide the names of the individuals that will be attending the briefing.

Randolph R. Stone, SES  
Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations  
Space, Intelligence, Engineering, and Oversight

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

r/

(b)(6)

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 4:59 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

OIG DoD (b)(6) <(b)(6)@dodig.mil>; Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Query

Team,

I have my conference room booked for 10:00, Thursday Oct 15. (b)(6)

See you all there!

Matt

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL  
(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 9:18 AM  
**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6) CIV DODIG (USA) (b)(6) @dodig.mil>;  
Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Query

Matt,

Can we use your conference room?

V/r, (b)(6)

---

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 9:02 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) CIV DODIG (USA) (b)(6) @dodig.mil> (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Query

That time is perfect for me. Just let me know where.

Thanks!

Matt

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil>

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 3:52 PM

**To:** (b)(6) Gradisher, Joseph  
F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD  
OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Query

(b)(6)

We are available on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 1000. Matthew will you be able to support that time as well? We would like to receive the briefing at the highest classification available. We want to make sure that we are not limited in the information we receive.

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 11:10 AM

**To:** (b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil>; Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Query

I will be in the Pentagon again on the 15<sup>th</sup> (just got a meeting added) and could support between 1000-1300.

---

**From:** (b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil>

**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 9:35 AM

**To:** (b)(6) Gradisher, Joseph  
F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Query

Good Morning,

We prefer in person. What is your availability the following week (19-23).

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 5, 2020 8:57 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil>; Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Query

(b)(6)

We have a video version of the briefing on JWICS and SIPRNET that takes about 25 minutes. If you prefer in person, I won't be in the Pentagon 13-16 Oct but we could set up a Tandberg brief. I am sitting in some end of year performance evaluation panels that week and would have to work around them.

V/r (b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 11:59 AM  
**To:** (b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6) Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6) Bray, Scott W SES OPNAV N2N6, N2N6 (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Query

(b)(6)

What is your availability for the following week (13 Oct-16)? Also, what is the classification level of the briefing? I want to make sure that we have the necessary caveats or access in order to receive the full picture during our briefing.

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 2, 2020 7:04 AM  
**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil>;  
Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6) Bray, Scott W SES

OPNAV N2N6, N2N6I (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Query

(b)(6)

I'll be in the pentagon again next Friday, I could brief you anytime between 0700-1100. We'd need about an hour. If that doesn't work we could set up a Tandberg during the week.

V/r, (b)(6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Date:** Thursday, Oct 01, 2020, 5:55 PM

**To:** (b)(6) CIV DODIG (USA) (b)(6) @dodig.mil>, Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Bray, Scott W SES OPNAV N2N6, N2N6I (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Query

(b)(6)

Happy to support. Navy generally briefs the program activities and status and I am happy to fill in any gaps from the OSD level. I'll defer to Navy to set up the best time with you.

Thanks!

Matt

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

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

**From:** (b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 1, 2020 5:34 PM

**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Bray, Scott W SES OPNAV N2N6, N2N6I (b)(6)

**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Query

Thank you all for your assistance and I will stand by for more information. I would also like to suggest that we combine the briefings from Navy and OUSD(I&S) if possible.

v/r

(b)(6)

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

From: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)

(b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:13 PM

To: (b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil> (b)(6)

(b)(6) Bray, Scott W SES

OPNAV N2N6, N2N61 (b)(6)

Cc: Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Query

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (also in the 'to' line).. leads the UAP Task Force effort for Navy... working directly for Scott Bray, our Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence.

They will be in touch to discuss setting up a briefing for you and your leadership.

Regards,

Joe

Joe Gradisher  
Captain, U.S. Navy (Ret)  
N2N6 Strategic Engagements  
(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 12:03 PM

To: (b)(6) CIV DODIG (USA) (b)(6) @dodig.mil> (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL

(USA) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Query

Hello, (b)(6)

Joe Gradisher should be able to coordinate with the appropriate Navy officials for you for a briefing, which would be classified. For OUSD(1&S), recommend you contact Mr. Matt Cummings, cc'd.

Regards,

(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6) OIG DoD (b)(6) @dodig.mil>

Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 11:30 AM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Query

Good Morning,

~~(FOUO)~~ First as an introduction, I am (b)(6)

(b)(6) of the DoD Office of Inspector General. I am trying to obtain points of contact within the Office of Naval Intelligence and the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security (USD[I&S]) familiar with the submission in the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2020. Specifically, the Classified Annex to the Senate Armed Services Committee Report on S.1790, submission titled "Advanced Operational Capabilities Collection, Exploitation, and Research."

~~(FOUO)~~ My leadership and I would like to obtain a briefing on the unexplained airborne activities and obtain an understand of the current efforts/programs in place and actions the Office of Naval Intelligence and OUSD(I&S) are taking to collect, exploit, and analyze the data on these phenomena. If this discussion needs to be taking to a higher system I am including my contact information below. I would appreciate any information you have.

v/r

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Deputy Inspector General for Evaluations  
DoD, Office of Inspector General

comm: (b)(6)

bb: (b)(6)

fax

(b)(6)

[@dodig.smil.mil](mailto:(b)(6)@dodig.smil.mil)

[@dodig.ic.gov](mailto:(b)(6)@dodig.ic.gov)

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

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 3:56 PM

To: (b)(6)

OIG DoD (b)(6) [@dodig.mil](mailto:(b)(6)@dodig.mil)>

Cc: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Query

(b)(6)

What is your question?

Regards,

(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)  
Sent: Friday, September 25, 2020 3:50 PM  
To: (b)(6) CIV DODIG (USA) (b)(6) <[@dodig.mil](mailto:(b)(6)@dodig.mil)>  
Cc: (b)(6)  
Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)  
Schuler (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
Subject: Query

(b)(6)

I am including the UAP team here to follow up on your query.

Thanks!

V/r,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Establishment of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2020 6:13:41 PM

---

Media colleagues,

On Aug. 4, 2020, Deputy Secretary of Defense David L. Norquist approved the establishment of an Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) Task Force (UAPTF). The Department of the Navy, under the cognizance of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, will lead the UAPTF.

The Department of Defense established the UAPTF to improve its understanding of, and gain insight into, the nature and origins of UAPs. The mission of the task force is to detect, analyze and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to U.S. national security.

As DOD has stated previously, the safety of our personnel and the security of our operations are of paramount concern. The Department of Defense and the military departments take any incursions by unauthorized aircraft into our training ranges or designated airspace very seriously and examine each report. This includes examinations of incursions that are initially reported as UAP when the observer cannot immediately identify what he or she is observing.

Regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 10:33:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [AATIP 1.pdf](#)  
[Reid Letter to Lynn-1.pdf](#)  
[RE Non-DoD Source AATIP Elizondo question \(36.9 KB\).msg](#)

---

Mr. Carranza,

Per our conversation earlier, Mr. Elizondo called me yesterday and again today insisting he was involved in ATTIP and continued to support the effort when it ended in 2012 through 2017. Mr. Elizondo has insisted--in recent public forums--that the AATIP "mission" is still ongoing at the Pentagon, just not in an official capacity. He added the program was not a SAP. He said the program transitioned to the Navy and is currently being run by Mr. Jay Stratton. Mr. Christopher Mellon, former United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence called me yesterday and vouched for Mr. Elizondo, he sent the attached documents and the email below.

Mr. Elizondo said he has several interviews scheduled for Friday and he would like a clarifying statement put out by DoD, or he will be forced to defend himself. He said he will provide additional documents supporting his claim shortly.

I don't know who or if anyone in the Special Program Office should be involved?

Here is the first of six weekly installments of the History Channel series "Unidentified: Inside America's UFO Investigation." As discussed, we'll send the next five installments (minus transcript) as they air.

[http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2580&DateTime=5/31/2019%2010:03:40%20PM&playclip=true&pbcc=search%3a%2b\(pentagon\)](http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2580&DateTime=5/31/2019%2010:03:40%20PM&playclip=true&pbcc=search%3a%2b(pentagon))

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

www.defense.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:59 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)**

---

**From:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 8:19 AM  
**To:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: DRAFT (b)(5) letter (UNCLASSIFIED)  
**Signed By:** (b)(6)  
**Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Getting spun back up. Will read and get thoughts back today or tomorrow (at Ft Meade half the day today).

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

**From:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 25, 2017 11:23 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** DRAFT (b)(5) letter (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Greetings Neil,

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Standing by...

V/R  
Lue

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Classified By:  
Derived From:  
Declassify On:

=====  
Thanks Lue. I'm around next week, but then gone week of the 25th on a/l. For specific date/time, just work with Catherine - I'm not allowed to muck around with my calendar... (but I am in the building all day the 20th).

Yep, have a discussion with (b)(6) tomorrow.  
Thanks  
Neill

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

From: Elizondo, Luis, D., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 3:41 PM  
To: Tipton, Neill, T., Mr., OSD OUSDI  
Subject: Update

Greetings Neil,  
A couple quick items for you...

(b)(5)

- 2) How does this Wednesday look for an hour discussion?
- 3) Lastly, (b)(6) is a friend of the program. I believe you may be speaking with him tomorrow. He is a good man. Just thought you should know...

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7012

June 24, 2009

Honorable William Lynn III  
Deputy Secretary of Defense  
1010 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1010

Dear Secretary Lynn:

Beginning this past September, the U.S. Senate has mandated that the Defense Intelligence Agency assess far-term foreign advanced aerospace threats to the United States. The scope of program interest covers from the present out to forty years and beyond. In order to further our effort in recognizing emerging disruptive aerospace technologies, technical studies are being conducted in regard to advanced lift, propulsion, the use of unconventional materials and controls, signature reduction, weaponry, human interface and human effects.

Since the Advanced Aerospace Threat and Identification Program (AATIP) and study were first commissioned, much progress has been made with the identification of several highly sensitive, unconventional aerospace-related findings. Given the current rate of success, the continued study of these subjects will likely lead to technology advancements that in the immediate near-term will require extraordinary protection. Due to the sensitivities of the information surrounding aspects of this program, I require your assistance in establishing a Restricted Special-Access-Program (SAP) with a Bigoted Access List for specific portions of the AATIP.

In order to support this national effort, a small but highly specialized cadre of Department of Defense (DoD) and private sector individuals are necessary. These individuals must be specialized in the areas of advanced sciences, sensors, intelligence/counterintelligence, and advanced aerospace engineering. Given the likelihood that these technologies will be applied to future systems involving space flight, weapons, communications, and propulsion, the standard management and safeguarding procedures for classified information are not sufficient. Even the use of conventional SAP protocols will not adequately ensure that all aspects of the project are properly secured. Although not every aspect of AATIP requires Restricted SAP read-on, the following portions should be maintained at the Restricted SAP level:

- **The methodology used to identify, acquire, study, and engineer the advanced technologies associated with AATIP.**
  - o Specific methodologies used to study unconventional technology may require nuanced approaches that will undoubtedly be of significant interest if not a top priority for adversarial Foreign Intelligence Security Services (FISS).

- o Undue attention by government, or private sector entities, not involved in AATIP or any international interest will directly or indirectly interfere with the daily AATIP mission and perhaps threaten the overall success of the program.
- **Allocation of personnel, support, and oversight.**
    - o Due to the highly specialized nature of the personnel involved with AATIP, the overt acknowledgement of their participation in the program will lead to an unnecessary security and counterintelligence risk.
    - o Occasional assistance from specialized individuals within DoD, the scientific community, or academia may be necessary from time to time based on demonstrated subject matter expertise. Adequate protection of their identities or affiliation is critical to avoid unnecessary scrutiny.
    - o Without the appropriate Restricted SAP protection, the cost associated with a compromise would be significantly higher than the cost associated with a properly administered Restricted SAP.
    - o Protection of industry partnerships and participation is critical. Public awareness of an industry's AATIP affiliation may discourage that industry's further participation with the U.S. Government in this program.
  - **Application and engineering.**
    - o The nuanced manner in which some of these technologies will be collected, engineered and applied by the U.S. may require senior level government approval. These decision makers must be afforded the necessary time to make strategic decisions by restricting access to the "big picture" or overall intent of the program to those on a strict Bigoted List.
    - o Associated exotic technologies likely involve extremely sophisticated concepts within the world of quantum mechanics, nuclear science, electromagnetic theory, gravitics, and thermodynamics. Given that all of these have the potential to be used with catastrophic effects by adversaries, an unusually high degree of operational security and read-on discretion is required.

Due to the expertise required to carry out the objectives of this program, we will require a small, specialized group of DoD personnel, who are dedicated to performing the SAP-related functions and executing programmatic requirements within the program. It is essential that the Government & military personnel who are already involved with this program are assigned to further support this program in a Restricted SAP capacity (see Attachment 1). These individuals all currently possess the appropriate security clearances and are already providing unique support to AATIP.

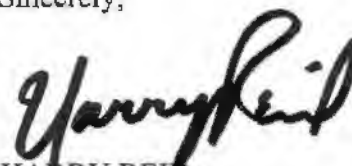
- o Undue attention by government, or private sector entities, not involved in AATIP or any international interest will directly or indirectly interfere with the daily AATIP mission and perhaps threaten the overall success of the program.
- **Allocation of personnel, support, and oversight.**
  - o Due to the highly specialized nature of the personnel involved with AATIP, the overt acknowledgement of their participation in the program will lead to an unnecessary security and counterintelligence risk.
  - o Occasional assistance from specialized individuals within DoD, the scientific community, or academia may be necessary from time to time based on demonstrated subject matter expertise. Adequate protection of their identities or affiliation is critical to avoid unnecessary scrutiny.
  - o Without the appropriate Restricted SAP protection, the cost associated with a compromise would be significantly higher than the cost associated with a properly administered Restricted SAP.
  - o Protection of industry partnerships and participation is critical. Public awareness of an industry's AATIP affiliation may discourage that industry's further participation with the U.S. Government in this program.
- **Application and engineering.**
  - o The nuanced manner in which some of these technologies will be collected, engineered and applied by the U.S. may require senior level government approval. These decision makers must be afforded the necessary time to make strategic decisions by restricting access to the "big picture" or overall intent of the program to those on a strict Bigoted List.
  - o Associated exotic technologies likely involve extremely sophisticated concepts within the world of quantum mechanics, nuclear science, electromagnetic theory, gravitics, and thermodynamics. Given that all of these have the potential to be used with catastrophic effects by adversaries, an unusually high degree of operational security and read-on discretion is required.

Due to the expertise required to carry out the objectives of this program, we will require a small, specialized group of DoD personnel, who are dedicated to performing the SAP-related functions and executing programmatic requirements within the program. It is essential that the Government & military personnel who are already involved with this program are assigned to further support this program in a Restricted SAP capacity (see Attachment 1). These individuals all currently possess the appropriate security clearances and are already providing unique support to AATIP.

Ultimately, the results of AATIP will not only benefit the U.S. Government but I believe will directly benefit DoD in ways not yet imagined. The technological insight and capability gained will provide the U.S. with a distinct advantage over any foreign threats and allow the U.S. to maintain its preeminence as a world leader.

Thank you in advance from your time and consideration of this request. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Bob Herbert of my staff at (202) 437-3162.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Reid". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

HARRY REID  
United States Senator

HR:rtb

**Attachment 1**

**Sponsoring Agency:** Undetermined (DEPSECDEF)

**Component-level SAP Central Office:** Undetermined (DEPSECDEF)

**Unclassified Nickname:** Advanced Acrospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP)

**Program Length:** FY09-FY13 (Preliminary)

**Program Funding:** FY09-O&M, FY10-FY13-TBD

**SAP Category Designation:** Intelligence, DoD Acquisition

**FY 10 Preliminary Bigoted List of Government Personnel:**

1. Honorable William Lynn III, Deputy Secretary of Defense (Gov't)
2. Honorable Senator Harry Reid of Nevada (Gov't)
3. Honorable Senator Daniel Inouye of Hawaii (Gov't)
4. Robert T. Herbert (U.S. Senate)
5. Dr. James Lacatski, DIA (Gov't)
6. Jay Stratton, ONI (Gov't)
7. Jessica Wyatt, DIA (Gov't)
8. Gary Ramsey, ONI (USN)
9. Michael Greene, ONI (USMC)
10. Special Agent Luis Elizondo, USDI (Gov't)
11. Mark Blackwelder, USDI (Gov't)

**FY 10 Preliminary Bigoted List of Contractor Personnel funded under the AATIP:**

1. Robert Bigelow, Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies LLC (BAASS), (CTR)
2. Dr. Colm Kelleher, BAASS (CTR)
3. Dr. Hal Puthoff, BAASS (CTR)

This document contains information exempt from mandatory disclosure under the FOIA. Exemptions 1 and 5 apply.

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Sent:** Wed, 29 May 2019 11:39:43 -0400  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] AATIP / Elizondo question  
**Attachments:** smime.p7s

Here's what I plan to tell Steven Greenstreet:

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Any Issues/clarifications?

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
Public Affairs Officer  
Office of Corporate Communications  
Defense Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20340  
(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019 11:09 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] AATIP / Elizondo question

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

I don't have an accurate accounting of his employment history with AATIP. I have been provided this statement from OUSD(I).

Mr. Luis Elizondo:

- Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI, up until the time he resigned effective 10/4/2017.
- He started with OUSD(I) on 28-Sep-08 as an Intelligence Operations Specialist.

The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program:

- The Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program ended in 2012. It was determined that there were other, higher priority issues that merited funding and it was in the best interest of the DoD to make a change.
- The DoD takes seriously all threats and potential threats to our people, our assets, and our mission and takes action whenever credible information is developed.
- The Department of Defense is always concerned about maintaining positive identification of all aircraft in our operating environment as well as identifying any foreign capability that may be a threat to the homeland.
- The department will continue to investigate, through normal procedures, reports of unidentified aircraft encountered by US military aviators in order to ensure defense of the homeland and protection against strategic surprise by our nation's adversaries.

New Navy reporting procedures:

- The Navy has updated and formalized the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space can be made to the cognizant authorities.
- For safety and security concerns, the Navy takes these reports very seriously and investigates each and every report.

###

This is what I have currently,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

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**From:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019 10:05 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] AATIP / Elizondo question

Please send your PA guidance.

As you know, Elizondo never worked for DIA, but was assigned to DIA for a period while at OUSDI.

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Steven Greenstreet (b)(6)  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 29, 2019, 9:41 AM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] AATIP / Elizondo question

(b)(6);  
(b)(3):10 USC  
§ 424

We might be going to print with a story and I need a statement on this.

Pentagon/OUSDI statement to me is that Elizondo had "no responsibilities with regards to AATIP while at OUSDI"

However they said "it's possible" he had responsibilities with AATIP while at DIA.

**So my question is: "Did Luis Elizondo work with AATIP in ANY leadership role at anytime?"**

**My follow-up questions is, "Did Luis Elizondo have ANY involvement with AATIP at all?"**

My deadline is end of day tomorrow.

Thanks!

Steven

**STEVEN GREENSTREET**

Senior Manager, Video Production and Series Development  
1211 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036

WORK: (b)(6) MOBILE: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

[nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

On Thu, May 9, 2019 at 7:29 PM (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
wrote:

Steven - I've been in touch with OSD/PA - the Pentagon press desk and we're discussing a way forward to get you something.

Not clear just now if that will be tomorrow.

(b)(6), (b)(3), 10 USC § 424

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** Steven Greenstreet (b)(6)  
**Date:** Thursday, May 09, 2019, 1:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(3), 10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] AATIP / Elizondo question

Hello. Just checking in on this. Thanks!

**STEVEN GREENSTREET**

Senior Manager, Video Production and Series Development  
1211 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036  
WORK: (b)(6) MOBILE: (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
[nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

On Tue, May 7, 2019 at 11:49 AM Steven Greenstreet (b)(6) wrote:  
Ok tomorrow morning works. I'll push the story and await your response. NOTE: Luis Elizondo no longer works for DIA or DoD as he resigned in 2017 and is now a producer on the History Channel. So does 10 USC 424 still apply to former employees?

**STEVEN GREENSTREET**

Senior Manager, Video Production and Series Development  
1211 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036  
WORK: (b)(6) MOBILE: (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
[nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

On Tue, May 7, 2019 at 11:38 AM (b)(6), (b)(3), 10 USC § 424 wrote:  
Steven – I won't have an answer until tomorrow morning at the earliest. I hope that works for you.

Under 10 USC 424, we don't comment on employees, positions, etc., so I'll need to coordinate a response.

(b)(6), (b)(3), 10 USC § 424

Public Affairs Officer  
Office of Corporate Communications

Defense Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20340

(b)(6), (b)(3), 10 USC § 424

**From:** Steven Greenstreet (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 07, 2019 11:25 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(3), 10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] AATIP / Elizondo question

Thank you for taking time on the phone just now.

I just simply need to confirm whether Luis Elizondo was in charge of the AATIP program while at DIA or had any role with AATIP whatsoever.

Elizondo claims he "took over as Director of AATIP in 2010"

**So my question is: "Did Luis Elizondo work with AATIP in ANY leadership role at anytime between 2008 and 2012?"**

**My follow-up questions is, "Did Luis Elizondo have ANY involvement with AATIP at all between 2008 and 2012?"**

Thank you so much. My deadline is end of day today. I appreciate your help with this!

Best,

Steven Greenstreet

**STEVEN GREENSTREET**

Senior Manager, Video Production and Series Development  
1211 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036

WORK: (b)(6) MOBILE: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

[nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR:

www.defense.gov

---

**From:** CHRIS MELLON (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 12:36 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

---

Hi (b)(6)

Attached are a two examples of the documentation Lue may feel compelled to release if there is not a clarification of his continuing active role in coordinating activities with Navy and other agencies related to UAP issues right up until his departure and resignation from OSD.

Frankly, it might well be to Lue's benefit and that of TTSA and the History Channel to have a pissing match about this with DoD/OSD but personally I'd hate to see that. I'm glad that does not seem to have occurred to Lue yet hut it may become unavoidable if there is not some clarification since his integrity is publicly being called into question.

I also want to point out that Lue insists that he was NOT detailed to DIA, another falsehood according to Lue.

I know your office and its credo very well and fully understand that you and your colleagues are absolutely committed to being as transparent as possible. There is not the least question in my mind regarding your integrity or that of your colleagues in OSD Public Affairs based on serving in OSD during 2 Administrations. However, you have clearly have not been given a full or complete picture on this issue.

I hope this information proves useful. There is much more than this sample. Lue has a lot of friends on the inside who I believe will continue to push out more unclassified information on his behalf if this becomes a pissing match. Indeed one of them will soon be appearing on the History Channel show talking about their work with Lue on these matters AFTER the time period you seem to believe he was no longer involved with AATIP (although that individuals identify is protected).

I hope this information proves useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Lue cherishes his relationship with DoD and does not want to escalate this but as you can imagine after the intercept story by Kloor pressure is building on him to respond.

In my view it is probably best for you to continue this discussion directly with Lue going forward; it is not really my affair, but I did want to give you a head's up as I can see where this may be heading and it seems to me to be preferable to avert a public clash over this if possible.

Sincerely,

~Christopher Mellon

(b)(6)

PS: Last week I appeared on GMA, Fox, Inside Edition etc. Below is a sample. I imagine I may be asked to comment publicly on this issue soon myself. If so, obviously I will have no choice but to set the record straight. Lue was clearly continuing to work the UAP issue at a high level right up until the end.

Here is where I am coming from on the larger UAP issue if interested:

Caution-<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> < Caution-<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> >

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: Eric Davis and Defense Agency  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020 12:41:02 PM

---

(b)(6)

Please see below from DIA.

v/r

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 12:35 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424 (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** RE: Eric Davis and Defense Agency

This is from our (b)(3):10 USC § 424 office.

---

(b)(3):10 USC § 424

Eric Davis did not work for DIA. He was a Ph.D Physicist that was contracted by Bigelow Aerospace to author the products listed below. As for the March briefings, I can only speak for (b)(3):10 USC § 424 Mr. Davis has not given any briefings to us (b)(3):10 USC § 424 ceased all involvement in the program when it was turned over to USD(I).

The products that Mr. Davis authored are:

- (U//~~FOUO~~) Antigravity for Aerospace Applications
- (U//~~FOUO~~) Traversable Wormholes, Stargates, and Negative Energy
- (U//~~FOUO~~) Warp Drive, Dark Energy, and the Manipulation of Extra Dimensions (U//~~FOUO~~) Laser Lightcraft Nanosatellites
- (U//~~FOUO~~) Concepts for Extracting Energy From the Quantum Vacuum
- (U//~~FOUO~~) Quantum Tomography of Negative Energy States in the Vacuum

Mr. Davis was credited as the author in the DIRDs that were produced by then DWO. Bigelow Aerospace was given the topics of interest and they would find an expert in that field/technology to write a paper. That paper was given to the DWO program lead, Jim Lacatski, who would transfer it into the DIA DIRD format and publish it.

Let me know if you have any questions.

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

Defense Intelligence Agency

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

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Very respectfully,

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

Public Affairs Officer

Office of Corporate Communications

Defense Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20340

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 12:23 PM

**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

**Subject:** RE: Eric Davis and Defense Agency

We'll check. (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 please help.....

Doesn't ring a bell.

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

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**From:** (b)(6)

**Date:** Monday, Jul 27, 2020, 12:21 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

**Subject:** FW: Eric Davis and Defense Agency

Good morning DIA. Are you aware of any briefings like they one described below? Thanks.

v/r

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, July 27, 2020 11:55 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Eric Davis and Defense Agency

Ref what I said during the morning huddle, late last week NYT ran a couple stories about UAP investigations that included the below about an 'Eric W. Davis, reportedly an astrophysicist, whom I've verified was a subcontractor for a DoD contract at least once. I'm trying to verify whether he did in fact give a classified briefing to a "Defense Department agency" recently.

**Mr. Davis, who now works for Aerospace Corporation, a defense contractor, said he gave a classified briefing to a Defense Department agency as recently as March about retrievals from "off-world vehicles not made on this earth."**

It wasn't OUSD(I&S). If it's actually true, I would expect that the briefing was given to either an intel agency, or something research /acquisition or space related, so I've limited my distro to you guys. Please check with your agencies/commands.

Regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:49:01 AM

---

Team, see request from Comptroller below. Looks like they'll be happy with the transcript; thoughts on providing the prep book pages on COVID also?

**From:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:44 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB

That's perfect and all we need. Thanks (b)(6)

Ms. Jongsun A. Kim  
Deputy Comptroller for Budget and Appropriations Affairs

(b)(6)  
(b)(6) (main)  
(b)(6) direct

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB

Hi Jongsun,  
I'll coordinate with my teammates who work COVID-19 response issues on what's releasable. I anticipate that we'll have the official transcript of yesterday's press briefing sometime today, and I'll share that with you once we have it.

Regards,  
(b)(6)

**From:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: OSD(PA) COB

Hi (b)(6) – thanks for sending these!

Related to the COVID relief effort briefing yesterday, is there anything public or written that we can share with Congress? Max Rose has a meeting with Senate Appropriations clerks on Monday on COVID and I'd like to share with the clerks in advance.

Many thanks!

Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby, COVID Senior Advisor Max Rose, and Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, Joint Staff Surgeon, briefed the press on COVID-19 efforts, vaccinations, and myriad other topics, including Afghanistan, extremism in the ranks, Taiwan, Korean Peninsula, global force posture, FY22 budget, SECDEF phone calls with counterparts, Israel move to CENTCOM, and NG deployment to DC. A transcript will be posted to defense.gov when available.

Best,  
Jongsun

Ms. Jongsun A. Kim  
Deputy Comptroller for Budget and Appropriations Affairs

(b)(6)

(b)(6) main)  
(b)(6) direct)

---

**From:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA (b)(6))  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:49 PM  
**To:** OSD Pentagon OUSD C List BAA <[osd.pentagon.ousd-c.list.baa@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-c.list.baa@mail.mil)>  
**Subject:** FW: OSD(PA) COB

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:37 PM  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB

ON TOP

\* FEMA Request for Vaccination Support: Released statement by Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby acknowledging receipt of request from FEMA for vaccination support: "The Department of Defense has received a request from FEMA for assistance in administering COVID-19 vaccine at various locations across the country. The Department is evaluating the request, and what kinds of support it can provide. Given the significance of the request, it will be reviewed urgently but carefully to determine what DoD assets can safely be made available to support the effort. As Secretary Austin has said, DoD is committed to do as much as it possibly can to assist the whole-of-government effort against COVID-19."

\* Allegations of Violation of Libya Arms Embargo. UK Times story on UN Libya Panel of Experts' alleging U.S. violation of Libya arms embargo resulted in additional queries from Barbara Starr, CNN; Helene Cooper, NYT; Umar Farooq, Middle East Eye; Mikhail Turgiev, RIA Novosti; and Dmitry Kirsanov, TASS, asking for a Pentagon comment and specifically if the U.S. had captured a Russian missile system from Russia in Libya. Additional questions included what kind of missile system was this; where and when exactly was it captured; where was it taken; how did the US come up with the plan to capture it; and have U.S. forces learned anything from the missile system. Provided an NSC-cleared on-the-record comment that "We are aware of the UK Times story. The Department of State can provide you more context with regards to the United States policy towards Libya with specifics. The United States opposes all foreign military intervention in Libya. We strongly support the October 23 Libyan ceasefire agreement, including the immediate withdrawal of foreign military forces and mercenaries. This includes the need for the departure of Russian proxy forces. To that end, the United States has been a leader on promoting adherence to the arms embargo. We remain fully committed to ensuring advanced weapons systems neither enter Libya nor are proliferated from Libya into the hands of dangerous actors, and further stoking violent conflict in violation of the word and spirit of the arms embargo. The United States prioritizes finding an inclusive, negotiated, political solution to the Libyan conflict."

\* Halting Onboarding Actions for DoD Board Members: Lara Seligman, Politico, and Nancy Youssef, Wall Street Journal, asked about a recent internal message halting onboarding actions for newly appointed DoD advisory board members. Provided the following, attributed to Mr. Kirby: "'The Secretary, as you would expect, is reviewing current policies in place across the Department to determine if any changes are necessary, to include the advisory boards. No final decisions have been made with respect to board membership. But we will make the information available should that change.'"

## BRIEFINGS

Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby, COVID Senior Advisor Max Rose, and Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, Joint Staff Surgeon, briefed the press on COVID-19 efforts, vaccinations, and myriad other topics, including Afghanistan, extremism in the ranks, Taiwan, Korean Peninsula, global force posture, FY22 budget, SECDEF phone calls with counterparts, Israel move to CENTCOM, and NG deployment to DC. A transcript will be posted to defense.gov when available.

## DOD RELEASES

\* France Bilat Readout. Posted readout of SECDEF phone call with French Minister of the

Armed Forces Florence Parly. The leaders discussed a range of issues, including security and stability in Africa, the need for continued vigilance against terrorism, the pandemic, and the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the broader Middle East. They also discussed shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region. You can read the full readout here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2486312/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-loyd-austins-call-with-french-minister-of-the/>

\* Israel Bilat Readout. Posted readout of SECDEF phone call with Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin "Benny" Gantz. Secretary Austin reaffirmed the strength of the U.S.-Israel defense relationship and reiterated the U.S. commitment to maintain Israel's Qualitative Military Edge. Both leaders agreed to remain in close coordination on shared defense priorities. You can read the full readout here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2486314/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-loyd-j-austin-iiis-phone-call-with-israeli-min/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



## QUERIES OF NOTE

\* 2020 Recruitment Figures. Andrew Jeong, WSJ, asked a series of questions on whether the 2020 pandemic and its adverse effects on the job market has led to more applicants to the Armed Forces, compared to 2019, and previous recent years: was there an increase; how much did application numbers jump during the 2007-09 financial crisis; how many applications did the four branches and the Coast Guard receive in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009; and would there be a rough percentage based statistic available. Coordinating response with Manpower and Reserve Affairs Office.

\* UAPTF Budget. Duncan Phenix, Mystery Wire, 8 News Now (Las Vegas), asked whether a statement on Twitter attributed to a DoD spokesperson was accurate, and asked about the budget for the UAPTF. Confirmed the accuracy of the statement. Coordinating with Navy and OUSD(I&S) on the budget questions.

\* UAP Report to Congress. Douglas Johnson, Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies/TheDebrief, asked for information regarding the role of the Department of Defense in responding to the congressional directive, with regard to process, timing, or any other aspect. Responded that we had nothing further beyond what ODNI had provided him (which was simply that ODNI is aware of the requirement and will respond accordingly).

\* Tenant Bill of Rights Status. Haley Britzky, Task and Purpose, asked about the status of the privatized housing Tenant Bill of Rights, where four - maintenance history, dispute resolution, rent withholding, and the right to common documents - had not been implemented yet and were still being worked on. Coordinated with DASD(Housing) that the Department has been working with the MHPI companies to gain their voluntary agreement to retroactively apply the remaining requirements to existing MHPI projects. Based on those ongoing discussions, we expect the remaining four tenant rights to be available at the majority of vast installations with MHPI housing by June 2021.

\* Service Member Financial Benefits. Brenden Middleton, The Elks Magazine, requested information on financial benefits for service members. He wanted to know the number of service members who take advantage of financial benefits and what kind of benefits are available to spouses. Coordinating with MPP (M&RA): There are several dedicated sites that list military pay and benefits such as Military OneSource, the Department of Defense Office of

Financial Readiness (FINRED), the Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP), etc. It is important to the DoD to sustain the All-Volunteer Force and support Service members and their families. DoD utilizes its full array of pay and benefits in order to recruit, retain, develop, motivate and assign Service members to locations around the world and to support them and their families. The military has a pay and benefits package that compares very favorably to the private sector in recognition of the dedication and sacrifices our military members make in service to the nation. Amid the pandemic, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued military personnel guidance addressing special policies and procedures implemented to ensure continuing financial security for our members and their families in response to COVID-19.

\* GAO Report on BAH. Rose Thayer, Stars and Stripes, requested a comment on the recent report on BAH from the GAO. Response coordinated with M&RA and provided to the reporter: "We appreciate GAO's thorough review of the BAH program and are gratified they found the program to be sound and well run. We welcome their recommendations for improvements to ensure this program better and more accurately reflects the housing costs faced by our Service members and their families. The Military Compensation Policy staff continuously reviews the BAH program and identifies areas for potential process improvement. The GAO report's final recommendations are largely consistent with improvements Military Compensation also identified for implementation in coming years. We look forward to finding the best implementation solutions for these recommendations."

\* EO on Transgender Service Members. Chris Johnson, Washington Blade, asked if discharges under DTM-19-004 now prohibited and will be prohibited as long as the EO is in place; whether the Department think it must implement a policy allowing individuals who obtained treatment for gender dysphoria to accede or enlist; and whether government funds will be used to pay for transition-related care, as well as the number of discharges and blocked accessions under DTM-19-004. Response coordinated with M&RA and provided to the reporter: "While the Department appreciates your interest and questions, it would be premature to comment on prospective policy at this time. We refer you to the Executive Order, the White House Fact Sheet, and Secretary Austin's statement for now and commit to providing updated information as it becomes available. As you will note, the Secretary's statement calls for 60 days to "develop the appropriate policies and procedures to implement these changes.""

\* Letter to Evolution Metals Corporation. Jacob Holzman, S&P Global Market Intelligence, and James Munson, Bloomberg Environment, asked whether a letter allegedly signed by representatives from DOE, DOC, and DOD and sent to Evolution Metals Corporation is authentic, as well as whether the letter received an ethics review by the Department before the DoD representative signed. (b)(5)

\* Vaccinations for Guantanamo Detainees. Carol Rosenberg, New York Times, asked whether or not the vaccine that will be given to Guantanamo detainees will be Moderna; who signed the approval memo; will the defendants in the case going to arraignment on Feb. 22 go first; and whether she can have a copy of the material that the detainees will be given explaining to them that it is voluntary (Arabic and Bahasa Indonesian). Working response with SOUTHCOM, Detainee Policy Office and the COVID Task Force. Her initial article is at this link: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/01/28/world/covid-19-coronavirus/the-pentagon-says-prisoners-at-guantanamo-bay-will-be-offered-vaccination>. Kaylee Greenlee, The Daily Caller News Foundation, also asked whether the Pentagon said detainees at Guantánamo Bay will be offered COVID-19 vaccines. She wants to know how many vaccines will be made available, which vaccines and whether the troops stationed there receive vaccinations before the prisoners. Working the response with SOUTHCOM, CVTF and Detainee Policy Office.

\* Iraq Announcement of Killing ISIS Deputy Commander. Zachary Halaschak, Washington Examiner, and Tom Bowman, NPR, asked for confirmation/comment about Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Khadimi's claim that Iraqi Security Forces eliminated ISIS deputy commander Abu Yaser al-Issawi. Provided on-the-record comment that, "Today, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi announced that Iraqi Security Forces killed Abu Yaser al-Issawi, supervisor of ISIS operations in Iraq. The U.S. has NOT confirmed al-Issawi's death. If confirmed, this is a tremendous victory for our partners and for the Iraqi people."

\* Taiwan Relationship. Jessica Ni, TVBS News of Taiwan, asked for comment on the PRC comment regarding Taiwan's independence. Referred to Mr. Kirby's comments at the presser.

\* ASD(IPSA) Nominee. Sangmin Lee, Radio Free Asia, asked who was the nominee for IPSA. Replied that David Helvey is still Acting ASD(IPSA).

\* Korean Exercises and OPCON. Nari Baek, Yonhap News agency, asked for a comment on the ROK PM discussing OPCON transfer and exercises. Referred to Mr. Kirby's comments at the presser for exercises, and after coordination with OSD(Policy), provided previously cleared lines on OPCON: "Wartime Operational Control will transition when the mutually-agreed upon conditions are fully met. A conditions-based wartime OPCON transition is not only what the United States and Republic of Korea mutually agreed to, it is also necessary to ensure the security of our military forces, peoples, and the region. A commitment to a specific timeframe would put our forces and people at risk. Similarly, ensuring the security of military forces, peoples, and the region requires is more complicated than merely swapping the leadership of the Combined Forces Command."

\* DPAA/PLA Dialogue. Jennifer White, NHK, and Stacy Hsu, Taiwan's Central News Agency, asked for a comment on the story that said the DoD talked with the PLA this week. Coordinated with OSD(Policy) and replied with "From January 25-26, 2021, the Defense

POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) researchers conducted a first-ever Virtual Archival Exchange with their PRC counterparts at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Archives Department. The two-day event was a rare opportunity to seek new information, discuss previous requests, and raise possible field investigations in the coming year with the PLA Archives Department. There were 15 U.S. POW/MIA cases specifically discussed covering World War (WWII), the Korean War, Cold War, and the Vietnam War. DPAA will continue to engage with the PLA regarding these cases and the U.S. looks forward to safely executing activities in China once COVID -19 safety protocols and operational planning requirements are in place."

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Hypersonics. Closed out additional support to a recent interview with Sydney Freedberg, Breaking Defense and OUSD(R&E) Principal Director for Hypersonics, Mr. Mike White, focusing on conventional, theater hypersonic weapons, rather than intercontinental. Breaking Defense interviewed Mr. White in regards to a recent paper released by the Union of Concern Scientists on DOD Hypersonic programs, which was also written about in the NYT. Story expected to post today or tomorrow.

\* SECDEF Interview Request. Sean Kim, Seoul Broadcasting System, would like to interview Secretary Austin about military issues of Asia Pacific, as well as the Korean peninsula. Request placed in the SECDEF Interview Requests folder for review and processing.

\* Cyber Policy. Ellen Nakashima, The Washington Post, has an off-the-record conversation with Madeline Mortelmans, Principal Director Cyber Policy, Friday, Jan. 29 (4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.) in order to get to know her and perhaps get some off-the-record information about cyber policy, partnerships and the Defend Forward Strategy. Telephonic conversation will take place on a public affairs conference line and last between 10-15 minutes.

\* UAP Videos – Discovery Channel. Graham Evans, Discovery Channel, asked about using the UAP videos he had seen on YouTube for the Discovery Channel show, "Strange Evidence." Pointed him to where the videos were officially released on the NAVAIR FOIA Reading Room, and requested that the show cite U.S. Navy as the source, as well as use our standard disclaimer: "The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement."

\*JEDI. At 4 p.m. today, the DoD CIO sent an Information Paper on the Upcoming JEDI Cloud Litigation Milestone to Congress, explaining that the Court of Federal Claims (COFC) will make a significant ruling within the coming weeks related to the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) Cloud contract post-award protest. The ruling is on the Government's

Motion to Dismiss, in Part, Count Four of Amazon Web Services (AWS)'s protest complaint. Count Four relates to AWS's allegation of improper influence at the highest levels of government that, allegedly, unfairly affected the outcome of the JEDI Cloud competition. The parties are now waiting for the Court's ruling. After Congressional Notification was complete, the information paper was sent to DoD and interested trade media.

\* News Media Travel to Guantanamo. Carol Rosenberg, NYT, and John Ryan, LawDragon, confirmed that they wanted to travel to Guantanamo to observe the arraignment of three men accused in the bombing of nightclubs in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 and the bombing of a J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2003. The arraignment is currently scheduled for not later than Feb. 20. Additional reporters are undecided: Ben Fox, A; Amy Walters, Al Jazeera English; and Julia Kastein, ARD German Public Radio. The Office of Military Commissions provided invitation to media which had expressed an interest in travelling to Guantanamo to see detainee operations. OMC gave a deadline of noon, Jan. 28, to RSVP. Travel is currently planned for Feb. 4.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB --- CORRECTION  
**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 6:32:10 PM

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CORRECTION: Regarding the 5G network at Nellis AFB, it's OUSD(R&E) teaming with USAFWC, not OUSD(I). Corrected below. Apologies for any confusion.

ON TOP

\* SECDEF Virtual Town Hall. Secretary Esper, CJCS Gen. Milley, and SEAC Colón-López hosted a global virtual town hall to answer questions from service members, DoD civilians, and family members about COVID-19. Topics discussed included vaccine development, cleaning of workspaces, discussions between supervisors and employees on returning to offices, coronavirus antibody testing, donating plasma and blood (antibodies), potential reduction of quarantine timelines, hazardous duty pay and awards, military allowances, stop-move, DoD budget, training guidelines, Reserve and National Guard deployments, retrieving/shipping personal vehicles, stress on military families, and appeals to denials of hardship exceptions.

\* B1 Presence in South China Sea. Received multiple queries overnight from Korean and Japanese outlets on the B1 presence in the SCS. Responded with the following on-record: "The U.S. military conducts training all over the world, all the time. Training is scheduled months in advance, often done with our allies and partners in the region, and it's essential to ensure we remain the greatest, most powerful, and brilliant fighting force the world has ever known. Additionally, the U.S. military will continue to fly, sail, and operate anywhere international law allows."

DOD RELEASES

\* 5G Network at Nellis. Announced that OUSD(R&E) and USAFWC at Nellis AFB have teamed to build a 5G cellular network on Nellis as part of DOD's development of 5G for both defense and civilian uses. Only users taking part in the testing will have access to the private network. The network will feature relocatable cell towers that can be set up and taken down in less than an hour. Testing will involve mobile operations centers where team members will use the network while on the move. Construction on the network at Nellis starts in July; testing at Nellis will start in January 2021 and continue in three 12-month phases. This test builds upon DoD's previously announced 5G communications technology prototyping and experimentation at Hill AFB, Utah; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Georgia; and Naval Base San Diego, California.

\* DPA Title 3 COVID-19 PPE Project. Announced that DoD, in support of HHS, has signed a \$2.2 million contract with Hollingsworth & Vose to increase U.S. domestic production of 27.5 million N95 ventilator filters, and 3.1 million N95 respirators per month, starting in August. This investment will increase U.S. domestic production of N95 mask respirator and mask ventilator filter production by over 30 million combined over the next 120 days.

## THREE DAY FORECAST

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### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Air Strikes in Africa. Mike Stone, Reuters, queried for a list of African countries in which the U.S. military uses unmanned aerial vehicles and from which they are piloted. Coordinated with U.S. AFRICOM to respond: For operations security reasons, we do not confirm platforms or where they are piloted. However, U.S. Africa Command has a variety of assets at various locations that enable us to carry out precision strike operations for a range of missions. For additional context, when appropriate, missions are announced at [africom.mil](http://africom.mil).

\* Russian Aircraft in Libya. Ashley Roque, Janes, queried for additional information regarding the U.S. Africa Command press release that Russia is supplying aircraft in Libya. Coordinated with AFRICOM to respond: Over multiple days in May, Russian MiG 29s and SU-24 fighters departed Russia. At that time, all the Russian aircraft have Russian Federation Air Force markings. The newly unmarked Russian MiG 29s then depart Syria. They are flown by Russian military members and escorted by Russian fighters based in Syria, head to Libya, landing in Eastern Libya near Tobruk for fuel. The MiG-29s are then delivered to Al Jufra Air Base in Libya, where they will likely provide close air support and offensive fires for the Russian state-sponsored Wagner Group. There were at least 14 aircraft delivered.

\* Ukraine Security Assistance. Luis Martinez, ABC, asked about Ukraine security assistance. Responded that we do not speculate on security assistance packages that are under review with Congress.

\* DISA COVID-19 Resilience. Lauren Williams, Federal Computer Week, asked DISA about DISA's plan for organizational resilience as we move into phases of the resiliency plan. Coordinated DISA's draft responses and emphasized that DISA, like DoD overall, never closed, and that DISA is following CDC protocols and focusing on a mission-driven, conditions-based approach to bringing additional personnel back into the workplace. Also emphasized that the DISA workforce is prepared to telework as needed.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Pentagon Return to Normal. John Gonzalez, WJLA ABC7 (Washington, D.C.), reported live from outside the Pentagon this morning on the plans for returning to normal operations at the Pentagon, using clips from his interview with CMO Lisa Hershman yesterday. The clips can be viewed at: <https://wjla.com/news/local/department-of-defense-considering-permanent-teleworking-for-pentagon-employees>.

\* UAP. (b)(5)

\* NATO Defense Ministerial. Working together with US Mission to NATO and OSD(Policy) to develop a media strategy for the first official virtual NATO Defense Ministerial to be held June 17-19.

\* Think Tank Engagement on East Asia. DASD(East Asia) Klinck participated in two think tank discussions. In the first, the Global Taiwan Institute's "U.S.-Taiwan Relations in President Tsai's Second Term," DASD Klinck clearly articulated the DOD's position on Taiwan. The video is available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zcdy3Nji\\_0&pbjreload=101](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zcdy3Nji_0&pbjreload=101)  
The second was a Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments Webinar on the "U.S.-China Strategic Balance after the COVID-19 Pandemic." During the webinar Aaron Mehta, Defense News, asked, "does the Pentagon support the Pacific Defense Initiative (PDI)?" DASD Klinck responded that he was not a Pentagon spokesperson and would not speak for the entire department, but his opinion, influenced by his role and function in the department, is that he does support the intent of the PDI. And that although the NDS clearly stated the priority theater is the Indo-Pacific, but that "strategy is budget, and budget is strategy, and the budget numbers have not supported, to date, the Indo-Pacific's role as the priority theater." PDI and other decisions have demonstrated that we're putting more and more resources toward the Indo-Pacific. "Trend lines are positive, but it will be a slug, particularly in the COVID environment."

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, April 24, 2020 6:47:58 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* Navy Inquiry Into COVID-19 Outbreak On TR. The following statement, attributable to ATSD(PA) Hoffman, released late this afternoon: "This afternoon, Secretary Esper received a verbal update from the acting Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations on the Navy's preliminary inquiry into the COVID-19 outbreak on the USS Theodore Roosevelt. After the Secretary receives a written copy of the completed inquiry, he intends to thoroughly review the report and will meet again with Navy leadership to discuss next steps. He remains focused on and committed to restoring the full health of the crew and getting the ship at sea again soon."

#### BRIEFING

\* ATSD(PA) COVID-19 Update. ATSD(PA) Hoffman briefed the media from the Pentagon Briefing Room, taking questions from reporters both in the room and over the phone. After providing an update on continuing DOD efforts in the fight against COVID-19, questions focused on results of the Navy investigation into CAPT Crozier's removal as TR captain; the status of the Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort in NY City; the status of DOD plans to test and track troops for COVID-19; reports of a COVID-19 outbreak on the USS Kidd; what steps DOD may take as it returns to the new normal, and how long masks will be required; will the USNS Mercy redeploy; what is U.S. military doing to counter Chinese disinformation on COVID-19; how many patients have been treated on Mercy and Comfort; the status of U.S. and Chinese naval activity in S. China Sea; and could current telework arrangements remain post-pandemic. Transcript will be posted when available.

#### NEWS RELEASES

\* Multi-City Flyovers To Show National Unity. Joint Navy-Air Force announcement posted this afternoon says Blue Angels and Thunderbirds will take part in a series of multi-city flyovers in the next two weeks in a show of national solidarity. "America Strong" is a collaborative salute from the Navy and Air Force to recognize healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential personnel while standing in solidarity with all Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic.  
(<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2164689/america-strong-blue-angels-thunderbirds-to-conduct-multi-city-flyovers-champion/>)

\* SD Esper Phone Call With Japan's MoD. Readout provides following summary of today's call: "On April 24, Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper spoke with Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono by phone to discuss bilateral coordination on the response to COVID-19, regional security issues and threats to a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region, and continued cooperation to implement U.S. forces realignment initiatives."

\* SD Esper Phone Call With Italy's MoD. Readout posted last night provides following summary of

Thursday call between Secretary Esper and Italian MoD: "Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper conducted a follow-up call with Italy Minister of Defense Lorenzo Guerini by phone April 23 to express solidarity with our close NATO Ally Italy, which has been hit hard by COVID19. Secretary Esper outlined the aid package to Italy from the Department of Defense which will include logistics, humanitarian funds and personnel support. Minister Guerini thanked the Secretary for DoD assistance received thus far and U.S. leadership on the crisis, and expressed sympathies for the impact on COVID19 on the United States. Minister Guerini noted Italy plans to provide assistance to NATO Allies, especially in sharing lessons learned. Both ministers discussed the importance of countering Chinese and Russian disinformation campaigns and agreed to work closely as both nations confront the COVID19 pandemic together and with other Allies."

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Military Flyover of D.C., Baltimore Area Hospitals. Local NBC TV affiliate asked for confirmation that there will be a Saturday (April 25) aerial flyover of several hospitals in Baltimore and Washington, D.C., to honor health care workers by KC-135R aircraft, F-16Cs flown by AF Thunderbirds, and F/A-18s flown by Navy Blue Angels. Sent query to AF for confirmation.

\* Letter from Senators Regarding Border Wall. Tanvi Misra, CQ Roll Call, asked about a letter by Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Bennie G. Thompson

(<https://www.warren.senate.gov/download/20200423-letter-to-dod-ig-about-border-wall-contract-final>) asking that the DOD IG investigate wall contracts. Replied that "as with all congressional correspondence, we will respond directly to the authors of the letter."

\* COVID-19 a Bioweapon. Sasha Ingber, Newsy, asked if the DOD is putting resources into protecting the country from COVID-19 as a bioweapon. Referred to Joint Staff Surgeon Air Force Brigadier General Paul Friedrichs statements in the press briefing on April 6.

(<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2141351/department-of-defense-press-briefing-by-assistant-to-the-secretary-of-defense-h/>)

\* COVID-19 Rumors. Jane Tang, Radio Free Asia, asked about rumors regarding the origin of COVID-19. Referred her to our rumor control website

(<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Spotlight/Coronavirus/Rumor-Control/>).

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Navy UAP Videos. Following extensive review, and coordination within intel channels, three Navy videos showing purported encounters with unidentified aerial phenomena will be officially released by DOD on Monday, April 27. These three videos have been circulating in the public after unauthorized release since 2017 and earlier. Media attention is expected.

\* Hypersonics. On-the-record phone interview of Mike White, Asst. Dir. Hypersonics, OUSD(R&E), with Garrett Reim, FlightGlobal. The discussion focused on the mechanics of hypersonics and the DOD roadmap for development of the technology for transition to the warfighter.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, April 27, 2020 6:38:21 PM

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ON TOP

\* Syria. CBS News and several other outlets queried regarding reports that two U.S. service members were missing following an attack in Deir Ezzor. Referred to @OIRSpox Tweet: "Sadly Another Nonsense Article. There is no incident related to coalition forces in Deir ez-Zor. We can say that if there are prizes for fake news, this news agency deserves to receive all these awards, if any."

RELEASES

\* Navy UAP Video Release. Released a statement (below) on the official release of three Navy UAP videos. The statement and the posting of the videos on the NAVAIR FOIA Reading Room generated queries about the videos and the old AATIP program throughout the day from multiple outlets. CNN, ABC, CBS, Task and Purpose, Washington Examiner, Military.com and other outlets ran stories. Provided clarification to Washington Examiner on a common misconception in their article, and the reporter updated it immediately. Statement: "The Department of Defense has authorized the release of three unclassified Navy videos, one taken in November 2004 and the other two in January 2015, which have been circulating in the public domain after unauthorized releases in 2007 and 2017. The U.S. Navy previously acknowledged that these videos circulating in the public domain were indeed Navy videos. After a thorough review, the department has determined that the authorized release of these unclassified videos does not reveal any sensitive capabilities or systems, and does not impinge on any subsequent investigations of military air space incursions by unidentified aerial phenomena. DOD is releasing the videos in order to clear up any misconceptions by the public on whether or not the footage that has been circulating was real, or whether or not there is more to the videos. The aerial phenomena observed in the videos remain characterized as "unidentified." The released videos can be found at the Naval Air Systems Command FOIA Reading Room: <https://www.navair.navy.mil/foia/documents.>"

\* DoD Small Business Webinar Series. Released an announcement on the third Defense Small Business Webinar Series that will be held on April 29, at 3 p.m. EDT, and will focus on "Foreign Investment: Tools for Small Businesses and How DoD Can Help." The release noted that the Department of Defense's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) continues to partner with Defense Industrial Base (DIB) small businesses to identify impacts of COVID-19. The Foreign Investment webinar will help inform small businesses about the issues of adversarial foreign investment, provide education about regulations in place to counter adversarial capital, and

offer an overview of tools available to industry to protect themselves. The webinar will feature Mr. David Stapleton and Mr. Andrew Pahutski, DoD leads for Trusted Capital and Global Markets & Investments, respectively.

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QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Southern Border. Ryan Browne, CNN, asked whether it's true that discussions are underway to have National Guard take a larger role in the missions along the southern border, but under Title 10 leadership. After checking with OSD(Policy), have confirmed on background that there have been discussions to that effect, but provided no further comment.

\* CAPE Assessment of ABMS. Sara Sarota, Inside the Air Force, asked if it would be possible to receive a copy of a Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation (CAPE) Advanced Battle Management System (ABMS) report, what prompted CAPE to do this study, and did CAPE make specific recommendations to the Air Force about how to plan for ABMS. Provided the CAPE-approved response: "We are currently working the ABMS AoA Sufficiency Assessment. We do not provide pre-decisional studies or assessments."

\* Middle East Deployment Numbers. Julie In, CNN, asked for updated deployment numbers in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria. Provided the following response: "Iraq: Approximately 5,200; Syria: More than 600; Afghanistan: As of Feb. 28, 2020, (prior to the signing of the U.S.-Taliban agreement) U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan were approximately 13,000. U.S. Forces-Afghanistan continues to reduce force levels and expects to be at 8,600 U.S. troops within 135 days (mid-July) of the signing of the U.S.-Taliban agreement. USFOR-A remains committed to supporting our Afghan partners throughout the process and maintains the capabilities and authorities to accomplish our objectives."

\* Afghanistan Drawdown. Joe Tabet, Al Hurra, asked if there are any discussions to pull all U.S. troops out of Afghanistan. This follows an NBC article claiming the president told his advisers that the U.S. should pull all troops from Afghanistan due to COVID-19 concerns. Provided the following response: "The department has received no change in guidance on the drawdown in Afghanistan. U.S. Forces-Afghanistan continues to reduce force levels and expects to be at 8,600 U.S. troops within 135 days (mid-July) of the signing of the U.S.-Taliban agreement."

\* Overseas Service Members Deaths Since 9/11. Abigail Ita, Warm Springs Productions, is a producer working on the "Lara Logan Has No Agenda" documentary. She requested the "numbers of US fatalities in wars and conflicts since 9/11, including official wars and other conflicts." Referred her to the DMDC website (<https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>) where the requested information can be found.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Humanoid Robots Combatting IEDs. Coordinated with NASA and SOLIC's Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office to review and approve an informational video about the cooperative efforts between agencies to develop humanoid robots, which can support

advances in counter improved explosive devise efforts. The video will post to CTTSO's webpage upon OSD(Policy)'s final approval.

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**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 28, 2020 8:13:34 PM

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\* Senate Letter on DOD COVID-19 Response. Provided a statement from ATSD(PA) Hoffman to several outlets, and additional background info to a few outlets, in response to calls for comment on a letter signed by multiple Senators regarding DOD COVID-19 response. The statement focused on Secretary Esper's COVID-19 priorities and DOD efforts and accomplishments on responding to COVID-19 while still protecting both our service members and our missions.

\* COVID-19 Response. Ryan Browne, CNN, and Rocco Vertuccio, NY1 News, regarding the possibility that the Javits Center would close down on May 1. Confirmed that we at DoD are expecting the mission to come to an end on or about May 1, but emphasized that DoD is in support of FEMA and HHS. As such, it is ultimately their decision when the mission is over, and referred questions for more detail to them.

\* Border Wall Funding. Multiple outlets asked for comment after a SECDEF memo titled, "Adjustments to Funding Sources for Military Construction Projects Undertaken Pursuant to Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 2808" leaked to media. Provided the approved Comptroller response: "To enable previously identified projects to be executed and to ensure adequate funding remains available to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the current Section 2808 military construction effort, the following replacement sources have been identified: Cancellation of two projects for reasons unrelated to the border construction effort (\$23.1 million); deferral of 16 projects outside the United States (\$515.5 million in 8 countries and unspecified worldwide locations) that are scheduled to award in FY 2021 or later; and planning and design (\$6.9 million). Overseas projects have not been cancelled but deferred because the projects will not be awarded until FY 2021 or later."

THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Navy UAP Videos. Continued to respond to a steady stream of queries from multiple outlets (including NYT, Wired, Newsy, VOA, Terra Obscura, Fuji TV, et al) regarding yesterday's release of the Navy historical UAP videos. Queries varied on content, with several focusing on past classification clarification or relation to old AATIP program. Responses all coordinated with Navy or DIA, as applicable; some are still pending.

\* Assassination Attempt. Multiple reporters asked if we had any response to the accusations Russia tried to poison the mayor of Prague. Referred them to the city of Prague.

\* Purple Hearts. A number of reporters asked for a statement about the Purple Hearts for service members who suffered TBIs as a result of the Al Asad attack. Provided the following statement, worked with Military Personnel Policy: "The Purple Heart submissions remain under review and are being processed in accordance with Defense Department and military service regulations. Upon completion, service members entitled to receive the Purple Heart will be notified by their leadership."

\* Iron Dome. Elie Youssef, Alsharq Alawsat, queried whether the Pentagon is going to send Iron Dome to Iraq. Response cleared through OSD(Policy): "The establishment of ground-based air defenses in Iraq continues in order to protect Iraqi, coalition, and U.S. service members from a variety of air threats seen at Iraqi bases that host coalition troops. For operations security reasons, we are not going to provide specifics on those systems. It is important to note that repeated attacks on Iraqi bases, which violate Iraqi sovereignty, have killed and injured Iraqi, coalition, and U.S. service members. The Iraqi government is well aware of our collective need for air defense

protection of service members within Iraq, and we continue to coordinate closely with our Iraqi counterparts. The U.S. and our coalition partners remain committed to the lasting defeat of ISIS and supporting Iraq's long-term security and stability.”

\* Afghanistan Drawdown. Ryan Browne, CNN, asked if there are any discussions to pull all U.S. troops out of Afghanistan. This follows an NBC article claiming the president told his advisers that the U.S. should pull all troops from Afghanistan due to COVID-19 concerns. Provided the following response: “The department has received no change in guidance on the drawdown in Afghanistan. U.S. Forces-Afghanistan continues to reduce force levels and expects to be at 8,600 U.S. troops within 135 days (mid-July) of the signing of the U.S.-Taliban agreement.”

\* Open Skies Aircraft. Joseph Trevithick, The War Zone, asked, among other things, whether or not any OC-135 aircraft with the DVIS upgrade had conducted any missions under the Open Skies Treaty. Responded: “The Digital Visual Imaging System (DVIS) is designed to replace the current wet film camera system on board the U.S. Open Skies Aircraft. The 55th Wing maintains one Treaty certified wet-film aircraft to conduct Open Skies missions and one aircraft with the DVIS system installed. The aircraft with DVIS installed is currently in the test phase, and has not been certified for use on Open Skies missions.”

\* Ligado. Dee Ann Divis, Inside GNSS/Inside Unmanned Systems, queried about whether the U.S. military would need to update GPS receivers if the Ligado proposal to operate a terrestrial 5G network in spectrum adjacent to GPS. She also asked about the impact to the U.S. military should Ligado be allowed to implement its proposal globally. Provided that DOD is concerned about the Ligado request, remains opposed to it and that the impact on legacy military receivers used by DOD would require modification or replacement of this equipment across the department, something that would cost billions of dollars and take many years to complete. Any global terrestrial mobile broadband deployment in the frequency band under consideration would adversely impact military use of GPS.

\* U.S. Assistance in the Sahel. Jack Detsch, Foreign Policy, queried for comment on French Defense Minister Florence Parly's comment that the U.S. will continue to provide support for Operation Barkhane in the Sahel region by providing intelligence and surveillance. Coordinated with AFR Policy, JS, and AFRICOM to confirm no new decisions have been made regarding AFRICOM's comprehensive/Blank Slate review.

\* DOD on Libya. Ryan Browne, CNN, queried if there are updates regarding DOD's perception of, or engagement in, Libya. Coordinated with AFR Policy to affirm, “The U.S. remains committed to a secure and stable Libya, where the military serves in a support role to allow time and space for long-term diplomatic solutions to take effect.”

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Turkey Donations to United States. Coordinated an Air Force press release and article for the government of Turkey donation to the U.S. landing at Andrews Air Force Base this evening. The

event, coordinated by the Turkish Embassy in DC, will host several invited press members and a FEMA/State Department press conference.

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**Date:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 6:32:43 PM

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\* Theodore Roosevelt Investigation. Brent Budowsky, The Hill, alleged that SECDEF did not call for an investigation soon enough into CAPT Crozier. Provided ATSD(PA) Hoffman statement from Friday and SECNAV statement from today.


\* Ligado. Received multiple queries on Ligado. Matt Daneman, Communications Daily, asked about the potential for discussions between DOD, USAF, and Ligado on technical aspects of the proposal; referred to USAF for their plans and reiterated past SD statements on the dangers of granting the Ligado request. Aaron Mehta, Defense News, requested an interview with DCIO ahead of an expected SASC hearing on Ligado; coordinating with ATSD(PA) and CIO.

BRIEFINGS

\* Illinois NG and Polish Support. Adjutant General of the State of Illinois Brig. Gen. Richard Neely; Brig. Gen. Thomas Hatley, vice director, Strategy, Plans, Policy and International Affairs, J5, National Guard Bureau; and Polish Military Medical Corps Captain Jacek Siewiera briefed the press via teleconference on Polish support to Illinois' COVID-19 response. From April 23 to May 2, Polish doctors, nurses and emergency medical technicians are visiting Illinois as part of the National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Polish military. Polish medical personnel recently treated COVID-19 patients in Italy and Poland, and are sharing lessons learned and best practices from their fight against the virus in Europe with state medical professionals.

THREE DAY FORECAST

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## QUERIES OF NOTE

- \* **Costs Associated with Medical Support in NYC.** Julie Watson, AP, asked ARNORTH for costs associated with the \$3.5 million for the Comfort operations in NYC, as briefed on April 17. Coordinating with Comptroller for disbursement of those funds.
- \* **Space Force Contract.** Tom Squitieri, Talk Media News, asked if a contract awarded to Palantir is the first U.S. Space Force contract. Referred the reporter to SAF/PA.
- \* **Chaplains.** Isaac Scher, Business Insider, asked a series of questions about chaplains, including if there is a policy about chaplains sharing their faith. Provided DoDI 1304.28 (“Guidance for the Appointment of Chaplains for the Military Departments”) that discusses the responsibilities for appointing chaplains and identifies the educational and ecclesiastical requirements. Referred to the services for their specific policies.
- \* **NYC/DOD Partnership on Mental Support for Frontline Workers.** Mosheh Gains, NBC, asked about an announcement of a partnership between DOD and New York City to provide mental health support for people responding to COVID-19. Referred to NORTHCOM for more details.
- \* **Non-Deployable Policy.** Oriana Pawlyk, Military.com, asked about the number of individuals removed from military service due to the non-deployable policy. Referred to the services for their numbers, as the services have the authority to make a final decision on a service member, such as whether or not to retain.
- \* **Telework Funding.** Jackson Barnett, FedScoop, asked if the department will need additional funding to support long-term telework requirements. Referred him to the transcript of DCIO Deasy and JS J6 Lt Gen Shwedo’s media briefing of April 13, 2020, and provided: “We continuously evaluate our network requirements, to include expanding telework capability for the DOD workforce. It would be premature to discuss any potential future requests. The department has already expanded its telework capacity due to the unprecedented demand for telework capabilities.”
- \* **Possible Elimination of the CIC at NDU.** Received multiple queries for DOD comment on a letter from four members of Congress concerning the potential elimination of the College of Information and Cyberspace as a component institution of the National Defense University. Referred to NDU.
- \* **Release of Navy UAP Videos.** Received a few more queries about Monday’s release of the videos, most trying to make a connection between the video release and the old AATIP program (which

ended in 2012). Coordinating response with DIA and OUSD(I). Additionally, working with Navy regarding a FOIA request related to the release.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Defense Security Cooperation University. Ms. Cara Abercrombie, President, Defense Security Cooperation University, conducted a taped interview with Government Matters via Skype. Interview covered DSCU's efforts to continue their goal of providing security cooperation curriculum to the SC workforce to achieve their goal of certifying the entire workforce by 2022. Program will air this evening at 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. on WJLA.

\* Interview Requests with Polish Military Medical Corps Captain. FOX and NPR expressed interest in conducting interviews with Polish Capt. Jacek Siewiera after the Pentagon Press Corps briefing today. Topics of the interview would be the lessons learned and best practices the Polish medical team has shared with their State Partnership Program Illinois National Guard partners. EUCOM PA concurred on the concept.

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\* SD at Brookings. SECDEF participated in a Brookings Institution webinar, "A conversation with Secretary of Defense Mark T. Esper," where he discussed DOD's COVID-19 response, readiness, Afghanistan, and Russia and China.

\* Rep. Lynch Letter. Ryan Browne, CNN, and Daniel Wilson, Law 360, asked about the letter from Rep. Stephen Lynch in his role as chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform Subcommittee on National Security, asking for DOD to produce, by May 15, "documents and communications related to the USS Theodore Roosevelt's March 4-9, 2020, port visit to Da Nang, Vietnam, and subsequent coronavirus outbreak." Coordinated a response with Legislative Affairs: "With regard to the recent events concerning the USS Theodore Roosevelt, the department will update Congress once the review of the investigation has been concluded." On background, we responded on April 20 to Rep. Lynch's original request for information.

\* Purple Hearts from Al Asad Attack. Barbara Starr, CNN; Lita Baldor, AP; Shawn Snow, Military Times, asked for a statement on the presentation of the first Purple Hearts from the Jan. 8, 2020, theater ballistic missile attack at Al Asad. CENTCOM provided the following statement: "The first six Purple Hearts approved for injuries sustained during a Jan. 8, 2020 Iranian ballistic missile attack on Al Assad Air Base in Iraq were awarded to U.S. Army soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait on May 3 and 4, respectively. The awards were the first of 29 approved by Lt. Gen. Pat White, commander, Combined Joint Task Force- Operation Inherent Resolve, following a review in accordance with Army and Air Force regulations. Individual units were responsible for submitting award packages to CJTF-OIR for service members who had been injured and may be eligible for the Purple Heart as a result of the ballistic missile attack. 80 packages were received by CJTF-OIR and each package was evaluated individually by a CJTF-OIR review board in accordance with eligibility criteria contained within Army Regulation 600-8-22, Chapter 2, Section 2-8, and Air Force Manual 36-2806, Attachment 2, paragraph A2.10. The review board submitted their recommendations to White for final decision and determination for U.S. Army soldier Purple Hearts. Two USAF Airmen Purple Heart submissions were reviewed as part of the CJTF-OIR process and the CJTF-OIR Commander passed his recommendation against approval for these two awards to the U.S. Air Forces Central Command Commander, Lt. Gen. Joseph T. Guastella, who was the final approval authority for U.S. Air Force airmen. It is important to note that a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) diagnosis does not automatically qualify a Service Member for Purple Heart eligibility or awarding, and the CJTF-OIR process was designed to be a fair and impartial proceeding that evaluated each case in accordance with applicable regulations. Ultimately, 29 Purple Hearts have been approved for injuries sustained by U.S. Army soldiers, and the rest of the awards are expected to be presented this week."

THREE DAY FORECAST

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QUERIES OF NOTE

\* JEDI. Lauren Williams, FCW, asked about the status of the JEDI reconsideration and whether

COVID-19 had impacted the process. Drafted response and coordinating with the Cloud Computing Project Office and CIO front office.

\* Hypersonics. Garrett Reim, FlightGlobal, had asked several follow-up questions to an interview with Mike White, asst. dir. for Hypersonics, OUSD(R&E). His follow-ups dealt with how DOD will collaborate with academia on hypersonics development. Responses emphasized the need to develop relevant high-payoff technologies and, at the same time, inspire and accelerate the learning of the next-generation workforce.

\* D-ISIS Operation in Syria/Prisoners Held by SDF. Hadeel Oueis, North Press Agency, asked about U.S. support to SDF detention facilities in Syria; current U.S. capabilities in Syria; impacts of COVID-19 to D-ISIS operations; and U.S./Russia interactions. Provided the following cleared response: "The SDF continues to maintain control of thousands of ISIS fighters at detention facilities in northeast Syria, including approximately 2,000 foreign terrorist fighters. The U.S. military provides a range of support to help ensure the SDF is able to detain these ISIS fighters securely and humanely, including support to repair and renovate SDF detention facilities, very few of which are purpose-built. We continue to evaluate the situation in Syria and to work by, with, and through our SDF partners to identify further requirements for detention security. The United States maintains, however, that the best disposition option is for detained foreign terrorist fighters' home countries to repatriate, prosecute, and, where appropriate, to incarcerate them. The United States, working closely with our Coalition partners, has sufficient forces on the ground and capabilities projected from surrounding countries to execute the defeat-ISIS campaign in Syria. Although Turkey's October incursion complicated the northeast Syrian battlespace, we adjusted our force presence and continue to support our SDF partners. U.S. presence in Syria is bolstered by the Global Coalition of 77 nations and 5 international organizations, many of which provide funding, military capabilities, law enforcement coordination, and political support necessary to achieve the enduring defeat of ISIS. The President has made clear that the United States remains fully committed to the enduring defeat of ISIS, which is critical to our national security. ISIS remains a threat, and unless pressure is maintained, a reemergence of ISIS is a very real possibility. We are committed to keeping that from happening."

\* U.S./Taliban Agreement. Kim Dozier, Time Magazine, reached out to USFOR-A and asked if the terms of the U.S.-Taliban agreement apply to U.S. contractors, and if the Taliban were in violation of the agreement if they attacked a U.S. contractor or civilian (believe this may be for a piece on former American contractor Mark Frerichs). USFOR-A referred her to the State Department.

\* M-code Chips. Dee Ann Divis, Inside GNSS and Inside Unmanned Systems, asked how the Ligado plan for a terrestrial 5G service using spectrum adjacent to GPS would impact M-code chips. Coordinated with CIO and provided that it would have no impact.

\* UAP Videos. Matteo Marini, La Repubblica (Italy), asked several questions about last week's video release and similar reports. Coordinated with Navy and responded with standard statement about safety and security, what we mean by "unidentified," and that this is the only release in recent history.

\* Progress Payments. Dan Spinelli, Mother Jones, asked if the department had received or had a comment on a letter from Senator Warren. Responded: "I can confirm that Under Secretary of Defense Ellen Lord has received a letter from Senator Warren. Under Secretary Lord remains committed to the highest level of transparency regarding increased progress payment rates. We have been absolutely clear that major prime companies will work with their supply chains to accelerate payments to distressed and small businesses who need it most. As Ms. Lord said, we have spoken with each of our major prime companies and they have each confirmed their detailed plans to work with their supply chains to accelerate payments and to identify distressed companies and small businesses."

\* Arctic Uptick. Sarah Cammarata, Politico, asked about DOD's strategy and operations in the Arctic, especially regarding recent naval operations there. Referred her to the Navy for Navy-specific information and responded with the approved statement on DOD's new 2019 Arctic strategy, as well as the link to the strategy that has been posted on line.

\* Combatant Command Comprehensive Review – Africa. Glen Cary, Bloomberg, queried for an update regarding U.S. Africa Command's review, directed by SECDEF. Per standing talking points, provided information about the deployment of the Security Force Assistance Brigade and that the broader review is on-going.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Miller Interview. Lauren Williams, FCW, asked to interview Ms. Essye Miller, principal deputy, DOD CIO, for an article on her career as she plans to retire this summer. Coordinating with the CIO front office to add this to the list of similar interview requests.

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**Date:** Friday, May 15, 2020 6:26:03 PM

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\* SD Esper at White House Ceremony. Secretary Esper spoke at a White House Rose Garden ceremony in which President Trump introduced the U.S. Space Force flag and announced Operation Warp Speed to develop a COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Esper said the U.S. "has been a spacefaring nation for decades, but we know that our adversaries in the last several years have weaponized space. They've made it a warfighting domain. And so with the establishment of Space Force and the establishment of Space Command, the United States is now doing what it needs to do to protect our assets in space and ensure that space remains the heavens by which we not only protect America, but we sustain our economy, we sustain our commercial capabilities, we sustain Americans' way of life." Commenting on Operation Warp Speed, SD Esper said DOD "is very excited and committed to working closely with our partners at HHS, across the government, and in the private sector to accomplish the mission we have been given. Winning matters, and we will deliver, by the end of this year, a vaccine at scale to treat the American people and our partners abroad. You know, the Department of Defense has been in this fight since day one, going back to January. We've stayed ahead of the curve every step of the way. And today, on America's streets, across the nation, over 60,000 service members from all branches of the service are still out there. Whether it's doctors and nurses in hospitals, whether it's National Guard on the streets of America, or the Corps of Engineers continuing to build out capacity in America's hospitals, we are there and we will be there, Mr. President. And we look forward to this next greatest phase of this fight against the coronavirus. We were all in then, we are all in now, and we will be all in in the future, and we will deliver on time, bringing the full weight to bear - the full weight of the Department of Defense, all of our first-class, world-class researchers and scientists, our ability to manage logistics at scale, and our great distributional capabilities. We will deliver. We will win this fight. And, Mr. President, thank you again for all that you've done. We will get the job done."

\* Super-Duper Missile. Barbara Starr, CNN, asked if we had anything we could provide regarding the President's reference during today's USSF flag ceremony to a Super-Duper Missile. Coordinated with OUSD(R&E) and provided: "We will not discuss capabilities of any systems we may or may not have under development. Hypersonics is a characteristic of flight defined generally as flight at speeds in excess of Mach 5 and up to Mach 25. Fielding hypersonic weapons is a top technical research and engineering priority, and the United States has a robust program for the development of hypersonic weapon systems. DOD is pursuing conventional medium- and intermediate-range hypersonic strike weapons that defeat adversary anti-access/area-denial capabilities and hold adversary maritime, coastal and deep-inland assets at risk. We are also developing a robust, layered defense to counter adversary hypersonic weapon capability. Our aim is to transition from development to operational systems at scale to provide the warfighter with transformational weapons in sufficient quantities to perform high-priority strike missions."

BRIEFING

\* ATSD(PA) Briefing. ATSD(PA) Hoffman took questions from reporters both in the Pentagon Briefing Room and by phone after acknowledging the death of Medal of Honor recipient Ronald Shurer, announcing that the USNS Mercy is departing from Los Angeles today, naming senior DOD officials who will assist in Operation Warp Speed efforts to develop/manufacture/distribute COVID-19 vaccines, and thanking U.S. military personnel on the eve of Armed Forces Day. Media questions focused on TR sailors retesting positive for COVID-19; lessons learned from the deployment of USNS Mercy and Comfort; moving Jennifer Santos from DASD(Industrial Policy) to the Navy; Defense Business Board review finding the CMO office ineffective; POTUS comments today on a new U.S. "super-duper" missile; why Operation Warp Speed needs an intel officer, and where the team will be headquartered; SD Esper's comment earlier today that the U.S. will deliver a vaccine by year's end; why SD Esper and military officials aren't wearing masks at White House meetings; when will the Pentagon health condition status change; force reduction status in Afghanistan; will U.S. military base schools for dependents reopen in September; what is known about COVID-19 in N. Korea, and will U.S.-ROK exercises resume; the withdrawal of Patriot missile batteries from Saudi Arabia; the status of COVID-19 test kit production; and the status of Dr. Esper's stop movement order. Transcript will be posted when available.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* SD Phone Call With Japanese MoD. Readout posted of Secretary Esper's phone call today with Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono. The two spoke "by phone to advance their ongoing discussions on the response to COVID-19, security issues in the Indo-Pacific region, and continued cooperation to implement U.S. forces realignment initiatives."

\* USAF General Officers Announcements. Air Force general officer announcements today included President Trump's nomination of Lt. Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach to the rank of general and assignment as commander, Pacific Air Forces. All five announcements can be seen here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2188504/general-officer-announcements/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Balancing readiness and essential missions with the health of the force. Rebecca Kheel, The Hill, requested a comment on "how the department is balancing maintaining readiness and essential missions with the health of the force." Coordinated the following response with P&R attributed to Mr. Donovan: "Our focus remains on the Secretary's top priorities: protecting our people, safeguarding our national security capabilities, and supporting our whole of nation response. We are successfully emplacing protocols to ensure the health and safety of our personnel, minimizing risk to the force by using a prioritized testing framework, in conjunction with measures such as isolation periods, social distancing, and other foundational hygiene practices. We continue to identify areas where changes in policy or guidance can positively impact the readiness of our force."

\*CMO assessment. Travis Tritten, Bloomberg, queried on the status of a Secretary of Defense

assessment of the OCMO stipulated by the FY20 NDAA. Before response could be sent via e-mail, Tritten posed his question during Mr. Hoffman's news briefing. Mr. Hoffman's response covered the query. The summarized response: "The Secretary directed the staff to conduct an assessment of the Office of the Chief Management Officer, as stipulated in the FY20 NDAA. That staff assessment will take into consideration the findings of other independent reviews, including the review conducted by the DBB. The report of the Secretary's assessment will be delivered to Congress when it's completed."

\* UAP Videos. Jeff Schogol, Task and Purpose, asked whether DoD acknowledged by releasing these videos that UFOs/UAPs are a real phenomenon; and asked in a follow-up whether DoD can say whether the Navy videos that were officially released indicate whether the unidentified aircraft are extraterrestrial. Story running today. Coordinated with Navy and responded that all DOD is saying is that our pilots occasionally observe something in the air that cannot be immediately identified at the time that they observe it. It remains characterized as "unidentified" if we cannot definitively identify it; and that the objects in the three released videos remain characterized as "unidentified."

\* Office of Net Assessment. Kerry Pickett, The Washington Examiner, asked for comment on Mr. Jim Baker's (ONA Director) emails which were released to Judicial Watch under a FOIA request. She referenced the Michael Flynn defense documents that says they "believe" that Mr. Baker was the leak to the Washington Post. Coordinated with ONA and ATSD/PA and provided the following: On the record, attributed to Lt Col Orland: "All ONA interactions with media are conducted in accordance with DOD policy and ATSD/PA procedures. The documents referenced were released according to FOIA requirements and illustrate regular interactions between department officials and members of press." On background: "The reference by the defense team for Mr. Flynn was a note in their court filing. At no time since that filing has anyone within the DoD or the DOJ investigated Mr. Baker, nor given any credence to this 'belief.'"

\* Nigeria Foreign Military Sales. Received a query through the State Department from Erwan De Cherisey, Jane's Defense, asking for information about FMS to Nigeria. Coordinated with OCPA, DSCA and DOS and provided: 1. Who are the intended end users in Uganda and Nigeria (Army, Navy, Air Force)? The Nigerian Army. 2. Are these purchases FMS or FMFs? This capability is funded via Sec 333. 3. How are these systems expected to benefit local militaries in terms of capabilities/missions? This capability enables the Nigerian Army to generate trained and ready forces for counterterrorism operations.

\* COVID-19 Origins. Received a query from Erin Banco, The Daily Beast, asking if the MACE report on the COVID19 origins was sponsored by DoD. Confirmed with USD(I&S) that the report was not a DoD task or contract. Clarified to the reporter that Sierra Nevada MACE was under contract by DoD but not for this COVID-19 report. Referred the reporter to the company for any further information.

\* Ex Gratia Payments. Austin Landis, Newsy, queried for additional information regarding ex gratia payments made by DOD in 2019. Provided the Congressional report: Ex Gratia Payments in the Event of Property Damage, Personal Injury or Death Incident to U.S. military Operations in Foreign Countries. <https://media.defense.gov/2020/May/12/2002298396/-1/-1/1/REPORT-ON-EX-GRATIA-PAYMENTS-IN-THE-EVENT-OF-PROPERTY-DAMAGE-PERSONAL-INJURY-DEATH-THAT-WAS-INCIDENT->

TO-U.S.-MILITARY-OPERATIONS-IN-FOREIGN-COUNTRIES-DURING-2019.PDF

\* SECDEF Call with Japan MINDEF. Rihoko Akiyama, TV Tokyo, asked about the SD/MinDef phone call. Referred to the press release.

\* Special Measures Agreement. Seeyoung Kim, VOA, asked about the SMA negotiations. Referred to State Department.

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\* Pensacola NAS Investigation Update. Released a DOD statement regarding the DOJ and FBI announcement of additional findings about the shooting on Dec. 6, 2019, at Naval Air Station Pensacola. The statement reiterated the threat posed by al-Qa'ida and other terrorist groups; outlined the actions that DOD has taken in response to the incident; thanked the DOJ and FBI for their work and restated our commitment to working with them; and noted that despite this tragic event, our military partnerships and the international military student program remain strong and are a vital component of our national defense. The full statement was posted on defense.gov (<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2190048/naval-air-station-pensacola-investigation-update/>). Following the release, received queries from CBS News and New York Times asking about the operation targeting al-Maliki; responded: "We are aware of the operation the Attorney General and the Director discussed in their announcement, but we have no further information to share on this operation."

THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* SDF Detention Facilities. Eric Schmitt, NYT, inquired about cost caps for support to SDF detention facilities and the challenges of COVID-19. Response coordinated with Policy and State. On funding, responded that the NDAA authorizes \$20 million for construction and repair projects to SDF facilities not to exceed \$4 million per project. This applies to all projects, including detention facilities. On the impact that COVID-19 had on carrying out those building activities, responded: "COVID-19 has complicated operations globally, but the United States and our Coalition partners remain steadfast in our support to the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and their ability to detain ISIS fighters securely

and humanely. We thank our SDF partners for their swift and professional response to recent riots at their detention facilities. As we continue to adapt to COVID-19 limitations, including border restrictions, we have placed a renewed emphasis on repair, refurbishment, renovation, and construction of new SDF detention facilities. The United States, along with our Coalition partners, looks forward to making progress on this front in the coming months, however, we continue to maintain that to achieve a longer-term solution, detained foreign terrorist fighters' home countries should repatriate, prosecute, and where appropriate, incarcerate them."

\* Michael Flynn Case. Received a follow-up query from Kerry Pickett, Washington Examiner, asking if Bob Work, former DSD, had active communications with Washington Post reporter Mr. Ignatius. The original query stemmed from a FOIA release of email traffic between Mr. James Baker, director, Office of Net Assessment, and Ignatius, and referenced as the "believed" leak of the Flynn-Russia phone call transcript. Responded: "I have no information about that."

\* Presidential Tweet on Afghanistan. Missy Ryan, Washington Post, asked for a DoD response on the president's tweet on Afghanistan earlier today, specifically where the president said, "how the US 'never really fought to win.'" Referred to the White House without comment.

\* Vannevar Bush Faculty Fellowship. Jaime Adame, Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, asked for clarification of the award amount going to a 2020 fellow from the University of Arkansas and whether there have been previous fellows selected from Arkansas. Responded that the award is expected to be \$3 million, and that this is the first time the award has gone to a recipient at the University of Arkansas, and the first one in the state of Arkansas.

\* JAIC Joint Warfighting Initiative Announcement. Lauren Williams, FCW, asked for comment on the \$800 million task order to Booz Allen Hamilton through a GSA Alliant 2 Government-wide Acquisition Contract that will support the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center's Joint Warfighting mission initiative. GSA distributed the release today. Work on this task order will deliver artificial intelligence (AI) enabled products to support warfighting operations and be instrumental in embedding AI decision-making and analysis at all tiers of DoD operations. She also asked about how this will work with JEDI. Provided that the Joint Warfighting mission initiative will provide the Joint Force with AI solutions to organize, fight, and win at machine speed in order to assist the Joint Staff, the combatant commands, and ultimately our front line operators, in solving strategic, operational and tactical problems through AI. With regard to JEDI, provided that the two programs are wholly independent of one another, but that JEDI Cloud will facilitate the sharing of information worldwide at the unclassified, secret and top secret levels of classification.

\* Hypersonics Budget. Bob Burns, AP, asked to confirm the FY21 budget request for hypersonics. Confirmed \$3.2 billion for hypersonic offense and \$400 million for hypersonic defense.

\* UAPs. Received query from Roger Glassel, UFO-Aktuellt (Swedish blog), with 8 questions specific to Navy on UAP investigations, the term "anomalous aerial vehicles," and Navy's involvement in DIA's AATIP program (that ended in 2012). Coordinated with Navy, and responded that there is an interagency team charged with gathering data and conducting investigations into range incursions; that neither Navy nor DOD use the term "anomalous aerial vehicles;" that Navy and DOD take

incursions seriously and investigate each one, but we will not discuss any aspect of individual sighting reports / observations, including frequency of sightings; and that the contractors who produced the 38 technical reports under AATIP consulted with many experts across DoD, including Navy. As these involve intelligence matters, we're not to comment on specifics. He came back with two follow-up questions; (b)(5)

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Polar Space Vehicle Contract Modification. Announced today that Northrop Grumman Systems Corp. has been awarded a not-to-exceed \$2.38 billion undefinitized contract modification to contract FA8810-18-C-0006 for Next Generation Overhead Persistent Infrared Polar Space Vehicles 1 and 2. This modification adds Phase One for design/development, critical path flight hardware procurement, and risk reduction efforts leading to a critical design review to the basic contract.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:51:09 PM

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ON TOP

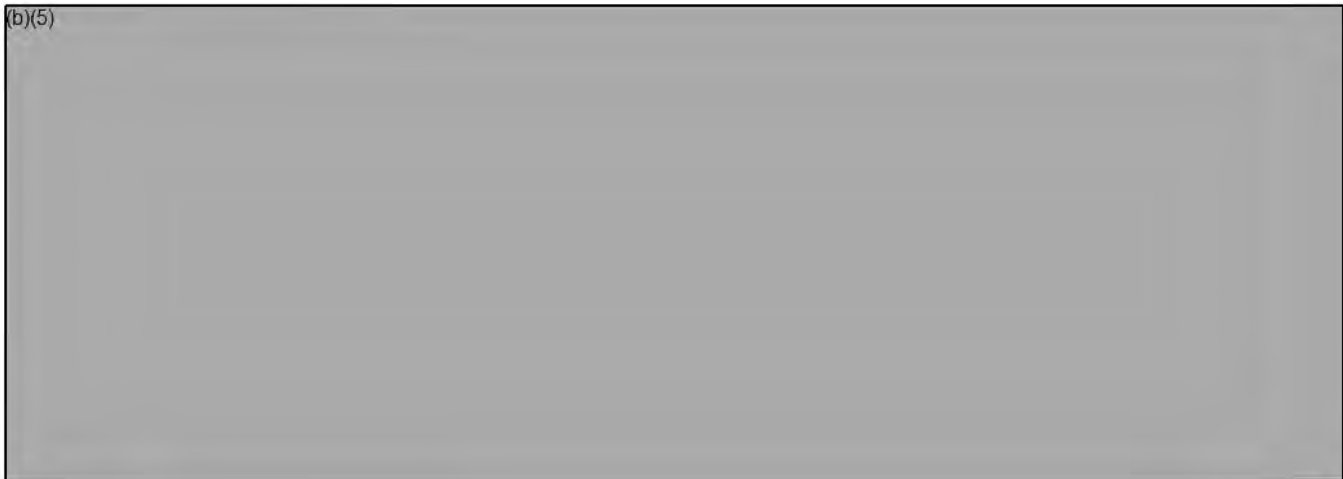
\* Delivering Aid to Russia. Received multiple inquiries on the military aircraft used to deliver Russian aid. Responded: "The U.S. government is using military aircraft to transport the ventilators to the Russian people. With extremely limited commercial flights, this was the best option available."  
Referred all else to DoS and USAID.

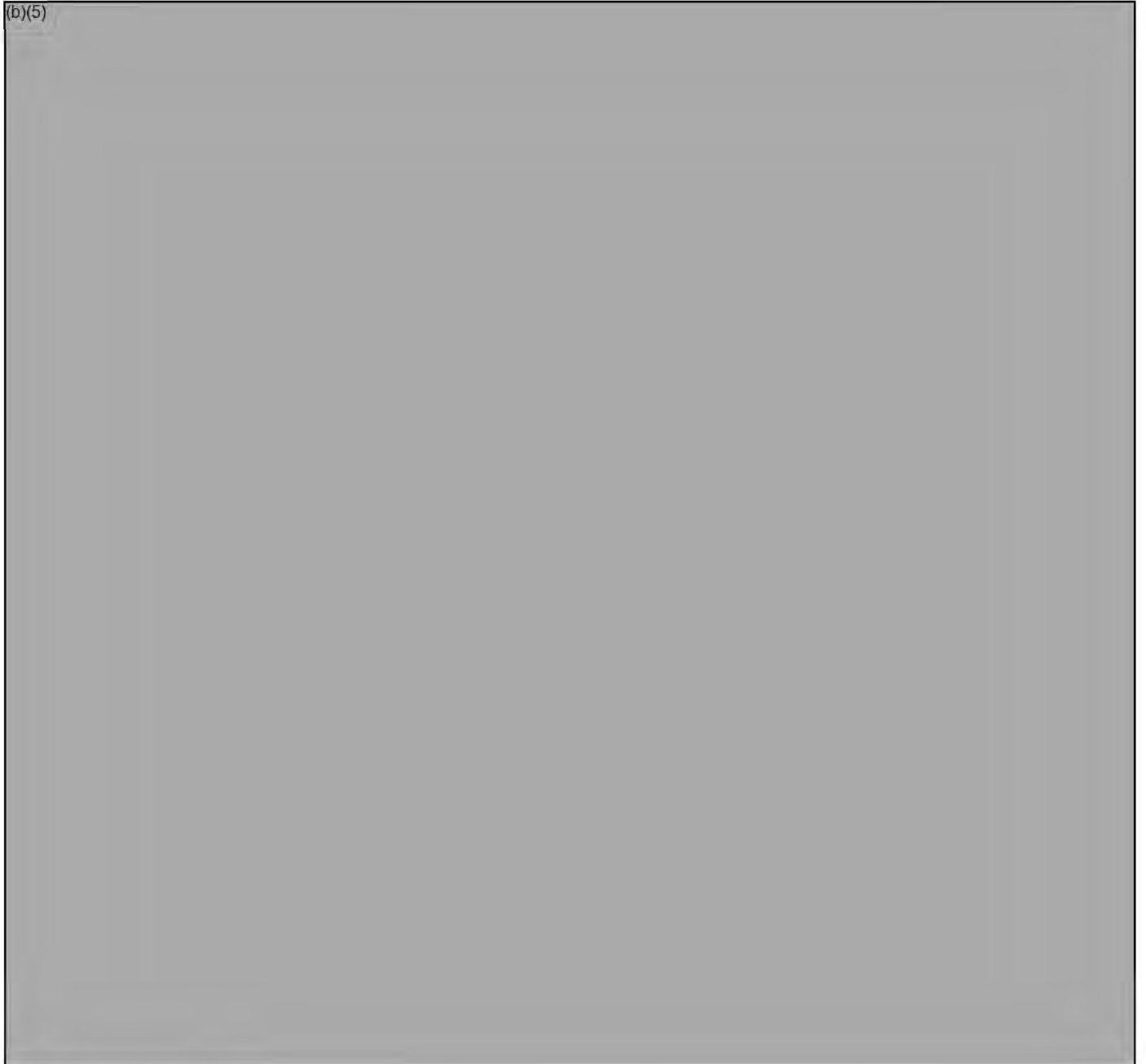
\* National Guard / COVID-19 Deployments. Received numerous queries seeking comment on reports that National Guardsmen supporting COVID-19 response will be brought off of orders one day before they would be eligible for early retirement/Post 911 GI Bill benefits. Statement will be provided RTQ, "In the Department of Defense's view, the Administration has been very supportive of State and territorial use of their National Guard to prevent and respond to COVID-19. Nine presidential memorandums support 48 State and territorial Governors' use of their National Guard, pursuant to Section 502(f) of Title 32, U.S. Code, to perform duties to fulfill mission assignments, on a fully reimbursable basis, that the Federal Emergency Management Agency issues to the Department of Defense for the purpose of supporting State and local emergency assistance efforts under the Stafford Act. The Department of Defense continues to work closely with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to ensure that the States and territories get the assistance that they need."

\* Task & Purpose Story on Draft Memo. Multiple news organizations requested confirmation about the Task & Purpose story "Leaked Pentagon memo warns of 'real possibility' of COVID-19 resurgence, vaccine not coming until summer 2021" (<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/coronavirus-vaccine-pentagon-memo>). Statements provided to reporters included Mr. Hoffman's on-the-record response, "We will be happy to discuss non-pre-decisional, fully-coordinated, current, cleared, and released guidance." and that DoD wouldn't confirm the specific memo Task & Purpose had but did state that by the date the reporter provided, it was more than three weeks old and the plan has continued to significantly evolve.

THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)





#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Social Media Threats. Chad Garland, Stars and Stripes, asked about a report highlighting threats in a new beer reviewing app. Provided standard response for social media dangers: "The Department of Defense (DoD) has broad social media guidance applicable regardless of the emergence of new platforms or applications, therefore the DoD generally does not provide guidance on individual social media platforms, including their websites and smartphone applications. Social media platforms pose numerous threats to DoD personnel due to the collection and aggregation of location and personal information, in addition to information posted by social media users."

\* Funding Impact on the WHO. Ken Klippenstein, The Nation, requested comments regarding meeting minutes he says he obtained of a U.S. Africa Command Skype meeting in which AFRICOM

officials, “highlighted some of the negative impacts related to the POTUS halt on World Health Organization funding.” Coordinated with AFRICOM to refer to the WHO to discuss potential impacts.

\* Ex-gratia Payments. Thomas Gibbons-Neff, NYT, queried for additional details regarding ex-gratia payments made by the U.S. military in response to civilian casualty incidents. Provided DOD’s report: [“Report on Ex Gratia Payments in the Event of Property Damage, Personal Injury, or Death That Was Incident to U.S. Military Operations in Foreign Countries During 2019.”](#)

\* Child Rescue Service. Received a query from Michael Mihalakis, Discuss Global, asking for confirmation that a Pentagon Pedophile Task Force exists. Provided lines prepared two weeks ago which were coordinated through P&R. “There is not a Pentagon Pedophile Task Force. The only child rescue service that we are aware of is the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child-Rescue Corps, which is a program developed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and DOD’s U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), in conjunction with the National Association to Protect Children.”

\* Ligado. Paul Kirby, TR Daily, asked for comment on a press release put out by House Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans supporting the FCC action on Ligado. Coordinated with CIO and reported that we will not have anything to add to the department’s previous comments on the Ligado proposal and FCC’s action.

\* Colorado Service Members KIA. Kara Van Hoose, ABC 7 (Denver), requested statistics on the number of those killed in action from Colorado. Referred her to the Defense Casualty Analysis System (DCAS) with instructions on how pull the requested info.

\* Sexual Assault Provisions. John Donnelly, CQ, asked for comment on the three sexual assault provisions Rep. Jackie Speier intends to bring up during the upcoming FY21 NDAA process. Coordinating a comment with Office of Force Resiliency, but expect the comment to be along the lines of, “the Department of Defense looks forward to studying the legislative proposals when they become available.”

\* UAP Investigations. Multiple bloggers and independent journalists asked follow-up questions about the multi-agency team that investigates reports of range incursions. Questions focused on make-up, name/program name, budget, when it started, and whether former DOD OUSD(I) employee Luis Elizondo had anything to do with it. Coordinating with Navy and OUSD(I) on responses – almost everything about the team is classified; anything involving Luis Elizondo also involves legal and personnel/privacy matters.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* South China Sea. Facilitated an engagement between DASD Werner and Lucas Tomlinson, FOX NEWS, over the phone on current situations in the South China Sea. Engagement was on the record, and we provided several follow up responses, specifically with regards to the speculation by media that China is stepping up malign activities while the world is focused on the COVID-19. Provided

attributable statement: "DoD firmly opposes the PRC's attempts to assert its illegitimate maritime claims and coerce its neighbors in the South China Sea. DoD has messaged its opposition to the PRC's malign behavior both privately and publicly, and will continue to do so. We are concerned by increasing, opportunistic activity by the PRC to coerce its neighbors and press its unlawful maritime claims in the South China Sea (SCS), while the region and the world is focused on addressing the COVID-19 pandemic."

\* Military Commissions Personnel Moves. Sacha Pfeiffer, NPR, plans to publish a news story about various OMC- related personnel changes that have occurred over the past few months, including 9/11 defense lawyer Harrington withdrawing, 9/11 Judge Cohen's retirement, and SecDef naming a new Convening Authority. The reporter requested comment on tape. The interview request was declined and previously provided statements were reiterated: "The rotation of military members and leaders is common across the services. Therefore, the Military Commissions process will continue to follow the Military Commissions Act of 2009, the Manual for Military Commissions, and the Regulation for Trial by Military Commission - which implement the uniform code of military justice process for the detail of a military judge and also set forth procedures that guide the Department of Defense. Like other complex legal proceedings, military commissions do not operate on a predetermined timeline. Rather the process allows for ensuring a fair commissions process." In addition, forwarded DOD's release on the new CA:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2158184/secdef-appoints-new-convening-authority-for-military-commissions/>

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2020 6:17:25 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* SECDEF Virtual Town Hall. Secretary Esper, CJCS Gen. Milley, and SEAC Colón-López hosted a global virtual town hall to answer questions from service members, DoD civilians, and family members about COVID-19. Topics discussed included vaccine development, cleaning of workspaces, discussions between supervisors and employees on returning to offices, coronavirus antibody testing, donating plasma and blood (antibodies), potential reduction of quarantine timelines, hazardous duty pay and awards, military allowances, stop-move, DoD budget, training guidelines, Reserve and National Guard deployments, retrieving/shipping personal vehicles, stress on military families, and appeals to denials of hardship exceptions.

\* B1 Presence in South China Sea. Received multiple queries overnight from Korean and Japanese outlets on the B1 presence in the SCS. Responded with the following on-record: "The U.S. military conducts training all over the world, all the time. Training is scheduled months in advance, often done with our allies and partners in the region, and it's essential to ensure we remain the greatest, most powerful, and brilliant fighting force the world has ever known. Additionally, the U.S. military will continue to fly, sail, and operate anywhere international law allows."

#### DOD RELEASES

\* 5G Network at Nellis. Announced that OUSD(I) and USAFWC at Nellis AFB have teamed to build a 5G cellular network on Nellis as part of DOD's development of 5G for both defense and civilian uses. Only users taking part in the testing will have access to the private network. The network will feature relocatable cell towers that can be set up and taken down in less than an hour. Testing will involve mobile operations centers where team members will use the network while on the move. Construction on the network at Nellis starts in July; testing at Nellis will start in January 2021 and continue in three 12-month phases. This test builds upon DoD's previously announced 5G communications technology prototyping and experimentation at Hill AFB, Utah; Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Georgia; and Naval Base San Diego, California.

\* DPA Title 3 COVID-19 PPE Project. Announced that DoD, in support of HHS, has signed a \$2.2 million contract with Hollingsworth & Vose to increase U.S. domestic production of 27.5 million N95 ventilator filters, and 3.1 million N95 respirators per month, starting in August. This investment will increase U.S. domestic production of N95 mask respirator and mask ventilator filter production by over 30 million combined over the next 120 days.

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Air Strikes in Africa. Mike Stone, Reuters, queried for a list of African countries in which the U.S. military uses unmanned aerial vehicles and from which they are piloted. Coordinated with U.S. AFRICOM to respond: For operations security reasons, we do not confirm platforms or where they are piloted. However, U.S. Africa Command has a variety of assets at various locations that enable us to carry out precision strike operations for a range of missions. For additional context, when appropriate, missions are announced at [africom.mil](http://africom.mil).

\* Russian Aircraft in Libya. Ashley Roque, Janes, queried for additional information regarding the U.S. Africa Command press release that Russia is supplying aircraft in Libya. Coordinated with AFRICOM to respond: Over multiple days in May, Russian MiG 29s and SU-24 fighters departed Russia. At that time, all the Russian aircraft have Russian Federation Air Force markings. The newly unmarked Russian MiG 29s then depart Syria. They are flown by Russian military members and escorted by Russian fighters based in Syria, head to Libya, landing in Eastern Libya near Tobruk for fuel. The MiG-29s are then delivered to Al Jufra Air Base in Libya, where they will likely provide close air support and offensive fires for the Russian state-sponsored Wagner Group. There were at least 14 aircraft delivered.

\* Ukraine Security Assistance. Luis Martinez, ABC, asked about Ukraine security assistance. Responded that we do not speculate on security assistance packages that are under review with Congress.

\* DISA COVID-19 Resilience. Lauren Williams, Federal Computer Week, asked DISA about DISA's plan for organizational resilience as we move into phases of the resiliency plan. Coordinated DISA's draft

responses and emphasized that DISA, like DoD overall, never closed, and that DISA is following CDC protocols and focusing on a mission-driven, conditions-based approach to bringing additional personnel back into the workplace. Also emphasized that the DISA workforce is prepared to telework as needed.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Pentagon Return to Normal. John Gonzalez, WJLA ABC7 (Washington, D.C.), reported live from outside the Pentagon this morning on the plans for returning to normal operations at the Pentagon, using clips from his interview with CMO Lisa Hershman yesterday. The clips can be viewed at: <https://wjla.com/news/local/department-of-defense-considering-permanent-teleworking-for-pentagon-employees>.

\* UAP. (b)(5)

\* NATO Defense Ministerial. Working together with US Mission to NATO and OSD(Policy) to develop a media strategy for the first official virtual NATO Defense Ministerial to be held June 17-19.

\* Think Tank Engagement on East Asia. DASD(East Asia) Klinck participated in two think tank discussions. In the first, the Global Taiwan Institute's "U.S.-Taiwan Relations in President Tsai's Second Term," DASD Klinck clearly articulated the DOD's position on Taiwan. The video is available at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zcdy3Nji\\_0&pbjreload=101](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Zcdy3Nji_0&pbjreload=101)  
The second was a Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments Webinar on the "U.S.-China Strategic Balance after the COVID-19 Pandemic." During the webinar Aaron Mehta, Defense News, asked, "does the Pentagon support the Pacific Defense Initiative (PDI)?" DASD Klinck responded that he was not a Pentagon spokesperson and would not speak for the entire department, but his opinion, influenced by his role and function in the department, is that he does support the intent of the PDI. And that although the NDS clearly stated the priority theater is the Indo-Pacific, but that "strategy is budget, and budget is strategy, and the budget numbers have not supported, to date, the Indo-Pacific's role as the priority theater." PDI and other decisions have demonstrated that we're putting more and more resources toward the Indo-Pacific. "Trend lines are positive, but it will be a slug, particularly in the COVID environment."

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 3, 2020 6:41:10 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* SECDEF Briefing on Civil Unrest. SECDEF held a press briefing in the PBR today to discuss recent events regarding his role and DoD support in general to civil authorities during the unrest in DC. Many outlets noted his comments that the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis policeman "is a horrible crime;" that he does "not support invoking the Insurrection Act;" and that he acknowledged that "racism is real in America." Topics of questions included whether he regretted participating in the POTUS photo op, the phrase "battle space," navigating the response to protests when it's become a political issue, what he knew about the measures being taken to clear Lafayette Square, why it took so long to comment on George Floyd's death, and the use of the medevac helicopter to intimidate protestors. Transcript is posted on Defense.gov at (<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2206685/secretary-of-defense-esper-addresses-reporters-regarding-civil-unrest/>).

\* DSB Resignation. Received multiple queries as to whether Defense Science Board member James Miller submitted his resignation from the advisory body citing concerns about Secretary Esper accompanying President Trump during his walk to St. John's Church on 1 June. Confirmed that he was in fact a member, and he did submit his resignation letter on 2 June. That letter also appeared in the Opinion section of the Washington Post.

\* National Guard/Unrest. Received numerous queries regarding the reported departure of the task force of active duty forces on alert for potential use in support of state/local authorities. Provided the following on the record: "There is no change. The active duty troops referred to remain on alert within the NCR, but outside the District proper." Referred further questions to Joint Staff.

#### BRIEFINGS

\* 5G. Held a media briefing in the PBR to announce seven U.S. military installations that will host 5G testing and experimentation. Dr. Joe Evans, technical director for 5G within OUSD(R&E), made the announcement and was joined by phone by several members of the DOD-wide 5G Working Group. The addition of these installations brings to 12 the number of bases involved in 5G prototyping. Transcript will be posted when available. A news release on the announcement of the seven installations was also posted to defense.gov.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* SD Message on Defense Support to Civil Authorities. Released and posted the Secretary of Defense's message to all DOD personnel on defense support to civil authorities.

\* Statement on Support to Civil Authorities (Active Duty). Released a statement last night

attributable to ATSD(PA) Hoffman that provided information regarding positioning of active duty forces in the vicinity of the National Capital Region.

### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* SD and Russian DefMin call. Late yesterday Mike Glenn, Washington Times, asked if the Secretary of Defense had been invited to Moscow on June 24 for a parade to recognize the 75th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany during a call with the Russian Defense Minister. Provided the following response: "I can confirm that a call took place between the Secretary of Defense and the Russian Defense Minister."

\* Funding for Furloughed Korean Nationals. Last night, posted a news release announcing that the DOD accepted the ROK offer to fund the cost of furloughed Korean Nationals. Responded to several queries today confirming that this was not the end of the SMA negotiations, but a welcome step (referring to the press release).

\* Contractor Data Breach. Martin Alexander, SkyNews (UK), asked about an alleged data breach of a Northrup Grumman subcontractor called Westech International. Provided that DoD would have nothing on this in response. DoD does not typically comment on alleged data breaches.

\* Russian Nuclear Policy. John Tirpak, Air Force Magazine, asked for a DoD statement in response to

the announcement that President Putin signed a new policy that Russia may use nuclear weapons in response to a conventional strike targeting the nation's critical government and military infrastructure. Coordinated with NMD Policy and provided the following on background. "We are still waiting on certified translations, but there does not seem to be any significant departures from current Russian nuclear doctrine." He followed up and asked if there were any documents that clarify the U.S. position. Directed reporter to the National Defense Strategy and Nuclear Posture Review.

\* International Professional Military Education. Bryant Harris, AI Monitor, asked for information about the proposed changes to increase the International Professional Military Education program, how it relates to the current IMET program, and if it would be covered by the Leahy Law.

Coordinated with DASD for Security Cooperation, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, (b)(5) and provided the following response. (b)(5)

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\* CARES Spend Plan. Aaron Gregg, Washington Post, asked if the spending numbers described in Sen. Durbin's letter to Secretary Esper on May 28 regarding the CARES spending plan are up to date. If not, could DoD provide the more recent spending figures? He also asked if DoD has any comment on the issues raised in the Sen. Durbin's letter. Provided the statement provided by Mr. Hoffman on May 29, and updated spending figures, coordinated with A&S and comptroller, of \$2.65 billion in lifesaving supplies and equipment and 15k transactions in support of COVID.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Vacancies. Updated briefing card to show 18 vacancies among the 60 PAS positions on the DoD staff, with Senate confirmation of Victorino Mercado to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities.

\* FPCON Status. Coordinated between NORTHCOM, WHS, and PFFA and what can/cannot be said on public-facing WHS website regarding FPCON status.

\* Protest Planning. Continued preliminary discussions, this time with MDW PA, on preliminary planning for "what if" protestors came to the Pentagon.

\* Elizondo. Former DoD employee Luis Elizondo asked (again) for a change to previous statements that we have made in regard to his role in the old AATIP program and UAP investigations.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, June 15, 2020 6:15:55 PM

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ON TOP

\* Aegis Ashore in Japan. Multiple queries for comment on the government of Japan announcement that it would stop the planned deployment of Aegis Ashore at two locations in Japan. Referred to the government of Japan and the State Department.

\* SCOTUS Ruling on Transgender Policy. Barbara Starr, CNN; Caitlin Kenney, Stars and Stripes; Spencer Ackerman, Daily Beast; Alex Ward, Vox; and Meghann Myers, Military Times, requested a comment on the Supreme Court's ruling on protections for employees from discrimination based on sex as it relates to the department's transgender policy. (b)(5)

(b)(5) Given the ruling applies to civilian/federal employment, the reporters were referred to the DOJ for further assistance.

\* Anthony Tata USD(P) Nomination. Received multiple queries on the nomination of Anthony Tata as the USD(P) following reporting on comments from SASC ranking Democrat Jack Reed, saying he is opposed to his nomination. Referred to the White House.

THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Troop levels in Germany. Received multiple queries on potential troops cuts in Germany following remarks by the President at a press conference today where he said Germany is “delinquent” in their payments to NATO, and said we would cut the number of troops in Germany. Referred to NSC.

\* Financial Impact of Stop Movement Orders. J.P. Lawrence, Stars and Stripes, requested to know in what kind of a scenario would a service member end up paying two mortgages. The previously approved response was coordinated with Military Compensation Policy and provided to the reporter.

\* Title VII: Civilian vs Military. Caitlin Kenney, Stars and Stripes, requested clarification on “how Title VII of the Civil Rights Act applies to military service members when it comes to employment and how it does not,” and how “military personnel seen differently in regards to the law versus their civilian counterparts.” (b)(5)

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* UAP Videos. A producer from Discovery Channel asked about permissions needed to show three historical Navy UAP videos released a couple months ago on an upcoming new Discovery Channel show. Coordinating with Entertainment Media in CE.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:35:16 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* Ship Names. Geoff Ziezulewicz, Military Times, asked whether there are any plans to change the name of the carrier John C. Stennis, given its namesake's racist history. Responded with the three initiatives that the Secretary of Defense has directed to improved diversity and inclusion in the military; referred the reporter to the transcript of the Secretary's announcement of his initiatives, as well as the memo to the force; and noted that a statement circulated on June 8 by Army Public Affairs stated that the Secretary of the Army and the Secretary of Defense were both open to a bipartisan discussion of the naming of installations currently named for Confederate leaders.

\* Research and Engineering Resignations. Received multiple queries asking for confirmation and comment on the resignations of USD(R&E) Dr. Mike Griffin and DUSD(R&E) Dr. Lisa Porter, and whether someone had been designated to fill those roles. Provided, on background, that they had submitted their resignations effective July 10, and there is nothing to provide at this time on successors.

\* UAP Language in Intelligence Bill. Received queries from MJ Baniyas, VICE, and Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, regarding language in the Senate Committee Report on S. 3905, the proposed Intelligence Authorization Act for FY21, asking DNI, in consultation with DoD, to submit a report on UAP investigations. Politico ran a story, but did not ask for DoD comment. Responded that we are not going to comment on pending legislation, referred to DNI also, and provided the reporters with previous statement we have made regarding the importance DoD places on investigating incursions into our air training ranges and designated airspace.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* DACOWITS. Announced the induction of seven new members of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services.

\* Condolence Payments. Posted the memo providing guidance on interim regulations for condolence or sympathy payments to friendly civilians for injury or loss incident to military operations, as required by Section 1213 of the FY2020 NDAA.

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Defense Security Cooperation Agency Data. Robert Tomkin, CQ Rollcall, asked for updated figures from the Defense Security Cooperation Agency. Coordinated with DSCA and provided the following: "There are currently over 750 Security Cooperation Officers in 137 countries. In fiscal year 2019, 30,000 foreign students participated in DSCA programs such as International Military Education and Training and the Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program; and attended DSCA-funded institutions such as the Defense Institute of International Legal Studies, the Institute of Security Governance, and the Regional Centers for Security Studies. DSCA also oversaw humanitarian projects in 119 countries, and sold over \$55 billion in foreign military sales to allies and partner nations."

\* Announcements Concerning Poland. Lita Baldor, AP; Ryan Browne, CNN; and Nick Schiffron, PBS Newshour, asked if DoD expects any new announcements in regards to Poland during Poland President Duda's White House visit tomorrow. Replied with previously approved talking points referencing last year's two joint declarations.

\* Troop Basing in Poland. Paul McLeary, Breaking Defense, and Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, asked about the basing of an armored brigade combat team in Poland following a background briefing from senior administration officials today. Referred to NSC and the State Department.

\* Troops in Germany. Ryan Browne, CNN, asked if there was an update regarding U.S. troops in Germany. Provided yesterday's approved statement.

\* Libya. Joseph Haboush, Al Arabiya English, queried for the U.S. stance regarding international intervention in Libya. Responded that the United States supports an immediate end to external interference and the involvement of foreign mercenaries in the conflict in Libya and wants all sides to return to the political process.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Cyber Security. DCAA Dir. Anita Bales joined a taped panel discussion w/WJLA-TV Government Matters in the PBR small studio to discuss "Ensuring Security for Virtual and Physical Networks," with Linus Baker, Cybersecurity Director, DLA, and Dave Young, Senior VP, Public Sector, Century Link. Ms. Bales highlighted the importance of cyber hygiene and developing leaders and the workforce to utilize and embrace collaboration tools to drive human interaction. The story is expected to air July 23.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 24, 2020 6:44:37 PM

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ON TOP

\* Resignations of Drs. Griffin and Porter. Released and posted SECDEF on the resignations of USD(R&E) Griffin and DUSD(R&E) Porter: "Yesterday, I received letters of resignation from Dr. Mike Griffin, Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and Dr. Lisa Porter, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. Both Mike and Lisa will leave the department effective July 10. During their tenures, Dr. Griffin and Dr. Porter advanced critical work on the department's modernization priorities. They leave an office with a legacy of excellence in the research and development of technology that ensures American military advantage on land, at sea, in the air and in space. Mike and Lisa have my sincere thanks for their dedicated service to the department and the nation, and I wish them the very best as they enter this new chapter of their lives."

\* DC Guard Activation / Monuments. Received numerous queries asking for details on the activation of the DC Guard to protect monuments in the District of Columbia. Provided the following: "On June 23, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior, and with the approval of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army activated roughly 400 members of the DC National Guard to support the National Park Police in a civil disturbance and security role around the District. Since their activation, none of the National Guard members have been dispatched to actual monument locations to provide assistance to the NPP. They remain on standby at the DC Armory at this time. They will support U.S. Park Police at key monuments to prevent any defacing or destruction. The National Guard personnel will not be armed, and will serve as a uniformed deterrence and crowd management capacity to maintain closures and restricted areas."

DOD RELEASES

\* SECEF Travel. Released media advisory on SECDEF travel to UK and then to Brussels for NATO meetings starting tonight:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Advisories/Advisory/Article/2230819/defense-secretary-esper-travels-to-the-united-kingdom-nato/>

\* Korean War Commemoration. Released joint ROK-U.S. statement in commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2231102/joint-statement-in-commemoration-of-the-70th-anniversary-of-the-outbreak-of-the/>

\* OIR Casualty. OSD announced the name of an Army Soldier who died in Jordan supporting operations in the CENTCOM AOR. Spc. Nick Bravo Regules, 20, from Largo, Florida, died June 23, 2020. He was assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 43<sup>rd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment. The incident is under investigation. The release will be posted to Defense.gov after the embargoed period later

tonight.

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Chinese Companies. Late in the day received multiple queries regarding a “Pentagon list of Chinese military-linked companies operating in the United States.” Currently coordinating a statement with OSD(P) China Policy and OUSD(A&S).

\* SECDEF Initiatives on Diversity. Gina Harkins, Military.com, asked for details on the Defense Board on Diversity and Inclusion in the Military, the Defense Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion in the Armed Services, and whether they will have an agenda that evaluates ship naming. Provided the reporter with the previously coordinated P&R/OFR response: “The Secretary is moving forward quickly, but deliberately. He will provide additional information about these critical groups as specifics are codified.”

\* Child Development Center Safety and Health Guidance. Karen Jowers, Military Times, asked if the DOD has issued guidance for child development centers and family child care homes regarding capacity and safety/health COVID requirements. Coordinated response with MC&FP and provided: “The Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs issued a memorandum on June 10, 2020, providing guidance for commanders on reopening Child Development Programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. The memorandum followed the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Memorandum, issued on March 10, 2020, regarding guidance for measured responses to the Novel Coronavirus Outbreak, and the Secretary of Defense guidance memorandum, published on May 19, 2020, on risk-based changing of health protection levels during the pandemic. All programs continue to follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus Disease 2019 COVID-19 guidance for Communities, Schools & Workplaces; Childcare, Schools, and Youth Programs and the American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance Related to Childcare During COVID-19. The Department of Defense is committed to the well-being of our service members and their families. As installation Child Development Programs begin the process of returning to normal operations, programs must remain focused on mission support and continuity of operations. The department will continue to carry out Defense Secretary Dr. Mark T. Esper’s three priorities for the COVID-19 pandemic response: (1) protect our military and civilian personnel and their families; (2) safeguard our national security capabilities; and (3) support the whole-of-nation response to the pandemic.”

\* INSFA. Megan Eckstein, USNI News, queried about the status of CAPE’s NSFS and Navy INSFA. Hill sources told her that INSFA was scrapped altogether in favor of CAPE analysis. Coordinated response with CHINFO, CAPE, and Office of DEPSECDEF and provided: “The Integrated Naval Force Structure (INFSA) completed in December 2019 reflects the Navy and Marine Corps team’s work to develop a new, comprehensive naval force architecture. After briefing INFSA to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) in January 2020, the Secretary of Defense directed his Deputy to lead a comprehensive review and analysis of the Navy’s proposed future fleet force architecture, assessing

it for alignment with the National Defense Strategy. This analysis or "Future Naval Force Study" (FNFS) is a collaborative effort between OSD, Navy and Marine Corps leadership that includes war games and simulations. FNFS results are due to SECDEF upon completion and will drive future shipbuilding plans. For the current status of the INFSA and FNFS, contact OSD public affairs."

\* DOPSR. Todd South, Military Times, asked to speak to someone regarding documents submitted by retired Marine Corps Maj. Fred Galvin currently under review by DOPSR. After coordinating with DOPSR, responded that if he submitted his questions in writing, we'd be happy to get him what answers we could, but that we will not comment on the details of any specific case currently undergoing the security review process. Also referred him to the DOPSR website for information on the security review process.

\* UAPs. Received additional queries regarding the Navy task force mentioned in the Senate Committee Report on the draft FY21 IAA. (b)(5) Additionally, ONI's FOIA office has alerted us to the first FOIA request they've received regarding the task force.

\* Office of Net Assessment and DoD Directive 5111.11 Update. Kerry Pickett, Washington Examiner, asked what prompted this revision or any others of Baker's job and the office's job after all these years? Coordinated with ONA and provided the following on the record. "All DoD directives are routinely updated to reflect changes in capability and emphasis across the Department. The mission, orientation and tasks of ONA have remained largely unchanged for more than 40 years. The organization was codified in law in the 2015 NDAA, SEC. 904. ONA provides long-term assessments of trends, key competitions, risks, opportunities, and future prospects of U.S. military capability to the Secretary of Defense and Deputy Secretary of Defense."

\* Boogaloo. Tess Owen, VICE News, asked if the Pentagon is aware of the Boogaloo movement, what the policy is about active-duty service member participation, and whether the Pentagon is concerned about radicalization. Responded that we are aware of the movement; referred reporter to pertinent sections of DoDI 1325.06 that outlines prohibited activities of service members; and noted to the reporter that the department is concerned with any behavior that is contrary to the professional standards expected of all service members and DoD employees.

\* PAS Vacancies. Ryan Browne, CNN, asked about the current status of PAS position vacancies on the DoD staff and a follow-up about the number of peak vacancies in recent years. Provided him the data on the current vacant positions, and information on the how the PAS vacancies fill rate has fluctuated over the last few years.

\* Tenant Bill of Rights. Haley Britzky, Task & Purpose, asked a number of questions about the Tenant Bill of Rights, including the deadline on when some of the rights will be affirmed, when updates promised by ASD Gillis will be available, and in what instances a right might not be available to a tenant because of where they're stationed. Responded that there is no deadline for completion and provided details on the status of the specific rights in question, that ASD Gillis will communicate updated information when it becomes available, and that 14 of 15 initial rights in the TBOR are fully available to all personnel living in MPHI housing at all locations.

\* FVAP and Overseas Voting During COVID. Ryan McCarthy, ProPublica, requested to interview someone with FVAP about “some of the challenges of getting ballots to overseas voters during the pandemic, particularly given that the Postal Service is not delivering to over 100 countries right now.” Coordinating request with DHRA.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* SECDEF Travel Background Interview. DASD(EUR & NATO Policy) Michael Ryan conducted an on-background interview today with reporter Sylvie Lanteaume, Agence France Presse, and Nancy Youssef, WSJ, to discuss the SECDEF’s upcoming trip. DASD Ryan covered the Secretary’s intent to discuss the broad ranges of security challenges discussed during last week’s NATO Defense Ministerial in the framework of preventing a health crisis from becoming a security crisis: 1) Preparing for a second wave of COVID-19; 2) Great Power Competition – Russian and Chinese disinformation and destabilizing behavior; and 3) Arms Control.

\* Telework. Facilitated an interview by Airman Magazine’s video unit with DoD CIO Dana Deasy and Lt Gen B.J. Shwedo on DoD’s response to the need to support a teleworking workforce. The interview also covered cyber hygiene, preparedness for teleworking going forward, and the “new normal” for remote work in DoD.

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, July 13, 2020 5:53:24 PM

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\* Acting USD(R&E) and DUSD(R&E). Announced by Secretary Esper that Michael J.K. Kratsios has been designated as the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, effective July 10, 2020. The release further announced that Dr. Mark Lewis had been named Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, and that he would also continue in his role as Director of Defense Research and Engineering for Modernization. Received multiple queries on the announcement. Confirmed the appointments and referred reporters to the announcement published on Defense.gov:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2271633/dod-names-acting-under-secretary-of-defense-for-research-and-engineering/>

\* F-15EX Contract Award. Announced today that Boeing has been awarded a \$22.89 billion indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity contract. The first delivery order has been awarded as an undefinitized contract action with a total not-to-exceed value, including options, of \$1.192 billion. It is a cost-plus-fixed-fee, cost-plus-incentive-fee, fixed-price-incentive-fee, firm-fixed-price effort for the F-15EX system. This delivery order provides for design, development, integration, manufacturing, test, verification, certification, delivery, sustainment and modification of F-15EX aircraft, as well as spares, support equipment, training materials, technical data, and technical support.

\* OFS Casualty. Announced that 1st Lt. Joseph Trent Allbaugh, 24, from Folsom, California, died as the result of a non-combat-related incident, July 12, 2020, in Kandahar, Afghanistan, while supporting Operation Freedom's Sentinel. Allbaugh was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 108th ADA Brigade, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The incident is under investigation.

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2272206/dod-identifies-army-casualty/>

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Norway Phone Call. Released a readout of the phone call between Secretary Esper and Norwegian Minister of Defense Frank Bakke-Jensen. The leaders discussed mutual security concerns, including Russia, China, and the security situation in the High North. They addressed a broad range of defense issues, including burden-sharing, the importance of readiness, and discussed ways to strengthen the bilateral relationship. The Secretary also expressed appreciation for Norway continuing to host a rotational element of U.S. Marines for cold weather training. You can read the full readout here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2272564/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-dr-mark-t-espers-phone-call-with-norwegian-mini/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Hazardous Duty Pay for COVID-19 Support. Eliana Block, WUSA9, asked if the department has authorized hazardous duty pay for both military and civilians who have supported the department's COVID-19 efforts. Additionally, she asked to know who would be eligible to receive such pay. Coordinating response with MPP and CPP.

\* DoDEA School Openings. Barbara Starr, CNN, requested an update on the department's school reopening policy. Coordinating response with DoDEA.

\* Diversity and Promotions. Lita Baldor, AP, requested an update on the department's plans for

ensuring diversity selections on promotion boards. Coordinating response with P&R.

\* UAP Characterizations. Tim McMillan, freelancer writing for a VICE Media article, referred to a Serbian news agency “b92” story on the three released Navy UAP videos that said, “The Pentagon estimates that it is possible that these are drones operated by ‘enemy forces’ such as Russia or China with the aim of gathering intelligence on American military operations,” asking for confirmation that DoD has not provided any such estimate on UAP events, as he writes frequently on the topic. Coordinated with Navy, and confirmed that “DoD has not provided any such estimate on UAP events. The objects in the released UAP videos remain characterized as “unidentified.” We are not going to speculate or hypothesize on what they may or may not be beyond “unidentified.””

\* Middle East and Asia DASDs. Eric Schmitt, New York Times, queried about whom are the (acting) DASDs for Europe/Russia, Middle East (Iraq-Syria) and AfPak, and East Asia (North Korea, China) now. Responded with the DASDs’ names and correct position titles, indicating who is in the position, who is acting, and who is ‘performing the duties of,’ as applicable, and provided the reporter with a link to OSD(P)’s website (<https://policy.defense.gov>) for more information.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Venturebeat AI Panel. Acting Director of JAIC Nand Mulchandani joined a taped panel discussion from the PBR small studio on big technology trends in IoT and AI for the Venture Beat Transform 2020 symposium that will take place July 15-17. TShuchi Rana, senior director, HeadSpin, moderated the panel. Other panelists were Dr. Josh Sullivan, head of Modzy; Anthony Robbins, vice president, North America Public Sector, NVIDIA, and Stacey Schulman, VP – IoT Group & Chief Innovation Officer – Retail, Hospitality, Banking and Education, Intel. Questions focused on the convergence of IoT, edge computing and prospects for new levels of innovation in AI for DoD use at the tactical edge. The final product of this recording will be broadcasted on Venturebeat’s podcast on July 17.

\* Inaccurate Reporting Correction. Newsweek ran a story on Friday, July 10, that former OUSD(I) employee Luis Elizondo “... once led the U.S. government’s Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) ....” After coordination with OUSD(I), sent email to Aristos Georgiou, the reporter on the by-line, with approved lines that we’ve using for over a year: “The Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) ran AATIP, and the program ended in 2012. Elizondo served in the Office of the Under Secretary for Intelligence (OUSD(I)), and was neither assigned nor detailed to DIA. While in OUSD(I), Elizondo was not assigned any direct responsibilities for AATIP.”

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, July 24, 2020 5:20:51 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* CSO Fireside Chat. Chief of Space Operations, Gen. John "Jay" Raymond, participated in a virtual fireside chat with the Center for a New American Security. The discussion, moderated by Susanna Blume, CNAS Director of the Defense Program, focused on the importance of space to our way of life, threats to the space domain, the standup of the U.S. Space Force and U.S. Space Command, and the importance of each to the implementation of the National Defense Strategy. The video can be seen here on the CNAS web site: <https://www.cnas.org/events/virtual-fireside-chat-with-general-john-w-raymond>

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Defense Production Act Title III COVID-19 Actions. DoD announced \$77.3 million in DPA Title III actions today to help sustain and strengthen essential domestic industrial base capabilities and defense-critical workforce in the aviation, rare earth materials, and electronics industries. The actions will help to retain critical workforce capabilities throughout the disruption caused by COVID-19 and to restore some jobs lost because of the pandemic.  
(<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2287490/dod-announces-773-million-in-defense-production-act-title-iii-covid-19-actions/>)

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* UK Citizens Known as "Beatles" in custody in Iraq. Missy Ryan, Washington Post, is writing a story on the UK citizens Alexandra Kotey and El Shafee ElSheikh. They were previously held by the SDF in Syria and were taken to Iraq when Turkey moved into northern Syria last year. Her story seems to be centered on what is going to happen to them now. Provided statement: "The two persons named are being held in Iraq and there has not yet been a determination for any future transfer or actions. The SECDEF wants justice for the family members of the individuals that may have been slain by these two terrorists. The United States is looking at a number of different options so that the individuals responsible are brought to justice and the families are given closure. These individuals are ISIS members and we are detaining them in law of war detention (which is a core element of the military in any armed conflict) and is being done under the authority granted to us by Congress in the 2001 and 2002 Authorization for the Use of Force. We have the authority to detain these individuals so that they are not on the battlefield killing other Americans or Allied Forces and we can detain them until the end of hostilities." On background, additionally provided: "DOD prefers that the detainees not be taken to GTMO or have a military commission trial. DOD does not want to hold them indefinitely in Iraq or elsewhere -- DOD wants to get out of detention business. DOD is not preparing to transport them back to US."

\* F35. Combat Aircraft, Rob Coppinger, queried about F-35s originally slated to be sold to Turkey being diverted to the USAF. Provided statement from Jessica Maxwell's excellent briefing card: "I can tell you that Congress authorized 14 additional F-35A aircraft for the US Air Force in FY20. That group has been designated as "Lot 14." Eight of the additional 14 aircraft will be realigned from those previously forecasted for Turkey. The six remaining aircraft are under contract for the Air Force in FY20."

\* Congressional proposal to eliminate CMO. Politico, Bryan Bender, queried the CMO comms team seeking comment from Ms. Hershman. Working with CMO comms to revise response per Mr. Hoffman's direction. Response pending.

\* Cyber. Borzou Daragahi, The Independent (UK), is working a piece about Iran's infiltration of

Pentagon electronic systems, including the Pentagon's Common Link Integration Processing in 2011 and potentially other systems at later dates. His story is based on claims made to him by Masoud Molavi Vardanjani, an adviser to the Iran's Ministry of Defense, who fled to Turkey in 2018 and was assassinated in 2019. Provided coordinated response with USCYBERCOM, OSD Cyber Policy, and OSD CIO: "As a matter of policy and for operational security, we do not discuss cyberspace operations, intelligence or cyber planning."

\* Quadrennial Cyber Posture Review. Terrence Matsuo, a Washington correspondent for NK News, is interested in DOD's input to the Quadrennial Cyber Posture Review that feeds the NDAA and relevant congressional committees. Journalist asks: 1. How many of these reports have been compiled by DOD? 2. Which specific committees would this report be submitted to and has DOD done so? 3. What is the classification status of the most recent report? 4. If it is classified, is there an unclassified version available for the public to view? Journalist does not have a hard deadline. Coordinating with DOD Cyber Policy.

\* BAH rates in NYC and Staten Island. Clifford Michel, The City, requested information on the number of service members receiving BAH in NYC vs. Staten Island. Coordinating response with Military Compensation (M&RA).

\* SAPRO interview request. Desmon Farris, Stars & Stripes, requested an interview with a SAPRO representative who can speak to sexual assault in the military as well as provide an update on statistics, plans, and resources related to this topic. Coordinating request with SAPRO.

\* Facial Recognition and Contact Tracing. Tom Squitieri, Talk Media News, asked about the state of U.S. technology versus that of China in the area of facial recognition. He asks given the need for contact tracing in light of the COVID national emergency and wanted to know about China's military capabilities in this area. Coordinated with the OUSD(R&E) principal director for Artificial Intelligence and the JAIC. JAIC acting director Nand Mulchandani recently addressed the issue of AI technology in general and facial recognition in particular during a press briefing 8 July. In his response to a question about US leadership in AI, he noted that the US leads in AI generally and that AI is not a monolithic technology. He noted that China's military and police authorities "undeniably have the world's most advanced capabilities, such as unregulated facial recognition for universal surveillance and control of their domestic population, trained on Chinese video, gathered from their systems, and Chinese language text analysis for internet and media censorship. It is not that the United States military is technologically incapable of developing such systems, it is that our Constitution and privacy laws protect the rights of U.S. citizens and it's -- how their data is collected and used and therefore we simply don't invest in building such universal surveillance and censorship systems. So, put simply, the United States is not behind in a race for these AI applications, we simply deny that their development and use for the ends of state repression and control represents forward progress." The full transcript is available at <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2270329/dod-official-briefs-reporters-on-artificial-intelligence-developments/>.

\* UAPs. Multiple queries asking for comment or clarification on yesterday's NYT article about the Senate asking for a report from the Pentagon on UAPs (committee report on draft FY21 Intel Auth.

Act).

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The statement discusses the importance that DOD places on investigating incursions in our air training ranges and air space, emphasizes that we do not comment on those investigations, and confirms that we're standing up a task force: "Regarding the task force mentioned in the article, I can say that the department is creating a task force to gain knowledge and insight into the nature and origins of UAPs, as well as their operations, capabilities, performance, and/or signatures. The mission of the task force will be to detect, analyze, catalog, consolidate, and exploit non-traditional aerospace vehicles/UAPs posing an operational threat to U.S. national security and avoid strategic surprise."

\* Status of Anthony Tata. Ryan Browne, CNN, queried about the duties Anthony Tata is performing as a Senior Adviser and the number Senior Adviser positions on the DOD staff. Response stated that Tata is serving in a Senior Executive Service (SES) position. He is designated as a Senior Adviser and performs tasks as directed by Secretary of Defense Esper. He is one of eight DOD staff members who serve as Senior Advisers but is the only one who directly supports Secretary Esper. The remaining advisers provide support to other DOD leaders.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Joint news release about PFAS study. EPA is leading effort to issue joint news release (EPA, DOD, USDA, HHS) to announce that it has engaged the National Academy of Sciences to coordinate a Workshop on the possible health effects of PFAS. Provided quote from ASD for Sustainment Jordan Gillis: "This independent review by the National Academy of Sciences is an important step to leverage the extensive work ongoing across federal entities and will help determine what further research needs to be conducted in order for us to most effectively continue our PFAS response. As the Chair of the DoD's PFAS Task Force, I will tell you that DOD's participation in this workshop is part of the Department's commitment to ensure the health and safety of our men and women in uniform, their families, and the communities in which we serve."

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, July 27, 2020 6:24:10 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* Australia Bilat. SECDEF hosted a bilat today with his Australian counterpart, Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds, as part of AUSMIN2020. Before the bilat, the department conducted the first in-person honor cordon since COVID restrictions halted those ceremonial events. The SECDEF will also participate in a 2+2 meeting and press conference tomorrow with Secretary of State Pompeo and their Australian counterparts. There will not be a separate readout of today's bilat; we expect a joint statement to be released tomorrow after the 2+2.

\* ROK Exercises. Multiple queries asking for clarification on the future exercises between the USFK and ROK forces. Replied that we have not made any announcement, and that we are not commenting on future exercises.

\* UAP Investigations. Multiple outlets continued to either ask for a DoD comment on last week's NYT article on a Pentagon task force, as mentioned in the committee report to the draft FY21 Intel Authorizations Act, or asked for confirmation that the statement they'd seen quoted in various reporting was accurate. Provided the statement to those who asked, verified for the others. Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, also queried who he could ask about budget data about the program. Responded that we had nothing to provide at this time – there is no official program, the task force mentioned in the article has not been officially stood up (yet). Still trying to confirm what – if any – "Defense agency" was briefed by Eric W. Davis, an astrophysicist, in March, as claimed in the article.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* COVID-19 Testing Contract Award. Posted a release on the \$7.6 million contract awarded to Hologic, Inc. to expand domestic production of custom sample collection and processing consumables for COVID-19 testing. You can read the release here:  
<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2288926/dod-hhs-award-76-million-contract-to-hologic-inc-to-expand-domestic-production/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* F-35/Turkey. Ben Wolfgang, Washington Times, asked for details on the F-35 parts being supplied by Turkish companies. Response (taken from previously approved lines) included that Turkey is suspended from the F-35 program and will no longer provide industrial support — although replacement time varies. The majority of parts have been transitioned during 2020, and will continue to decline over 2021 and 2022.

\* Election Security. Alexander Marquardt, CNN Senior National Security Correspondent, asked about election security. He said he really enjoyed Gen. Nakasone's recent USAA fireside chat on the topic and hopes to dive a little deeper into some of the comments Gen. Nakasone made about the cyber side of election security. Referred to USCYBERCOM.

\* DASD Strategy and Force Development. Alex Nickol, Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper, queried who served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy and Force Development between

Elbridge Colby and the current DASD(SFD) Daniel Green. Coordinated with DASD(SFD) and confirmed that Brian Arakelian was the Acting DASD during this time.

\* Chinese Spy and LinkedIn Vulnerabilities. Katrina Manson, Financial Times, queried about DC-based Singaporean national Dickson Yeo, who pleaded guilty to being a Chinese spy on Friday and recruiting U.S. government workers with high-level security clearances via LinkedIn, including a civilian in the Air Force who worked on the F-35 program. Coordinated with USD(I&S) and referred two questions about the case to the Department of Justice. Also provided the following response: "DoD personnel are not prohibited from personal use of LinkedIn. They are trained in the risks associated with exposing personal information on social media sites, and obligated to protect any information pertaining to the operations of the Department from unauthorized disclosure. The Department of Defense regularly issues guidance to our workforce regarding the general threats to DoD personnel posed by the proliferation of publicly available information and provides guidance on specific social media platforms, including their websites and smartphone applications." Also provided, "DoD is always on alert to detect and mitigate threats posed by foreign intelligence services to recruit our personnel. In addition to our counterintelligence operations, we have a very robust process for conducting background investigations at various levels depending on a person's access to classified information. Additionally, we have developed insider threat programs within all DoD components to provide a venue for early detection of issues that could be indicators of potential foreign intelligence penetration in our workforce."

\* Pentagon Pedophile Task Force. Will Sommer, The Daily Beast, is working on a story about a conspiracy theorist named Timothy Charles Holmseth, who claims to operate the "Pentagon Pedophile Task Force." He requested confirmation that it isn't a real Pentagon / DoD organization. Provided pre-coordinated statement: "There is not a Pentagon Pedophile Task Force. The only child rescue service that we are aware of is the Human Exploitation Rescue Operative (HERO) Child-Rescue Corps, which is a program developed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and DOD's U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), in conjunction with the National Association to Protect Children."

\* Letter Requesting Withdrawal from Nomination. Connor O'Brien, POLITICO, requested a statement from DoD on a letter the news outlet received this morning, that was dated Friday, from Sen. Warren and nine other Dems to Anthony Tata calling for him to withdraw his nomination for the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy position. The letter also called on him to resign his current senior adviser post at DoD. Responded that DoD had no comment on the letter, and that Tata remains a Senior Advisor to the Secretary and will have a confirmation hearing this week.

\* UAP Sighting. M.L. Nestel, TMZ, asked if DoD had any reporting about a sighting and amateur video of a UAP taken near Long Beach, California, on Sunday. Waiting to hear back from NORTHCOM; Navy has nothing on it.

\* GAO Climate Resilience Report. Alexandra Yetter, Bloomberg, asked for comment on a GAO report issued today (CLIMATE RESILIENCE - Actions Needed to Ensure DoD Considers Climate Risks to Contractors as Part of Acquisition, Supply, and Risk Assessment). Response: We have nothing for you on this beyond the DoD responses posted in the back of the report.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Interview with Government Matters. Katie Arrington, Chief Information Security Officer for A&S, participated in an interview with Government Matters to discuss the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) progress. She also discussed how IT leaders can prepare for CMMC compliance and what they should expect when they're being assessed.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, July 31, 2020 6:42:24 PM

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ON TOP

\* DoDEA Schools. Multiple queries from media regarding DoDEA schools today. John Vandiver, Stars & Stripes, asked if DoDEA is assessing what the troop withdrawals in Germany will mean for schools and whether it means plans for new schools in certain places will need to be suspended. The response coordinated with M&RA included in part: "At the present time, no decisions have been made regarding future status of DoDEA schools or staffing levels in Europe. When specific information regarding changes to stationing or force levels is received, we will take appropriate actions to ensure the continuity of education and support to our military-connected students. For the immediate future, we remain focused working closely with commands and military community partners for a safe and successful start to the 2020-21 school year." Ryan Browne, CNN, asked what the DOD is doing that is different from civilians schools in terms of safety for kids going back to school. He also asked why some DoDEA schools are open in areas where the local communities are restricted. Coordinating response with M&RA. Caitlin Doornbos, Stars & Stripes, asked what the impact would be for schools on Camp Zama in Japan if the HPCON level went to Charlie. Coordinating response with M&RA.

DOD RELEASES

\* DPA Title III Actions. Announced a \$31 million Defense Production Act Title III agreement with North American Forgemasters to strengthen the domestic shipbuilding industrial based. The release can be found here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2296205/dod-announces-31-million-in-defense-production-act-title-iii-covid-19-actions/>

\* Testing Swabs. Released an announcement on the contract award to Puritan Medical Products Company to expand industrial production capacity of flock tip testing swabs. The release can be found here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2295387/dod-awards-5115-million-undefinitized-contract-action-to-puritan-medical-product/>

\* Point-of-Care Tests. Released an announcement on the contract award to Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) to establish and expand domestic production of SARS-CoV-2 rapid point-of-care (POC) tests used for COVID-19 testing on the BD Veritor™ Plus analyzers. The release can be found here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2295380/dod-and-hhs-invest-243m-in-becton-dickinson-and-company-to-establish-and-expand/>

\* Timor-Leste Readout. Released a readout of the SECDEF's call with Timor-Leste's Minister of Defense Filomeno da Paixão de Jesus. The leaders discussed bilateral defense priorities, including military exercises, security cooperation funding for Baucau Airport, and Timor-Leste's partnership with the Rhode Island National Guard. You can read the full release here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2295558/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-dr-mark-t-espers-phone-call-with-timor-lestes-m/>

## THREE DAY FORECAST

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## QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Wisconsin Company. Jeff Bollier, Green Bay Press-Gazette queried about the recent contract given to NPS Corporation (<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2288304/dod-awards-275-million-contract-to-nps-to-increase-domestic-production-of-meltp/>) and if this was the first company based in Wisconsin to receive a contract funded by CARES Act. Confirming with the Joint Acquisitions Task Force.

\* Hong Kong. Ryan Browne, CNN, asked how the National Security Law on Hong Kong is affecting military relations, specifically ship visits. Responded: "The PRC's decision to unilaterally impose the National Security Law on Hong Kong follows a pattern of the PRC disregarding its international commitments and erodes' the high degree of autonomy promised to the Hong Kong people under the Sino-British Joint Declaration. The Department is taking steps to implement the President's July 14 Executive Order that promotes accountability for those responsible for extinguishing Hong Kong's freedoms, including a review to update DoD guidance on defense contacts and exchanges with the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. The people and government of Hong Kong have a long history of warmly welcoming visiting U.S. naval vessels, the last being USS Blue Ridge in April 2019."

\* Career Enhancement of Pregnant U.S. Service Members. Oriana Pawlyk, Military.com, requested a comment on the Department's efforts to review policy for the career enhancement of pregnant U.S. service members. Specifically, she asked when the review was initiated, the purpose of the study, whether it will seek to update current maternity leave policies, and the timeline for completion. Coordinating response with MPP.

\* Asymptomatic and Symptomatic Rates by Age Groups. Lita Baldor, AP, and Meghann Myers, Military Times, asked for the rates of asymptomatic and symptomatic COVID-19 cases by age group. Coordinating response with JS and COVID-19 TF.

\* COVID-19 Testing for 18-24 Age Group. Abraham Mashie, Washington Examiner, asked why the 18-24 age range for testing was higher than any other age category. Coordinating response with JS and COVID-19 TF.

\* UAPs. Rod Rodriguez, Stars & Stripes, asked to speak to someone about the UAP TF. Declined interview, but offered to answer questions if he submitted, which he did. (b)(5)

(b)(5) John Greenewald, The Black Vault, asked for confirmation and accuracy of a response that Navy have provided to another outlet in September 2019. Confirmed response. In follow-up, he asked again about Luis Elizondo and AATIP. Responded that the department's position has not changed: Elizondo had no assigned responsibilities for AATIP while he was in OUSD(I).

\* Alleged Human Rights Violation in 2007. Jedd Neill, Russia Today Television (London bureau), is preparing for a broadcast to be aired tomorrow. The producer indicated that Human Rights Barrister, Geoffrey Robertson, spoke about Julian Assange and said: "Of course he published Collateral Murder which was evidence of a certainly a human rights crime, the killing of journalists, it was really a case of aerial manslaughter I suppose." The producer asked if we had a statement or a representative who can appear on the show. Spoke to NSC and DOJ, both recommending no comment. Responded that the Department of Defense will have nothing for you on this.

\* Human Rights Violations. Coordinated USCENTCOM statement for RTQ on alleged Human Rights Violations in 2007: "U.S. Central Command conducted a thorough investigation of this incident and determined that Apache operators were unaware of the presence of Reuters employees who made no effort to visibly display their status as press or media representatives and their familiar behavior with, and close proximity to, the armed insurgents and their furtive attempts to photograph the

coalition ground forces made them appear as hostile combatants to the Apaches that engaged them. A copy of the redacted report may be obtained through the Library of Congress.”

\* UK Citizens Known as "Beatles" in Custody in Iraq. Courtney Kube, NBC, is working on a story about the Beatles. She asked whether or not the military was bringing them back to the United States this weekend. She said her station received a tip that they were being brought back to be tried in a district in Virginia. Provided her on background: “They are not leaving Iraq any time soon, there is no rush to get them out of country.” Missy Ryan followed up on her query about the ISIS terrorists known as the Beatles being held in Iran. She indicated she had heard that Secretary Esper hoped to transfer the men out of DoD custody and gave a deadline to resolve the issue by July 31. She asked for clarification on background for why there is a July 31 deadline. There was no need to provide any further background since the article published a short time afterward and she had the information that officials backed off the deadline. Article can be found at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/ag-barr-willing-to-consider-forgoing-death-penalty-to-secure-prosecution-of-isis-detainees-allegedly-involved-in-beheadings-of-american-hostages/2020/07/31/71e475f0-cdd4-11ea-91f1-28aca4d833a0\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/ag-barr-willing-to-consider-forgoing-death-penalty-to-secure-prosecution-of-isis-detainees-allegedly-involved-in-beheadings-of-american-hostages/2020/07/31/71e475f0-cdd4-11ea-91f1-28aca4d833a0_story.html)

\* Stars and Stripes Funding. Mark Greenblatt, Scripps, asked if DoD funding for Stars and Stripes will end on Oct. 1, 2020, if the full Congress has not yet passed a budget that intends to support federal funding for the news organization, and if so what will replace it? Coordinated with Defense Media Activity and provided: “As a matter of policy we do not comment on pending legislation and cannot comment on the NDAA that is under consideration. Given the proliferation of alternative news sources, both print and digital, as well as social media content focused on quality of life issues, MWR matters, and family and community support, DoD does not believe that Stars and Stripes fulfills a unique service in the way it once did and does not believe that a DoD-subsidized publication has a discernible impact on recruitment, retention, family life, or morale in the military.”

\* Libya Report to Congress. Missy Ryan, Washington Post, queried to verify whether DoD has submitted a report to Congress on Libya strategy, as required under section 1270 of last year’s NDAA. “The Department of Defense did not submit a report to Congress regarding the Libya strategy, but did engage in a number of in-person briefs on the topic given the evolving dynamic situation on the ground over the past year. We plan on submitting the report in coordination with the Department of State as required by the law.”

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST


\* NDS LOE Support. OUSD(R&E) posted a release stating that the Department of Defense published a DoD Instruction (DoDI) on July 20 that contributes to a key line of effort in the National Defense Strategy – increasing the lethality of our forces – through promotion and implementation of enhanced technology protection across the DoD enterprise. <https://www.cto.mil/dodi-500083/>

\* White House Fellow Ceremony. On Monday, Aug 3, Dr. Michael J. Christensen, HQE, Director, Sensors and Communications Product Line, OUSD(R&E), will record a 1-2 min congratulations message for White House Fellow Dakota Roberson, who was hosted by OUSD(R&E) this past year.

The video will be sent to the White House by Aug. 6 for use in a virtual White House Fellow ceremony.

\* NextFlex Innovation Day Tweet. Coordinated approval of R&E Tweet thread from Mr. Kratsios for posting Aug. 3-4. Mr. Kratsios Tweet Thread – @DoDCTO  
NextFlex’s Innovation Day and America Makes’ TRX.

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**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Thursday, August 6, 2020 6:18:00 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* Lebanon Explosion. Queries continued all day on the explosion in Lebanon; specific topics included what aid U.S. and DoD are providing, intel assessments of the explosion, whether Hezbollah would receive any aid money, POTUS' comments that it was an "attack," and U.S. involvement in the investigation. Referred queries to USCENTCOM.

#### BRIEFINGS

\* Press Update. ATSD(PA) Hoffman conducted an on-camera press briefing this afternoon. Topics of press questions included the explosion in Lebanon, redeployment of forces from Germany, Tata duties and nomination withdrawal, proposed SECDEF visit to China, aid to Lebanon, Afghanistan drawdown, recent rocket attacks in Iraq, U.S.-ROK exercises, coronavirus in North Korea, support to domestic COVID response, release date for annual report on China, what improvements in transparency by China that SECDEF would like to see, and National Guard COVID-19 deployment funding. A transcript will be posted when available.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Readout on Chinese Bilat. Posted readout from SECDEF phone call with Chinese Minister of National Defense Gen. Wei Fenghe. They discussed transparency on COVID and the priorities for U.S.-PRC defense relations to focus on preventing and managing crises, reduce risk, and cooperate where interests of the two nations align. You can view the full readout here:

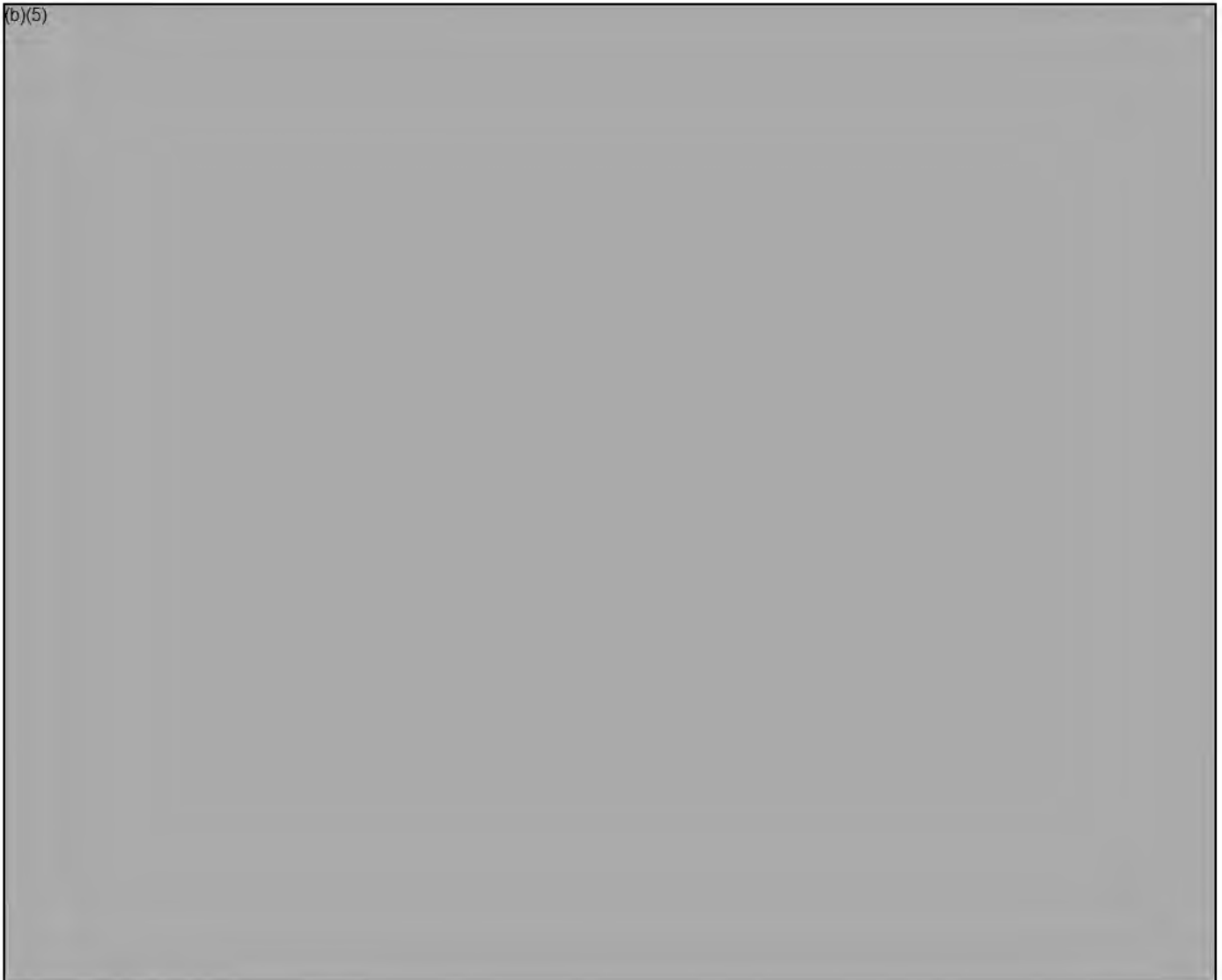
<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2303574/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-dr-mark-t-espers-telephone-call-with-the-people/>

\* COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Update. Yesterday posted the latest COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Installation Status Update (Aug. 5, 2020) to both the coronavirus spotlight page and Publications on defense.gov.

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Pentagon Reservation Return. Missy Ryan, Washington Post, asked a follow-up question on people returning to the Pentagon from teleworking under COVID-19 and is there a way to quantify that, and whether plans have been slowed or reversed. Responded with the percentage goals for personnel in office spaces per the Pentagon Reservation Resilience Plan, and pointed her to the plan available on [whs.mil/coronavirus](https://whs.mil/coronavirus) and under Publications on [defense.gov](https://defense.gov). Also provided previously approved response how we closely monitor the local conditions, public health data, military medical health data and military installation readiness data, and compare that to the established gate criteria, and state that the plan has not been “slowed” – any decision to change HPCON is conditions-based, not date-driven.

\* Blue Hills Wind Project (Texas). Edward Klump, E&E News, asked for an update on the status of the review of the Blue Hills wind project in Val Verde County, Texas. Coordinated with the OASD(Sustainment) and provided: The Department of Defense is aware of the project and is working to identify any potential risks to national security. The Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse considers all potential impacts to military operations, testing, and

training in its review and response.

\* Navy Reinstatement of Former Missouri Gov. and Former Navy SEAL. Tara Copp, McClatchy News, requested a comment on the Navy's reinstatement of former Missouri Gov. and former Navy SEAL Eric Greitens. Coordinated response with Accession Policy in M&RA and provided: "It is standard practice for the Services to give notice when they have a candidate for processing with VIP interest. Ultimately, it is the decision of Services to decide who they want to access into the Service concerned."

\* Federal Hiring Preparation for Transitioning Service Members. Jessica Bur, Federal Times, requested to speak with someone about "how DoD prepares departing service members for jobs after the military, especially for job opportunities in the federal government. Any information on how soon-to-be veterans can translate their skills for federal positions or search for jobs that are well suited to them would be especially helpful." Coordinating response with M&RA.

\* Food Insecurity in the Military. Katherine Hafner, The Virginian-Pilot, asked if the "Department is aware that [food insecurity] is a problem for service members (nationwide as well as in Virginia), and are there any plans to address it? Are officials similarly concerned it could affect force readiness? According to the survey, there's a link between lower rank and higher rates of food insecurity as well." Coordinating response with M&RA.

\* Possible DoD Contract with MRG Medical and/or MRG Care 360. Vianna Davila, ProPublica, asked if MRG Medical and/or MRG Care 360 has a formal business partnership or any other kind of relationship with the DOD. Coordinating request for information with Health Affairs.

\* Vehicle Donation to Colombia. Flavia Camargos, Shephard Media (London), queried about the donation of M1117 vehicles to the Colombian Army. Provided: "Colombia was approved in June 2020 for the transfer of up to 200 M1117 vehicles under the Excess Defense Article (EDA) program. Under the EDA program, administered by DSCA, defense articles declared as excess by the military departments can be offered to foreign governments or international organizations to support U. S. allies in their modernization efforts. These vehicles will also assist Colombia with their counter-narcotics programs. The delivery date is unknown at this point as the case is still in development and has not yet been finalized. The vehicles were advertised as excess by the U.S. Army to U.S. partners and allies. The Colombian Army requested to acquire them through the Foreign Military Sales program process. Colombia was also approved for two C-130Hs in May 2019."

\* COVID-19 Spending Request. Tony Bertuca, Inside Defense, queried for comment on an opinion piece in Defense News (<https://www.defensenews.com/opinion/commentary/2020/08/06/with-billions-of-dollars-at-stake-lets-responsibly-and-deliberately-spend-americas-funds/>) by Sen. Dick Durbin and Rep. Adam Smith concerning potential future COVID-19 funding for DoD. He asked about a reported unofficial DoD request for \$11 billion in emergency spending related to COVID-19. Coordinated with Comptroller and provided: "The Department of Defense continually assesses what is required to support the defense of the nation in line with the National Defense Strategy. We will not comment on internal discussions or on proposed or pending legislation."

\* Biodegradable Fuels. Nancy Vu, Politico, asked about DoD research on biodegradable fuels and the dual use of such fuels. She asked specifically about certain airlines using these fuels. Responded that we would be able to talk about DoD research into biosynthetic and alternative fuels, and that we would not discuss how specific commercial companies may or may not be using such fuels.

Responded further with an outline of DoD's use of biotechnology to advance research and development for making alternative fuels or biosynthetic fuels to include one of the current goals with biosynthetic fuels is to develop fuels with higher energy density, which will increase the range of both weapon systems and aircraft.

\* UAPs. John Greenwald, The Black Vault, asked if we could confirm the authenticity of a slide that was in a recent NYT article, and if we could define an "off world" designation for a vehicle, alleged as an official term in the same NYT article. Responded that the slide was not used by DoD in any briefing on the subject and does not represent the department's position; and also that "off-world" is not an official term or designation in DoD. Story ran today. Te-Ping Chen, WSJ, is working on a story "about the recent public uptick in interest in UFOs" and asked a series of questions about efforts to track and identify UAPs. Coordinating with Navy and OUSD(I&S) for response; anticipate story will run sometime next week. Continuing to coordinate with Navy and OUSD(I&S) on responses to Rod Rodriguez, Stars & Stripes, on the UAP Task Force.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* NDS Engagement. DoD CIO Dana Deasy was interviewed Aug. 5 by Martin Giles, Forbes, for their virtual Transformational CIO Series: Reshaping Companies for a Radically Changed World: Applying Lessons from the Corporate World as a Transformational CIO at the Department of Defense. Mr. Deasy highlighted digital transformation as part of the NDS and emphasized the appeal of government service and the need for technical talent in the DOD. The event was open to media with FedScoop, Forbes, and DOD.gov covering.

\* Interview with Defense & Aerospace Report. Facilitated an interview between Al Shaffer, Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for A&S and Vago Muradian, Defense & Aerospace Report. The interview, for a podcast, covered topics including acquisitions during COVID-19, DPA Title III actions, efforts by DLA during the pandemic and support to the Defense Industrial Base. The podcast is expected to air Monday, Aug. 10.

\* Spectrum/AMBIT/DOD CIO Media Roundtable – DoD CIO Dana Deasy and Fred Moorefield, Deputy Chief Information Officer for Command, Control, and Communications (C3), will host an on-background media roundtable for select media, Tuesday, Aug. 11, in advance of a White House rollout later in the day about the success of the America's Mid-Band Initiative Team (AMBIT) achieving the goal to make a contiguous 100 MHz of mid-band spectrum in the 3450-3550 MHz band range available for 5G by the end of the summer.

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**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, August 7, 2020 5:31:09 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* Clarification to Yonhap Report. Sent the following clarification to Haye-ah Lee, Yonhap News Agency, regarding an article that resulted from Thursday's press event: "To clarify, my comments on training did not specifically reference training "this month" as depicted in reporting. The comments referred to training in general. Future training globally is meant to maintain trust, proficiency and readiness. This is also true of our training in Korea. OPCON transition remains conditions-based and the United States remain committed to working with the ROK to meet all of these conditions, to include acquisition of critical military capabilities and readiness. All of the training the alliance conducts is based on improving the readiness and proficiency needed to meet those conditions."

\* U.S. Space Force Indy Car. Chief of Space Operations Gen. Jay Raymond appeared on Fox and Friends to discuss the U.S. Space Force Indy Car #20 that will race in the 104th running of the Indy 500 on 23 Aug. The interview also featured the driver Ed Carpenter.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* VCSO Nomination Announced. Secretary Esper announcement posted today that Air Force Lt. Gen. David D. Thompson has been nominated for appointment to the rank of general, with assignment as vice chief of space operations, U.S. Space Force, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. (<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2304756/general-officer-announcement/>)

\* Travel-related Force Health Protection Guidance. Release posted late yesterday announced DoD's Aug. 6 release of Force Health Protection Guidance - Supplement 12, which provides guidance for DoD personnel traveling during pandemic. The guidance details information on steps to be taken during Restriction of Movement, determining whether to travel, travel guidance in addition to Restriction of Movement, additional guidance to assist commanders with travel decisions, and additional guidance for Reserve and National Guard personnel. (<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2303941/force-health-protection-guidance-supplement-12/>)

\* ATSD(PA) Hoffman Press Conference. Mr. Hoffman facilitated a press conference in the PBR yesterday, Aug. 6. The transcript has been posted to (<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2304124/atstdpa-updates-reporters-on-dod-activities/>)

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* UAP Task Force. After completing coordination with Navy (N2N6) and OUSD(I&S), and alerting Leg. Affairs representatives, provided Rod Rodriguez, Stars & Stripes, with responses to the series of questions he'd asked about the UAP Task Force. Of note, one question asked about how long the UAP Task Force existed; the cleared response: "Over the last year, DoD has been conducting the necessary reviews and assessments to prepare for formalizing the work that the Office of Naval Intelligence has been doing to investigate UAP sightings into an official DoD task force. Deputy Secretary of Defense Norquist approved the establishment of the UAP Task Force on Aug. 4, 2020." Anticipating that media interest in this subject will continue.

\* ROK Exercises. Sangmin Lee, Radio Free Asia, asked questions regarding exercises in South Korea.  
Referred to USFK Public Affairs.

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**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 11, 2020 5:35:18 PM

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ON TOP

\* Shipyard Closure. Multiple outlets requested a copy of a DoD memo/document that was provided to Congress warning of a possible shipyard closure due to COVID-19. Also, several asked who provided the analysis. This was first reported by Tony Bertuca, Inside Defense, Aug. 6, in an article titled, "Pentagon seeks \$11B in emergency procurement spending for COVID-19 recovery." Provided comptroller-approved response: "The Department provided informational material to our oversight committees when asked about the impacts COVID-19 has had on the Defense Industrial Base and our suppliers."

\* Afghanistan Drawdown. Several media entities (FOX News, AFP, VOA, Basharq (UAE Regional), German Press Agency) asked for DoD's statement on Afghanistan force level drawdown following SECDEF's remarks during a Fox News interview on Saturday night. Provided the cleared RTQ statement below:

"Over the next four months, the United States will continue to drawdown its force levels in Afghanistan based on conditions in-country. Our current trajectory expects to see the number of US service members in Afghanistan be below 5,000 by the end of November. As always, such drawdowns remain conditions-based and are implemented after consultation with Congress and in direct coordination with our NATO Allies and partners.

"The U.S. military presence in Afghanistan remains focused on capabilities- not numbers. Projected force levels will continue to provide commanders with the capabilities and authorities necessary to protect ourselves, our Allies and partners, and U.S. national interests. We will continue to execute our counterterrorism mission while simultaneously supporting the 38-nation NATO Resolute Support Train, Advise, Assist mission and Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) as they work to secure peace in the country.

"The best path to a lasting peace in Afghanistan remains a negotiated political settlement among Afghans. The United States continues to honor its commitments under the U.S.-Taliban agreement. The United States will continue to work to facilitate the start and successful conclusion of intra-Afghan negotiations—the only process that can produce a lasting peace for Afghanistan."

THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* JEDI. Defense Daily and Washington Business Journal asked about DoD's request for a 30-day extension of the remand. Provided response coordinated with the DOD CIO and the Cloud Computing Program Office: "The Department requested a 30-day extension in order to complete the source selection process and issue a new award for the JEDI Cloud contract. The extension is a result of unanticipated events that delayed the DoD's completion of the activities outlined in the Court of Federal Claims' Voluntary Remand Order."

\* South Korea Exercises. Received queries from Harm Venhuizen, Military Times, and Seeyoung Kim, VOA News, regarding training in South Korea. Referred to USFK PA.

\* Cybersecurity/Supply Chain. Ryan McMorrow, Financial Times, is doing a story about Lenovo, a Chinese computer company, and he noticed that the U.S. Air Force and Army continue to purchase laptops and other computer equipment made by Lenovo even though a DOD IG report from last summer said the company had known cybersecurity risks. The DOD IG report, from July 26, 2019,

shows that Lenovo had known cybersecurity risks as evidenced by the Department of State banning Lenovo computers in 2006, Department of Homeland Security issued cybersecurity vulnerability alerts for Lenovo in 2015, and DoD identifying cyberespionage risks in a September 2016 report. Reporter asks: Does the DoD believe there to be no related cybersecurity risks from Lenovo products? Has Lenovo successfully convinced the DoD of its products' safety? Does the DoD have a statement to include in the article? Coordinating with DOD CIO, R&E, Army and Air Force. Reporters deadline is COB Aug 11. Request for an extension was explained as impossible because they need the story to go with the Lenovo quarterly report which is Thursday afternoon China time.

\* Civilian Casualty Policy/Instruction. Missy Ryan, Washington Post, requested follow-on information for her article on the interim instruction on civilian casualty payments. She requested historical data about condolence payments made by the Department, and inquired whether or not payments were made in an incident that occurred on March 17, 2017, in Mosul, Iraq, in which Combined Joint Task Force – Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (CJTF-OIR) assessed that unfortunately 105 civilian deaths more likely than not resulted from military operations. Informed her that condolence payments were not made for that incident because the task force assessed that the 105 civilian casualties were likely not to have been caused by U.S. military operations. Provided her the Annual Report on Civilian Casualties in Connection with United States Military Operations report at: <https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/1194311/isis-planted-explosives-caused-civilian-deaths-in-mosul-strike/>. Also provided comparable data for Afghanistan that is releasable for calendar years 2015-2018 that was extracted from past reports to Congress on the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) that have not been publicly released. Finally, explained that the Department does not maintain a publicly-available source providing information on all incidents that may have led to an offer of a condolence payment, although the recently approved "Interim Regulations for Condolence or Sympathy Payments to Friendly Civilians for Injury or Loss That Is Incident to Military Operations" further standardizes such reporting requirements in the future. Explained that for the safety of the recipients, as well as respect for their privacy, we generally do not release specific information regarding payments for property damage, personal injury, or death, including amounts that were paid to recipients.

\* MHS Reform. Scott Maucione, FNN, and Patricia Kime, Military Times, requested a comment on a memo that was signed by the Military Department secretaries and uniformed Service chiefs and sent to the SECDEF last week. Response coordinated with P&R and provided to the reporters: "The Department is continuing to implement the direction as legislated by Congress and signed into law by the President. The Department remains focused on ensuring the Services maintain a medically ready force and a ready medical force, as well as ensure all eligible beneficiaries have continued access to quality healthcare."

\* Expanded Child Care Services. Karen Jowers, Military Times; Amy Bushatz, Military.com; and Cailin Kenny, Stars & Stripes, requested information on Military OneSource's announcement regarding expanded military child care services. Specifically they wanted to know the eligibility criteria, the costs associated with offering the services, and additional information on the free subscription service that will be offered. Coordinating response with MC&FP (M&RA).

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* UAPTF Press Release. DEPSECDEF requested that we put out a press release on the establishment of the UAP Task Force (UAPTF). (b)(5) OUSD(I&S) leg. Affairs reps have been given a heads-up.

\* ASD(SPC) Mercado Interview. ASD(Strategy, Plans and Capabilities) Vic Mercado conducted an interview with Defense News and Breaking Defense on NDS implementation successes under LOE#1 —lethality and readiness. During the interview he discussed DoD progress in implementing the NDS, improving readiness and lethality with a focus on dynamic force employment and global force management, modernization, and the Joint Warfighting Concept.

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**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2020 6:17:23 PM

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ON TOP

\* F-16 Contract Award. Announced that Lockheed Martin Corp. has been awarded a \$62 billion ten-year, indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity (IDIQ), fixed-price-incentive contract for new production of F-16 Foreign Military Sale (FMS) aircraft. The total value for the initial delivery order is \$4.9 billion and will be awarded on the same date. The initial delivery order is for 90 aircraft, including both the pre-priced recurring core configuration costs at \$2.86 billion and the engineering change proposal/undefinitized contract action for the non-recurring costs not-to-exceed \$2.1 billion obligated at approximately \$1.02 billion.

\* UAPTF. Received numerous queries throughout the day from both national and special interest media regarding CNN's article yesterday on a UAPTF. Late today, posted press release on the establishment of the UAPTF, and pushed to email distribution lists. Press release announced that on Aug. 4, 2020, Deputy Secretary of Defense David L. Norquist approved the establishment of an Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) Task Force (UAPTF). The Department of the Navy, under the cognizance of the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, will lead the UAPTF. The full press release can be seen here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2314065/establishment-of-unidentified-aerial-phenomena-task-force/>

DOD RELEASES

\* Vaccine Distribution. Released statement that HHS and DoD, in support of OWS, announced t that McKesson Corp. will be a central distributor of future COVID-19 vaccines and related supplies needed to administer the pandemic vaccinations. The full release can be seen here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2313808/trump-administration-collaborates-with-mckesson-for-covid-19-vaccine-distributi/>

THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* ISIS Activity in Mozambique. Jack Detsch, Foreign Policy, asked if DoD is monitoring or concerned about ISIS-affiliated rebel groups capturing a key port in Mozambique. Provided the following cleared response: "We are aware of and concerned by the ongoing ISIS-Mozambique threat in Northern Mozambique. The escalating tension in Mocimboa da Praia is a developing situation, which we are monitoring. We defer to the government of Mozambique to provide more specific information."

\* Russian Intercept. Lister Lim, Al Jazeera, asked for comment on a Russian fighter intercepting an American RC-135 and a P-8 over the Black Sea. Referred to EUCOM PA.

\* Iranian Tanker Seizure. Stephen Keefe, Nikkei, asked for comment on the Iranian fuel cargo vessel. Referred to DOJ.

\* RIMPAC. Sangmin Lee, Radio Free Asia, asked questions about RIMPAC. Forwarded to C3 Fleet PA.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Election Security. USCYBERCOM/NSA approved holding statement ahead of the Democratic National Convention: "U.S. Cyber Command and NSA continue to coordinate across the whole-of-government, enabling our partners, including DHA and FBI, to defend US election infrastructure. In addition to normal 24/7 cyber watch operations, we defend against foreign adversaries in cyberspace by proactively monitoring for foreign malicious cyber activity. U.S. Cyber Command has postured defensive cyber teams focused on providing support to protecting critical networks, and offensive cyber teams to pursue foreign adversaries in the event an adversary targets U.S. election systems."

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**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 18, 2020 6:03:39 PM

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ON TOP

\* SECDEF Call with Russian Counterpart. Multiple reporters asked for confirmation of a call between Secretary Esper and his Russian counterpart. Acknowledged on background that the call occurred, but did not offer details.

\* Proposed MHS Cuts. Meghann Myers, Military Times, requested comment on the Politico article regarding MHS cuts and the President's tweet. Provided the previously cleared response below and referred the reporter to the SECDEF statement and ATSD(PA) recent social media comments pushing back against inaccuracies in reporting: "Like all other parts of the Department, the Military Health System (MHS) continually assesses how it can most effectively align its assets in support of the National Defense Strategy. The MHS will not waiver from its mission to provide a ready medical force and a medically ready force. Any potential changes to the health system will only be pursued in a manner that ensures its ability to continue to support the Department's operational requirements and to maintain our beneficiaries' access to quality health care."

\* Hypersonic Capabilities. Steve Trimble, Aviation Week, followed up his initial query about whether DoD was developing nuclear capabilities for hypersonic systems. His questions are based on a line in an RFI posted to beta.sam.gov by the Air Force Nuclear Weapons Center that asked for information on a "thermal protection system that can support hypersonic glide to ICBM ranges." The reporter is inferring that, given this line is in an RFI from the AFNWC, that DOD is, in fact, developing nuclear-capable hypersonic systems, which is in direct contravention of DoD's consistent statement that our hypersonic systems will be conventional only. The reporter's question following yesterday's response: "I understand the statement, but there's appears to be an inconsistency between the policy and the source of the RFI. Can OSD explain why the Air Force Nuclear Warfare Center is seeking enabling technologies for an intercontinental-range HGV? At the very least, can you say if the AFNWC's purpose is to seek enabling technology only for conventional HGVs? If so, why isn't the research based at the AFLCMC's program office for conventional hypersonic gliders and cruise missiles at Eglin AFB?" Coordinated with A/DUSD(R&E), OUSD(R&E) principal director for hypersonics, SAF/PA and AFNWC/PA and provided: "DOD is not developing nuclear-capable hypersonic weapons. There are common technology needs between the nuclear enterprise and hypersonic systems. Particularly in the area of high temperature materials, we typically collaborate on the development of advanced dual-use materials technology. I will reiterate that our entire hypersonic program portfolio continues to be based on delivering conventional effects only. For information on this particular RFI, I will refer you to the Air Force Nuclear Warfare Center."

THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* UAPTF. Mosheh Gains, NBC, asked about doing something on the UAPTF or UAP investigations that would be appropriate for television. Responded that we are not doing any backgrounders or interviews on the UAPTF, and that DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP. Rob Coppinger, Air Forces Monthly magazine (UK), and Roger Glassel, UFO-Aktuell (Sweden), each asked a series of questions about the UAPTF, some of which went beyond the approved RTQ Q&As. (b)(5)

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\* F-35 Sales to the UAE. Mosheh Gaines, NBC, and Eric Schmitt, NYT, asked about a report from an Israeli outlet which says part of the U.S.-brokered UAE/Israel deal would allow the UAE to purchase F-35 jets and drones from the U.S. Referred to the State Department.

\* 5G Technology Interview Request from Politico. Lara Seligman, Politico, asked for an interview with A/USD(R&E) Kratsios on current DOD work on 5G. Forwarded to ATSD(PA) for direction. Declined the request for a sit-down interview and asked the reporter to submit written questions.

\* MTF Transfer and MHS Reforms. Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, requested comment on the Service Secretaries and Service chiefs' letter to Secretary Esper regarding the transfer of Military Treatment Facilities from the Services to DHA. He also requested a comment on any Military Health System budget reduction considerations. Referred reporter to Secretary Esper's statement on Twitter.

\* FVAP. Missy Ryan, Washington Post, requested information on the FVAP for the DOD. Specifically, she wanted to know how absentee ballots for service members in remote locations are processed and whether there are delays this year due to COVID-19 or any other reasons impacting USPS. Coordinating response with DHRA.

\* Section 889B. Justin Doubleday, Inside Defense, requested information on the waivers issued by ODNI. Specifically, he asked what "low-risk, high-volume items" were covered. Coordinated a response with OUSD(A&S): The waiver received is not for our major weapon systems or any support activity related to them. Instead, it covers items that are considered a low risk to national security such as food, clothing, maintenance services, construction materials that are not electronic, and numerous other items that DNI has identified as low risk. While the waiver does not cover our major weapon systems, based on FY19 obligations in these areas, the waived items would represent about 73% of the total DoD transactions for the year and about 37% of the dollars.

\* Telework. Jackson Barnett, FedScoop, asked about comments during a DISA webinar noting that the telework Commercial Virtual Remote (CVR) environment would be shut down Dec. 15 in favor of a long-term environment to support DoD telework. Coordinated with CIO and provided: "CVR was always a temporary solution and work is underway to replace it with an enduring capability."

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From: (b)(6)  
Subject: OSD(PA) COB  
Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 6:14:40 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* SD Travel Advisory. Released media advisory on SECDEF's upcoming trips to Colorado, Nevada, and the Indo-Pacific region. You can read the advisory here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2318633/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-dr-mark-t-espers-meeting-with-minister-of-defen/>

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Iraq Bilat. Posted readout of SECDEF bilat with Iraqi MoD Jumaah Saadoon. The two leaders discussed the bilateral security partnership and the importance of continuing to build the capabilities of the ISF, such that they are able to prevent ISIS from ever re-emerging and threatening Iraq, the region or the broader international community. You can read the full readout here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2318633/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-dr-mark-t-espers-meeting-with-minister-of-defen/>

\* COVID-19 Update. Posted the weekly update to the "Travel Restrictions Installation Status" to Publications on defense.gov and to the Coronavirus Spotlight page here: [https://media.defense.gov/2020/Aug/19/2002480482/-1/-1/1/COVID\\_19\\_TRAVEL\\_RESTRICTIONS\\_INSTALLATION\\_STATUS\\_UPDATE\\_AUGUST\\_19\\_2020.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2020/Aug/19/2002480482/-1/-1/1/COVID_19_TRAVEL_RESTRICTIONS_INSTALLATION_STATUS_UPDATE_AUGUST_19_2020.PDF)

\* Sexual Assault Support Service. Published information on the DoD sexual assault support services still available under COVID-19, emphasizing that help for sexual assault survivors has not diminished during the national emergency declared for COVID-19. You can read the full announcement here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2318325/dod-continues-sexual-assault-support-services-amid-covid-19-pandemic/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Mass Protests in Belarus. Naveed Jamali, **Newsweek**, asked if the Department would comment on the concern of Russia entering Belarus? And if DoD offered any help or increased its alert level in reaction? Referred to the State Department without comment.

\* State Partnership Program (SPP) with Austria. Ryan Browne, **CNN**, asked if we could provide information on the Aug. 14 announcement by the Secretary of State that Austria will become a part of the SPP. Confirmed that the approval was made on Aug. 10, and provided the following on-the-record statement: "The U.S. Department of Defense has approved Austria for the State Partnership Program (SPP) conducted by the U.S. National Guard. This is a welcomed step forward in the operationalization of the U.S.-Austria strategic partnership and will strengthen security cooperation exchanges, enhance readiness, and promote interoperability between U.S. and Austrian military forces. It will also provide opportunities for collaboration in such areas of mutual interest as disaster relief and humanitarian assistance, consequence management, peacekeeping support, and cyber defense. One of the most important benefits of the SPP program is the people-to-people bonds it builds between a partner nation and the partner American state, which will deepen the broader bilateral ties between the United States and Austria. Austria's participation in the SPP underscores our common interests in advancing democracy and security in Europe. The Department of Defense is currently going through the process to identify which State will become Austria's SPP

partner."

\* UAPTF. Rod Rodriguez, Stars & Stripes, had additional follow-ups on Elizondo and AATIP. Reiterated previous statements; (b)(5)  
(b)(5) Courtney Kube, NBC, asked for clarification on our response to Mosheh Gains yesterday. Reiterated that we are not publicly discussing UAP observations or examinations of UAP incursions or any details of the UAPTF. Clarified that we referred him to DNI on the UAP report because the SSCI had directed DNI, in consultation with DoD, to produce the UAP report that is due 180 days after the authorization act is passed.

\* DODIG Report on Border Mission. Craig Clough, Law360, asked about the recently-released IG report on the border mission. Referred to DODIG PA for comment.

\* U.S.-Brazil Space Engagement Talks. Lee Hudson, Aviation Week, asked for details about the U.S.-Brazil Space Engagement Talks hosted by USSOUTHCOM in early August. After coordinating with Space Policy, said we didn't have anything further to provide and referred back to the SOUTHCOM statement.

\* WWII Commemoration. Caleb Jones, AP, asked about the commemorative event in Hawaii and the precautions taken because of COVID. Discussed with him via telephone some of the precautions taken and reasons for the precautions. The conversation is embargoed until the travel advisory is released.

\* Taiwan. Katrina Manson, Financial Times, asked about military engagement with Taiwan. Response cleared through OSD(Policy), State, and NSC: "U.S. policy remains clear -- any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means is a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific, and of grave concern to the United States. Our defense cooperation with Taiwan fulfills our obligations pursuant to the Taiwan Relations Act, adheres to our One China policy, and reflects our assessment of the PRC threat. This has been the case for over forty years and will remain so. The increase in PLA provocations and aggressive military activities over the past six months near Taiwan, combined with the PRC's refusal to renounce the use of military force, reaffirms the importance of continually assessing our defense cooperation policies and activities."

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 1, 2020 5:38:47 PM

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ON TOP

\* China Military Power Report Rollout. Today we released the 2020 China Military Power Report. The rollout included posting the report to defense.gov, publishing a press release announcing the release of the report, and posting the transcript of yesterday's press briefing (embargoed until noon today) with DASD(China) Sbragia.

You can read the report here: <https://media.defense.gov/2020/Sep/01/2002488689/-1/-1/1/2020-DOD-CHINA-MILITARY-POWER-REPORT-FINAL.PDF>

You can read the press release here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2332126/dod-releases-2020-report-on-military-and-security-developments-involving-the-pe/>

You can read the transcript here:

<https://www.defense.gov//Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2332153/chad-sbragia-deputy-assistant-secretary-of-defense-for-china-press-briefing-on/>

THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



## QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Navy's Center for Cost Analysis. Tony Bertuca, Inside the Pentagon, asked several follow up questions to his previous query regarding a Memorandum of Agreement that CAPE signed with the Navy to absorb the duties of the Navy's Center for Cost Analysis. Tony referred to Mr. John Whitley's comments in his nomination hearing August 4. Responded: CAPE does the Major Defense Acquisition Program cost estimates for the Navy's programs; the MOA has been paused and modified to reflect new reality with COVID; confirmed that CAPE has joined cost analysts from NAVAIR to develop the milestone B ICE for the Next Gen Jammer LB and that this is a pilot program for how this relationship could work in the future and they are using remote work technology because of COVID; and clarified that CAPE is not planning to pay to do more work to get the Navy's cost estimates, but that the Navy would provide cost analysts, on a temporary basis, to work with CAPE to complete ICEs for Navy programs.

\* VA and Veteran Suicide Data. Ben Kesling, WSJ, requested comment on the America's Warrior Partnership report that stated data collected by the VA on veteran suicides undercounted the actual number. Specifically, he asked if the DoD participated in the project, whether the DoD concurred with the findings, if the report's findings were factual, and whether the DoD coordinated with the VA to change its processes for collection. Coordinated the responses with DSPO (OFR) and provided to the reporter: "The Department provided data to America's Warrior Partnership for this project, including data to confirm if suicide decedents included in the America's Warrior Partnership presentation ever served in the U.S. military. As the findings relate to veteran suicide counts, we defer to the VA for comment. While there are limitations in data reporting at the state level, the DoD and VA have comprehensive suicide surveillance systems in place to further understand the scope of the problem. The Department defers to the VA to comment on veteran suicide counts. While there are limitations in data reporting at the state level, the DoD and VA use multiple data sources to confirm suicide counts in order to provide the most comprehensive surveillance possible. The Department defers to the VA to comment on the methodology of or any changes to the VA suicide surveillance processes. The DoD and VA work together to surveil suicide deaths of Service members and veterans, and to provide mutual support when changes are needed."

\* Military Spouse Employment Partnership. Caitlin Kenney, Stars & Stripes, requested a follow-up on the Military Spouse Employment Partnership statement on military spouse hiring. Specifically, she wanted to know if the number of jobs hired correlated with the 22% increase and if there was any indication why there was an increase between the four-month period. Responses coordinated with MC&FP (M&RA) and provided to reporter: "More than 31,000 jobs are correlated with the 22% increase. Reporting is voluntary, so we cannot respond specifically that the spouses were hired in that timeframe – only that their hires were reported in that timeframe."

\* DOD Anti-discrimination Practices and Policies. Phil Stewart, Reuters, requested comment on Reuters' findings regarding racial discrimination in the DoD. Coordinated the responses with OFR and provided to the reporter.

\* FVAP. Jennifer Hansler, CNN, requested information on the FVAP for the DoD. Specifically, she wanted to know how many U.S. personnel overseas are expected to vote via mail-in ballot this year,

if there have been any major delays in getting ballots overseas due to postal service delays, if service members were concerned about the security of their ballot, whether COVID complicated the process this year, and what the procedure was for personnel to receive and send back their ballots.

Coordinated responses with FVAP (DHRA) and provided them to the reporter.

\* China Military Power Report Fallout. Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, requested information on why only a small number of news outlets were invited to the China Military Power Report roundtable discussion on Monday, Aug. 31. This query reflected the general mood of news organizations not invited to the briefing, expressed primarily in social media posts. Responded to the reporter with: "Yesterday the department held a media round table for a small group of reporters on the release of the 2020 China Military Power Report. With more than 400 credentialed media covering the Pentagon, on occasion and in order to provide for a more in-depth briefing on a specific policy issue, we will brief a smaller group of reporters who have expressed interest in the specific topic; in this case a very detailed, 200-page report. Not every media engagement the department conducts will be a press briefing. The department is committed to being fully transparent and open on this report. The full transcript was publicly released with report, and the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for China participated in an on-the-record engagement with the American Enterprise Institute one-hour after the release, which was open to the media." NOTE: Public Affairs Operations intends to reinvigorate more comprehensive roll-out plans for major reports to broaden initial access to those reports, overall seeking to increase the number of media outlets invited to each event as a general practice.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* UAP Interview. History Channel asked if there was anyone they could interview about UAPs/UAPTF for an upcoming program. Declined doing any interviews.

\* 9/11 Commemoration. Multiple outlets, both national and local, are asking about plans for 9/11 commemoration this year. Currently responding that while there will be a ceremony, including a sunrise flag unfurling, it will be very different from previous years, as will press coverage, and that we'll have more info for the press next week.

\* ABMS/JADC2. Dr. Roper, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, and Gen. VenHerck, commander NORAD/NORTHCOM, will participate in a media availability immediately following the ABMS / JADC2 demo this Thursday at Joint Base Andrews. Media attending include: Valerie Insinna (Defense News), Theresa Hitchens (Breaking Defense), Dan Lamothe (Washington Post), and a reporter TBD from Air Force Magazine.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, September 14, 2020 6:04:11 PM

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#### BRIEFINGS

\* USSTRATCOM Press Briefing. Adm. Charles "Chas" Richard, commander, USSSTRATCOM, provided an update on the command's mission and readiness during the COVID-19 pandemic. Questions focused on bomber task force missions, deployment of the W76-2 low yield nuclear warhead, deterring threats from China and Russia, Ground Based Strategic Deterrent contract, and the Pentagon's Unidentified Aerial Phenomenon Task Force. The video of the briefing is available at: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/766951/us-strategic-commander-briefs-reporters-pentagon>, and you can read the transcript at <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2347223/adm-richard-discusses-usstratcom-operations-with-reporters/>

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Disposable Gowns Contract Award. Announced that DoD, on behalf of HHS, signed contracts with nine American businesses for the delivery of 73 million COVID-19 disposable isolation gowns at a cost of \$335M. The contracts will support the replenishment of the HHS-managed Strategic National Stockpile and deliver by January 2021, ensuring HHS is poised to meet the Nation's critical medical needs. You can read the full announcement here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2347348/dod-awards-contracts-for-covid-19-disposable-isolation-gowns/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Bob Woodward Book. Sasha Ingber, Newsy, asked for DoD comment to the tape of President Trump telling journalist Bob Woodward about a "a weapon system that nobody's ever had in this country before"? Provided same response as last week. "I don't have anything for you on a book that hasn't published yet. I'll have to refer you to the White House to clarify what the President meant in his remarks." After receiving feedback from the NSC, the reporter asked about advancements in hypersonics. Provided the following response to the reporter: "Hypersonics is a characteristic of flight defined generally as flight at speeds in excess of Mach 5. We are focused on tactical, conventional air-, land- and sea-based hypersonic systems that provide the U.S. warfighter with a transformational capability. Our aim is to transition from development to operational systems at scale to provide the warfighter with the highest-quality weapons in sufficient quantities to perform any mission in support of the National Defense Strategy. We plan to field hypersonics systems in the early- to mid-2020s starting in 2023."

\* DoD Staff Diversity. As a follow-up query to a response sent late week about OUSD(Policy) staff movements, Lara Seligman, Politico, questioned why a high percentage of senior OUSD(Policy) leaders are white men. Provided an on-the-record statement: "The Department is proud to be well-regarded as the largest, most diverse meritocracy in the world. The Department does recognize however, there is work to be done on diversity and inclusion. As we continue to build on our efforts to cultivate a diverse and inclusive workforce for all who serve, we will draw upon the widest possible set of backgrounds, talents, and skills to increase the overall readiness and effectiveness of the department. Consistent with the recent initiatives taken by the Secretary with our uniformed service members, OSD Policy has launched initiatives aimed at recruiting a more diverse group of

junior and mid-level career employees, including outreach to historically black academic institutions. Additionally, OSD Policy is in the process of creating a diversity council, which includes working with outside consultants, with the goal of creating a more diverse workforce.” Also provided an additional background statement: “We would caution against narrowly focusing on the racial identity of a couple dozen people in an organization of more than three million to ascribe our commitment to diversity. It is simplistic and not representative of the Secretary or Department’s efforts.”

\* UAPTF/Daily News Article. Lucas Tomlinson, Fox News, asked if DoD had any reaction to, or statement on, a Daily Mail (UK) article on an interview they did with former Navy pilot CDR David Fravor, one the pilots from the USS Nimitz who reported the UAP sighting in 2004. Responded that we nothing for him on that.

\* NYT Race Article. Richard Hanania, an independent journalist and fellow at Columbia University, asked in NYT had contacted SECDEF for their recent article on “powerful Americans, classifying them by race,” which includes SECDEF. Responded: “I can confirm that the New York Times did contact the Department of Defense, but I cannot confirm any details beyond that.”

\* 9/11 Rescue Identification. Bruce Leshan, with local WUSA9, asked for assistance in identifying the victim that Retired Arlington Sheriff’s Deputy Art Castellano had pulled from the Pentagon on 9/11, as part of a story they are running this evening. Coordinated with Historian’s Office, and responded that we are unable to identify the individual, but since footage showed the victim being loaded onto a U.S. Park Police helicopter, we recommended that WUSA9 contact the Park Police to see if they had a list of personnel they evacuated that day.

\* Requirements for Joining Military Service. Madison Dapcevich, Snopes, requested information on whether individuals diagnosed with history of asthma can still join the military service and if so, what stipulations might exist currently. Additionally, the reporter requests more information about individuals diagnosed with asthma during Vietnam War; was this a medical option for deferment and if so, were there specific parameters. Coordinating response with M&RA.

\* Service Members and Veterans Rules for Campaign/Rally-related Events. Amanda Dolasinski, Military Officers Association of America magazine, requested information through a series of questions around the significance of the rules and why they are important to follow, and the social media portion of the rules. Coordinating response with P&R and Legal Policy.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF NOTE

\* Equal Opportunity Complaints. Facilitated an “off the record” phone engagement between Phil Stewart, Reuters, and Mr. Cyrus Salazar on the Equal Opportunity process or system that service members can use to address complaints of discrimination. The information will be used as part of larger piece scheduled to be published by Reuters on understanding the processes for submitting EO complaints.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 16, 2020 6:43:32 PM

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ON TOP

\* SD Travel. SD embarked a three-day trip to the West Coast this morning, where he will be meeting with defense industry partners critical to the defense industrial base to discuss the impacts of COVID on their workforce and highlight efforts to prepare for future near-peer competition; tour Navy and Marine bases and platforms critical to maintaining naval power across the Indo-Pacific region, including a visit to USS Carl Vinson and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton; gain a firsthand assessment of survey efforts aboard USS Bonhomme Richard; and meet with California National Guard service members helping to fight the wildfires impacting the region. Today he spoke at RAND Corporation, where he discussed the Future Naval Force Study. See the text of his remarks as delivered at <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Speeches/Speech/Article/2350362/secretary-of-defense-speech-at-rand-as-delivered/> and the video of his presentation at <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/767312/defense-secretary-speaks-rand-corporation>.

\* CMMC Accreditation Board. Received multiple queries about the departure of the chairman and communications director of the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) Accreditation Board. Coordinated a statement with OSD(A&S): "The Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification Accreditation Body (CMMC-AB), in coordination with the Department of Defense, has reached a monumental milestone with the initial training of provisional assessors. Through the strong leadership of the CMMC-AB and the dedication of many volunteers, who have graciously devoted so much of their time for this monumental cause, we say "thank you". The CMMC-AB is now moving through the initial stand-up phase and working to meet the requirements of the DOD. Several board members who were critical in establishing this solid foundation are transitioning off the board. We thank Ty Schieber, chairman, and Mark Berman, communications director, for their thoughtful leadership. We are excited to welcome Karlton Johnson as the new CMMC-AB chairman and new directors, Charlie Williams, Sheryl Hanchar, and Yong-Gon Chon. We look forward to a continued strong relationship moving forward."

\* Future Navy Force Study. Lara Seligman, Politico, and Bob Burns, AP, queried for additional information regarding the content and release of OSD's FNFS study. Responded: Until the FNFS study is finalized, the content of related conversations remains pre-decisional. Once a way forward is determined - in partnership with the Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Staff - DoD will work with Congress and industry to build the U.S.'s future fleet. We will have more information in the coming weeks.

#### BRIEFINGS

\* GTI 2020 Annual Symposium. PSO ASD(IPSA) David Helvey gave the keynote address and answered questions at the Global Taiwan Institute's annual symposium. He discussed the relationship between the United States and Taiwan, including building the network of allies and partners, countering the PRC, and the commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act. You can view the speech here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV3qh05k7Kw&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV3qh05k7Kw&feature=emb_title)

#### DOD RELEASES

\* OIR Air Force Casualty Announcement. Released the casualty announcement for Air Force Staff Sergeant Ronald J. Ouellette, 23, of Merrimack, New Hampshire, who died Sept. 14 in a single all-terrain-vehicle non-combat related accident on the flightline at Ali Al Salem Air Base, Kuwait. The cause of the accident is under investigation. You can read the full announcement here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2349570/dod-identifies-air-force-casualty/>

\* 11th Annual Strategic Security Policy Dialogue. Released statement on Acting USD(P) Dr. James Anderson's attendance at the 11th Annual Strategic Security Policy Dialogue with Singapore. Dr. Anderson co-chaired the event with the Singapore Permanent Secretary for Defence. The event is an opportunity for the U.S. and Singapore to discuss regional developments, including the COVID-19 response across the region, developments in the South China Sea, counterterrorism, and the upcoming ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus. You can read the full release here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2349514/acting-under-secretary-of-defense-for-policy-dr-james-anderson-co-chairs-the-11/>

\* OWS Vaccine Strategy. Announced that HHS and DoD released two documents today outlining the Trump Administration's detailed strategy to deliver safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine doses to the American people as quickly and reliably as possible. You can read the full press release here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2349357/trump-administration-releases-covid-19-vaccine-distribution-strategy/>

\* COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Installation Status Update. Published the latest installation status update to the coronavirus spotlight page. You can read the status updated here: [https://media.defense.gov/2020/Sep/16/2002498821-1-1/1/COVID\\_19\\_TRAVEL\\_RESTRICTIONS\\_INSTALLATION\\_STATUS\\_UPDATE\\_SEPTEMBER\\_16\\_2020.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2020/Sep/16/2002498821-1-1/1/COVID_19_TRAVEL_RESTRICTIONS_INSTALLATION_STATUS_UPDATE_SEPTEMBER_16_2020.PDF)

\* Defeat-ISIS Global Coalition Readout. Early this evening we will post the readout of PDO ASD(ISA) Dr. Michael Cutrone's meeting today with members of the Global Coalition to discuss progress in the Defeat-ISIS campaign. Coalition partners reaffirmed their commitment to ensure an enduring defeat of ISIS. Additionally, the OSD Social Media Team will be tweeting about the meeting.

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

- \* JIATF-S. Ronan Farrow, *New Yorker Magazine*, is working on a "whistleblower story" involving a DOJ official who was assigned to JIATF-S in August 2017. The DOJ official received information about the conduct of FBI and CIA personnel and their use of the Helios Database system used by the FBI and DEA for drug interdiction targeting. According to the whistleblower, "over 100 alerts" were purposely "illegally mislabeled/disguised" as FBI entries, but were actually CIA entries. The "disguised intelligence affected 57 prosecutions". The "primary allegation" is that this prevented prosecutors from fulfilling their legal obligation of full disclosure, while denying defendants their right to due process. Three JIATF-S officials (USCG Admiral, USCG CAPT & USAF Col) are accused of ordering the whistleblower to delete the evidence from his SIPR computer in response to "undue influence from the CIA." According to Farrow, this is primarily a DOJ/CIA/FBI story. However, the role of these three individuals will be mentioned in the story. If feasible, Farrow is open to any on-record comment SOUTHCOM/DoD may want to offer. SOUTHCOM is considering a statement for coordination with DOJ and OSD(PA). Farrow's deadline is Sept. 18. DOJ has the lead on this issue.
- \* Military Sales to Taiwan. CNN and WSJ asked for comment on reported arms sales to Taiwan. Replied with "As a matter of policy, the U.S. government does not comment on or confirm potential or pending arms sales or transfers before they are formally notified to Congress."
- \* F-35 DOT&E. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, queried about the F-35 testing status. Coordinated responses with Director, Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E), and the Joint Program Office. The response included details of the director's recent visit to the Joint Simulation Environment (Naval Air Station Patuxent River) and the timeline of testing and the capabilities necessary to accomplish adequate operational testing.
- \* Statement for Research Paper. A high school student requested a statement from a DoD representative to include in his research paper on nuclear weapons. His focus is on if nuclear weapons are needed for protection, defense, or attack. The (PDO) DASD for Nuclear Matters provided a statement for the student, which included, "the primary focus of U.S. nuclear forces is not on fighting or winning conflicts, but on preventing conflicts in the first place." The team also provided a link to DoD's Nuclear Posture Review.
- \* DoD Bands. Jessica Contrera, *Washington Post*, asked "how much was spent on instruments, uniforms, and travel expenses for military bands in 2019, and if you aren't able to get a specific number, could you simply share whether the total meets or exceeds the \$437 million spent in 2016." Provided a comptroller approved response that: "Costs are on par with the data provided in 2016."
- \* 5G. John Handel, *Politico*, asked if the Pentagon is planning to issue a bigger 5G RFP that would involve sharing military spectrum on a wholesale basis. Working with CIO and OSD(R&E) 5G for response.
- \* DOD IG Investigation into Former MDA Executive Director. DOD IG made available to the public a Report of Investigation which substantiated misconduct by John H. James, Jr., former Executive Director for the Missile Defense Agency (MDA). Referred query from Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, to MDA.
- \* Requirements for Joining Military Service. Madison Dapceovich, *Snapes*, requested information on whether individuals diagnosed with history of asthma can still join the military service and, if so, what stipulations might exist currently. Additionally, the reporter requested more information about individuals diagnosed with asthma during the Vietnam War; was this a medical option for deferment and, if so, were there specific parameters. Response coordinated with M&RA and provided to reporter: "A history of asthma after the 13th birthday disqualifies an individual from military service. The Military Services may approve a waiver to join the military in cases where asthma since the 13th birthday was insignificant as indicated by medical documentation. DODI 6130.03 "Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Military Services" establishes entrance for military service to ensure individuals are: (1) free of medical conditions or physical defects that would require excessive time lost from duty for necessary treatment or hospitalization, or would likely result in separation from the Service for medical conditions; and (2) medically capable of performing duties without aggravation of existing physical defects or medical conditions. We do not have access to the DoD Issuances or any records from that time period."
- \* Impact of Burn Pits on Service Members. Mosheh Gains, *NBC*, requested comment on Jon Stewart appearing before Congress to advocate on behalf of service members and veterans who were exposed to toxic burn pits in the wars that followed 9/11. Coordinated response with HA and provided the response to the reporter: "The Department of Defense (DoD) is committed to continually improving our understanding of exposures and potential health effects so that we can prevent and mitigate exposures, and medically evaluate, treat and care for those we entrust to deploy, fight and defend our Nation. DoD has and will continue to collaborate with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), other federal agencies, academia and others on epidemiological and health-related research focused on a full understanding of potential long-term health outcomes associated with burn pit and other complex airborne exposures during deployments."

\* Policy Guidance on the Extension for Identification Card Operations for COVID-19. Manny Johnson, Stars & Stripes, requested information on the Policy Guidance Extension for Identification Card Operations for COVID-19 memo. Specifically he asked for confirmation of the date of the policy and if the extension cancels previously provided policy on this matter. Coordinating response with DHRA.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* UAPTF Interview Requests. Tim McMillan, freelance journalist, and Takashi Watanabe, Asahi Shimbun, asked for interviews with DoD officials regarding the UAPTF. Responded: "To maintain operations security, which includes not disseminating information publicly that may be useful to our adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP – and that includes not discussing the UAPTF publicly, also."

\* CBS Interview Request on Sexual Assault in the Military. Jenna Gibson, CBS, requested an interview with a senior Department official on sexual assault in the military and what the Department is doing to prevent it from occurring. Coordinating interview request with OFR/SAPRO.

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**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, September 18, 2020 5:48:52 PM

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ON TOP

\* POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony. DEPSECDEF and VCJCS spoke at the annual DoD POW/MIA Recognition Day Ceremony. In-person press attendance was light, but the ceremony was livestreamed on defense.gov. After the ceremony ended, director, DPAA, answered a few questions from a S. Korean reporter who routinely and accurately covers DPAA's efforts. You can view the ceremony here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/search/?q=hyten+norquist+pow&filter%5Btype%5D=video&view=grid&sort=publishdate>

\* 355-Ship Navy. Lara Seligman, Politico, is working on a story about Robert O'Brien's efforts to advocate for a 355-ship Navy. The lean of her story is that the previous Pentagon team (Mattis and Spencer) were initially reticent to embrace the 355-ship goal, but when O'Brien came onboard he worked with Esper and Modly (and now Braithwaite) to make the goal a reality. Seligman asked for confirmation of several details about a meeting between SECDEF, DEPSECDEF, CAPE and O'Brien and whether Navy was/was not present or knew/didn't know about the meeting. Responded with the following attributable to ATSD(PA) Hoffman: "Secretary Esper has publicly supported a future force Navy of more than 355 ships aligned with the NDS since shortly after becoming Secretary of Defense in July of 2019. Ambassador O'Brien and Secretary Esper have worked together on the 355+ ship vision often since Ambassador O'Brien joined the National Security Team. I am not aware of a meeting that fits that description, but the Secretary and O'Brien meet regularly and generally cover a range of Department wide issues - not just focused on one specific topic with one specific service."

THREE DAY FORECAST

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QUERIES OF NOTE

\* U.S. Defense Spending. George Petras, USATODAY, asked for annual amounts of U.S. defense

spending going back to World War II. Provided the comptroller-approved response that: “We go back to 1948 in our public docs:

[https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2021/FY21\\_Green\\_Book.pdf](https://comptroller.defense.gov/Portals/45/Documents/defbudget/fy2021/FY21_Green_Book.pdf).

Please see page 160, additional information may be found in the Green Book.”

\* CAPE Director. Daniel Lippman, POLITICO, asked if DoD could confirm that Joseph R. “Joe” Nogueira is now Director (Acting) at Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation. Provided the CAPE-approved response that: “Joseph R. Nogueira is now the Acting Director at Cost Assessment and Program Evaluation.”

\* UAP Sightings. Rachel Greenspan, Business Insider, is working on a story about the recent trend of UFO sighting videos on TikTok and other social media platforms. She wanted to reach out to the “Pentagon’s UFO Task Force” to debunk these claims, and asked if the Pentagon was aware of a UFO in Boston or elsewhere in the U.S. in September. Coordinated with Navy and OUSD(I&S) and responded: “DOD established the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena (UAP) task force to gain knowledge and insight into the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace. The mission of the task force is to detect, analyze, and catalog UAPs that could potentially pose a threat to U.S. national security. I refer you to local law enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security regarding reports of alleged “UFO” sightings outside of military training ranges and designated airspace.”

\* PLA Activities Near Taiwan. Idrees Ali, Reuters; Ryan Browne, CNN; and Chinyeh Chiang, Central News Agency (Taiwan), asked for a comment regarding PLA activities near Taiwan following Under Secretary of State Krach’s visit. Replied with, “We have maintained constructive, unofficial relations with Taiwan for 40 years. The PLA’s aggressive and destabilizing reactions reflect a continued attempt to alter the status quo and rewrite history. This is another example of the PRC increasingly using its military as a tool of coercion with Taiwan and other neighbors. Taiwan’s security – and its people’s ability to determine their future, free from coercion – remains a vital interest to the United States and is integral to regional security.”

\* PFAS Data. Travis Tritten, Bloomberg News, queried to get technical data from a DOD PFAS report that was released in 2018. Provided data in requested format (excel spreadsheet vice PDF) along with info that provided context on data. No immediate story expected; anticipate that he and his team will submit follow-up questions at a later date after they have had time to analyze data.

\* COVID-19 Response. Lara Seligman, Politico, published an article with points from a Joint Staff review of some of the lessons learned in their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Joint Staff PA team provided comment. After the article published, OSD(PA) offered the following statement for inclusion in the article: “The Department of Defense unquestionably continues to lead in its response to the COVID crisis: maintaining readiness of our global forces; protecting our forces and families; and providing unprecedented life-saving support to state, local and international partners. The Department has been open and transparent on the challenges it faces in its response to the COVID-19 crisis. From day one of the Federal response to COVID, Secretary Esper directed the tracking and compilation of lessons learned. Those observations are currently in their initial stages, and will be reviewed by offices throughout the department for thoroughness and accuracy before

being briefed to leadership. Once it is finalized, we look forward to sharing the results.”

\* Drivers’ Training Standards. Mark Satter, Defense Reporter, CQ Roll Call, requested information on standards for driver training for service members across all of the military branches. Specifically he asked for range safety evaluation on military bases, standardized methods including examples, and standards for combat vehicle maintenance across the services. Coordinating response with Force Safety and Occupational Health/Readiness.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* LoM Award to Amir of Kuwait. At the request of OSD(P) Middle East, @EsperDOD tweeted about the White House ceremony today: “Today @POTUS presented the Legion of Merit, the Degree of Chief Commander, to a partner and friend of the U.S. and champion of the longstanding U.S.-Kuwait bilateral defense relationship, Amir Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, accepted by his son, Sheikh Nasser al-Sabah al-Sabah.” You can see the tweet here:

<https://twitter.com/EsperDoD/status/1306992119958175744>

\* Partner Efforts to Mitigate Civilian Harm. DSCA conducted a joint media roundtable on-background with the Department of State on U.S. Government Support to Partner Efforts to Mitigate Civilian Harm. Media reps included Eric Schmitt, NY Times; Aaron Mehta, Defense News; Katie Bo Williams, Defense One; Robbie Gramer, Foreign Policy; Michael Gordon, Wall Street Journal; Amanda Macias, MSNBC; Missy Ryan, Washington Post; and Jim Garomone, Defense.gov/DoD news. Questions were as anticipated and focused on accountability, enforcement and repercussions for partners.

\* Spectrum. DISA released a Request for Information on Dynamic Spectrum Sharing, asking industry to submit white papers to provide insight into innovative solutions and technologies for dynamic sharing of the department’s current spectrum allocation to accelerate spectrum sharing and 5G deployment. The intent is to ensure the greatest effective and efficient use of the Department of Defense’s spectrum for training, readiness, and lethality. A release will be posted on Defense.gov once congressional notification is completed.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Thursday, September 24, 2020 7:08:28 PM

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ON TOP

\* SECDEF Virtual Town Hall. SECDEF, CJCS and SEAC held a virtual Town Hall today. Topics of questions focused on diversity and inclusion policy, incorporating current technology solutions, religious liberty, surveys on perceived levels of racism, officer promotion photos, consolidation of DoD e-learning, future deployments for Guard and Reserves, and COVID-19 response, restrictions, budget impacts, maintaining morale under the restrictions, and emergency paid sick leave. You can view the Town Hall here: <https://www.dvidshub.net/video/767119/top-defense-officials-hold-virtual-town-hall-meeting>

Or read the transcript here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2360707/senior-department-of-defense-leaders-host-global-virtual-town-hall/>

\* Transition of Power. Lara Seligman, Politico, and Barbara Starr, CNN, queried OCJCS PA and OSD(PA), respectively, about DoD committing to a peaceful transfer of power and whether DoD has any plans for transition of power. Responded that DoD plays no role in the transition of power after an election; OCJCS PA also referred Seligman to CJCS' QFR response to the HASC (QFR ID: HASC-22-009), or other Congressional testimony, or his NDU speech.

THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Prohibition on Chinese Drone Purchases. Eli Binder, *The Wire*, queried about the Department of Defense's use of drones made by Chinese company DJI. Referred him to DIU announcement on limiting the availability to five U.S.-manufactured drone configurations in a program announced in August called "Blue sUAS."

\* UAPs. Mick West, *Skeptical Inquirer* magazine, asked a series of questions about the three Navy videos and how we characterize objects. Coordinated with Navy and OUSD(I&S) and responded with previously approved RTQ responses, including that "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;" and "to maintain operations security and to avoid disclosing information that may be useful to our adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP."

\* Detention Facility at GTMO. Carol Rosenberg, *NY Times*, contacted SOUTHCOM/PA with additional questions about detention facilities at GTMO. Her questions: "I can't find a request to find a new HVD detention facility at GTMO in the 2021 budget materials. Did Southcom not seek the funds in the latest iteration?" AND "I'm attaching the request from FY 2020, which perhaps was abandoned, to show you that this was public information." SOUTHCOM PA is drafting a response.

\* Driver's Training Standards. Mark Satter, *Defense Reporter*, *CQ Roll Call*, requested information on standards for driver training for service members across all of the military branches. Specifically he asked for range safety evaluation on military bases, standardized methods including examples, and standards for combat vehicle maintenance across the services. Referred reporter to the Services for additional information.

\* EO on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping. Tara Copp, National Military/Veterans Affairs, requested OSD statement on POTUS executive order. Coordinating response with OSD(P&R) front office.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Weapon Program Contract. Announced that the Boeing Co. has been awarded a \$2.24 billion fixed-price-incentive, firm-target contract for the Small Diameter Bomb Increment I weapon program. This contract provides for a guaranteed minimum Lot 15 award and a five-year ordering period for Small Diameter Bomb Increment I, focused lethality munition, containers and carriages for the Department of Defense and Foreign Military Sales partner nations. This contract involves Foreign Military Sales to Australia, Belgium, Israel, Japan, Korea, Netherlands and Norway.

\* UAPTF. Claire Fahey, Nextgov, asked for a UAPTF representative to participate in a panel discussion on emerging technologies and space during Nextgov's upcoming Genius Machines 2020 Virtual Summit event. Declined.

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**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2020 6:28:59 PM

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ON TOP

\* CSBA. SECDEF delivered remarks at the Center for Strategic & Budgetary Assessments on the National Defense Strategy and future defense modernization priorities. The event was broadcast and livestreamed via Zoom, Defense.gov and Pentagon Channel 2. A transcript will be posted when available.

\* COVID-19 Senior Leader Testing. Multiple outlets asked about COVID-19 testing for DoD senior leaders after reports that Adm. Ray, USCG, had tested positive and had been in meetings with DoD leaders recently. Initially responded with a statement on background: Relative to the response on the senior leader COVID-19 test released a short time ago, please see the below statement on background attributable to a senior DOD official: "Chairman Milley, Vice Chairman Hyten, Admiral Gilday, Generals McConville, Brown, Raymond, Hokanson, Nakasone, and Thomas were all in meetings with Admiral Ray, as were members of the Joint Staff. All have been tested with no positive results to report and none are exhibiting any symptoms." Later, released a statement by ATSD(PA) Hoffman that noted that DoD is conducting additional contact tracing and taking appropriate precautions to protect the force and the mission; out of an abundance of caution, all potential close contacts from these meetings are self-quarantining and have been tested this morning; and that no Pentagon contacts have exhibited symptoms and we have no additional positive tests to report at this time. You can read the full statement here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2373758/statement-by-jonathan-hoffman-chief-pentagon-spokesman-on-the-dod-response-to-u/>

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Bulgaria Bilat. Secretary Esper held a bilateral engagement with the Bulgarian Minister of Defense. The Secretary thanked the Defense Minister for exceeding NATO defense spending and modernization commitments, and the two leaders signed a 10-year "Roadmap for Defense Cooperation." A readout of their meeting will be posted to defense.gov when available.

\* Readout of 2020 US-Georgia Bilateral Defense Consultations. DASD(RUE) Laura Cooper co-chaired the 2020 US-Georgian Bilateral Defense Consultations with the Georgian First Deputy Minister of Defense. A readout of the consultations has been posted on defense.gov at: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2373771/readout-of-2020-us-georgia-bilateral-defense-consultations/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Military Assistance to Azerbaijan. Joe Gould, Defense News, queried about an increase in DoD Section 333 security assistance funding in 2018 and 2019 to Azerbaijan. He wanted to know what was the aid we provided and whether or not a waiver was required. Provided: "DoD assistance to Azerbaijan is carefully structured so that it will not undermine or hamper ongoing efforts to negotiate a peaceful settlement between Armenia and Azerbaijan or be used for offensive purposes against Armenia. Under the DoD Section 333 authority to build capacity in foreign security forces, DoD is working with Azerbaijan to build its capacity to secure its maritime border and southern border with Iran and detect and prevent terrorist operations, counter WMD proliferation, and counter illicit drug trafficking, security objectives that are in the national security interests of both the U.S. and Azerbaijan. DoD also works to increase Azerbaijan's NATO interoperability and readiness to support the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan through multilateral exercises, professional military education, subject matter expert exchanges, and English language training, for example. Through the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, DoD works to reduce WMD threats against U.S.

interests, and in partnership with Azerbaijan, to improve Azerbaijan's ability to detect WMD proliferation threats and reduce the threat of especially dangerous pathogens – whether naturally occurring or due to intentional or accidental release – by enhancing Azerbaijan's disease detection and diagnostic capabilities. The Department of State is the lead for waivers associated with security assistance to Azerbaijan and for more information, I refer you to them."

\* Afghanistan Anniversary. Barbara Starr, CNN, mentioned that Oct. 7 will mark the 19th anniversary of U.S. involvement in Afghanistan and that CNN is planning to produce a segment highlighting this key anniversary amidst ongoing Afghan Peace Negotiations (APN). Initial queries focused on gathering / confirming background data such as when U.S. forces were at peak levels (2011 ~ 98K), casualty #s (referred to Defense Casualty Analysis System website), and elements of the U.S.-Taliban agreement. Also referred her to ASD Helvey's HCOR testimony of Sept. 22 for acknowledgement that the U.S. continues with "prudent planning to withdraw to zero service members by May 2021 if conditions warrant and the Taliban have met their commitments." Follow-on queries expected tomorrow as the segment takes shape.

\* Medical Malpractice Claims. Joce Sterman, Sinclair Broadcast Group, requested a comment on the 2020 NDAA, which includes the ability for active duty service members to file a claim with DoD for medical malpractice. The reporter wanted to know how many individual claims have been filed or logged with the Department of Defense following this change to the NDAA in December 2019 and what does the DoD have to say in response to concerns and frustrations expressed by service members. (b)(5)

\* Iraq Drawdown. Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, queried if the drawdown is complete. Responded with previously-coordinated statement, "The United States continues to reduce our troop presence in Iraq from about 5,200 to 3,000. We remain committed to ensuring the enduring defeat of ISIS and supporting Iraq's long-term security, stability, and prosperity. We will continue to consult closely with the Government of Iraq, as well as our Coalition and NATO partners, concerning future force dispositions." OIR spokesman provided conflicting quote in same article stating drawdown is complete.

\* Combating Child Pornography. Travis Tritten, Bloomberg, asked what steps DoD has taken to implement section 550D of the FY20 NDAA "Enhancing the Capability of Military Criminal Investigative Organizations to Prevent and Combat Child Sexual Exploitation" and how DoD is preventing the spread of child pornography across the department. Coordinated with USD(I&S), USD(P&R), Services, and the Military Criminal Investigative Organizations and provide the following, as well as additional information for his questions. "The DoD continues to cooperate through long-standing relationships with federal and local law enforcement agencies. Department criminal investigative organizations (CID, NCIS, OSI and DCIS) are integrated with the Department of Justice, FBI, the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) task force, and liaison officers at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), to investigate and combat the possession, dissemination, or production of child pornography. Additionally, the department participated in the development of the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction alongside several other agencies, led by the Office of the Deputy Attorney General."

\* UAPTF. Bryan Bender, Politico, asked whether the UAPTF is specifically looking at UAPs at nuclear weapons bases and asked to interview a UAPTF official. Coordinated with OUSD(I&S) and Navy, and provided standard response: “To maintain operations security, which includes not disseminating information publicly that may be useful to our adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP – that includes the UAPTF.”

\* SECDEF Speech on Future Naval Forces. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, queried for additional information on Secretary Esper’s speech at CSBA. He specifically asked: 1) What does the 13% refer to? A 13% increase in the FY 21 \$20b total ship procurement account, 13% of \$16.4 billion requested in funding for new ships only or 13% to the overall \$161b FY 21 Navy-only topline? 2) Have any of these new funds been programmed into the FY 22 plan or are these intended for beyond the FY 22 FYDP? 3) The Navy’s 355-ship plan includes a goal for a force of 104 large surface combatants (LSCs), meaning 104 cruisers and destroyers. How many LSCs are included in this new Battle Force 2045 plan? 4) The Navy’s 355-ship plan includes a goal for a force of 38 larger amphibious ships, meaning LHAs/LHDs and LPDs. How many larger amphibious ships are included in this new Battle Force 2045 plan? Coordinating answers between the DEPSECDEF, CAPE, USN, and additional stakeholders.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Mandatory Declassification Review (MDR). The WHS OSD MDR office reached out for advice on how to respond to a question Dr. Bill Burr, George Washington University, who writes the popular blog “National Security Archives,” and is a prolific requester of FOIAs and MDRs. Dr. Burr asked the WHS OSD MDR office about the responses he’s received over the last few months and whether “they from a pre-pandemic backlog or do they represent declassification decisions that have been taken since the pandemic began?” After coordinating with PAO, the OSD MDR office responded: “The responses you have received from our program over the last few months are from decisions rendered both prior to and during the pandemic.” The OSD MDR office anticipates that Dr. Burr will be asking the Service MDR offices a similar question, probably for a blog article; provided the response to the Services for their awareness.

\* Data Strategy. CDO Spirk hosts an embargoed telephonic background brief for media on the DOD Data Strategy at 1 p.m. Oct. 7. Public rollout with a press release is tentatively scheduled for 1 p.m. Oct. 8.

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From: (b)(6)  
Subject: OSD(PA) COB  
Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020 5:28:54 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* U.S.-ROK SCM. Secretary Esper and ROK MoND Suh Wook made brief remarks in front of the press at the top of the Security Consultative Meeting today. A transcript of their remarks will be posted when available. After the SCM, we and ROK released the "Joint Communique of the 52nd U.S.-Republic of Korea Security Consultative Meeting," which noted that the two leaders recognized that the SCM would continue to be a cornerstone venue to discuss and affirm national commitments. Both sides pledged to continue to develop the Alliance—the linchpin of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia—in a mutually reinforcing and future-oriented manner. You can read the full joint communique here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2381879/joint-communique-of-the-52nd-us-republic-of-korea-security-consultative-meeting/>

#### DOD RELEASES

\* COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Update. Posted the weekly COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Installation Status Update to the coronavirus spotlight page on [defense.gov](https://www.defense.gov). You can see the update here: [https://media.defense.gov/2020/Oct/14/2002516743/-1/-1/0/COVID\\_19\\_TRAVEL\\_RESTRICTIONS\\_INSTALLATION\\_STATUS\\_UPDATE\\_OCT\\_14\\_2020.PDF](https://media.defense.gov/2020/Oct/14/2002516743/-1/-1/0/COVID_19_TRAVEL_RESTRICTIONS_INSTALLATION_STATUS_UPDATE_OCT_14_2020.PDF)

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Spectrum Sharing. Alex Gangitano, The Hill, asked a follow-up question to yesterday's response on the RFI. She asked if DoD plans to issue a RFP soon and if so, when will that be? If not, is DoD considering it? Coordinated with the DoD CIO and provided: "We hope the RFI provides great insight into the art of the possible. Once the RFI submissions are collected we will analyze the concepts and evaluate the potential solutions for feasibility. At this time it is too early to tell if an RFP will follow anytime in the future."

\* DoD Spending in NYC, Portland and Seattle. Tony Bertuca, Inside the Pentagon, stated that OMB wants all federal agencies to review how federal funding flows into NYC, Portland and Seattle. He asked if he could get the raw numbers in terms of how much DoD funding flows into these cities. After coordination and approval from Comptroller, referred him to OMB.

\* POTUS Retweet on Osama Bin Laden's Death. Dave Ress, Daily Press and The Virginian-Pilot, asked whether DoD has new information that calls into question earlier reports of bin Laden's death. The reporter cited a retweet from the President which indicated Navy Seal Team 6 did not kill bin

Laden. Provided: Nothing new, I refer you to the White House for further information on the President's tweet.

\* Year-end U.S. Arms Sales Figures. Aaron Mehta, Defense News, asked whether Ms. Grant, director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, would be releasing year-end U.S. arms sales figures when she speaks tomorrow at Middle East Institute. If so, he wanted those figures beforehand under embargo. Provided off-the-record: She is not expected to deliver the year-end numbers at this event. DSCA and State are looking at jointly releasing all security cooperation figures for FY20 together including DCS, FMS, and numbers for our International Capacity Building programs such as International Military Education and Training and Humanitarian Disaster Relief and Mine Action. We will let you know when that will be.

\* Reported Arms Sales to Taiwan. James Legge, AFP News, requested confirmation on Reuters report about the U.S. selling arms to Taiwan. Referred to the State Department.

\* European Force Posture. Abraham Mahshie, Washington Examiner, is working on a piece on the Black Sea region and asked several questions about the mil-to-mil relationship with Bulgaria and Romania following last week's bilateral engagements. Questions included U.S. troop presence in the region, GDP spending by both countries, foreign military sales, and the potential for U.S. rotational forces as a part of the European Force Posture Review. Provided cleared responses on current U.S. presence, confirmation of the delivery of the Patriot system to Romania, and reinforced previous SECDEF statements on force posture.

\* SCM Press Conference Cancellation. Several South Korean outlets asked why the press conference following the SCM was cancelled. Replied that the Secretary decided to cancel.

\* Taiwan Straits Transit. Sylvie Lanteaume, AFP, asked about a recent Taiwan Straits Transit. Referred to PACFLEET and INDOPACOM.

\* AFRH Update. Coordinated on an RTQ for AFRH from Mike Lacy, WLOX-TV (Mississippi), who is doing an update on a story on the status of the AFRH Gulfport, Mississippi, campus.

\* UAPTF International Coordination. Adam Kenoe, PhD, asked a series of questions about UAPTF international coordination as well as with other USG and DoD agencies. Coordinated with Navy and OUSD(I&S) and responded with standard line that we don't publicly discuss UAP observations or investigations, or UAPTF activities.

\* Medical Malpractice Claims. Joce Serman, Sinclair Broadcast Group, asked if the DOD was given an extension to formulate its regulations related to the administrative claims process and (if so) how long. Provided the reporter with the (b)(5) response: "Section 731 of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020 did not contain a deadline for publication of the Interim Final Rule, although as I mentioned development of the Interim Final Rule is well underway and the Department is working diligently to publish it." Laura Geller, WUSA 9, requested an update on the timeline for the Interim Final Rule on medical malpractice claims. Informed the reporter that there is not an update at this time.

\* Toxic Contaminants at Karshi-Khanabad. Katherine Herridge, CBS News, requested responses to her questions regarding former service members suffering from exposure to toxic contaminants at Karshi-Khanabad (K-2) Airbase in Uzbekistan. Coordinating response with HA.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* TRANSCOM Virtual Media Round Table – COVID Aircraft Particle Test Results. At 10:30 CST, Oct. 15, USTRANSCOM Deputy Commander, with other experts, will discuss results from the command's directed and funded aerosol testing. Testing was done to better understand aerosol particle spread from potentially infected passengers on the types of aircraft chartered to enhance the safety of DoD passengers. This round table could generate national media interest due to comparison to similar types of aircraft used in commercial airline industry and their ongoing challenges. This is an invite-only event to a limited media audience that follows this topic.

\* PPAG for UNITAS LXI. Reviewed/cleared PPAG for UNITAS LXI (61). This is SOUTHCOM's longest-running exercise. Participants include Ecuador, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Germany, Honduras, Italy, Peru, Uruguay, and the United States. Ecuador is the host. The exercise will be conducted from Nov 2-11. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, UNITAS LXI will be an at-sea exercise allowing maritime forces to come together and demonstrate interoperability and flexibility during a crisis. A small opening and closing ceremony will be conducted in accordance with COVID-19 mitigations, but currently there will be no additional social events ashore. The PA posture is Active. FOURTHFLT PA will distribute an initial press release prior to commencement of the exercise.

\* Data Modernization Strategy. DCIO John Sherman participated in a fireside chat discussion @ Billington Cybersecurity Breakfast from the Pentagon Small Studio. Numerous industry leaders attended as a brain trust to engage Mr. Sherman in a discussion about the Data Modernization Strategy and the way forward for cybersecurity, zero trust, artificial intelligence, data, identity, credential, and access management (ICAM) and issues relating to attracting and retaining a high quality technical workforce. Chatham House Rule was in effect for the breakfast meeting.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, November 16, 2020 5:53:43 PM

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ON TOP

\* Withdrawal of US Forces from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria. Multiple news agencies requested DoD comment on statements that alleged off-the-record U.S. officials told some reporters that a decision regarding withdrawal of some or all U.S. forces from Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria was imminent. POTUS may announce a decision via Twitter and OSD is coordinating a response.

\* National Security Agency General Council Hire. Spencer Ackerman, The Daily Beast, asked for DoD comment about the DoD general counsel's appointment of Michael Ellis, the NSC senior director for intelligence, as NSA general counsel. Coordinated with ATSD(PA) and provided the following, on the record: "The DoD general counsel is the selection authority for the NSA general counsel position. The prescribed hiring process for that position was followed in every respect and an appropriate selection of a qualified and capable candidate was made. The Department does not comment on non-selected candidates, nor the internal processing of specific employees." On background, attributable to a defense official, "The last two NSA general counsels appointed in the prior administration were also described as "politically connected:" one was serving as staff secretary to the prior President when he was appointed while the other was a campaign finance bundler for the prior President's campaign. That is clearly not unilaterally disqualifying."

\* Syria Troop Numbers. Lara Seligman, Politico, and Manal Abou Abs, Al Jazeera, inquired about an Al Arabiya tweet reporting that 50 U.S. military vehicles withdrew from Syria to Iraq. Referred her to statement provided to Al Arabiya English on Nov. 15 that there was no truth to that and provided off-the-record guidance that troops move back and forth on patrols and resupply missions.

BRIEFINGS

\* FY2020 Full Financial Statement Audit. Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer Thomas W. Harker provided an embargoed press briefing on DoD's agency-wide Full Financial Statement Audit for FY2020. The contents of the briefing are embargoed until OIG provides agency-wide results to DoD Comptroller (expected sometime this evening). A transcript of the embargoed press briefing will be posted to Defense.gov when prepared.

## DOD RELEASES

\* Surgical Mask Contract Award. Published press release announcing that DoD, in coordination with HHS, has awarded a \$6.18 million contract to Medline Industries, Inc. to increase domestic production capacity of surgical masks. You can read the full release here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2415847/dod-awards-618-million-contract-to-medline-industries-inc-to-increase-domestic/>

## THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Chinese Missile Tests. Over the weekend, Cathy He, Epoch Times, asked for a comment on the Chinese missile tests near Paracel Islands in August. Coordinated with OSD(P) and referred her to previous statement:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2327641/dod-statement-on-recent-chinese-ballistic-missile-launches/>

\* Russian Navy Hub in Sudan. Katrina Manson, Financial Times, requested DoD comment on an alleged draft proposal for Russia to build a naval hub in Sudan. Responded we had nothing to provide at this time.

\* Positions for Mr. Cohen. Spencer Ackerman, The Daily Beast, queried for clarification on whether Mr. Cohen is still Acting ASD(SOLIC). Coordinated with OASD(SOLIC) and confirmed he is both the Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security and the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict.

\* UAPTF. Bryan Bender, Politico, asked for an interview with a SME on the UAPTF to answer several questions he had (included in his email). Tim McMillan, writing for The Debrief Media, asked a series of question about the UAPTF, UAP reporting, and intelligence reports on UAPs.

Provided both reporters with approved line on such queries: “To maintain operations security and to avoid disclosing information that may be useful to potential adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP – that also includes any details of the UAPTF and its activities.”

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Columbia-class Ship Contract Award. Announced today that General Dynamics Electric Boat Corp. has been awarded a \$9.47 billion cost-plus-incentive-fee modification to a previously awarded contract. The contract modification exercises an option for construction and test of the lead and second ships of the Columbia class SSBN 826 and SSBN 827, as well as associated design and engineering support. This modification to the integrated product and process development (IPPD) contract supports the fiscal 2021 construction start of the lead ship (SSBN 826) and advance procurement, advance construction, coordinated material buys and full construction of the follow hull (SSBN 827) in fiscal 2024.

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 17, 2020 6:35:31 PM

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## ON TOP

\* Afghanistan / Iraq Announcement. Acting SECDEF Miller made an on-the-record announcement to the press regarding the administration's plan to bring the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq to a successful and responsible conclusion, and to bring service members home. He noted that by Jan. 15, 2021, our force size in Afghanistan will be 2,500 troops; that our force size in Iraq will also be 2,500 by that same date; and that this is consistent with our established plans and strategic objectives, and does not equate to a change in U.S. policy or objectives. He did not take any questions from the press. You can read the full text of his remarks as delivered here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2418641/acting-secretary-miller-announces-troop-levels-in-afghanistan-and-iraq/>

\* Rocket Attack in Iraq. A few reporters asked for DoD confirmation of the location from which rockets hit inside the Green Zone in Baghdad near the U.S. Embassy. OIR confirmed: "The attack did not result in any Coalition casualties." Also referred reporters to the Iraqi @SecMedCell tweets: <https://twitter.com/SecMedCell>.

## BRIEFINGS

\* Afghanistan / Iraq Backgrounder. Prior to A/SECDEF Miller's announcement to the press, ATSD(PA) Hoffman and two defense officials held an embargoed background briefing with the press via teleconference. Topics of press questions included status of meeting conditions on the ground, mission and capabilities of remaining U.S. forces, status of talks with the Taliban, perceived contradictions with previous statements or recommendations from military leaders, timing of options presented to POTUS and new A/SD, discussions with NATO, discussions with Afghanistan government, impact on operations in Syria, example of a fracturing event, identification of units being withdrawn, and meeting a campaign pledge versus actual national security interest. The transcript will be posted when available.

## DOD RELEASES

\* Audit. Late yesterday evening, posted the announcement of the completion of the FY2020 department-wide financial statement audit. You can read the full announcement here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2416978/dod-completes-fiscal-year-2020-department-wide-financial-statement-audit-contin/>. You can also read the

transcript of the press briefing on the audit, which had been embargoed until late yesterday, here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Transcripts/Transcript/Article/2418576/dod-outlines-results-of-third-annual-department-wide-audit/>

\* Missile Intercept Test. Released announcement that MDA and Navy had intercepted and destroyed a threat-representative Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) target with a Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) Block IIA missile during a flight test demonstration in the broad ocean area northeast of Hawaii. You can read the full announcement here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2417334/us-successfully-conducts-sm-3-block-ia-intercept-test-against-an-intercontinen/>

\* Rare Earth Award. The department announced contracts and agreements with several rare earth element producers which will strengthen the domestic rare earths supply chain. Three of the awards were made under the authorities of Title III of the Defense Production Act (DPA). You can read the announcement here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2418542/dod-announces-rare-earth-element-awards-to-strengthen-domestic-industrial-base/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Report of USAF Flight Over PRC ADIZ. Carla Baab, Voice of America, and John Ruwitch, NPR, asked for DoD comment and confirmation of this story that says two U.S. bombers entered the Chinese ADIZ: <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3110262/us-bombers-enter-chinas-adiz-pla-navy-mounts-massive-exercises>. Coordinating with OSD(Policy) for a response.

\* Administration Transition. Nancy Youssef, WSJ, asked if there was any update or change regarding transition activities, commenting that she had heard that the intel community has been allowed some exceptions. Responded that DoD is still awaiting notification of ascertainment by the GSA Administrator, and that we are unaware of any exceptions.

\* DoD Force Posture in Africa. Gordon Lubold, Wall Street Journal, requested DoD force posture (by country) on the African continent. Responded with AFRICOM-cleared data based on enduring DoD presence.

\* National Security Agency General Council Hire. Mark Hosenball, Reuters, and Jerry

Dunleavy, Washington Examiner, asked for DoD comment on the letter by Senator Mark Warner and Senator Jack Reed sent to DoD's IG related to the selection of Mr. Michael Ellis as NSA's general counsel. Coordinated with ATSD(PA) and provided the following, on the record: "We will respond appropriately to the members." On background, attributable to a U.S. official: "The DoD general counsel is the selection authority for the NSA general counsel position. The prescribed hiring process for that position was followed in every respect and an appropriate selection of a qualified and capable candidate was made. Any analysis of this hiring should take into account that the last two NSA general counsels appointed in the prior administration had associations with political Administration leadership - one was serving as staff secretary to the prior President when he was appointed; while the other was a campaign finance bundler for the prior President's campaign – yet were selected for the merit-based position."

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Military One Source Application. Amanda Dolasinski, Military Officer Magazine, requested to speak to a knowledgeable person about the Military One Source new application and its features. Coordinating request with M&RA.

\* UAPTF. Lachlan Mantell, L.A.-based producer for the UK national breakfast program, "Good Morning Britain," asked to set up live remote interview about the UAPTF and the UAP report mentioned in the committee report to the draft Intel Authorization Act. Declining the request.

(b)(6)



From: (b)(6)  
Subject: OSD(PA) LUG  
Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 6:12:39 PM

ON TOP

\* COVID-19 Death. Caitlin Kenney, Stars & Stripes, queried regarding the most recent COVID-related service member death. While DoD reported the death of a North Dakota National Guardsman as COVID-related (by virtue of including it in the daily report), the state is holding off on tying the death to the virus, and has told reporters it is waiting until receiving a death certificate before making such a judgement. After discussing the issue with the Joint Staff and NGB public affairs, it seems that the initial report came in as "presumed COVID-related," but was included in the daily report as COVID-related. Explained this to the reporter on background.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* DURIP. Announced awards to 150 university researchers totaling \$50 million under the Defense University Research Instrumentation Program (DURIP). These grants will be provided to 85 institutions across 33 states in FY2021. You can see the full release, that includes a link to the awardees, here:  
<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2430566/dod-awards-50-million-in-university-research-equipment-awards/>

\* PFAS Update. Posted two PFAS documents updated with new content to the defense.gov/PFAS spotlight page. Items included latest versions of "Map of Installations Conducting Assessments for PFAS Use or Potential Release" and "Spreadsheet of Installations where DoD is Performing an Assessment of PFAS Use or Potential Release." You can access the documents here: [https://media.defense.gov/2020/Mar/17/2002265608-1/-1/1/Map\\_of\\_Installations\\_Conducting\\_Assessments\\_for\\_Pfas\\_Use\\_or\\_Potential\\_Release.pdf](https://media.defense.gov/2020/Mar/17/2002265608-1/-1/1/Map_of_Installations_Conducting_Assessments_for_Pfas_Use_or_Potential_Release.pdf) and [https://media.defense.gov/2020/Mar/17/2002265607-1/-1/1/Spreadsheet\\_of\\_Installations\\_where\\_DoD\\_Performing\\_Assessment\\_of\\_Pfas\\_Use\\_or\\_Potential\\_Release.pdf](https://media.defense.gov/2020/Mar/17/2002265607-1/-1/1/Spreadsheet_of_Installations_where_DoD_Performing_Assessment_of_Pfas_Use_or_Potential_Release.pdf)

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)

#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Future of CMO Position. Travis Tritten, Bloomberg Government, requested updated information on the savings Ms. Hershman has achieved, including where specifically those savings originated, how much has been realized, and how much is projected future savings. Also requested an interview with Ms. Hershman as soon as final NDAA language is known (same day) as to the status of the CMO position. Coordinating response to data request with CMO front office and drafting a statement, regarding CMO position and view by A/SD, to seek his approval for right/left limits for potential interview with Ms. Hershman.

\* UAPTF. Ryan Sprague, The Debrief, asked a series of questions about Navy guidelines for UAP reporting, the UAPTF mission, the status of the report on UAPs mentioned in the Senate Intel Committee's report accompanying the draft Intelligence Authorization Act, and reports of a UAP sighting. Coordinated with Navy, and responded that the guidelines were passed through classified means or via in-person briefings; the approved statement on the UAPTF mission; that we had nothing on the report; and approved statement that we do not comment on the details of any UAP reporting or investigations.

\* Clearview AI. Ryan Mac, BuzzFeed, followed up from yesterday's query, again alleging that "records we've seen show that individuals associated with [PFPA] ran about 5 searches with Clearview AI facial recognition software as of earlier this year." According to a BuzzFeed article he cited, the "records" he's referring to were leaked without authorization from Clearview. Coordinating with PFPA for response.

\* F-35 Update. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, queried for an update on the F-35 program. Coordinated a response with OSD(A&S): The Defense Acquisition Executive will provide direction on necessary changes to F-35 program milestones to account for current delays in F-35 IOT&E progress at the Joint Simulation Environment. The F-35 Joint Program Office and JSE continue to work with the operational test community toward IOT&E completion.

\* Semiannual DOD IG Report to Congress. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, requested a comment on the latest DoD IG Semiannual Report to Congress. According to the reporter, the report points to delayed access to information being "a result of screening processes the DoD is using to identify and withhold or redact information that is subject to the presidential communications privilege." (b)(6)

\* Update to Section 1237 List. Received an additional query from Nancy Youssef, Wall Street Journal, asking for confirmation of the Reuters article on updates to the list of Communist Chinese military companies operating directly or indirectly in the U.S., in accordance with the statutory requirement of Section 1237 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, as amended. Provided the same comment that the department did not have information to share right now on upcoming lists, but that we will continue to update with additional entities as appropriate. Also provided the link to the previous lists: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2328894/dod-releases-list-of-additional-companies-in-accordance-with-section-1237-of-fy/>.

\* Confirmation of NYT Story on Mr. Maier Resignation. Bob Burns, AP, and Jeff Schogol, Task&Purpose, requested confirmation of statements in the NYT story "Another Official Is Ousted

From the Pentagon" that supporters of Christopher Maier alleged he was pressured to resign. Pointed reporters to the DoD statement that Acting Secretary Miller had accepted the resignation of Mr. Maier and PA Operations would not fact-check the NYT story for reporters.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery. Numerous NYC-area local agencies requested interviews with Gen. Perna and Dr. Slaoui to discuss the military's role in delivery of a vaccine, details and imagery/b-roll of dry run rehearsals and whether there was media availability. Provided boilerplate statement on DoD involvement, link to DVIDS site for downloading sound bites and clips from OWS leadership, and, where requested, OWS approved statement: Operation Warp Speed is partnering with Pfizer to execute trial shipments to multiple jurisdictions to test processes and systems. These shipments will not include actual vaccine, though they will allow jurisdictions a first look at the shipping containers. The shipments will go to state-identified locations, which include both public health departments and administration sites, such as hospitals.

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 2, 2020 7:18:28 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* COVID Vaccine Distribution. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, and Dan Lamothe, Washington Post, asked about the planning for distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine to DoD, specifically whether military active duty military units or such units as Special Mission Units, ICBM silo crews, nuclear submarines crews on deterrence patrols, and Cyber Command mission personnel and troops deploying in 60 days would be among the first wave recipients of the vaccine; and who DoD will initially prioritize, and how vaccination prioritizations will occur going forward. DoD's response to the reporters is that the ATSD(PA) will brief on Friday, Dec. 4, on this topic; it is unlikely we'll be able to provide information earlier than Friday because OSD is still working with the interagency, especially HHS and the CDC, to finalize distribution plans.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Installation Status Update. Posted the weekly update to the COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Installation Status. You can read the update here:  
<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Dec/02/2002544652/-1/-1/0/COVID-19-TRAVEL-RESTRICTIONS-INSTALLATION-STATUS-UPDATE-DEC-2-2020.PDF>

\* Spouse Satisfaction Survey. Posted release on the results of the DOD 2019 Survey of Active Duty Spouses. You can read the release here:  
<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2432308/survey-provides-insights-into-spouse-satisfaction-with-military-life/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* FY22 Defense Budget. Defense One published an article that contained information reportedly from OMB's passback memo to the White House regarding the Fiscal Year 2022 defense budget. Several agencies asked for RTQ if queried about the leaked memo. The comptroller-approved response is that "DoD does not comment on interagency budget deliberations. We will not comment on the FY22 budget until the budget request is submitted

to Congress next year.”

\* UAPTF. Barnett Parker, Fox 40 (Sacramento), regarding an article by The Debrief published on the web today, asked if a quote attributed to Sue Gough was accurate; whether we had any comment on the accuracy of the article; and whether Senators Feinstein and Harris have been involved in briefings on UAPs. Coordinated with OUSD(I&S) and Navy, and responded that the quote was accurate; that we had nothing for him on his second question; and that the two senators had not been involved in any UAP briefings in the last two years.

\* Semiannual DOD IG Report to Congress. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, requested comment on the latest DoD IG Semiannual Report to Congress. According to the reporter, the report points to delayed access to information being “a result of screening processes the DoD is using to identify and withhold or redact information that is subject to the presidential communications privilege.” Response (b)(5) and provided to the reporter: “DOD disagrees with the IG’s characterization of events. The Office of General Counsel worked closely with the IG to address the IG’s extremely broad document requests, properly staffed these large scale document review projects (including contracting for resources outside the DOD), and timely produced records in a way that both protected all applicable privileges and allowed the IG to conduct its investigation. DOD remains committed to continuing its excellent relationship with the IG.”

\* Data Afghanistan Casualties. Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, requested clarification on data found on the DMDC website for Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom’s Sentinel. Specifically, he wanted to know the total number of service members killed and wounded in Afghanistan. Provided him with a link to where the information can be found:  
[https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report\\_sum\\_reason.xhtml](https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report_sum_reason.xhtml)

\* Housing Survey Status. Karen Jowers, Military Times, asked about details of survey target audience, names of the companies conducting the survey and whether there is a new process in place for collecting and calculating survey data to ensure accuracy and reporting to inform senior leader actions compared to the previous annual survey. Coordinating response with ASD(Sustainment) housing team.

\* MAVNI Recruits. Alex Horton, Washington Post, asked a series of questions regarding Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) recruits. He specifically asked if there are any issues with selected reserve recruits; is OSD purging them from the pipeline; are they having CAC issues; and are they being asked to leave housing and removed from duty rosters. Coordinating request with M&RA.

\* Administration Transition. Tara Copp, McClatchy, asked for a statement on the Biden-Harris Transition Team Defense landing team, and whether anyone been to the Pentagon yet, been

greeted by A/SD Miller or other senior DoD officials, and whether they're getting office space inside the Pentagon. Coordinated with the Transition Task Force, and prepared response that was subsequently expanded in the first weekly update email to the media on DoD transition activities: "DOD is committed to fulfilling our statutory requirements and supporting the Agency Review Team process in a professional, orderly, efficient and transparent manner, while also ensuring that we implement the National Defense Strategy. Per the Presidential Transition Act, DOD policy and the memorandum of agreement between the White House and the Biden-Harris Transition Team, office space has been provided, and some members of the ART were given a brief tour of their office spaces this week. The DOD Agency Transition Director and key members of the DOD Transition Task Force held the first meeting, virtually, with ART leadership, on Nov. 25, prior to the start of the Thanksgiving holiday. This week, the Transition Task Force is focusing on onboarding ART members, including workspaces, processing of temporary badges, non-disclosure agreements and other administrative matters; preparing responses to the initial requests for information from the ART; and coordinating requested interviews between ART members and DOD officials. The Transition Task Force is also hosting and participating in ART requested meetings with DoD leadership across a broad spectrum of organizations, missions and programs."

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* DOD 2019 Active Duty Spouse Survey Results. Scott Maucione, FNN, requested to interview someone within MC&FP who can further discuss the 2019 Active Duty Spouse Survey Results, as well as talk about the impact of COVID-19 on spouses. Coordinating request with MC&FP (M&RA).

\* bin Laden Book Interview Request. USAF has requested OSD-level approval for Lt Gen Brad Webb to participate in an interview with author Chris Wallace, Fox News host, for a book he is writing about the raid that killed Osama bin Laden. CSAF Gen. Brown and USSOCOM commander Gen. Clarke are supportive. Coordinating with OASD(SOLIC) and OSD(P) for any policy concerns.

\* USAF Transition Interview. Rachel Cohen, Air Force Magazine, asked to speak to someone in the Air Force about "how the presidential transition process works in the Air Force". Coordinated response with the Transition Task Force. Per the TTF, we are not doing media interviews at this stage of the process. Provided her the DoDD on transitioning appointees, which explains part of the process, and asked her for any specific questions that she might have.

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Thursday, December 3, 2020 7:03:52 PM

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ON TOP

\* UAPTF Photo Leaks. Duncan Phenix, KLAS News 8 (Las Vegas)/MysteryWire.com, and Tim McMillan, The Debrief Media, asked about a photo of an alleged UAP photo from 2018 leaked to The Debrief, possibly from a classified UAPTF/intelligence report. Declined to comment or confirm authenticity of photo, and provided standard statement that we do not comment publicly on UAP observations, reports, or examinations. David Martin, CBS News, asked Navy about a different but related leak allegedly from the same intelligence report that was discussed in a Debrief article, regarding alleged comments by DoD officials of a photo of a 2019 incident they'd seen in the report. Martin asked if a photo actually existed, if it was unclassified, and if Navy would release it without a FOIA request. Navy is coordinating a recommended response.

\* UAP Briefings to Harris/Biden. Douglas Johnson, research affiliate, Scientific Coalition for Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena Studies, in response to an article about yesterday's response to Barnett Parker, Fox40 (see yesterday's COB), asked whether Sen. Harris had received a briefing on UAPs or participated in a briefing/hearing (as part of SSCI) specifically on UAPs since 2018 to the present; and whether "President Elect Biden and Vice President Elect Harris" are scheduled to receive a UAP-specific briefing prior to inauguration day, and if they aren't currently scheduled, would one be provided if they specifically asked. Consulted with OUSD(I&S); coordinating with the DoD Transition Task Force for response, with intent/recommendation to refer him to Sen. Harris office and the SSCI on the first question, and refer him to the Biden-Harris Transition Team on the second question.

DOD RELEASES

\* Section 1237 Update. Released the names of additional "Communist Chinese military companies" operating directly or indirectly in the United States in accordance with the statutory requirement of Section 1237 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, as amended. Companies include China Construction Technology Co. Ltd (CCTC), China International Engineering Consulting Corp. (CIECC), China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC) and Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. (SMIC). The release can be found here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2434513/dod-releases-list-of-additional-companies-in-accordance-with-section-1237-of-fy/>

\* CARES Act Contract. DoD, in coordination with the HHS, awarded a \$2.5 million contract to Hollingsworth & Vose, to increase domestic production capability of filter media. The full

release can be found here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2433495/dod-awards-25-million-contract-to-hollingsworth-vose-to-increase-domestic-produ/>.

THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



## QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Future of CMO Position. Travis Tritten, Bloomberg Government, requested updated information on the savings Ms. Hershman has achieved, including where specifically those savings originated, how much has been realized, and how much is projected future savings. Coordinated detailed response highlighting success of CMO team performance in reform and DoD-wide cost savings, as well as specific data requested by reporter. Follow-on interview pending.

\* Service Member Pay Raise. Jeff Schogol, Task & Purpose, asked if service members will receive the anticipated 3% pay raise in 2021. Specifically, he wanted to verify if “the law requires that service members will continue to get their base pay as well as the 3% pay raise in January, even if there is no NDAA.” Coordinating response with M&RA.

\* Military Enlistment Information. Jacob Carpenter, Houston Chronicle, requested a comment from DoD with regards to the Texas Education Agency eliminating high school graduates’ military enlistment from its academic accountability and school finance system; asked why the data hasn’t been provided by DoD; if there is any legal/logistical issues influencing this back-and-forth, and if the DoD might be provided this information in the future. Coordinating response with DHRA.

\* COVID-19 Vaccine Doses. Phillip Stewart, Reuters, asked how many doses of the COVID-19 vaccine the DOD is receiving and whether the vaccines will be going to medical personnel or non-medical personnel or a mix of both. Response provided: We have nothing for you on this topic at this time.

\* Afghanistan Deployment Numbers. Bob Burns, Associated Press, requested the most recent update on the number of personnel deployed to Afghanistan since the war began. Request submitted to DMDC Reporting System (DMDCRS) Helpdesk.

\* Response to LTG(R) Flynn Comments. Meghann Myers, Military Times, requested a DoD statement on the social media posts from LTG(R) Flynn calling for POTUS to declare martial law, suspend the Constitution, and have the military run another election. Provided the following statement attributable to a DoD Spokesperson: “Historically, our military does not play a role in conducting, adjudicating, or enforcing elections in the United States.”

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* 5G Experimentation/Testing. Scheduled phone interview with George Seffers, SIGNAL

Magazine, and Dr. Joseph Evans, OUSD(R&E) Principal Director for 5G, on Dec. 9, at 11:30 a.m.

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, December 28, 2020 6:51:57 PM

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ON TOP

\* Administration Transition. Reporters from multiple outlets asked for DoD comment on remarks by Vice President Biden that political leaders at the Pentagon had obstructed transition efforts. Coordinated with Transition Task Force and SD Front Office, and provided, along with a list of transition facts, this statement attributed to A/SD Miller: "The Department of Defense has conducted 164 interviews with over 400 officials, and provided over 5,000 pages of documents – far more than initially requested by Biden's transition team. DoD's efforts already surpass those of recent administrations with over three weeks to go and we continue to schedule additional meetings for the remainder of the transition and answer any and all requests for information in our purview. Our DoD political and career officials have been working with the utmost professionalism to support transition activities in a compressed time schedule and they will continue to do so in a transparent and collegial manner that upholds the finest traditions of the Department. The American people expect nothing less and that is what I remain committed to."

\* Budget Planning Process. Lara Seligman, Politico; Morgan Chalfant, The Hill; and others asked about remarks by Biden that his team is not getting the insight into the budget planning process that it needs; coordinated with DoD Agency Transition Director and provided: "DOD has been completely transparent with the Biden-Harris Transition Team on the fiscal 2021 budget. We have also provided topline information on the fiscal 2022-2026 program to the Biden-Harris Transition Team. The Office of Management and Budget has not yet authorized the release of the full details of the FY22-26 program." Seligman also asked how many transition meetings were scheduled this week; responded that there were three, two COVID-related and one on cybersecurity.

\* Draft COVID-19 Press Release. In lieu of a COVID-19 media briefing, a press release is being drafted to provide the most recent update on DoD activities. Proposed updates in the anticipated Tuesday release include DoD's reception of allocations of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines as authorized for emergency use by FDA; administration of vaccines at initial locations per phased approach plan; and expansion of distribution to additional CONUS sites and overseas locations.

\* COVID-19 Response. Andie Judson, KXTV, queried about DoD support to the COVID-19 response in San Joaquin County, California, which was mentioned today by the governor. Forwarded ARNORTH's press release on 75 Army and Air Force personnel being deployed to the state in support of federal assistance efforts.

THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)

QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Joint Regional Security Stack. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, asked if fielding of the Joint Regional Security Stack (JRSS) for both the SIPRNET and unclassified network had been paused and what the outlook is for the program. Coordinated with OSD CIO and OT&E and provided: Fielding of JRSS on the unclassified network has not been paused. Transition of SIPR JRSS to operations on SIPRNET has been postponed in order to provide additional time to refine the operational requirements, mature joint tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) for mid-point security, implement configuration changes to installed equipment, and integrate results from ongoing Zero Trust pilots. Fielding of JRSS on the unclassified network will continue. Per the August 2020 DMI EXCOM's direction, SIPR-JRSS implementation will be aligned with the SIPR mid-tier security way-ahead, which will be informed by the outcome of Zero Trust pilots and cybersecurity architecture analyses currently in progress.

\* Financial Literacy Program. Jeffrey Snyder, The Broadcast Retirement Network, requested a DoD representative to appear on the network to discuss the new financial literacy program for service members. Coordinating response with DoD's Office of Military Community and Family Policy.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Freedom of Navigation. John Feng, Newsweek, wrote an article with the headline that the USS John S. McCain had been expelled from the South China Sea during a freedom of navigation operation last week in the South China Sea, contradicting a Navy press release. After discussions among State, DASD South/Southeast Asia, and OSD PA representatives, the OSD PA desk officer for the Indo-Pacific region agreed to request a correction. Next steps will be evaluated following that conversation.

\* Office of Net Assessment. Rowan Scarborough, Washington Times, queried about alleged remarks from 2010 attributed to Mr. James Baker, Director of the Office of Net Assessment. Coordinated with ONA and ASTD(PA) and provided the following, attributable to a defense official: "I can't speak to any alleged remarks or notes from an alleged decade-old briefing because I don't know the context of the briefing, the intent of the briefing, what positions the briefers were tasked with conveying, why the comments were provided, or what questions they answered. The Department would need the opportunity to review the alleged comments before providing a response to them. However, successive Secretaries of Defense and Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs have tasked the Office of Net Assessment to provide various viewpoints—from a blue and red perspective—when assessing national security policy. The office's insights regarding the importance of a more lethal military and more capable allies were included in the Department's National Defense Strategy, and their views on the danger China poses to the United States are repeatedly sought by senior policy makers across the U.S. government. Mr. Baker and the Office of Net Assessment will continue to provide their best advice and counsel, regardless of who holds the position of Secretary of Defense."

\* UAP Report. John Greenwald, The Black Vault, asked whether the 180-day clock on started on the UAP report that was directed in the SSCI committee report to the FY21 Intelligence Authorization Act, which was one of the items included in the omnibus bill. Referred to ODNI.

\* COVID-19 Vaccine. Announced that ModernaUS Inc. has been awarded a \$1.97 billion contract for

an additional 100 million filled drug production doses of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA-1273 vaccine. See the daily contracts announcement at <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Contracts/>.

\* Joint Strike Fighter Systems. Announced that Lockheed Martin Corp. has been awarded a \$1.29 billion, cost-plus-fixed-fee, cost-plus-incentive-fee, fixed-price-incentive-firm undefinitized contract for recurring logistics services, including ground maintenance activities, action request resolution, depot activation activities, automatic logistics information system operations and maintenance, reliability, maintainability and health management implementation, and support, supply chain management and activities to provide and support pilot and maintainer initial training in support of in-service F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter air systems for the Air Force, Marine Corps, Navy, non-U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) participants and Foreign Military Sales (FMS) customers. See the daily contracts announcement at <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Contracts/>.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 29, 2020 5:39:25 PM

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ON TOP

\* Administration Transition – Meetings. Following up on yesterday’s queries on Vice President Biden’s remarks, multiple outlets (Politico, CNN, AP, Reuters) asked for comment in response to an anonymous source saying that there had been no transition meetings since Dec. 18. Coordinated with DoD Agency Transition Director (ATD) and responded with on-the-record statement discussing the many transition-related meetings and activities that have been continuing since Dec. 18, including a briefing on PFAS to Gen. Austin as part of his confirmation preparation as the prospective nominee; facilitation of a secure, classified video teleconference between members of the DoD Agency Review Team (ART) and the Intelligence Community ART; a meeting between the DoD ATD and DoD ART leaders to discuss prioritized RFIs and the schedule for interviews starting Jan. 4; and a meeting between DoD ART members and senior administrative officials from OSD and the military departments to discuss expedited political appointee on-boarding procedures. Also noted that OSD and the military departments have begun actions necessary for over 20 non-career executives and Schedule C candidates to start work the afternoon of Jan. 20, 2021; that between Dec. 18 and yesterday, DoD completed 17 RFIs; and that three interviews were scheduled for this week — two COVID-related and one on cyber security.

\* Turkey S-400 Issue. Laurie Mylroie, Kurdistan 24, asked for comment on the Turkish foreign minister’s visit to Russia today, as well a response to his statement that Turkey remains determined to proceed with the S-400 anti-aircraft system. Referred to the State Department for questions on the visit, but offered the following statement on the S-400 issue in general: “The Department has been clear and consistent on our position: The S-400 is incompatible with the F-35 and inconsistent with Turkey’s commitments as a U.S. and NATO Ally. Turkey is an important and valued NATO Ally, but this issue continues to be a significant barrier to progress in our bilateral relationship.”

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Vaccine Trials. Published “Additional DOD Locations Selected to Support COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Trials,” noting that Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, will participate in the Phase 3 clinical trial evaluating the safety and efficacy of the Novavax vaccine candidate NVX-CoV2373. Other locations are Naval Medical Center San Diego; Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas; Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland; and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia. For the full article:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2458638/additional-dod-locations-selected-to-support-covid-19-vaccine-clinical-trials/>.

### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Administration Transition – Troop Numbers. Ryan Browne, CNN, asked about specific charges by Vice President Biden and David Sanger, New York Times, that DoD has not provided the transition team with up-to-date numbers with regard to U.S. troops overseas and U.S. military force posture. Coordinating response with DoD Agency Transition Director/Transition Task Force (TTF).

\* F-35 ADM. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, asked about the status of the F-35 Acquisition Decision Memorandum (ADM). Responded that it was completed Dec. 18 and provided a statement that included: “The Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition & Sustainment (USD(A&S)), as the Milestone Decision Authority for the F-35 Program, has provided updated direction on program execution to the F-35 Joint Program Office. USD(A&S) has determined that delays in maturing the Joint Simulation Environment (JSE) -- caused by technical challenges and the impact of COVID-19 – will prevent the completion of F-35 Block 3F Initial Operational Test & Evaluation (IOT&E) by the program baseline threshold date of March 2021.” Capaccio will follow up with the F-35 Joint Program Office for more details on the timeline and implications of the ADM.

\* Administration Transition – F-35. Following up on his query about the F-35 ADM, Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, asked if the ADM has been provided to the Biden transition team and whether the team received updated OUSD(A&S) materials on the F-35. Coordinated with DoD ATD/TTF, and responded that a paper on the F-35 was provided in the initial transition books; that an update was provided as part of a broader RFI response on acquisition; and that ASD(Acquisition) Fahey is scheduled to meet with the DoD ART next week.

\* CVR Environment. Andrew Eversden, C4ISRnet, submitted follow-up questions to an

interview he conducted with DoD CIO Dana Deasy and DISA Director Vice Adm. Nancy Norton about DoD's use of the commercial virtual remote (CVR) environment. He asked about the current number of active CVR accounts, peak number of active accounts and the size of the DoD's telework workforce pre-pandemic. Coordinating with DoD CIO and DISA for response before Eversden's deadline at COB Thursday. Anticipated publication is Jan. 4.

\* Government Travel Charge Card. Jeff Schogol, Task and Purpose, asked – in light of a provision in the omnibus spending bill – whether service members were previously prohibited from using government travel cards to gamble and patronize strip clubs. The provision reads: “None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for Government Travel Charge Card expenses by military or civilian personnel of the Department of Defense for gaming, or for entertainment that includes topless or nude entertainers or participants, as prohibited by Department of Defense FMR, Volume 9, Chapter 3, Department of Defense Instruction 1015.10 (encl13 sure 3, 14a and 14b). Coordinating response with DoD's Human Resources Activity.

\* Moderna Contract. Jason Scott, FDA News, requested clarification on a contract, announced yesterday, with ModernaUS Inc. for an additional 100 million filled drug production doses of SARS-CoV-2 mRNA-1273 vaccine. Referred the reporter to a Dec. 11 announcement at <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/12/11/trump-administration-purchases-additional-100-million-doses-covid-19-investigational-vaccine-moderna.html>.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Tiberius Program. Rebecca Heilwell, Vox, asked to interview a DoD representative about the Tiberius program. Referred reporter to the Department of Health and Human Services.

\* Intel Authorization Act. Coordinating with the Office of the National Director of Intelligence public affairs on a holding statement ODNI public affairs and OSD(PA) will both use for queries regarding the SSCI committee report attached to the Intel Authorization Act (which was rolled up into the omnibus spending bill) that directs DNI, in consultation with SECDEF, to produce a report on UAPs within 180 days.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 30, 2020 6:03:14 PM

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ON TOP

\* Inaccurate Reports of S-400 Working Group with Turkey. Kasim Illeri, Andadolu Agency, and Ilhan Tanir, Ahval News, asked for comment following remarks from the Turkish foreign minister that Turkey accepted a U.S. proposal for a working group on the S-400 and its threat to the F-35. Referred to State. (Note: No such working group exists. According to State, the FM misrepresented a routine working-level group between Turkish officials and the U.S. Embassy on CAATSA sanctions and has since issued remarks clarifying his statement. There is not a working group or study on the threat posed by the S-400 to the F-35, nor is this an option.)

DOD RELEASES

\* COVID-19 Installation Travel Status. Published the weekly "COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Installation Status Update," noting that one installation reinstated travel restrictions and none lifted restrictions. For the full release: <https://media.defense.gov/2020/Dec/30/2002558522/-1/-1/1/COVID-19-TRAVEL-RESTRICTIONS-INSTALLATION-STATUS-UPDATE-DECEMBER-30-2020.PDF>.

THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Administration Transition – NATO. Mitchell Prothero, Business Insider, asked for comment on concerns expressed by NATO officials that a reported lack of briefings to the incoming Biden administration, as well as the recently discovered hack of critical USG digital infrastructure, have hurt international efforts related to the crisis with Iran; and asked whether there were any meetings scheduled among NATO allies, the Biden-Harris transition team and DoD officials. Coordinated with

DoD Agency Transition Director/Transition Task Force and responded: "The Biden-Harris DOD Agency Review Team has met with the combatant commanders for U.S. Cyber Command; U.S. European Command, which included NATO as an agenda topic; and U.S. Central Command, which included discussions on Iran; as well as with the Deputy Assistant Secretaries of Defense for Europe and NATO, and for Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Today DOD briefed the ART on cybersecurity. Additionally, DOD has provided the ART with several responses to requests for information and a number of information papers, including in the initial transition books, that have discussed current U.S. relations with NATO and NATO member nations. Regarding any meetings or briefings with NATO allies, I refer you to the Biden-Harris Transition Team."

\* Administration Transition – Meetings & RFIs. Nancy Youssef, Wall Street Journal, asked for confirmation that there had been transition meetings this week. Confirmed that we had three scheduled this week, and referred her back to the statement and Transition Facts released on Dec. 28 that included this information. In follow-up, she asked about a source who said that while DoD is answering RFIs, it is not always passing along those answers to the Biden team. Coordinated with DoD ATD/TTF, indicated to reporter that her information was incorrect, and provided: "DOD is responding to all RFIs from the Biden-Harris DOD Agency Review Team for both non-public information and classified information. We are disclosing RFIs in accordance with the Presidential Transition Act and the Memorandum of Understanding between the White House and the Biden-Harris Transition Team signed on Sept. 30, 2020." Subsequently confirmed for her that DoD is continuing to respond to RFIs during the holiday period, with priority on OWS- and COVID-related RFIs, and noted that 17 RFIs were completed between Dec. 18 and Dec. 28.

\* Office of Net Assessment Reports. Rowan Scarborough, Washington Times, queried about a letter from Sen. Grassley, part of an ongoing to probe, to DoD IG asserting that the Office of Net Assessment has not done a net assessment since 2007. Coordinated with ONA, LA and ATSD(PA) and provided: "As stated multiple times over the past two years to Senator Grassley's office, and as noted publicly ([hyperlinked to ONA website on defense.gov](#)), the Office of Net Assessment has formally published two net assessments since 2017. These highly classified products were briefed to and debated by senior leaders in the Department of Defense. In the past five years, ONA has also provided dozens of memos, briefings, and reports which provide comparative assessments of the United States, its allies, and its adversaries on a variety of strategic issues, often at the direct request of the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary, their Principal Staff Assistants, or the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Additionally, throughout this correspondence, we have provided hundreds of pages of documentation responsive to the Senator's queries."

\* ADA Compliance in DoD Housing. Karen Jowers, Military Times, asked whether DoD monitors privatized housing companies' compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act in providing accessible housing to military families with disabilities. The question was based on letters sent from Senators Warren and Tillis to six companies, copying ASD(Sustainment), DASD(Housing), and the service officials in charge of housing, based on a summer survey by the Military Housing Advocacy Network that found numerous families were being denied access to ADA-compliant housing. Coordinated with DASD(Housing) and OSD(LA), and provided: "While it is the MHPI project owners' responsibility to comply with project legal documents and applicable fair housing laws, the Military Departments conduct project reviews to assess compliance and have government staff available within each installation military housing office to assist families."

\* PFAS Response by State. Emily Dooley, Bloomberg Law, submitted several written questions about how the DoD is handling cleanup, investigations, and other actions in states with maximum contaminant levels of PFAS more stringent than EPA's health advisory level. Coordinated with DASD(Environment) and PFAS Working Group to provide detailed replies including footnoted references to existing laws and regulations guiding the nationwide response.

\* Unidentified Aerial Phenomena. Steve Nelson, New York Post, asked for DoD comment on the UAP report to Congress now that the Intelligence Authorization Act has been enacted (rolled up in the Consolidated Authorization Bill). Responded that we are aware that the SSCI committee report language contained a requirement for DNI, in consultation with SECDEF, to submit a report within 180 days.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Attack on Yemeni Airport. Following a deadly attack this morning at the Aden, Yemen, airport, and in conjunction with expected tweets from the White House and Department of State, coordinated with Middle East Policy, International Security Affairs, and USD(Policy) on proposed tweet from @DeptofDefense account.

\* Active Duty Service Member Population. Daniel Sagalyn, PBS News Hour, requested population data on active duty service members across all branches, sorted by race, rank, and branch, and categorized by combat, combat support, and combat service support. Coordinating with Defense Manpower Data Center.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2021 8:03:06 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* SECDEF on Transgender Service. Released statement by Secretary Austin affirming full support of the President's direction that all transgender individuals who wish to serve in the United States military and can meet the appropriate standards shall be able to do so openly and free from discrimination. Also disseminated the White House Fact Sheet on the Executive Order Enabling All Qualified Americans to Serve Their Country in Uniform via email to our media distribution lists.

You can read the full statement here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2481568/statement-by-secretary-of-defense-loyd-j-austin-iii-on-transgender-service-in/>

\* Extremism in the Military. Julian Baron, Sinclair Broadcast Group, and Matt Cohen, Mother Jones, asked what qualifies as extremism under military policy and what actions can be taken against someone within the military who is identified as an extremist? Provided Mr. Reid's statement and previously approved responses. Also, Ben Kesling, Wall Street Journal, queried to see how DoD is adjusting our vetting processes to "root out extremism in the ranks and improve screening processes for troops?" Provided links to the Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency website that explains the personnel screening process and to A/SD Miller's Dec. 17 memo directing the review of current policy, laws, and regulations concerning active participation by service members in extremist or hate group activity.

#### BRIEFINGS

\* NG Support. Acting SECARMY Whitley, CNGB Gen. Hokanson, and DCNG commander Maj. Gen. Walker conducted an on-camera press briefing on NG support in DC. The briefing was also streamed live on defense.gov. Questions included the specific intelligence that warrants a larger National Guard presence in DC for the next six weeks, command and control structure, the investigations into the 12 Guardsmen removed from duty after enhanced vetting prior to the inauguration, the number of Guardsmen testing positive for COVID-19 and procedures for quarantine, the potential role of Guardsman in COVID-19 vaccine administering, support to Federal institutions on a long-term basis, dialogue with the Capitol police, arming status of National Guard troops in DC, break area procedures and well-being of Guard troops on duty, ongoing investigations into National Guard social media users, funding status of deployed National Guard troops, and historical organization and chain of command of the DC Guard. A transcript will be posted when available.

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* SECDEF ROK Call. Soohyung Sean Kim, Seoul Broadcasting System, had multiple questions about Secretary Austin's call with Defense Minister Suh. Coordinated response with Korea Policy team, stating that the U.S., ROK and Japan are all committed to North Korea denuclearization, and that this has been consistent across multiple administrations in all three countries, and when we speak it is always a topic of discussion; that as a matter of policy, we do not comment on ongoing Alliance training and readiness decisions; and that OPCON transition is conditions-based as bilaterally agreed within the Conditions-based OPCON Transition Plan (COT-P).

\* USS Roosevelt in South China Sea. Phil Stewart, Reuters, asked for our response to this article, and if POTUS ordered the ship's movement. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-usa-security/china-says-u-s-military-in-south-china-sea-not-good-for-peace-idUSKBN29U0P0>. Referred him to CHINFO and PACFLEET.

\* HPCON Status. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg, asked for confirmation of a rumor he'd heard that the HPCON status had been reduced to B and 40% capacity. Replied that the HPCON status for the Pentagon Reservation remains at B+ and clarified that under B+, 40% of workforce is in workspaces; under B it would be a higher percentage. Referred him to the installations/military services for the HPCON status of installations other than the Pentagon Reservation.

\* AFRH Status. Coordinated on response to query from WLOX-Gulfport on the number of vaccines given at the AFRH. AFRH PA is responding: "AFRH's highest priority is the health and safety of our residents and staff. 356 AFRH-Gulfport residents have received both doses of the vaccine, and there are currently no residents who have tested positive. We continue to conduct weekly testing to keep our residents safe and are following DoD guidelines to determine our next steps forward. No decision has been made regarding a timeline for re-opening the campus."

\* UAPTF. Rob Coppinger, Combat Aircraft/AirForces Monthly, asked a series of questions about which specific offices within the military services and elsewhere with which the UAPTF is working. Coordinated with

OUSD(I&S) and Navy, and responded: “The DOD Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Task Force coordinates with a variety of organizations across DOD and the military departments, as well as with other federal agencies, and may reach out to the scientific community. We are not going to comment on the specific organizations or agencies. To maintain operations security and to avoid disclosing information that may be useful to potential adversaries, DOD does not discuss publicly the details of either the observations or the examination of reported incursions into our training ranges or designated airspace, including those incursions initially designated as UAP – that also includes any details of the UAPTF and its activities.” And noted that OUSD(I&S) has oversight of the UAPTF.

\* UAP Report to Congress: Roger Glassel, UFO-Aktuell (Sweden), asked a series of questions about the UAP report due to Congress. Coordinated with Navy and OUSD(I&S) Leg. Affairs reps, and responded confirming that SSCI has tasked DNI, in consultation with SECDEF, for submitting a report; referred to ODNI on whether the report will be made public; that we aren’t going to comment on the contents of the report; that the UAPTF was established to gain knowledge and insight into the nature and origins of UAP incursions into our training ranges and designated airspace; and that the UAPTF coordinates with a variety of organizations across DOD and the military departments, as well as with other federal agencies, and may reach out to the scientific community, and we are not going to comment on the specific organizations or agencies.”

\* US – ROK Exercises. Sangmin Lee, Radio Free Asia, asked about a U.S.-South Korea joint military exercise in March. “The U.S. is in close contact with our ally on this issue. As a matter of policy, we do not comment on planned or executed training.”

\* GAO Report on BAH. Rose Thayer, Stars and Stripes, requested a comment on the recent report on BAH from the GAO. Coordinating response with M&RA. The GAO report can be found at: [https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-21-137?utm\\_campaign=usgao\\_email&utm\\_content=topic\\_natldefense&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-21-137?utm_campaign=usgao_email&utm_content=topic_natldefense&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

\* EO on Transgender Service Members. Chris Johnson, Washington Blade, asked whether discharges under DTM-19-004 now prohibited and will be prohibited as long as the EO is in place; whether the Department thinks it must implement a policy allowing individuals who obtained treatment for gender dysphoria to accede or enlist; and whether government funds will be used to pay for transition-related care, as well as the number of discharges and blocked accessions under DTM-19-004. Coordinating response with M&RA.

\* Number of Troops Deployed in DC, Afghanistan and Iraq. Max Norman, Harper's Magazine, asked for the number of troops deployed at each location on Jan. 20, 2021. Coordinated with the appropriate desk officers and provided: “We can confirm that approximately 25,000 National Guard personnel were in the National Capital Region working with civilian authorities responsible for the inauguration. Additional personnel included approximately 2,750 active duty personnel conducting ceremonial support and consequence management. Consequence management personnel included CBRNE teams, OED teams, medical support, and communication support. There are 2,500 U.S. service members in Iraq and 2,500 in Afghanistan.”

\* Fact Check. Sofia Paredes, Reuters, asked for a fact-check on an anti-Biden administration posting on social media, specifically that the Pentagon is blocking access for members of the Biden administration. Responded that the staffing up of the Pentagon continues apace. As of today, the Pentagon has on-boarded 32 political appointees of the Biden administration, and expects to on-board another 15-20 by Feb. 1, 2021, as well as many others in the coming weeks.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Spectrum Forward Remarks. Ms. Ellen Purdy, Director, R&T office of Initiatives & Analysis, is providing the keynote address at an industry engagement sponsored by the Potomac Officers' Club, on DoD Electro-Magnetic Spectrum initiative called "Spectrum Forward," focused on enabling spectrum superiority, tomorrow (Tuesday, Jan. 26). Defense One will be present.

\* Cyber Policy Interview Request. Ellen Nakashima, The Washington Post, requests an opportunity to have an off-the-record conversation with Madeline Mortelmans, Principal Director Cyber Policy, in order to get to know her and perhaps get some off-the-record information about cyber policy, partnerships and the Defend Forward Strategy. Proposed telephonic conversation would take place on a public affairs conference line and last between 10-15 minutes. Coordinating with OSD(Public Affairs) front office and OSD Cyber Policy for approval.

\* APEX. The Advanced Professional Executive (APEX) SES Orientation Program will be conducted in a modified format this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions. APEX 51 will be held March 8-15. No direct OSD(PA) support is anticipated at this time, other than having a holding statement prepared if asked why we're conducting it in-person rather than virtually. Coordinating with WHS.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:40:49 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* COVID-19 Statement. Released statement via email from DoD Press Secretary John Kirby on DoD's commitment to the whole-of-government response to COVID-19: "As Secretary Austin made clear in his Day One message to the force, the Department must move further and faster to contribute to the federal government's efforts to counter the coronavirus. He is being updated on those efforts daily and continues to explore a range of options the U.S. military may be able to provide. We don't have any specific initiatives to speak to at this time."

\* IG Evaluation. Multiple outlets asked for information regarding a DoD Inspector General announcement of their Evaluation of U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command Implementation of the DoD's Law of War Program. Coordinated with and referred to the DoD IG for response.

#### DOD RELEASES

\* Condolence Statement. Released statement by SD Austin on the passing of Colombian MoD Carlos Holmes Trujillo García. You can read the full statement here:  
<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2483575/statement-by-secretary-of-defense-loyd-austin-on-the-passing-of-colombian-mini/>

\* Canada Bilat Readout. Released readout of bilateral phone call between SECDEF and Canadian Minister of National Defense Harjit S. Sajjan. The leaders discussed the many global security challenges we face, including COVID-19, security concerns on the North American continent, and the collective challenges to a free and open rules-based international order. You can read the full readout here: <https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2483152/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-loyd-austins-call-with-canadian-minister-of-na/>

\* Australia Bilat Readout. Released readout of bilateral phone call between SECDEF and Australian Minister for Defence Linda Reynolds. The leaders reaffirmed the enduring strength of the U.S.-Australia Alliance, also known as the Unbreakable Alliance. Secretary Austin and Minister Reynolds acknowledged the close alignment in both nations' perspectives and priorities in addressing pressing regional and global security concerns. You can read the full readout here:  
<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2483612/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-loyd-j-austin-iiis-phone-call-with-australian/>

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

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#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Official Photos. Barbara Starr, CNN, asked why we don't have the official photos of POTUS or VPOTUS posted at River Entrance yet. Checked with SD Protocol and responded that we haven't yet received them from the White House.

\* UAP Report to Congress. Roger Glassel, UFO-Aktuell (Sweden), asked some follow-up questions to clarify the responses and why we were referring him to ODNI. Reiterated that the SSCI report directed DNI to submit the report, in consultation with SECDEF, making ODNI the lead agency for the report; and that we are not going to comment on the report prior to it being submitted to Congress.

\* Body-Camera Usage. Thun Tran, research reporter, Grassroots Research, Allianz Global Investors, asked PFFA about body-camera usage by PFFA; acceptance level for such usage; certification process for providers; and the new administration's approach to body cameras for federal agencies, for a study they're doing. Coordinating with PFFA and others on response; will refer last question to WH.

\* Iron Dome Deployment to Gulf. Joe Tabet, Sky News Arabia, asked for DoD on-the-record/background comments regarding Israeli Haareetz press reporting on Iron Dome deployment in the Gulf. Provided on-the-record statement that "We do not comment on troop movements, base activities, and deployments for operational security consideration. The Department maintains robust defense technology cooperation with the State of Israel, which enables the development of defensive systems such as Iron Dome that have the potential to protect U.S. forces wherever they may be deployed." On background as a U.S. Defense Official: "I'll refer you to the Department of State. We are looking into this press reporting. Contrary to media reports, we are not aware of any impending deployment of the Iron Dome system to the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility."

\* Detainee Trial at Guantanamo. Carol Rosenberg, New York Times, asked whether or not Indonesia and Malaysia were informed of the decision to prosecute three detainees at Guantanamo “who were on ice throughout the Trump administration.” She was referring to the decision to proceed with the trial at Guantanamo of three men accused in the bombing of nightclubs in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 and the bombing of a J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2003. Provided: “We did not provide notification of the referral – and that it is not required -- but the countries had been informed of the charges when they were made.” Jeff Seldin, Voice of America News, asked for the reasoning behind the decision to move ahead with the trial, whether or not prosecutors had been in touch with Indonesian officials regarding the decision, what is the current health/well-being of the three suspects, what are the next steps for the proceedings and why bring the charges now in a military trial? Worked response with the Detainee Policy Office (b)(5)

(b)(5)

\* US/Germany Relationship. Gregor Schwung, DIE WELT (Berlin), said that according to his sources, during the Trump administration the Department of Defense regularly stonewalled German diplomats and government officials by delaying requests for meetings and calls. In some instances it took several weeks for German officials to reach their counterparts, and asked for comment. He also asked whether and how DoD under the Biden administration plans to intensify the engagement with allies like Germany and what priority a close cooperation has for the department. Provided the following response: “The Department of Defense continues to place great emphasis on the importance of our Alliances and partnerships around the world, including the NATO Alliance as well as our non-NATO Allies and partners. This has been made evident by Defense Secretary Austin during his Senate confirmation hearing and through the first calls made by the Secretary to foreign partners, starting with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.” Referred to the White House for further questions on the administration’s overall efforts to engage allies and partners.

\* Company Claiming DoD Contract. Rory Tingle, Mail Online, asked follow up questions to a query last week regarding whether there was any record of two companies, BLACK AIR 777 Ltd and BLACKAIR 777 Group PLC, having been contracted by the DoD. His new query included BlackAir 888 Ltd and whether the name Marty Black was found in any contracts across the department. Coordinated with DASD(Logistics) to provide response that DoD has no information on these companies or individual in their databases.

\* Renaming Fort Rucker. Peggy Ussery, Dothan Eagle, asked if Fort Rucker would be included in the bases to be renamed as required by the FY21 NDAA, Section 370. Provided previously coordinated

response that: "DoD is aware of the requirements in the NDAA; on Jan. 8 Acting SecDef Miller appointed the four members as directed, and any other information is pre-decisional at this time. For further details of required activities and timelines, I refer you to Sec. 30 of the FY21 NDAA."

\* Russian and Chinese Aircraft Reporting Names. Chris Croot, Key Publishing, asked about the Air Force Interoperability Council (AFIC) process for naming these aircraft or for a comprehensive breakdown of how they are named. INDOPACOM first received the query and referred it to SAF/PA, who then deferred to OSD for first response due to the international nature of AFIC, which falls under DLA's Defense Standardization Program Office (DSPO) International Standardization Program. Coordinating with DLA/PA for response.

\* Defense Business Board Appointee Status. Matt Cohen, Mother Jones, asked whether Acting SecDef Miller's appointees to the DBB, Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie, were still valid appointees or if their appointments had been withdrawn. He noticed the board website did not have them listed as board members. Coordinated with DBB Executive Director to provide previously approved response that the appointments were still valid, and the process has several steps that may take several weeks to complete, including processing through the White House Liaison Office, Human Resources, Security, and then an Ethics review.

\* JEDI. Benjamin Wolfgang, Washington Times, asked if new DOD leadership plans to conduct any internal reviews/discussions about the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) contract process and whether politics played any role in the decision to select Microsoft. He wonders if splitting up the award between multiple vendors might be considered and about the ramifications of AWS' ongoing legal action and the fact that DoD has been unable to fully move ahead with its JEDI cloud plan. Coordinating with OSD CIO and Cloud Computing Office for a response. Deadline is afternoon, Wednesday, Jan. 26.

\* FY22 Budget. Tony Capaccio, Bloomberg News, requested a phone interview with Comptroller Special Assistant Mr. Farouk Ophaso regarding the FY22 budget and what groundwork has been laid by the transition team. Declined the phone interview. No follow up request received from the reporter.

\* Review of Military Sexual Assault Prevention Programs. Katelyn Ferral, The Cap Times, asked whether the request also includes the National Guard's data and programs for soldiers serving on state orders, Title 32, or does it only encompass data and programs for sexual assault incidents for National Guard members when they are federalized, on Title 10. Coordinating response with the Office of Force Resiliency.

\* Yemen CIVCAS Claims. Missy Ryan, Washington Post, asked for comment on a complaint being filed with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights against the U.S. government by Reprieve, a UK-based organization, regarding alleged CIVCAS in Yemen since 2017. Although CENTCOM, SOCOM and OSD(P) had nothing to offer on this particular claim, provided general information on how the DoD works to minimize civilian casualties and, when necessary, investigate and take responsibility for its actions.

\* USS Roosevelt in South China Sea. Phil Stewart, Reuters, asked for our response to this article, and if POTUS ordered the ships movement: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-usa-security/china-says-u-s-military-in-south-china-sea-not-good-for-peace-idUSKBN29U0P0>. Provided the following on record, attributable to Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby: "U.S. operations in the South China Sea, including the long-planned deployment of the USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group, are part of a broader, routine set of operations the U.S. military conducts throughout the Indo-Pacific region and around the world. Such operations promote stability, foster maritime security, reassure our allies and partners, and support the international rules-based order that benefits all nations. The United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows."

\* Expansion of U.S. Military Presence in Saudi Arabia. Alex Ward, VOX, and Muath Alamri, Asharq Al-Awsat, asked for comment on Gen. Mackenzie's recent remarks about the possibility of expanding the DoD footprint in Saudi Arabia. Provided a response about the importance of the U.S.-Saudi relationship to national defense objectives, and the Department continues to assess its posture to ensure resources align with strategy.

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Periodic Review Board. Carol Rosenberg, New York Times; Amy Waters, Al Jazeera English; Julia Kastein, ARD German Public Radio; and two non-government officials observed the 3:41 minute unclassified portions via satellite for the Guantanamo Periodic Review Board for Abdul Rabbani (ISN - 1460) from the Pentagon today.

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:37:32 PM

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ON TOP

\* FEMA Request for Vaccination Support: Released statement by Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby acknowledging receipt of request from FEMA for vaccination support: "The Department of Defense has received a request from FEMA for assistance in administering COVID-19 vaccine at various locations across the country. The Department is evaluating the request, and what kinds of support it can provide. Given the significance of the request, it will be reviewed urgently but carefully to determine what DoD assets can safely be made available to support the effort. As Secretary Austin has said, DoD is committed to do as much as it possibly can to assist the whole-of-government effort against COVID-19."

\* Allegations of Violation of Libya Arms Embargo. UK Times story on UN Libya Panel of Experts' alleging U.S. violation of Libya arms embargo resulted in additional queries from Barbara Starr, CNN; Helene Cooper, NYT; Umar Farooq, Middle East Eye; Mikhail Turgiev, RIA Novosti; and Dmitry Kirsanov, TASS, asking for a Pentagon comment and specifically if the U.S. had captured a Russian missile system from Russia in Libya. Additional questions included what kind of missile system was this; where and when exactly was it captured; where was it taken; how did the US come up with the plan to capture it; and have U.S. forces learned anything from the missile system. Provided an NSC-cleared on-the-record comment that "We are aware of the UK Times story. The Department of State can provide you more context with regards to the United States policy towards Libya with specifics. The United States opposes all foreign military intervention in Libya. We strongly support the October 23 Libyan ceasefire agreement, including the immediate withdrawal of foreign military forces and mercenaries. This includes the need for the departure of Russian proxy forces. To that end, the United States has been a leader on promoting adherence to the arms embargo. We remain fully committed to ensuring advanced weapons systems neither enter Libya nor are proliferated from Libya into the hands of dangerous actors, and further stoking violent conflict in violation of the word and spirit of the arms embargo. The United States prioritizes finding an inclusive, negotiated, political solution to the Libyan conflict."

\* Halting Onboarding Actions for DoD Board Members: Lara Seligman, Politico, and Nancy Youssef, Wall Street Journal, asked about a recent internal message halting onboarding actions for newly appointed DoD advisory board members. Provided the following, attributed to Mr. Kirby: ""The Secretary, as you would expect, is reviewing current policies in place across the Department to determine if any changes are necessary, to include the advisory boards. No final decisions have been made with respect to board membership. But we will make the information available should that change."

## BRIEFINGS

Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby, COVID Senior Advisor Max Rose, and Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, Joint Staff Surgeon, briefed the press on COVID-19 efforts, vaccinations, and myriad other topics, including Afghanistan, extremism in the ranks, Taiwan, Korean Peninsula, global force posture, FY22 budget, SECDEF phone calls with counterparts, Israel move to CENTCOM, and NG deployment to DC. A transcript will be posted to defense.gov when available.

## DOD RELEASES

\* France Bilat Readout. Posted readout of SECDEF phone call with French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly. The leaders discussed a range of issues, including security and stability in Africa, the need for continued vigilance against terrorism, the pandemic, and the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the broader Middle East. They also discussed shared interests in the Indo-Pacific region. You can read the full readout here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2486312/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-loyd-austins-call-with-french-minister-of-the/>

\* Israel Bilat Readout. Posted readout of SECDEF phone call with Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin "Benny" Gantz. Secretary Austin reaffirmed the strength of the U.S.-Israel defense relationship and reiterated the U.S. commitment to maintain Israel's Qualitative Military Edge. Both leaders agreed to remain in close coordination on shared defense priorities. You can read the full readout here:

<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2486314/readout-of-secretary-of-defense-loyd-j-austin-iis-phone-call-with-israeli-min/>

## THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

\* 2020 Recruitment Figures. Andrew Jeong, WSJ, asked a series of questions on whether the 2020 pandemic and its adverse effects on the job market has led to more applicants to the Armed Forces, compared to 2019, and previous recent years: was there an increase; how much did application numbers jump during the 2007-09 financial crisis; how many applications did the four branches and the Coast Guard receive in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009; and would there be a rough percentage based statistic available. Coordinating response with Manpower and Reserve Affairs Office.

\* UAPTF Budget. Duncan Phenix, Mystery Wire, 8 News Now (Las Vegas), asked whether a statement on Twitter attributed to a DoD spokesperson was accurate, and asked about the budget for the UAPTF. Confirmed the accuracy of the statement. Coordinating with Navy and OUSD(I&S) on the budget questions.

\* UAP Report to Congress. Douglas Johnson, Scientific Coalition for UAP Studies/TheDebrief, asked for information regarding the role of the Department of Defense in responding to the congressional directive, with regard to process, timing, or any other aspect. Responded that we had nothing further beyond what ODNI had provided him (which was simply that ODNI is aware of the requirement and will respond accordingly).

\* Tenant Bill of Rights Status. Haley Britzky, Task and Purpose, asked about the status of the

privatized housing Tenant Bill of Rights, where four - maintenance history, dispute resolution, rent withholding, and the right to common documents - had not been implemented yet and were still being worked on. Coordinated with DASD(Housing) that the Department has been working with the MHPI companies to gain their voluntary agreement to retroactively apply the remaining requirements to existing MHPI projects. Based on those ongoing discussions, we expect the remaining four tenant rights to be available at the majority of vast installations with MHPI housing by June 2021.

\* Service Member Financial Benefits. Brenden Middleton, The Elks Magazine, requested information on financial benefits for service members. He wanted to know the number of service members who take advantage of financial benefits and what kind of benefits are available to spouses. Coordinating with MPP (M&RA): There are several dedicated sites that list military pay and benefits such as Military OneSource, the Department of Defense Office of Financial Readiness (FINRED), the Department of Defense Military Spouse Employment Partnership (MSEP), etc. It is important to the DoD to sustain the All-Volunteer Force and support Service members and their families. DoD utilizes its full array of pay and benefits in order to recruit, retain, develop, motivate and assign Service members to locations around the world and to support them and their families. The military has a pay and benefits package that compares very favorably to the private sector in recognition of the dedication and sacrifices our military members make in service to the nation. Amid the pandemic, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness issued military personnel guidance addressing special policies and procedures implemented to ensure continuing financial security for our members and their families in response to COVID-19.

\* GAO Report on BAH. Rose Thayer, Stars and Stripes, requested a comment on the recent report on BAH from the GAO. Response coordinated with M&RA and provided to the reporter: "We appreciate GAO's thorough review of the BAH program and are gratified they found the program to be sound and well run. We welcome their recommendations for improvements to ensure this program better and more accurately reflects the housing costs faced by our Service members and their families. The Military Compensation Policy staff continuously reviews the BAH program and identifies areas for potential process improvement. The GAO report's final recommendations are largely consistent with improvements Military Compensation also identified for implementation in coming years. We look forward to finding the best implementation solutions for these recommendations."

\* EO on Transgender Service Members. Chris Johnson, Washington Blade, asked if discharges under DTM-19-004 now prohibited and will be prohibited as long as the EO is in place; whether the Department think it must implement a policy allowing individuals who obtained treatment for gender dysphoria to accede or enlist; and whether government funds will be used to pay for transition-related care, as well as the number of discharges and blocked accessions under DTM-19-004. Response coordinated with M&RA and provided to the

reporter: "While the Department appreciates your interest and questions, it would be premature to comment on prospective policy at this time. We refer you to the Executive Order, the White House Fact Sheet, and Secretary Austin's statement for now and commit to providing updated information as it becomes available. As you will note, the Secretary's statement calls for 60 days to "develop the appropriate policies and procedures to implement these changes.""

\* Letter to Evolution Metals Corporation. Jacob Holzman, S&P Global Market Intelligence, and James Munson, Bloomberg Environment, asked whether a letter allegedly signed by representatives from DOE, DOC, and DOD and sent to Evolution Metals Corporation is authentic, as well as whether the letter received an ethics review by the Department before the DoD representative signed. (b)(5)

\* Vaccinations for Guantanamo Detainees. Carol Rosenberg, New York Times, asked whether or not the vaccine that will be given to Guantanamo detainees will be Moderna; who signed the approval memo; will the defendants in the case going to arraignment on Feb. 22 go first; and whether she can have a copy of the material that the detainees will be given explaining to them that it is voluntary (Arabic and Bahasa Indonesian). Working response with SOUTHCOM, Detainee Policy Office and the COVID Task Force. Her initial article is at this link: <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/01/28/world/covid-19-coronavirus/the-pentagon-says-prisoners-at-guantanamo-bay-will-be-offered-vaccination>. Kaylee Greenlee, The Daily Caller News Foundation, also asked whether the Pentagon said detainees at Guantánamo Bay will be offered COVID-19 vaccines. She wants to know how many vaccines will be made available, which vaccines and whether the troops stationed there receive vaccinations before the prisoners. Working the response with SOUTHCOM, CVTF and Detainee Policy Office.

\* Iraq Announcement of Killing ISIS Deputy Commander. Zachary Halaschak, Washington Examiner, and Tom Bowman, NPR, asked for confirmation/comment about Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Khadimi's claim that Iraqi Security Forces eliminated ISIS deputy commander Abu Yaser al-Issawi. Provided on-the-record comment that, "Today, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi announced that Iraqi Security Forces killed Abu Yaser al-Issawi, supervisor of ISIS operations in Iraq. The U.S. has NOT confirmed al-Issawi's death. If confirmed, this is a tremendous victory for our partners and for the Iraqi people."

\* Taiwan Relationship. Jessica Ni, TVBS News of Taiwan, asked for comment on the PRC comment regarding Taiwan's independence. Referred to Mr. Kirby's comments at the presser.

\* ASD(IPSA) Nominee. Sangmin Lee, Radio Free Asia, asked who was the nominee for IPSA. Replied that David Helvey is still Acting ASD(IPSA).

\* Korean Exercises and OPCON. Nari Baek, Yonhap News agency, asked for a comment on the

ROK PM discussing OPCON transfer and exercises. Referred to Mr. Kirby's comments at the presser for exercises, and after coordination with OSD(Policy), provided previously cleared lines on OPCON: "Wartime Operational Control will transition when the mutually-agreed upon conditions are fully met. A conditions-based wartime OPCON transition is not only what the United States and Republic of Korea mutually agreed to, it is also necessary to ensure the security of our military forces, peoples, and the region. A commitment to a specific timeframe would put our forces and people at risk. Similarly, ensuring the security of military forces, peoples, and the region requires is more complicated than merely swapping the leadership of the Combined Forces Command."

\* DPAA/PLA Dialogue. Jennifer White, NHK, and Stacy Hsu, Taiwan's Central News Agency, asked for a comment on the story that said the DoD talked with the PLA this week. Coordinated with OSD(Policy) and replied with "From January 25-26, 2021, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) researchers conducted a first-ever Virtual Archival Exchange with their PRC counterparts at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Archives Department. The two-day event was a rare opportunity to seek new information, discuss previous requests, and raise possible field investigations in the coming year with the PLA Archives Department. There were 15 U.S. POW/MIA cases specifically discussed covering World War (WWII), the Korean War, Cold War, and the Vietnam War. DPAA will continue to engage with the PLA regarding these cases and the U.S. looks forward to safely executing activities in China once COVID -19 safety protocols and operational planning requirements are in place."

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Hypersonics. Closed out additional support to a recent interview with Sydney Freedberg, Breaking Defense and OUSD(R&E) Principal Director for Hypersonics, Mr. Mike White, focusing on conventional, theater hypersonic weapons, rather than intercontinental. Breaking Defense interviewed Mr. White in regards to a recent paper released by the Union of Concern Scientists on DOD Hypersonic programs, which was also written about in the NYT. Story expected to post today or tomorrow.

\* SECDEF Interview Request. Sean Kim, Seoul Broadcasting System, would like to interview Secretary Austin about military issues of Asia Pacific, as well as the Korean peninsula. Request placed in the SECDEF Interview Requests folder for review and processing.

\* Cyber Policy. Ellen Nakashima, The Washington Post, has an off-the-record conversation with Madeline Mortelmans, Principal Director Cyber Policy, Friday, Jan. 29 (4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.) in order to get to know her and perhaps get some off-the-record information about cyber policy, partnerships and the Defend Forward Strategy. Telephonic conversation will

take place on a public affairs conference line and last between 10-15 minutes.

\* UAP Videos – Discovery Channel. Graham Evans, Discovery Channel, asked about using the UAP videos he had seen on YouTube for the Discovery Channel show, "Strange Evidence." Pointed him to where the videos were officially released on the NAVAIR FOIA Reading Room, and requested that the show cite U.S. Navy as the source, as well as use our standard disclaimer: "The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement."

\*JEDI. At 4 p.m. today, the DoD CIO sent an Information Paper on the Upcoming JEDI Cloud Litigation Milestone to Congress, explaining that the Court of Federal Claims (COFC) will make a significant ruling within the coming weeks related to the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) Cloud contract post-award protest. The ruling is on the Government's Motion to Dismiss, in Part, Count Four of Amazon Web Services (AWS)'s protest complaint. Count Four relates to AWS's allegation of improper influence at the highest levels of government that, allegedly, unfairly affected the outcome of the JEDI Cloud competition. The parties are now waiting for the Court's ruling. After Congressional Notification was complete, the information paper was sent to DoD and interested trade media.

\* News Media Travel to Guantanamo. Carol Rosenberg, NYT, and John Ryan, LawDragon, confirmed that they wanted to travel to Guantanamo to observe the arraignment of three men accused in the bombing of nightclubs in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 and the bombing of a J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2003. The arraignment is currently scheduled for not later than Feb. 20. Additional reporters are undecided: Ben Fox, A; Amy Walters, Al Jazeera English; and Julia Kastein, ARD German Public Radio. The Office of Military Commissions provided invitation to media which had expressed an interest in travelling to Guantanamo to see detainee operations. OMC gave a deadline of noon, Jan. 28, to RSVP. Travel is currently planned for Feb. 4.

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2020 6:23:52 PM

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#### ON TOP

\* N95 Mask Decontamination. Released statement, which included a quote from USD(A&S) Ellen Lord, announcing award of \$415 million contract award for 60 Battelle Memorial Institute Critical Care Decontamination Systems (CCDS), that can decontaminate up to 80,000 used N95 respirators per system per day, enabling mask reuse up to 20 times.

#### BRIEFINGS

\* Telework Readiness Task Force. CIO Dana Deasy and JS J-6 Lt. Gen. Bradford J. Schwedo briefed the press on camera about the Telework Readiness Task Force, including their efforts to add network telework capacity and enhance collaboration platforms. Topics of press questions included spear phishing and targeting of senior officials, overall telework numbers/percentage, licensing application from Ligado for the use of L-band spectrum, preservation of data being created under the COVID-19 crisis, and extension of increases capability and add bandwidth after current crisis is over.

#### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



## QUERIES OF NOTE

\* Vacancies. Laura Seligman, Politico, asked: "I'm hoping you can tell me who is the new Army No 2 now that McPherson has moved over - and also, is there a new acting Navy under?" Response provided: "Under Secretary of the Army James E. McPherson is still serving in that position and concurrently serving as the Acting Secretary of the Navy. The Under Secretary of the Navy position is vacant and no one has been designated to fill it in an acting capacity."

\* COVID-19 Readiness Impact. Naveed Jamali, Newsweek, asked if we are using intel assets to preserve readiness during COVID-19. Provided the following response: "The Department of Defense continuously assesses the worldwide environment for threats to our military readiness and national defense using a variety of capabilities and in conjunction with the broader Intelligence Community and our allies and partners."

\* CARES Act Funding for IT. Jackson Barnett, FedScoop, asked whether supplemental funding is being used to develop IT capabilities. Responded that, yes, the CARES Act provided DOD with \$300 million that will be used to help increase IT and teleworking capabilities in support of the ongoing crisis.

\* Zoom Policy. Oriana Pawlyk, Military.com, asked about the policy governing the use of Zoom by DOD personnel, whether employees could use the platform on their personal devices and about other tools employees can use to collaborate while teleworking. Provided that the department requires our workforce only use DOD-approved platforms when conducting official business. DOD users may not host meetings using Zoom's free or commercial offerings. 'Zoom for Government' has been issued a FedRAMP provisional authorization, which allows DOD component authorizing officials to issue a component-level Authority to Operate, or ATO, using publicly-releasable DOD information not categorized as For Official Use Only. Further provided that DOD employees are not prohibited from using Zoom on their personal devices and referred her to the CIO-prepared website listing teleworking tools available to the DOD workforce.

\* JEDI. Sarah Martinson, Law360, asked for comment on a letter from the Information Technology Acquisition Advisory Council saying that the JEDI contract should be awarded to more than one company. Responded that we remain confident in our award of the JEDI Cloud contract to Microsoft and continue to focus on getting this critical capability into the hands of our warfighters as quickly and efficiently as possible.

\* Telework. Paul Shinkman, US News & World Report, asked if it was safe to say that more defense employees and contractors are teleworking on DOD servers now than ever before. Responded: Yes.

\* Cyberattacks. Sangmin Lee, Radio Free Asia, asked if the increased telework has led to indications that adversaries like North Korea have increased cyberattacks? Responded that, because we do not want to provide any information that might help potential adversaries attack our networks, we will not be able to provide information, to include the specifics of attacks, over what systems and from whom. Referred reporter to the remarks by Mr. Deasy and Lt. Gen. Shwedo from today's briefing.

\* Lobbying Provision in NDAA. John Donnelly, CQ Roll Call, asked about a DOD legislative proposal to partly roll back changes in the FY18 NDAA that restrict retired senior officials' ability to lobby DOD. (b)(5)

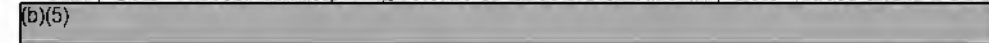
(b)(5)



ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Navy UAP Videos. Anticipating release of three historical Navy UAP videos under FOIA later this week.

(b)(5)



(b)(6)



**From:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** PA Statement  
**Date:** Friday, June 21, 2019 3:40:34 PM  
**Attachments:** (b)(5)

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Kim

(b)(5)

The POCs are (b)(6) and (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

r/ Bill

Guillermo R. Carranza  
Senior Associate Deputy General Counsel (Intelligence)  
Tel: (b)(6) Secure: (b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6) [Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** [Cummins, Matthew C \(Matt\) SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//FOUO) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019 4:57:54 PM

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(b)(6)

And not to put too fine of a point on this, but there is also a distinction to be made between old, wound-down programs and normal coordination/facilitation within DoD and the IC which is the daily work of USDI.

I was asked this afternoon to discuss a FOIA issue which I can only imagine is related to this. I don't have any details as of now, but we will have to keep our messages in synch. Thank you for your work!

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:17 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) [Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** [Cummins, Matthew C \(Matt\) SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//FOUO) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Thanks, (b)(6) The issue for us ((b)(6) and I) is that when we answer, we're answering for all of DoD, for all of Elizondo's time in DoD, not just his time in OUSD(I). So while he may not have had any assigned responsibilities for these programs while in OUSD(I), if he did work on these programs while assigned to a different DoD organization (e.g., DIA) previously to his time in OUSD(I), we have to confirm that -- or confirm that he didn't work on them at any time while assigned to DoD, whichever is true.

If anyone has a good POC for these programs at DIA, please let (b)(6) and I know.

Regards,

(b)(6),  
(b)(3);10  
USC § 424

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:05 PM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

All,  
Neill raises an important issue here—the Department may be putting itself in an awkward position of both contradicting previous “statements” (however they may have been misconstrued) and potential statements from Senator Reid, who has recently been active in the media and with his former colleagues on the Hill. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

As for other, more recent history, I am happy to discuss in person or in another venue/media.

V/r,  
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**From:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 11:09 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

AATIP – “Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program” – name of the program initially created by Senators Reid and Inouye in 2008.

AAWSAP - "Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Application Program" – name of the contract that DIA executed and managed in accordance with the AATIP legislation.

To the questions that are being asked about Elizondo's purported role in AATIP. As Tara has said for Garry and as I have said, Elizondo had no assigned responsibilities for this program. Elizondo worked for me from 2010 to early 2012. He worked for Garry for some years prior to his resignation from the government.

Of note and in the interest of absolute clarity:

I have seen one document that associates Elizondo with AATIP. It is a letter from Senator Reid's office, dated 24 June 2009 that requested a security assessment. It had an attachment with a list of names of proposed 'bigoted list of government personnel'. That list included Elizondo. That document was marked by Sen Reid's office as containing information exempt from mandatory disclosure under FOIA, citing exemptions 1 and 5.

That letter from Senator Reid's office pre-dates Elizondo being assigned to my office. At the time he was assigned to me, he brought with him no responsibilities for AATIP (and I was unaware of its existence).

That one document is the only written association of Elizondo with AATIP, it has nothing about who is 'in charge' of AATIP, and as we've said he had no responsibilities for the program while under my or Garry Reid's oversight.

Thanks  
Neill

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:38 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

If the only evidence Elizondo can offer that he had any involvement in the AATIP is a misstatement by Ms. White, I think that is a great indication that there's nothing to it.

But again, I don't know who can speak to his time outside of OUSDI. I cannot. All we can say is that he had zero when he worked for us. And Mr. Tipton has confirmed that as well for the time he worked for him.

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:25 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

The reporter has a follow up question, he is asking DOD to confirm if he worked for/with AATIP (regardless of agency). He refers to the POLITICO article and Dana White's article. He called this morning as well, and said he may run his story today or tomorrow. And asked, can DOD confirm that he worked with the AATIP program at any point?

-----Begin-----

I got a response from Luis Elizondo's representative who said this:

This ran in Politico in Dec 2017:

"Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White confirmed to POLITICO that the program existed and was run by Elizondo. But she could not say how long he was in charge of it and declined to answer detailed questions about the office or its work, citing concerns about the closely held nature of the program."

So, Dana White, a Pentagon spokeswoman said Elizondo ran AATIP? But your recent statement to me said Elizondo had "no responsibilities" with AATIP?

I need to clear this up. Which statement is accurate?

Otherwise, I need to print that the Pentagon appears to have 100% changed it's story about Elizondo.

Thanks in advance for your response.

Steven Greenstreet

-----End-----

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)  
www.defense.gov

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2019 6:11 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

We can only speak to his time in OUSDI. He had no AATIP responsibilities during his time here.

Never heard of the AAWSAP. Perhaps Neill's team has?

Thanks,  
(b)(6)

iPhoned

On May 6, 2019, at 2:26 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b)(6)

Seeking your help, the reporter came back with follow up questions.

Thank you! I need you to clarify this statement:

*Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI, up until the time he resigned effective 10/4/2017*

1) Does this mean Mr. Elizondo never had ANYTHING to do with AATIP at ANY time?

And my follow up question is this:

2) Did Mr. Elizondo work with the Advanced Aerospace Weapons Systems Application Program (AAWSAP)? And, if so, in what capacity?

Thank you, (b)(6)

Steven

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 4:37 PM

**To:** (b)(6) Cummings,  
Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Ma'am,

Thank you.

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 4:27 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T  
SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

I fear this will only increase suspicion and intrigue where none should exist. Believe it would be better to just state categorically:

Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI, up until the time he resigned effective 10/4/2017.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 3:18 PM

**To:** (b)(6) Cummings,  
Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T  
SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)



If you approve, I'll provide the responses, or I can ask for more time to respond?

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 2:07 PM

**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Matt,

I do not believe he did exercise any such oversight; he certainly was not asked to do so at any time while he worked for us. And as Mr. Tipton confirmed he also did not give him any such responsibility. As such, I don't want anyone to suggest that Elizondo had anything to do with AATIP. We have not been able to confirm that he ever should have or did have any connection to that program. In the absence of that information we should not suggest that he was connected in any way, despite the unfortunate misunderstanding that resulted in Ms. White "confirming" it.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 1:59 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

~~CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Suggest the following language:

(b)(5)

(b)(6) does this work for you?

Thanks!

Matt

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 1:45 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 1:33 PM

**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Mr. Cummings,

I'm concerned with previous public DOD statements, particularly this one from POLITICO, Dec. 2017 where DOD confirmed his role in AATIP. I assume this was while he was with DIA. Rather than referring to DIA, (b)(5)

(b)(5)

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/12/16/pentagon-ufo-search-harry-reid-216111>

“Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White confirmed to POLITICO that the program existed and was run by Elizondo. But she could not say how long he was in charge of it and declined to answer detailed questions about the office or its work, citing concerns about the closely held nature of the program.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html>

I asked WHS for his employment dates. They provided that “at the time of Mr. Luis Elizondus’ resignation, effective 10/4/2017, he was working for OUSD(I). His eOPF has been forwarded to the National Records Center.”

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

---

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 10:22 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

**Thanks!**

**Matt**

(b)(5)

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

**CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~**

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 10:17 AM

**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Mr. Cummings,

Thank you.

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 8:16 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

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(b)(6)

(b)(6) is out until Monday. You may need to reach out to Navy PAO to see what they have said before. After further review, I have edited the answers for the part that C&SP can answer.

(b)(6)

Per your other e-mail chain with Neill, do you agree with the answer to #5?

(b)(6)

Can you help (b)(6) out with #2-4.

Thanks all!

Matt

(b)(5)

(b)(5)



**Caution-**<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html> < **Caution-**  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html> >

(b)(5)



Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

~~CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:30 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Cummings,  
Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Sir,

The reporter asked for a response by the end of this week.

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)  
mobile: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:27 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

We'll take a look. Is there a time urgency?  
Thanks  
Neill

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 2:31 PM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Mr. Tipton,

Seeking your help with this media query from the New York Post. Attached are the latest talking points I could find, but they don't address his questions regarding Luis Elizondo.

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)  
mobile: (b)(6)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** Steven Greenstreet (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 2:17 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

---

(b)(6) thanks for taking these questions. A response sometime this week would be great.

**Did AATIP study unidentified flying objects (UFOs)?**

**Did Luis Elizondo work in the AATIP program?**

**Was Luis Elizondo the head of the AATIP program (in a leadership role)?**

**How long was Luis Elizondo employed by DoD/DIA/Pentagon/Etc?**

**Were the military UFO videos included in this NYTimes article OFFICIALLY released by the DoD or were they "leaked"?**

**Caution-<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufu-harry-reid.html> < Caution-  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufu-harry-reid.html> >**

**What is the DoD's official stance on UFOs?**

Thanks!

Steven Greenstreet

**STEVEN GREENSTREET**

Senior Manager, Video Production and Series Development  
1211 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036  
WORK (b)(6) MOBILE: (b)(6)

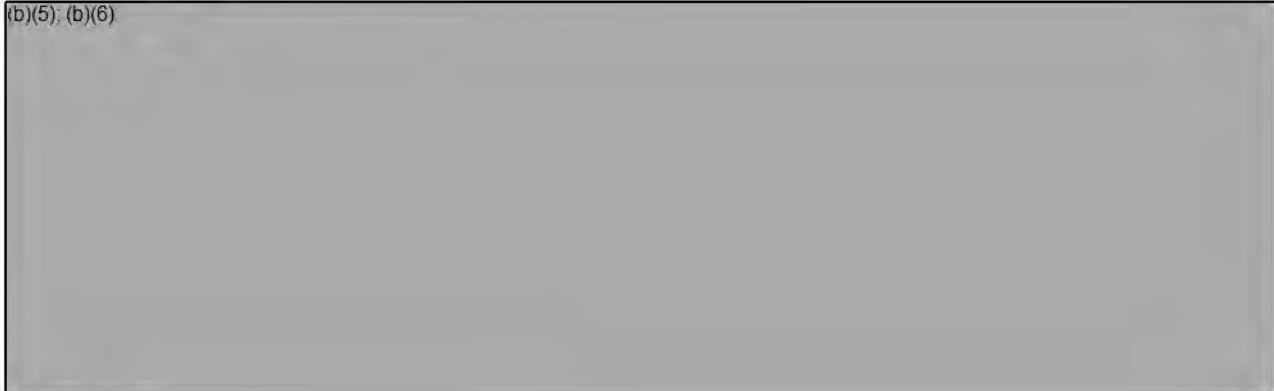
(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP  
**Date:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 6:10:34 PM

---

Mr. Carranza,

(b)(5); (b)(6)



Regards,

(b)(6)

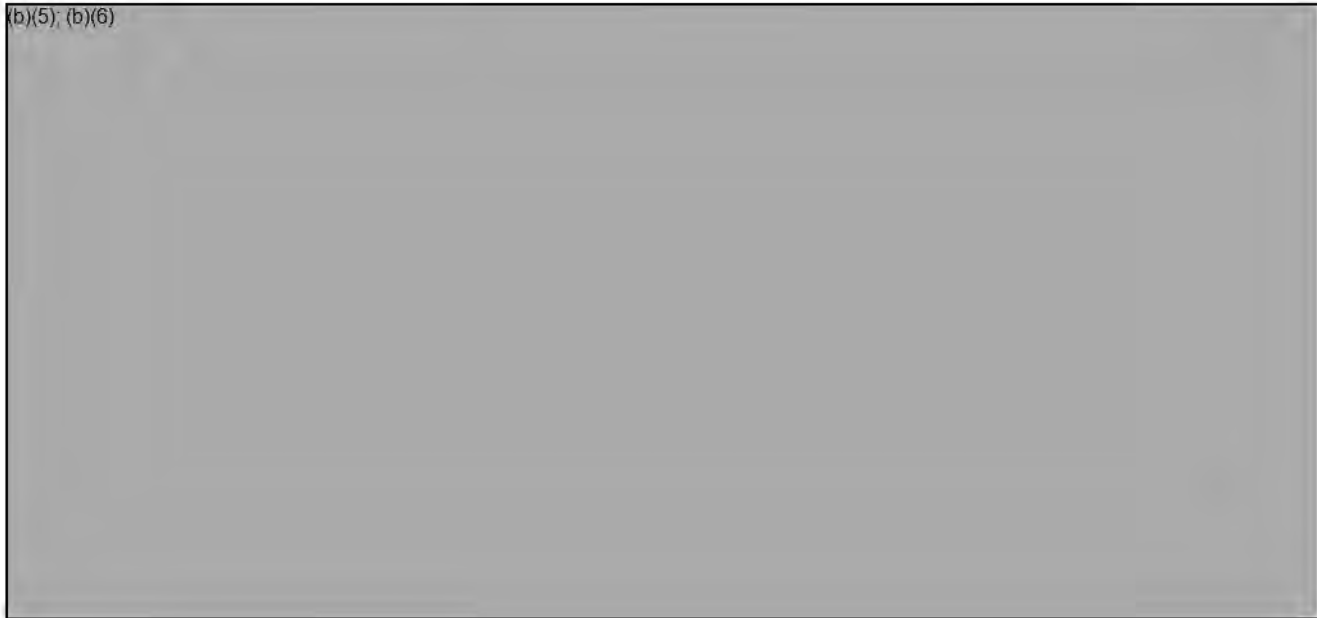


---

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2019 9:52 AM  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

Mr. Carranza,

(b)(5); (b)(6)



(b)(5)

Media outlets outstanding queries:

The Intercept, Keith Kloor

POLITICO, Bryan Bender

VICE, MJ Banias

HUFFPOST, Alejandro Rojas

The War Zone, Joseph Trevithick

UFO-aktuell, Roger Glassel

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR:

www.defense.gov

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 5, 2019 10:33 AM

**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

Mr. Carranza,

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Here is the first of six weekly installments of the History Channel series "Unidentified: Inside America's UFO Investigation." As discussed, we'll send the next five installments (minus transcript) as they air.

[http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?](http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2580&DateTime=5/31/2019%2010:03:40%20PM&playclip=true&pb=search%3a%2b(pentagon))

[StationID=2580&DateTime=5/31/2019%2010:03:40%20PM&playclip=true&pb=search%3a%2b\(pentagon\)](http://mms.tveyes.com/transcript.asp?StationID=2580&DateTime=5/31/2019%2010:03:40%20PM&playclip=true&pb=search%3a%2b(pentagon))

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR:

www.defense.gov

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 4, 2019 12:59 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)  
www.defense.gov

---

**From:** CHRIS MELLON (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 3, 2019 12:36 PM  
**To:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) <(b)(6)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

---

Hi Chris:

Attached are a two examples of the documentation Lue may feel compelled to release if there is not a clarification of his continuing active role in coordinating activities with Navy and other agencies related to UAP issues right up until his departure and resignation from OSD.

Frankly, it might well be to Lue's benefit and that of TTSA and the History Channel to have a pissing match about this with DoD/OSD but personally I'd hate to see that. I'm glad that does not seem to have occurred to Lue yet but it may become unavoidable if there is not some clarification since his integrity is publicly being called into question.

I also want to point out that Lue insists that he was NOT detailed to DIA, another falsehood according to Lue.

I know your office and its credo very well and fully understand that you and your colleagues are absolutely committed to being as transparent as possible. There is not the least question in my mind regarding your integrity or that of your colleagues in OSD Public Affairs based on serving in OSD during 2 Administrations. However, you have clearly have not been given a full or complete picture on this issue.

I hope this information proves useful. There is much more than this sample. Lue has a lot of friends on the inside who I believe will continue to push out more unclassified information on his behalf if this becomes a pissing match. Indeed one of them will soon be appearing on the History Channel show talking about their work with Lue on these matters AFTER the time period you seem to believe he was no longer involved with AATIP (although that individuals identify is protected).

I hope this information proves useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Lue cherishes his relationship with DoD and does not want to escalate this but as you can imagine after the intercept story by Kloor pressure is building on him to respond.

In my view it is probably best for you to continue this discussion directly with Lue going forward; it is not really my affair, but I did want to give you a head's up as I can see where this may be heading and it seems to me to be preferable to avert a public clash over this if possible.

Sincerely,

~Christopher Mellon

(b)(6)

PS: Last week I appeared on GMA, Fox, Inside Edition etc. Below is a sample. I imagine I may be asked to comment publicly on this issue soon myself. If so, obviously I will have no choice but to set the record straight. Lue was clearly continuing to work the UAP issue at a high level right up until the end.

Here is where I am coming from on the larger UAP issue if interested:

Caution-<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> < Caution-<https://www.foxnews.com/science/christopher-mellon-official-ufo-sightings-real> >

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** Sturgis, George R (Frosty) JR CIV WHS ESD (USA)  
**Cc:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] question about document validity  
**Date:** Friday, May 3, 2019 10:59:18 AM

Thanks; going with that.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 10:50 AM  
**To:** (b)(6); Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] question about document validity

I agree...

r/ Frosty

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 10:01 AM  
**To:** Sturgis, George R (Frosty) JR CIV WHS ESD (USA); (b)(6); Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] question about document validity

See Sarah's question below. My proposed response:

It doesn't imply anything regarding whether the aerial systems are known or identified. The submitter enters a subject area based upon their familiarity with the document for which they are requesting clearance. The wording of the subject area is entirely up to the submitter.

**From:** Sarah Scoles (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2019 10:02 PM  
**To:** Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] question about document validity

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hi Sue,

Thank you very much for this statement. It's quite helpful in clearing things up.

If you'll permit a follow-up, I wanted to ask about section 1(d), which says the subject of this request is "UAV, Balloons, and other UAS." Does this mean the objects that the aircraft systems are tracking in these videos have been identified, or are they unidentified? ("UAV, Balloons, and other UAS" seems to imply that their identities are known, but I don't want to assume). I understand this may be a sensitive area the Pentagon doesn't want to wade into, but if the answer does not compromise national security, I think it would go a long way in giving the public clarity and context for these videos that got so much international attention.

Thanks for considering it.  
Sarah

On Thu, May 2, 2019 at 4:19 PM Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA); (b)(6) > wrote:  
Hi, Sarah,

I work with Chris Sherwood on this issue. You may attribute the following to me as a Pentagon spokesperson:

"I can confirm that the form DD1910 you asked about is a valid DD1910. The standard procedure is for blocks 1-7 on the form to be filled out by the submitter before sending to DOPSR; however, occasional exceptions have occurred.

The submitter is responsible for any disclaimers on the form as approved, and also abiding by any amendments that may be included in additional communications from DOPSR to the submitter as part of the approval process.

Per block 3 of this form DD1910, the submitter requested release of the videos solely for research and analysis purposes by U.S. government agencies and industry partners, and not for general public release."

Regards,  
Sue Gough  
Pentagon Spokesperson  
Defense Public Affairs Operations  
DOD website: [Caution-https://www.defense.gov/](https://www.defense.gov/) < Caution-https://www.defense.gov/ >  
Twitter: [Caution-https://twitter.com/DeptofDefense](https://twitter.com/DeptofDefense) < Caution-https://twitter.com/DeptofDefense >  
Instagram: [Caution-https://www.instagram.com/deptofdefense](https://www.instagram.com/deptofdefense) < Caution-https://www.instagram.com/deptofdefense >  
Facebook: [Caution-https://www.facebook.com/DeptofDefense](https://www.facebook.com/DeptofDefense) < Caution-https://www.facebook.com/DeptofDefense >  
LinkedIn: [Caution-https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-states-department-of-defense](https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-states-department-of-defense) < Caution-https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-states-department-of-defense >

**From:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 2:21 PM  
**To:** Sarah Scoles (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] question about document validity

Sarah,

I have your questions and will work to get you a response asap.

Sincerely,

Christopher Sherwood  
Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

Caution-www.defense.gov < Caution-http://www.defense.gov >

**From:** Sarah Scoles (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 1, 2019 2:07 PM

**To:** Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: [Non-DoD Source] question about document validity

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hi Mr. Sherwood,

It's nice to meet you. I'm hoping you can help me with the query below. I've been working with Major Harris for about a year and a half, keeping up with the story of AATIP and trying to validate or invalidate claims in the public sphere as they arrive, for articles for Wired magazine and for a book I'm working on for the publisher Pegasus Books. I'm hoping to do the same vetting with the document I linked to here. If you have any questions about my questions, I'm happy to answer them.

Thank you in advance,

Sarah

On Wed, May 1, 2019 at 11:03 AM Harris, Audricia M (Drieco) LTC USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) -> wrote:

Hi Sarah,

I have transitioned from OSD PA. Mr. Chris Sherwood has taken over my portfolio. He may be reached at (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Audricia "Drieco" M. Harris  
Public Affairs Officer to the Under Secretary of the Army

(b)(6)

Caution-Caution-https://www.army.mil < Caution-https://www.army.mil > < Caution-Caution-https://www.army.mil/ < Caution-https://www.army.mil/ > >

Twitter: @UnderSecArmy

Facebook: Caution-Caution-www.facebook.com/UnderSecArmy/ < Caution http://Caution Caution-www.facebook.com/UnderSecArmy/ > < Caution-Caution-  
http://www.facebook.com/UnderSecArmy/ < Caution-http://www.facebook.com/UnderSecArmy/ > >

Flickr: Caution-Caution-https://www.flickr.com/photos/under-secarmy-pao/ < Caution-https://www.flickr.com/photos/under-secarmy-pao/ > < Caution-Caution-  
https://www.flickr.com/photos/under-secarmy-pao/ < Caution-https://www.flickr.com/photos/under-secarmy-pao/ > >

**From:** Sarah Scoles (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 10:56 AM

**To:** Harris, Audricia M (Drieco) LTC USARMY HQDA SECARMY (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] question about document validity

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Hi Major Harris,

Happy 2019! How are you this year?

I know when I first came to visit, and we spoke about the DOPSR document DD 1910, and were talking about the validity of the document I had seen (allegedly clearing UAP videos for public release), I was not able to show it to you. However, another reporter has now released this document. It is here: Caution-Caution-Caution-

https://media.lasvegassnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegassnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request\_1556576605509\_85063552\_ver1.0.jpg < Caution-  
https://media.lasvegassnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegassnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request\_1556576605509\_85063552\_ver1.0.jpg > < Caution-  
Caution-

https://media.lasvegassnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegassnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request\_1556576605509\_85063552\_ver1.0.jpg < Caution-  
https://media.lasvegassnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegassnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request\_1556576605509\_85063552\_ver1.0.jpg > > < Caution-

Caution-Caution-  
[https://media.lasvegasnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegasnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request\\_1556576605509\\_85063552\\_ver1.0.jpg](https://media.lasvegasnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegasnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request_1556576605509_85063552_ver1.0.jpg) < Caution-  
[https://media.lasvegasnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegasnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request\\_1556576605509\\_85063552\\_ver1.0.jpg](https://media.lasvegasnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegasnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request_1556576605509_85063552_ver1.0.jpg) > < Caution-  
Caution-  
[https://media.lasvegasnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegasnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request\\_1556576605509\\_85063552\\_ver1.0.jpg](https://media.lasvegasnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegasnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request_1556576605509_85063552_ver1.0.jpg) < Caution-  
[https://media.lasvegasnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegasnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request\\_1556576605509\\_85063552\\_ver1.0.jpg](https://media.lasvegasnow.com/nxsglobal/lasvegasnow/photo/2019/04/29/redacted%20Clearance%20Request_1556576605509_85063552_ver1.0.jpg) > ~ ~ . I was wondering if you could speak to the validity (or not) of this document.

My questions are

1. Was this document submitted to the DoD?
2. Does this form as it appears here clear the three videos listed for public release?
3. It looks like it's missing information (like in the box at the bottom) and is not a completed form. Is it a completed form?
4. Based on our extensive back and forth before, about what a form like this would mean, it seems like this form does not support the conclusion of the accompanying article (Caution-Caution-Caution-<https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/exclusive-i-team-confirms-pentagon-did-release-ufo-videos/1963912703> < Caution-<https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/exclusive-i-team-confirms-pentagon-did-release-ufo-videos/1963912703> > < Caution-Caution-<https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/exclusive-i-team-confirms-pentagon-did-release-ufo-videos/1963912703> < Caution-<https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/exclusive-i-team-confirms-pentagon-did-release-ufo-videos/1963912703> > > < Caution-Caution-Caution-<https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/exclusive-i-team-confirms-pentagon-did-release-ufo-videos/1963912703> < Caution-<https://www.lasvegasnow.com/news/local-news/exclusive-i-team-confirms-pentagon-did-release-ufo-videos/1963912703> > > ~ ~ ), "pentagon did release UFO videos." Can you clarify whether this form means that the Pentagon did release the videos, or whether it does not mean that?

Thanks in advance! It feels like deja vu all over again.  
Sarah

**From:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:**

(b)(6) / (b)(6) / (b)(3)-10 USC (b)(6) / (b)(6) / (b)(6) / (b)(3)-10

(b)(6) / (b)(3)-10 USC § 424 (b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Request for comment - Videos release via DD Form 1910 - Navy was OCA

**Date:** Thursday, September 5, 2019 10:31:08 AM

**Attachments:** image001.png

image002.png

(b)(5)

All,

As referenced earlier (below), I've been working the answers to a set of questions from John Greenwald from The Black Vault, concerning the 3 UAP videos that are out there and how they may have been released, etc.

Based on input from a great many of you, I've drafted a response to each of his questions, as contained in the attachment.

Request your review of these proposed answers... and a reply stating either that you are good with them or if you have recommended changes.

If you do have proposed revisions, please input them using tracked changes and send them back to me, cc all.

I wish I could say that this will put the issue to rest... but I fully expect he (and others) will continue to send in questions.

For example, one set of questions that we are working is from Aerospace America Magazine... and a couple of their questions mirror closely Greenwald's questions.

I appreciate your help/patience/responses as we work each of these requests.

Warm Regards,

Joe

Joe Gradisher  
Captain, U.S. Navy (ret)  
N2N6 Strategic Engagements  
(b)(6)

**From:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2019 10:39 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6) Tipton, Neill T  
SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3)-10 USC § 424 (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Russo, Michael C CIV WHS ESD (US)**

---

**From:** Russo, Michael C CIV WHS ESD (US)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 3:20 PM  
**To:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6)@navy.mil  
**Subject:** RE: (U//FOUO) (U) ATTN: Russo - DOPSR Request-Part 3  
**Attachments:** Elizondo DOPSR Request 20170809.pdf

~~CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Lue,

If the Service-level OCA verifies to me (simple one-sentence email is fine) that removing the metadata from the videos makes them UNCLASSIFIED, please feel free to move forward with release.

Videos referenced:

GoFast.wmv  
FLIR1.mp4  
Ginble Vid.wmv

Thanks,  
Michael

---

Michael C. Russo  
Defense Office of Prepublication & Security Review  
Pentagon Room 2A534  
703-614-4922 (unsecure)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR:  
JWICS:

~~CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

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

**From:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** Russo, Michael C CIV WHS ESD (US) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U) ATTN: Russo - DOPSR Request-Part 3

Thank you sincerely my friend. If it is easier for you or more streamline, then please consider our request for unrestricted release. However, my intent is to maintain positive control but I know it's a bit unique of a situation so whichever is easier for you and quicker. If at all possible, I would like to have authority to move it down to UNCLASS by tomorrow. Again, sorry for the inconvenience, I owe you a coffee and a donut!  
Thanks again!

Mon 6/3/2019 7:08 AM

GS

Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) · [REDACTED]

@mail.mil >

RE: RE: Media Enquiry

To [REDACTED] (b)(6)

Cc Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)

 You replied to this message on 6/3/2019 8:13 AM.

Hi John,

The videos were never officially released to the general public by DoD and should still be withheld.

Regards,

Sue Gough

Pentagon Spokesperson

Defense Public Affairs Operations

DOD website: <https://www.defense.gov/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DeptofDefense>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/deptofdefense>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DeptofDefense>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-states-department-of-defense>



(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

(b)(6); (b)(3);10 USC § 424

(b)(6); (b)(3);10 USC § 424

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Request for comment - Videos release via DD Form 1910 - Navy was OCA

(b)(6) and All).

Got another query from John Greenwald, the guy from Black Vault who has filed a number of FOIAs for UAP info.

Below, in a follow-up to your response to him, (b)(6) he has specific questions pertaining to Navy's response(s) to DOPSR.

In the info he attached (the Russo response), the Navy POC was omitted... so I have no clue who the dialogue was with.

This looks a lot like the queries you (and all) have been working recently.

Any guidance/suggestions as to how I should respond to him?

Regards,

Joe

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

(b)(6)

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**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Sunday, August 18, 2019 3:06 PM

**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Request for comment - Videos release via DD Form 1910 - Navy was OCA

Dear Mr. Gradisher,

I hope you recall our pleasant conversation a couple months ago. I appreciated your time on the phone. As a reminder, I work as a television producer and writer in Los Angeles, and have reported quite a bit on the claims of "To the Stars Academy of Arts & Science", along with the U.S. Navy videos they released claiming they are UFOs/UAPs etc.

There is much controversy about what they label the FLIR1, Gimble and GoFast videos. In short, it has been determined that Mr. Luis Elizondo requested their release via a DD Form 1910, but only for USG use only, and not for publication. Now, through a recent FOIA release, a string of emails show Mr. Elizondo's communication with DOPSR. What I am seeking comment on, is the most chronologically recent email in the chain. I put a screen shot below for reference.

Mr. Luis Elizondo (GS-15, civilian) worded the DD Form 1910 request for USG use only and the videos were not to be published in any form to the public. However, through email, Mr. Elizondo said to broaden the request for usage to "unrestricted." Please look at DOPSR's Michael C. Russo's message below, in which he asked for the OCA (in this case, the Navy) to offer up their stance that if metadata was removed, the videos would be unclassified. If they did, unrestricted access would be granted by DOPSR. So, it relied on the Navy.

It appears by this FOIA request, that the Navy never communicated any verification. If they did, it was not released in this FOIA response. So, instead of operating off the assumption, I am seeking comment to the below questions, if possible. This is for a story this week, so I would appreciate any response you could give me as time permits.

- 1) Did the Navy respond to DOPSR's request to approve a "unrestricted" release authority to Mr. Elizondo in regards to these three videos? If so, does that email grant an unrestricted, PUBLIC, release for these videos?
- 2) Mr. Luis Elizondo described the videos on the DD Form 1910 as "UAV, Balloons and other UAS." In addition, Mr. Elizondo's emails describe the videos in generality, as "balloons, commercial UAVs, private drones such as quadcopters, etc). Does the Navy agree these are the proper identifiers to describe the referenced Flir1, Gimble and GoFast videos?
- 3) Mr. Elizondo, and To The Stars Academy of Arts & Science describe these three videos as UFOs or UAPs, and not with the same description as Mr. Elizondo on official paperwork. Can the Navy comment on the claims made by TTSA, that these videos represented as UFOs/UAPs by them, and the fact that they were described in a much different way on official documents?
- 4) I have a statement from OSD regarding the videos (which I will also put below for reference). I'd like to ask, since the Navy was the OCA for them, if you could comment as well. In question form, according to the U.S. Navy, were the videos labeled as FLIR1, Gimble and GoFast ever released to the public, or was the approval only for internal use?
- 5) If the answer to #4 is that the videos were not meant for public release, can you tell me the security classification of the videos at the time they were requested, and the security classification as it stands right now, if it has changed.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. As I mentioned, time is of the essence, so anything you can provide me would be greatly appreciated.

## Reference Email from Michael C Russo:

cid:image001.png@01D5558B.235877E0

**Pentagon Statement about video release:**

cid:image002.png@01D555BC.ADBBB430

Sincerely,

**John Greenewald, Jr.**

**Owner/Founder**

**The Black Vault**

<http://www.theblackvault.com>

**Toll Free:** (800) 456-2228

**International:** 1 (818) 655-0474

**Fax:** (818) 659-7688

**Mailing Address:**

The Black Vault

27305 W. Live Oak Rd., Suite 1203

Castaic, CA 91384-4520

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: 0930 Prep w Mr Hoffman -- Phone Dial-in  
**Date:** Friday, May 1, 2020 9:24:36 AM

---

Sure!

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 9:21 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: 0930 Prep w Mr Hoffman -- Phone Dial-in

Sir,

I just got off the phone with Mr. Hoffman and (b)(6) to walk him through the SIGAR report and he's good to go on all but one additional piece of information I'm waiting for from Policy. Can you move (b)(6) and I to second-to-last, ahead of COVID?

V/R,

(b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 1, 2020 9:19 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** 0930 Prep w Mr Hoffman -- Phone Dial-in

**Importance:** High

Team –

(b)(5); (b)(6)

VR/bd

(b)(6)

**From:** [Sturgis, George R \(Frosty\) JR CIV WHS ESD \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** (b)(6) [Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 \(USA\)](#); (b)(6)  
(b)(6) [Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC \(USA\)](#); [Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#); (b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424 (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6) [Cummins, Matthew C \(Matt\) SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#) (b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** RE: Author Questions on AATIP, Elizondo, etc.  
**Date:** Monday, August 12, 2019 8:52:04 AM  
**Attachments:** (b)(5)

---

(b)(6)

See DOPSR input highlighted in yellow - question 16, part 1 & 2.

Also, has your office spoken to anyone in the FOIA Office reference any relative releases? There was a FOIA request for DOPSR's case files related to this subject matter.

r/ Frosty

George Sturgis (aka: Frosty)  
Chief, Defense Office of Prepublication  
and Security Review  
Executive Services Directorate  
Washington Headquarters Services  
Pentagon 2A534  
Office: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)  
JWICS: (b)(6)

How am I doing? Let me know at [https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=139133&s=110&dep=\\*DoD](https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=139133&s=110&dep=*DoD)

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2019 8:51 PM  
**To:** [Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 \(USA\)](#) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) [Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC \(USA\)](#)  
(b)(6) [Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424 (b)(6)  
(b)(6) [Sturgis, George R \(Frosty\) JR CIV WHS ESD \(USA\)](#) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)









(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cummings, Matthew

C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

Subject: Author Questions on AATIP, Elizondo, etc.

Team.

(b)(5)

Regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA); Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US); Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6) Garry, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); Reid, Garry P SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US); (b)(6), (b)(3); 10 USC § 424  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Final DoD Statement on Luis Elizondo -- V2  
**Date:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 2:06:46 PM  
**Attachments:** (b)(5)

(b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(3)-10 USC § 424

Regards,

(b)(6)

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

**From:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 1:49 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US); (b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6) Garry, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6) Reid, Garry P SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US); (b)(6), (b)(3); 10 USC § 424  
**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Draft Final DoD Statement on Luis Elizondo -- V2

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

r/ Bill

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2019 12:02 PM  
**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US); (b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6) Garry, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6) Reid, Garry P SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US); (b)(6), (b)(3); 10 USC § 424  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA); (b)(6)

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Draft Final DoD Statement on Luis Elizondo -- V2

Thanks, Joe. The resident Pentagon Press Corps rep from ABC was casually nosing around this today, so I hope we can put this issue to bed.

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

From: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) (b)(6)  
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2019 11:30 AM  
To: (b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD  
INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Garrity, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
Reid, Garry P SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Draft Final DoD Statement on Luis Elizondo -- V2

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

As noted in earlier correspondence, we will continue to respond, and keep you informed, of questions on (b)(5) as we go forward.

Regards,

Joe

Joe Gradisher  
Captain, U.S. Navy (ret)  
N2N6 Strategic Engagements  
(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)  
Sent: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:54 PM  
To: Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
Garrity, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
Reid, Garry P SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6)

Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)

(b)(6)

(b)(6), (b)(3); 10 USC § 424

Carranza, Guillermo R SES

OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)

Cc:

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Draft Final DoD Statement on Luis Elizondo -- V2

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please see attached and provide me your final comments/chop by 1500 on Thursday, if at all possible. There's been a change to all four paragraphs, so please read all of them.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

For anybody away from the office who has trouble reviewing Word documents on a smart phone, I've pasted the text of the attachment below.

Regards,

(b)(6)

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IS EXEMPT FROM FOIA UNDER EXEMPTION 5

(b)(5)

[Large redacted area]

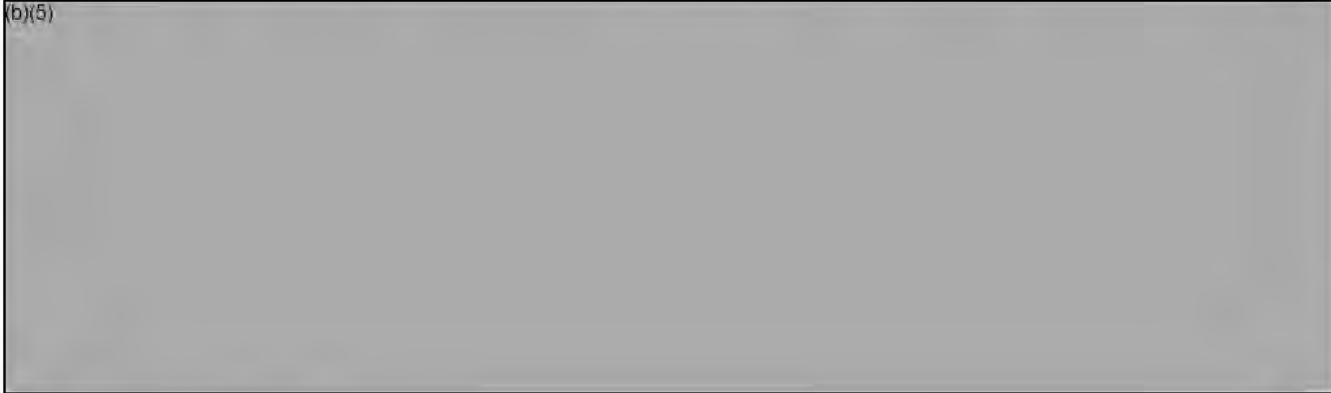
(b)(5)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6) [Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#); [Garrity, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#); [Reid, Garry P SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(US\)](#); [Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Final DoD Statement on Luis Elizondo  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 12, 2019 9:33:00 PM

---

(b)(5)



Regards,

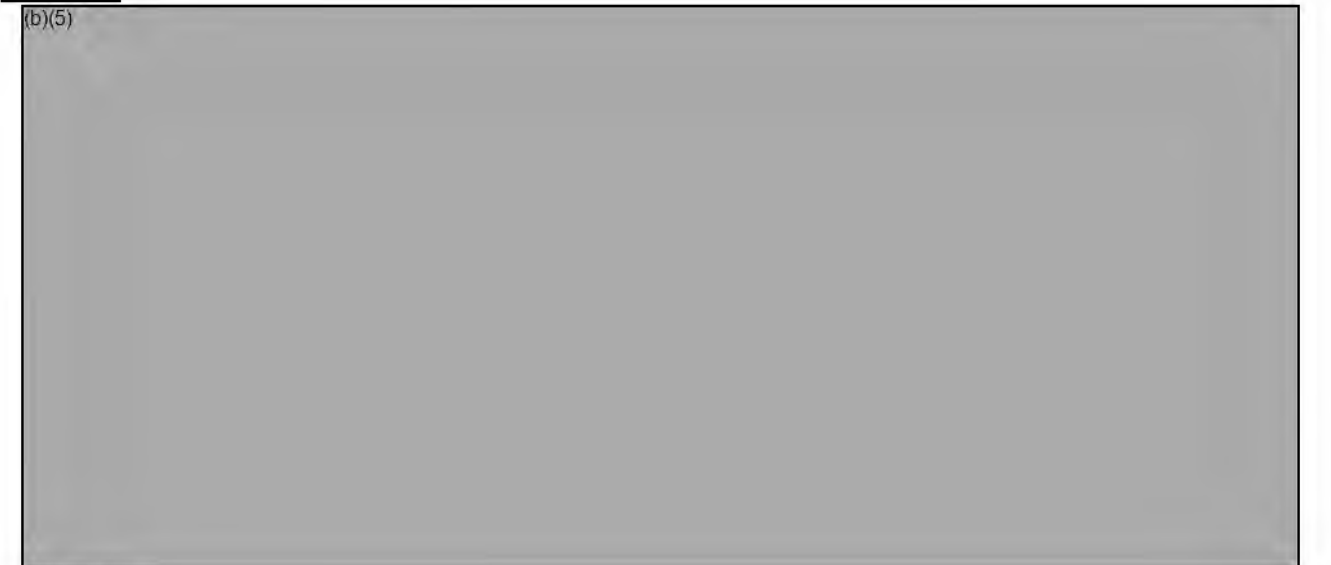
(b)(6)

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 11, 2019 8:57 AM  
**To:** (b)(6); Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6); Garrity, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6); Reid, Garry P SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US); (b)(6); Gradisher, Joseph E CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US); (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(3) 10 USC § 424; Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Draft Final DoD Statement on Luis Elizondo

(b)(6)

(b)(5)



Thanks,

(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, June 10, 2019 8:27 PM

To: Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) Garrity, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6) Reid, Garry P SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6)

Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) (b)(6) (b)(6), (b)(3)-10 USC § 424

(b)(6), (b)(3)-10 USC § 424 Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: Draft Final DoD Statement on Luis Elizondo

Ladies and Gentlemen,

(b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(3)-10 USC § 424

Regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6); (b)(6); Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN  
**Subject:** DCNO N2N6 (US); (b)(6)  
**Date:** RE: Elizondo & Transfer of AATIP  
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 8:04:50 PM

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(b)(6) and (b)(6)

Good afternoon, all. Your questions below pertain to the issues I raised in earlier emails regarding the distinctions we must make between past programs and the normal, day-to-day coordination/facilitation work of the DoD and, in particular, the OUSDI. Mr. Elizondo did play a role in facilitating connections and introductions to other DoD elements that were working CI/safety issues similar to those encountered by Navy. There were no funding lines associated with this work or significant resources expended, and nothing out of the ordinary regarding business practice. The "work" was similar to the daily travails of all of us in the Pentagon-- office and small group meetings, advice, and correspondences largely related to the same. In this regard, Mr. Elizondo was very useful. Though a colorful personality to be sure, I think Neill would agree that Mr. Elizondo maintained a solid reputation up until he made a sudden, shocking departure in October 2017.

As always, I am happy to discuss details in person or on another network.

As for your particular questions below--

- 1) I am aware of office discussions that occurred at the request of OSD leadership. I escorted the pilots myself.
- 2) Joe Gradisher covered this below, and (b)(6) is copied on this message. (b)(6) is an Office of Naval Intelligence Defense Intelligence Senior Leader (DISL).
- 3) I think you characterize the confusion accurately. The differences of perspective/opinion may arise from semantics/terminology regarding "programs" or "projects". The statement from earlier is germane--

"The DoD is always concerned about maintaining positive identification of all aircraft in our operating environments as well as identifying any foreign capability that may be a threat to the homeland. DoD will continue to investigate, through normal procedures, reports of unidentified aircraft encountered by US military aviators in order to ensure defense of the homeland and protection against strategic surprise by our nation's adversaries."

Joe Gradisher can provide the official Navy TPs on this, but they are very similar.

V/r,  
(b)(6)

(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 11:37 AM

To: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Elizondo & Transfer of AATIP

Thanks, Joe. My office has had to respond to multiple queries specifically about Elizondo's tenure in DoD and involvement with AATIP.

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

From: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 11:26 AM

To: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Elizondo & Transfer of AATIP

(b)(6)

..... is the Navy Team Lead for all of this on UAPs at the Office of Naval Intelligence in Suitland.... and has been involved in these issues over the long haul.

If anyone has knowledge on you specific Qs on the old office... he would.... I've added him to this discussion.

He is on travel this week and next... so hopefully he will see this at some point soon.

(b)(6) may be able to assist in the interim.

I would note that, as the Navy spokesperson over the last couple of months... I haven't talked about Mellon or Elizondo in any of our responses to media queries.

Let's see what ..... and/or (b)(6) can do to shed light on all this!

Regards,

Joe

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

(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, June 5, 2019 11:15 AM

To: (b)(6)

Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

Subject: Elizondo & Transfer of AATIP

Gentlemen,

Both Luis Elizondo himself and former DASD Chris Mellon have contacted our office because they believe the statements that we've put out regarding AATIP and particularly Elizondo's role in it, are false (and Elizondo is threatening to sue). Per the information we've received from DIA and OUSD(1), Elizondo was briefly supporting the DIA office that managed the AATIP program, but after early 2010, while in OUSD(1), he had no responsibilities for AATIP. Elizondo claims he continued working on AATIP/UAPs until he resigned in 2017. He claims that (b)(6) in Navy knew of the program/his involvement, and that then-SECDEF Mattis and/or his front office was briefed on the program, and that two Navy pilots briefed the SECDEF/his front office on "what they saw."

First, are you aware of any briefings on UAPs/AATIP to then-SECDEF Mattis' front office in general, and in particular, do have any knowledge/reports/documentation that two Navy pilots briefed the SECDEF front office on any UAP incidents in the 2016-2017 time frame?

Second, do you know who (b)(6) is? Does he still work for Navy (perhaps somewhere in the SECNAV/secretariat side, rather than the military side of Navy)? Did he previously/does he still have anything to do with UAPs?

Third. There is confusion -- probably as a result of semantics/terminology -- over whether the program "ended" or was "transitioned." By the best information we've received, the formal AATIP program last received funding in the FY2010 NDAA, and those funds ran out, with the completion of the final 12 of 38 technical studies, in 2012. From the overall DoD perspective, that was the end of AATIP as a program. However, I'm beginning to think what happened is that some office in either OSD and/or Navy (e.g., N2N6) continued to track/monitor UAP incidents -- but not as an official program, just as a mission/function/duty of an office, with no funding line, and certainly not as "AATIP." I think that is what Elizondo is referring to when he claims that he continued to work with/in AATIP until 2017. Can you shed any light on that?

Regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6); Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA); Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Hmmm...  
**Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 9:32:22 AM

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I answered multiple queries about DOPSR, the DOPSR process, and the leak of the videos back when I first started assisting (b)(6) right after Navy released their new guidance to pilots on UAPs – that’s how I initially got involved, because DOPSR falls under my portfolio. A copy of the DD1910 that Elizondo had submitted to DOPSR to release the videos for research/database purposes got out to Greenwald, Glassel, and others. I also answered some queries about whether DoD did an investigation, which included what you provided me regarding the Navy investigations, and that the DoD investigation had only looked at whether classified info had been leaked (so the first sentence of the third paragraph of the article is accurate). AFOSI, of course, never provided PA with a copy of their report, so neither (b)(6) nor I knew what was in it. The only info we were provided was that their investigation focused on whether classified information had been leaked, and that the determination eventually was that none had been (keep in mind this was 2019, two years after the leak to NYT/Politico).

And we’ve never said Elizondo never worked on UFOs at all, we’ve only reiterated over and over and over again that he had no assigned responsibilities for AATIP. There was one set of queries very early on that we replied that he had done some coordination/introductions but did not run AATIP/was not part of AATIP. This was per input from (b)(6) I’d have to dig around to find that verbage; (b)(5)

I don’t recall Tim McMillan asking about AFOSI back in April.

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 8:42 AM  
**To:** (b)(6); Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Hmmm...

Do we know if this was covered in the AFOSI investigation conducted a few years ago?

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/akwmdk/this-is-the-pentagons-real-men-in-black-investigation-of-tom-delonges-ufo-videos>

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: Hmmm...

(b)(6)

DOPSR never approved release of the videos to the general public. They only approved release to other USG and contractors specifically for use in research/database development. Elizondo was the requestor and after the initial request, he asked if it could be expanded to general public release. That approval was never granted.

Joe,

(b)(5)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** "Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)"

(b)(6)

**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 9:07:25 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Hmmm...

Good timing issue to know.

(b)(5)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 6:55 AM

**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Hmmm...

Saw that... they make it sound cloak and dagger but undoubtedly this was post DOPSR release. Certainly helps them sell the documentary.

Sent with BlackBerry Work

[www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com)

**From:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

**Date:** Wednesday, Oct 21, 2020, 6:36 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: Hmmm...

<https://www.vice.com/en/article/5dpm45/this-guy-says-he-was-the-source-of-the-pentagons-ufo-videos>

## Ex Intel Official Says He Was the Source of the Pentagon's UFO Videos

In the [recently released UFO documentary \*The Phenomenon\*](#), Chris Mellon, the former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence, stated that he was the source who [provided the \*New York Times\*](#) with the three infamous UFO videos it published in 2017.

Mellon, who is currently a member of Tom DeLonge's To the Stars Academy, told filmmaker James Fox in an on-camera interview that he met with an unnamed individual in the parking lot of the Pentagon and was handed a package containing the [three videos](#) that formed the basis of the most important UFO article in many years.

"I received the videos, the now famous videos in the Pentagon parking lot from a Defense Department official. I still have the packaging," Mellon said. "This is a case where somebody bent the rules a little bit, and they did so for the larger good and we're absolutely all better off because of it."

Motherboard has been unable to independently verify that Mellon was the source of the videos, but his story tracks with everything we know about them. We know that To the Stars Academy ultimately published the videos, and Mellon was one of the earliest members of that group. One of the *New York Times* journalists who worked on that story, Leslie Kean, also appears in the documentary. In that story, the *Times* unveiled a secretive Pentagon UFO program called the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program, or AATIP, and released videos shot by Navy pilots who intercepted a strange object off the coast of San Diego on November 14th, 2004. The pilots [managed to shoot video of the object with their F-18's gun camera](#). Two other videos recorded on January 21st, 2015, were released [showing another anomalous aerial vehicle](#) rotating while in flight and [another object quickly flying over the water below](#).

Months earlier, in late August of 2017, the former head of AATIP, Luis Elizondo, worked with the Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review to [have the three videos declassified](#). On October 4th, Kean [met with Elizondo](#) as well as other individuals where she was told about the secret UFO program. Elizondo told Motherboard that Chris Mellon was in the room as well, and showed Kean videos on a laptop.

Elizondo believes that the videos Kean was shown were the three UAP videos in question, but could not confirm it outright because he was not looking at the computer during that time.

Earlier that same day, [Elizondo resigned](#) from his position at the Pentagon. Only days later, Elizondo along with Mellon [would appear on stage](#) with former Blink 182 punk rocker Tom DeLonge and announce a new UFO research organization named “To The Stars Academy of Arts and Science.”

As a result, UFOs have become a hot topic. Publicly, the Department of Defence established a new UAP Task Force on August 4th, 2020 to continue investigating UFO reports made by military personnel.

However, [previous statements by the Pentagon contradict this and seem to indicate](#) that the Office of Naval Intelligence along with the Office of the Secretary of Defense has had such a task force well before August of 2020.

Motherboard reached out to Kean and she stated that due to policies concerning source identity at the New York Times, she could not comment. Mellon was also unable to comment at this time and declined an interview. A spokesperson for the *New York Times* told Motherboard “the Department of Defense was the on the record source of the videos in our coverage. We don’t plan to comment beyond that.”

**From:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)  
**To:** (b)(6); Gradisher, Joseph  
(b)(6); Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Kozik, David A SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US); (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Investigative Producer asking about AATIP, Elizondo, History Channel  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 24, 2019 9:05:37 AM

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Thanks (b)(6)

(b)(5)

r/ Bill

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 10:48 PM  
**To:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)  
(b)(6); Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); Kozik, David A SES  
OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6); (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Investigative Producer asking about AATIP, Elizondo, History Channel

Thanks, Bill. (b)(5) we'll look into that.

(b)(5), (b)(6)

Regards,

(b)(6)

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

**From:** Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2019 3:34 PM

To: (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(6) Kozik, David A SES  
OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Investigative Producer asking about AATIP, Elizondo, History Channel

(b)(6) & (b)(6)

(b)(5); (b)(6)

Thanks.

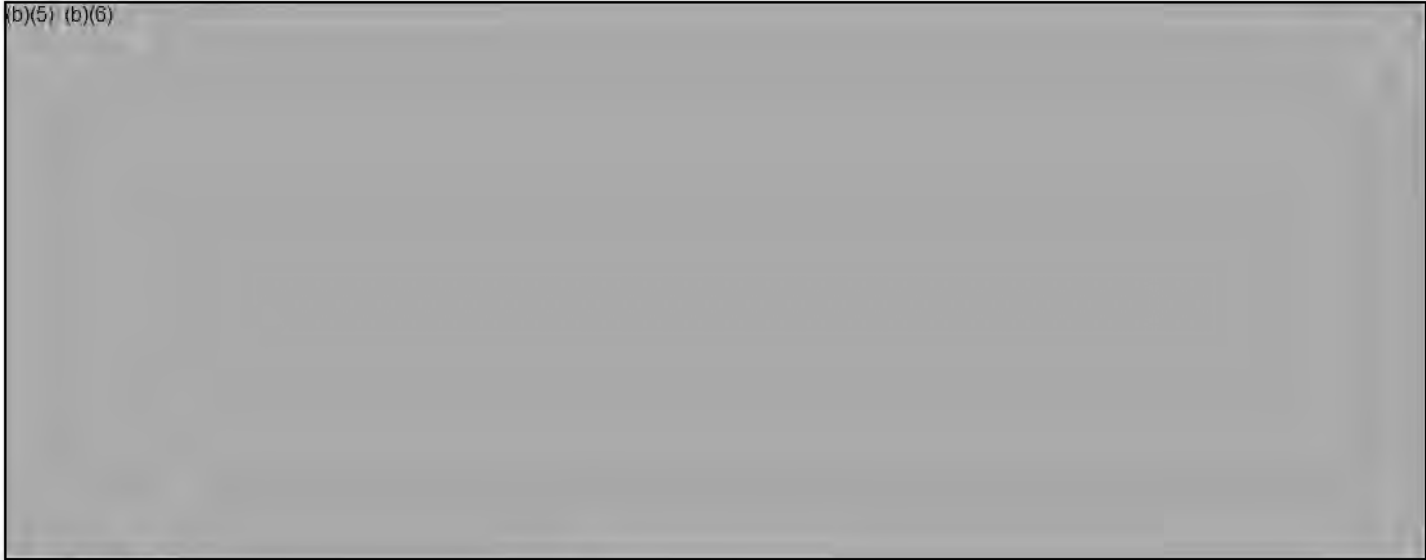
Bill

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

From: (b)(6)  
Sent: Tuesday, July 23, 2019 1:50 PM  
To: (b)(6) Gradisher, Joseph F  
CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US); (b)(6) Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(6)  
Subject: FW: Investigative Producer asking about AATIP, Elizondo, History Channel  
Importance: High

(b)(5)

(b)(5) (b)(6)



Regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** [Kim, Jongsun A SES \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C \(USA\)](#); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2021 3:03:28 PM  
**Attachments:** [20210128 OSD Press Briefing final.doc](#)

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Jongsun,  
Here is the final official transcript of yesterday's press briefing.

Regards,  
(b)(6)

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**From:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:44 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB

That's perfect and all we need. Thanks, (b)(6)

Ms. Jongsun A. Kim  
Deputy Comptroller for Budget and Appropriations Affairs

(b)(6)  
(b)(6) main)  
(b)(6) direct)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB

Hi Jongsun,  
I'll coordinate with my teammates who work COVID-19 response issues on what's releasable. I anticipate that we'll have the official transcript of yesterday's press briefing sometime today, and I'll share that with you once we have it.

Regards,  
(b)(6)

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**From:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)

Presenters: Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby; Max Rose, Senior COVID-19 Advisor To The Secretary Of Defense; Joint Staff Surgeon Air Force Brigadier General Paul Friedrichs

January 28, 2021

Defense Department Leader Hold Press Briefing On COVID-19 and Department of Defense Operations

JOHN KIRBY: Good afternoon, everybody. Looks like a familiar place.

(UNKNOWN): Welcome back.

MR. KIRBY: Thank you. All right, thanks for joining us today for the first of what we hope will be regular press briefings, and it -- it really is good to be back here, up here with you.

But today I'm going to do something a little bit different to start out. I want to start with the efforts that the department is undertaking to deal and to contribute to the federal government's efforts to battle COVID. And so we're going to start the briefing with some guest briefers first. I'm going to bring up General Paul Friedrichs, who I think many of you know, the Joint Staff Surgeon, as well as Max Rose, who has recently come on board as the department's COVID coordinator. Many of you probably remember Mr. Rose as the representative to New York State's 11th Congressional District. He -- we are now very proud to have him on the -- the team as our COVID coordinator, working with the COVID Task Force and helping coordinate those efforts inside the larger interagency effort by the federal government to battle the coronavirus.

So with that, I'm going to bring both gentlemen up. They'll each have a couple of opening comments, and then they'll take your questions for a little while. When that's done, I'll come back up and you can have at me, okay? Thanks.

MAX ROSE: All right. Afternoon, everybody. So I mean, let me just first say it -- it's an absolute honor and a privilege to be supporting this effort here. I've had the utmost regard for our men and women in uniform, and all those working here at the Pentagon and defending this country at home and abroad, both as someone in uniform myself, and formerly, a -- a public servant in a -- in another capacity. And of course, it -- it's my honor to work on behalf of Secretary Austin and everyone else here.

You know, Secretary Austin sent the most clear message he could have in just the first hour that he stepped into this role after he was confirmed and he walked into the Pentagon. First meeting that he called with the highest levels of leadership not just in this building, but around the world on one topic, and that is COVID, firmly establishing right in that meeting that this is his number one priority; that the department is absolutely committed, above all else, to protecting the DOD workforce and their families,

safeguarding the department's mission capabilities and readiness, and supporting the president's priority and effort to do everything we can to defeat this pandemic.

Now, our primary support to the U.S. government response has to date been providing medical personnel to existing -- existing healthcare institutions, partnering as such, supporting logistics towards other government agencies that need it, and we most certainly fully intend on wherever possible, supporting that with ever-higher levels of commitment and effort, whatever is -- is needed.

Today, there are over 20,000 -- 20,000 National Guardsmen deployed providing COVID support, including at over 216 vaccine sites in 36 states and territories. DOD has over 1,000 military medical personnel on prepare-to-deploy orders, available to support state and local requests for assistance that have come through FEMA -- remember, this is in support of a FEMA mission -- and HHS within as early as 48 hours upon request.

Now, this current support includes 224 medical personnel to support eight hospitals and an ICU facility in California, 80 medical personnel to support three hospitals in Texas and 87 medical personnel to support three hospitals in Arizona and New Mexico. Additionally, the Army Corps of Engineers has deployed over 40 personnel supporting area hospital infrastructure improvements in California, and those resources are certainly available to any hospital or any other healthcare entity that is looking to expand their pre-existing infrastructure.

The secretary's made this absolutely clear: We have to move further. We have to move faster. We have to be as bold as possible, all the while remembering that it is our utmost prerogative to protect and defend the United States at home, as well as abroad.

I'd also like to note that General Perna and his team, the secretary has met directly with General Perna and is working very closely with him; continue to increase their capacity to distribute vaccines to the public. And we've certainly heard the president's call to increase the manufacture and distribution of vaccines, and to make sure that there is an infrastructure in place on the administration side to increase the number of shots in arms that we're giving, and the department stands ready to increase its support for any other federal department that is engaged in this effort.

So with that, again, it's great to be here with you, I certainly commit to continuing to give you updates on a regular basis. With that, I turn it over to Brigadier General Friedrichs, who has been an absolute privilege to work with.

BRIGADIER GENERAL PAUL FRIEDRICHS: Sir, thank you very much.

And Mr. Kirby, thank you.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be here again to give you a little bit of an overview of our medical support, both to our nation's effort and within the Department of

Defense. There is no question that we continue to take very seriously our responsibility to service members and to their families, to the communities in which they live.

As of this morning, the military departments and combatant commands have reported a total of 138,763 cases of COVID among our military personnel. And those of you who have looked on the website will note that's up from 137,000 yesterday. And that's been a very similar increase that you've seen and that we have seen over the last several months, as the rates of cases and hospitalizations have grown across the United States here.

We're glad to see that over the last 10 days or so, the increase in cases has leveled off across the United States, and we're seeing the same trend in our population as well.

With the help of the DOD testing task force led by Dr. Payne, who some of you have met previously, as well as the service and combatant commands, the department has continued to aggressively expand its testing program over time. Last week, we met 100 percent of our operational testing requirements and as we have from the beginning of this pandemic, 100 percent of the clinical testing requirements that were made at the -- at the medical treatment facilities.

The week after New Year's Eve, we completed over 100,000 tests for COVID, and are typically between 65 and 80,000 tests each week. The percentage of positive new COVID tests in military personnel is 8.8 percent, and that's in comparison to a U.S. national average of 9.2 percent. And again, that's been pretty consistent, that rate has been lower within the military population than the U.S. as a whole.

As you recall from previous briefings by Lieutenant General Place, the Defense Health Agency director, and the service surgeons, we receive our weekly allocation of vaccines and -- and we are distributing those based on our COVID vaccine plan.

Now, that plan is one, as you probably recall, that we developed and shared with the Centers for Disease Control going forward. It aligns with the phased approach that the rest of the country is using, and the priorities that our country has agreed on to ensure that there is fair and equitable access to the vaccine.

We began vaccinations at select sites in December of last year, and have now vaccinated almost everyone who requested vaccines in our very first group, those are the frontline workers, police, EMS, those caring for patients or military personnel with COVID. We've also vaccinated all of the residents and staff at our two armed forces retirement homes, and again, that's a very special group because that represents some of the oldest members of the military family for which we are responsible.

Our second group of personnel that we vaccinate are those over the age of 75, personnel who are preparing to deploy outside the United States, personnel in strategic or national security roles, as well as key frontline workers like teachers, support staff, child and youth services.

And this is very much in line with President Biden's executive order that he's put out, we've -- as you know, we've been working very closely on that.

That group will then be followed by those who are over the age of 65, as well as younger personnel who have significant risk factors, and we'll continue to work through the DOD extended family until everyone who desires to have a vaccine has been able to receive it.

I want to be clear that as you've seen across the country, and as many leaders have said, this is going to be months, this is not weeks. So I don't want to create the perception in anyone's mind that everyone is going to be vaccinated in the next few weeks here. This is a very deliberate process based on the supply of vaccine as it comes through.

To date, the department has received 769,000 doses of the Pfizer and the Moderna vaccines, and these are the data that are posted as of 5 o'clock this morning on the CDC website. Of that 769,000, we've distributed them out to 306 sites around the world.

And I want to emphasize that. Unlike a state or a local authority that is responsible for an area here in the United States, as you know, we have operations all over the world, and thanks to the Defense Logistics Agency and the United States Transportation Command and many other partners, we've been able now to get vaccine out to many of our bases where we have personnel who are in those first tranches that we're trying to vaccinate.

I suspect some of you will also wonder why we have not administered every dose of vaccine that we've received. And what I would ask you is, if you're looking at the CDC website, is to notice how, over time, that percentage of vaccines administered changes.

So typically, early in the week, the percentage is lower because we get our distributions at the beginning of the week. And then by the end of the week, it gets up to the 55 to 60 to 66 percent range of vaccines received. It's a rolling average that goes in there based on what we receive and then what we're able to ship out to our bases around the world and then administer.

If we look at the last two weeks, DOD has administered all of the vaccine doses received, and that's, I think, an example of the great work done by many people across our bases and in our communities to make sure that we're as efficient as possible with this.

Many people have asked us about the safety of these vaccines. And the DOD experience has been very much like what the rest of the country's experiencing. We have had only two CDC-confirmed adverse events, and both of those fully recovered. And this is very much in line with the data that was originally released by Pfizer and Moderna on their vaccines. And this is truly remarkable, you know, for a vaccine to be this safe is -- is quite heartening.

One -- one other key part of our team here, our contribution to the national effort, are the work being done by our research and development colleagues across the department, partnering with their federal, academic, and other counterparts to accelerate new medical counter-measures, tests, and other tools to help our national response to control the spread of COVID.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our logistics and acquisition teams, who, as you've heard previously, continue to provide support to HHS, to FEMA, and to many other parts of the federal response to ensure our nation has the supplies and equipment needed for this effort.

In addition to all that, we've reviewed the president's national strategy and the 12 COVID-related executive orders that he released last week, and are incorporating those into our guidance going forward. We continue to ensure that our approach is science-based, derived from what the Centers for Disease Control publish, and that we do everything possible to take care of our service members so they can continue to protect our nation.

With that, Mr. Rose, I turn it back to you and am very happy to take questions.

STAFF: Very good. Questions, okay, first question will go to Lita Baldor, A.P.

Q: Hi, Lita Baldor with A.P. Question -- General, can you just clarify, of the 769,000 doses, can you give us a broad idea of how many have actually -- how many shots have actually gone into arms there, or how many people have received the shots? And then --

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Yes.

Q: Okay. Go ahead.

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: I'm sorry. So of the -- as of 5:00 this morning, which was the last time that I was at my computer to check it, the CDC website is showing 366,000 doses administered. And I want to emphasize, as you probably heard from other sources, there's a bit of a lag. So that's not exactly the same as what we're seeing in our data here. But my recommendation is we continue to use that CDC website because otherwise we're going to be dealing with dueling numbers going forward.

So 366,000 is what's on there. That gets updated regularly. It may be different right now than it was at 5:00 this morning.

Q: And, Mr. Rose, can you give us an update on the latest request from FEMA for the teams to help provide shots in as many as a hundred different locations?

MR. ROSE: Sure.

Q: Where does that stand? And do you expect this will include National Guard?

MR. ROSE: Sure.

Q: Will it include active duty?

MR. ROSE: So let's take a step back and look at the whole effort to support vaccinations, with the understanding, again, Secretary Austin has established that this is of the utmost priority. If we can help increase this process in every way, shape, and form, that is in the interests of this country in the face of an enemy that has killed over 400,000 Americans, more than died in World War II.

And so there is separate lines of effort in that regard, right? There is non-clinical support to existing vaccination sites. That is something that -- those are numbers that in the future we can update you on as to support for that. There is clinical support for existing vaccination sites. That again is now -- our numbers that we can update you on in the future in a similar manner to how we have updated you on medical personnel support for hospitals.

And then there is what has been reported on as the potential for standing up existing sites. Now we can confirm that a mission has come in from FEMA. Certainly not prepared under any circumstances to -- and I guess I'm not getting off on the right foot with any of you, you talk time-line, budget, or number of soldiers, and that should actually be to you a sign of how seriously we are treating this. Because these types of requests, we are certainly putting through the same levels of analysis under Secretary Austin's direction that we would for any other type of allocation of soldiers.

But certainly it is something that we are taking extraordinarily seriously. And in our effort to keep all options on the table, certainly not rejecting outright by any sense of the word.

Q: But would you expect -- considering the strain on some of the National Guard forces that they've talked about, do you expect you'll have to dip into more active duty for this, or will states be able to use their Guard for this?

(CROSSTALK)

MR. ROSE: Well, actually, I wouldn't look at it like that. You know, national guardsmen you have under Title 32 status and are answering up to the governors. Now remember what's so key here is that this is a state-led effort. So certainly any DOD support that you see coming in, that includes the medical personnel that are being -- serving in hospitals right now, that is only under the leadership of those respective governors.

When it comes to serving at home, it's a -- the Department of Defense, no matter how robust its support, much more often than not, is leading from behind in that regard. So when you see these vaccination sites as well, it falls under that same model, whether we are seeking to support an existing vaccination site, or should there be a new vaccination site.

And so that means from the perspective of the governor, they're looking to vaccinate as many people as possible, whether that is being done in a hospital, a clinic, a pharmacy, a National Guard site, or a new site with potential active DOD involvement. And I think that is the best way that we should look at this effort across the nation to vaccinate millions of people.

STAFF: And let's go over to the side to Tom Bowman, NPR.

Q: I just want to follow-up on this. Can you give us -- you said 20,000 guard so far. Can you give us an estimate on how many more will be needed through FEMA's request, hall park. I know you can't give exact. And also, you know, how many locations are they looking at? Ball park on that. And then finally, what is the need here? Is it medical personnel to put needles in arms? Is it setting up sites for vaccinations? Or is it moving the doses from point A to point B?

If you could just walk us through all of that.

MR. ROSE: Sure, so when you're looking at -- to your initial question, the National Guard requests for these national guardsmen and national guardswomen that are under Title 32 status, which is -- by the way, we're not talking about Reserve here, we're talking about National Guard, that is falling under the governor -- each respective governor is looking at their needs and seeking to allocate national guardsmen and - women accordingly, with the understanding as well that you never want to -- or it would be -- it wouldn't make any sense to take someone who is providing a medical role in the civilian side and put them in uniform to do the same.

Now that was the same thing that they were considering when it came to addressing the surge of COVID cases and our hospital levels dramatically increasing.

When it comes to vaccinations, there is no difference. So where I would really caution us not to go down the road of saying, it is about the number of sites that we need and going on and forth. The goal is one that we all share. And that is to get as many Americans vaccinated as quickly as possible, beginning with those that are most vulnerable to this disease, as well as those who have been on the front lines for so long, putting their lives on the line fighting for us all.

Q: So my question is, you say you were ready to offer an increase in DOD support to FEMA. Can you give us any sense of what that increase will look like, or you just don't know yet?

MR. ROSE: Well, certainly there is a sense of that does involve human beings, right? I mean, if you look at non-clinical support for existing vaccination sites, what you do see in a vaccination site is there is a role for higher-level medical professionals but you also see a role for -- to help stand it up and to do things along those lines. So you do see particular lanes where there is the potential for a role. And that is in regards to existing sites.

But this is going to be an evolving story. It has been for the last year. But what is most critical is that the secretary, Secretary Austin, has established this as something that we have alw -- that we have got to keep on the forefront as we consider all of the assets at our disposal, whether that's human expertise and the highest level of supply expertise and logisticians, or whether it's that increasing the number of people who can help get shots in arms or help support vaccination sites or to continue to help our hospitals and medical centers that are so desperately struggling.

Q: Quickly, lastly, can you give us any sense when you can come back with specifics?

MR. ROSE: Well, I am certainly -- I think the department, I know the department, whether that involves me or not, remember, my first week on the job. It could be a probationary phase. But the -- we are absolutely making the commitment to brief you a very, very, very regular basis.

STAFF: Let's go to the phone to Luis, ABC.

Q: Hi, first a question for General Friedrichs. General, can you tell us what the hesitancy information is that you have about the use of the vaccine on all three bases? I had a conversation yesterday with somebody who told me that on their base, a very large base, there were -- only 60 percent of those who were eligible had agreed to take the vaccine since it is voluntary. And I'm just looking to see if you have any statistics that could back that up or provide more clarity.

And to Mr. Rose, you talked about Title 32, but what about Title 10 in terms of activation of Guard assets for this new FEMA request? What kind of assistance could we see and is Title 10 under consideration? Thank you.

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: And -- and so I'll -- thank you and I'll take the first part of that. So what we're seeing right now is similar to what is being reported across the United States in that there's a higher acceptance rate or a higher percentage of people who are older who are opting to have the vaccine and it trends down with age.

Again, I'm -- I don't think we're -- in fact, I'm sure we're not at a point where we can give you -- here are the absolute numbers -- because we have multiple bases at different points in rolling out the vaccination. As I mentioned, we have some that started back in December and they're now farther along in vaccinating their population. Others

that have started in the last couple of weeks and so they're still working on their frontline health care workers.

But in general, the trends are very similar to what we're seeing in the U.S. population as a whole that the older population has been more willing to take the vaccine. The younger population has been a bit more hesitant about it and, you know, I think that's understandable. I think as the -- as we go forward and we educate our population about the safety of the vaccine, we hope and trust that that will allay some of the concerns.

And I believe, you know, for all of you who are messaging to your respective audiences there, a key part in this -- as Mr. Rose said -- is we have got to get this -- we have got to get this vaccine out and we have got to control this pandemic. The public health measures are the first step.

And for those of you who've been here in previous briefings that I've given, I'll reiterate what's been said over and over again. The first step or the basic measures -- the things that we're doing right now with social distancing and wearing masks, all of the different things that you, and I, and our families have had to implement -- that's not going to go away in the near term here as we roll out the vaccines.

Testing is a key part of that and -- and again, can't stress how important that is and how proud I am of the work that folks have done to expand that across the Department. The vaccines are then the third layer of that to help us protect folks from becoming significantly -- or seriously infected with this.

So it's a layered approach that's combined with an educational campaign. And that -- as Mr. Rose said, that's part of why we're going to be coming back out here, whether it's me or him or someone else, to continue to share the data that we have and what we're learning as we roll out the vaccine and continue to protect the force.

MR. ROSE: So one -- one other point that I should have noted, when you're thinking about the use of National Guard as well as when you're thinking about this crisis from the perspective of governors is one of -- one of if not the most significant changes over the course of the last week has been the transition in the percentage that the federal government is accounting for in terms of payments. That's for both the -- any type of FEMA contracting as well for the use of the National Guard.

But certainly, there are constraints when you look at the use of the National Guard and the -- and the force within it. Does it make sense to take medical personnel and transition them? Does it make sense to take law enforcement personnel and so on and so forth?

Of course, there are those same considerations when it comes to members in the Reserve force that we -- many of our medical professionals in the Reserves, who do operate under a Title 10 umbrella, are doing the same job in the civilian side. So that is -- the -- the reason why I put that forth is that is always a consideration. That we're -- we're

not just thinking here about what is the number that we can come out and present you all with, we're also thinking about, well, how does that change the strain of that -- of that state and the -- and those hospital systems.

Keep in mind as well is that -- it would be easier to make that determination if this were a crisis that was in just one state or just one region. But because this is something that is engulfing the entire nation at this one moment it does -- it doesn't make sense to take a civilian doctor or a civilian nurse from Texas and put them in uniform and send them to Michigan at all times. But this is something that we are continuing to balance is absolutely my point, as well as continuing to do the risk analyses necessary to consider whether or not it makes sense to transition a medical professional -- a nurse or otherwise - - from the active-duty force to -- to a mission out here at home.

STAFF: Let's stay on the phone. We're going to go to (Jennifer ?) with The New York Times.

Q: Hi, thanks. I just want to amplify my colleague's questions -- and just ask again directly. You point out that the National Guard has helped set up these sites in states and even administered vaccines. We know that.

What's not been the case is active-duty military has not participated in moving around vaccines or putting shots into arms. So I think we're just trying to ask you directly, as a policy change, is the Pentagon preparing to -- to send active-duty troops to these FEMA centers? Will they participate in setting up/running those centers, giving shots? I know you don't know how many in specifics but, yes or no, are they going to do it?

MR. ROSE: So first of all, keep in mind that this is -- the Pentagon will not do anything under any circumstances without the approval and consent and support of governors. So that is the -- that is the first thing.

But we are actively considering support for the vaccine effort and are prepared to certainly do so, so long as it does a few things: one, fulfills -- helps to fulfill the president's objectives, as he's -- as the president has laid out; so long as it is with the consent of the governor; so long as it remains equitable and fair along the way. But that -- that is certainly a mission that we are capable of doing and -- and are certainly analyzing doing. It's -- you do have to break it down, though, into two different pillars: support for existing sites as well as support for stand-up sites as well.

STAFF: Okay, let's go in the room here. Lucas?

Q: Mr. Rose -- Lucas Tomlinson with Fox News.

MR. ROSE: Good to see you.

Q: Good to see you too. Mr. Rose, do you have a U.S. Army general in charge of logistics? If that's the case, why are there so many problems distributing the vaccine?

MR. ROSE: Well, I -- I don't think that that's the correct way of looking of this. I believe you're referring to General Perna?

Q: Yes.

MR. ROSE: So first of all, this is a monumental task. But it is not just a logistical task as one would think about Amazon sending a book, right? It has to get somewhere where there's a shot in the arm.

There's also incredible complexity to production. You have 97,000 potential sources where it could go, but you also have the capability of standing up new vaccination centers. Now has this gone perfectly over the course of the last how many months? No. Are we absolutely intent on continuing to be ever bolder, more effective, more equitable so that we can beat this pandemic?

Absolutely yes, absolutely, and I'm supremely confident that from the DOD perspective, you'll -- can see -- you'll continue -- you'll see our full engagement.

Q: And just to confirm, you were given a distribution plan when you assume this role, correct?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Oh if I could, I'll take that. Are you talking about the internal distribution plan for DOD?

Q: DOD and also across the country.

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: So I assume that's an important distinction there. So we developed our DOD distribution plan for our vaccine in coordination with CDC like every other jurisdiction did. And then separately, OWS, formally known as OWS led by General Perna as you highlighted there, has worked with those states and territories.

But it's really the states and territories that develop their plan, came back and said here's our requirements through CDC and then worked with -- with the logistical team to execute the distribution of that. So that -- it's -- there's no one organization that develops those plans, it's really a partnership to pull those together.

Q: And Dr. Friedrichs, in your expert medical advice and military advice, would you characterize the National Guard deployment in Washington D.C. as a potential super spreader event?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: No. No I would not. I -- and I -- I hope you guys will, you know, accept on face value here. I've been very straight shooting with you guys

every time I've come out here, I would not. I personally talked to the guard surgeon, I've talked to the folks who were working out and the short answer is no.

STAFF: Staying in the room here, let's go to Lara Seligman.

Q: Hi, it's Lara Seligman with POLITICO. Just actually to follow-up on (Lucas' ?) question, you say it's not a super spreader event but can you give us a little more detail about why you say that? Can you specifically tell us the total number of guard members who have been tested for COVID out of the 25,000 and then how many tested positive and how many are quarantined?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: So I'm going to disappoint you on that and say no, I cannot give you the specific numbers. I can tell you who can, and that's the D.C. Guard. And the reason I'm so confident in this though is when I've spoken to our guard colleagues on this and listen to the plans that they implemented.

They're the same plans that the Centers for Disease Control has put out. They've used the same processes going forward that the rest of the country has been asked and recommended to use going forward. I believe they're executing them the right way. They're identifying folks who develop symptoms and testing them and I would refer you, for the specific numbers, to the D.C. Guard because they're the ones who have that information right now.

But every indication that I've heard from them in multiple discussions with them is that they are following the same protocols and the same standards that the rest of us are following.

Q: So I have been asking the Guard for a long time for those details and they have not given them to me. So can you say why you can't release those numbers?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: I don't have the Guard numbers, all right, so I don't have the specifics that you were asking for there.

STAFF: Let's go to Oren, CNN.

Q: Have you tested for or are you testing for the U.K. or the South African variant of COVID amongst DOD personnel, either domestically or abroad, and obviously what are the result of those tests?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: So, yes, we have labs that participate in and share data with the Centers for Disease Control. And as you know, the number of sites at which we found some of these new variants is fairly low across the United States. We are not yet seeing them in our DOD population of the tests that we've done.

Again, this is -- I would be very cautious though in reading too much into that because as you've seen from other sources, from the CEC and elsewhere, this is very

much an evolving spreader. So I think the key thing on this is we got to keep testing for it and keep tracking for it. But so far, within our population, we have not seen a significant new variant that is causing concern.

Q: And that's both domestically and internationally, correct?

STAFF: Also in the room here, Meghann?

Q: Oh, the CDC vaccination tracker pretty consistently puts DOD's number of administered doses at about half of the distributed doses. We know from local reports around the country that a lot of that has to do with that hesitancy for the people on the priority list to get it and then kind of just scramble to figure out who they're going to give it to instead because all of those plans are different.

Does DOD have a more specific plan about who you call when you can't give it to the person on the list? And if they do, why is the 50 percent still pretty par for the course with everybody else?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Yes, and so I'm -- first, it would go back to a couple points that I made earlier on this because I think this is really important. Would recommend if you're going to look at the CDC data that you look at it day by day and not just a single snapshot because it does tend to vary, as I mentioned earlier.

If you look at the very beginning of the week, the percentages are almost everywhere -- going back and look at the last three weeks, different than at the end of the week because we get the allocation at the beginning of the week.

Q: I checked in the beginning of the press conference and it's about 50 right now. Is there a part related --

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Correct, and so that's the lag that -- that's the lag that I was talking about earlier. So to answer your specific questions, yes, part of what the Defense Health Agency has worked with each of the bases on is their base level plan that says using the DOD prioritization, which is based on the CDC prioritization, here's who we go through.

And they have the authority, if there's no one in a particular tier that's available or that opts for the vaccine, to go to the next level down, and it varies base by base. That was the comment that I made earlier there. For the first 10 bases that were our pilot sites, they're much farther along in their lists than the last few sites that have come online that are still working on their initial group of healthcare workers.

So at least the -- everything that I am hearing on the joint staff side into the COVID task force is that that process is working well and stepping through the priorities and making sure that we are not losing any vaccines. Our loss rate has been negligible. It's, I think -- I don't remember the exact number and apologize for that.

But we certainly have not lost any vaccines because they're sitting on the shelf there.

Q: I have a very quick follow-up. So the DOD website also tracks COVID cases and breaks them down by service members, dependents, civilian contractor. Why can we not get that same level of fidelity of administered vaccines?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: So, that's a very long answer. That's a quick question but a very long answer.

Q: I assume it's because CDC says you have to do this and you're not doing more than what CDC is telling you to do.

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: That's --

Q: What I'm asking is why not?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: So, that's part of it. What I would offer and I'll defer to our P.A. colleagues, if I can get back to you because that's a much longer answer. There's -- there's a lot of nuances to that piece of it. There's a lot more data that we are collecting. They're -- putting it all out on the website becomes a bit more challenging for a variety of reasons, so.

STAFF: Let's go to the -- back to the phone. We're going to go to Jeff Schogol.

Q: Thank you. This is a question for General Friedrichs. I'm following up on my colleague's question, are you saying that an organization that has an annual budget of \$705 billion is unable to say how many service members have been vaccinated and how many have refused? Thank you.

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: No, I'm not saying that. So, I -- as I mentioned, there were 366,000 doses given out and I don't have it in front of me. I can get you the exact number of which of those were first doses and which those were second doses. If I remember correctly, it was around 320,000 are first doses and 40,000-ish of those were second doses, so that means about 320,000 people.

So the declinations are a little bit more challenging and -- and this gets into the fact that this is voluntary.

We -- we are not compelling people to take a vaccine that this is truly something that they have to volunteer for. And -- and we've been very careful to adhere to not just the letter but the intent of the guidance that's been put out on that under the emergency use authorization.

STAFF: Okay, back to here in the room.

Q: Hey (inaudible) -- excuse me, Al Jazeera English. White House officials said when they took over they realized there was no plan in place to get vaccines into the hands -- the arms of Americans. Is that true?

MR. ROSE: So, there is no doubt that there is significant room for improvement and that is reflected in the strategic guidance, the executive orders, the changes in FEMA payment ratios, the leadership by FEMA, all of which this administration has put into fold in just the last few days.

That in itself speaks for what this administration came on to. Now with that being said though, from the perspective of DOD, I just think it is absolutely essential that we are forward-looking, just trying to do more. And --

Q: Was there a plan or no?

MR. ROSE: Well, certainly in terms of anything that the White House said, I would refer you to the White House. Anything that the White House came onto, I would refer you to the White House.

But what I can tell you is, is that from the perspective of Secretary Austin, within just his first day establishing this as his number one priority and firmly stating that this department stands ready to do anything it can to support the president's effort, FEMA's effort, all the while not sacrificing our posture and our capabilities to defend this nation. That is where we stand right now under -- under Secretary Austin.

Q: So those people had ten months to come up with a plan and they didn't and you're saying those same people are going to stay in charge of the distribution?

MR. ROSE: Well, I -- I don't think that that's the correct way to look at this, okay? That this -- that what this administration is doing and the --the Department of Defense's support for President Biden's strategy of defeating this pandemic as quickly as possible. That's where we are right now.

And I can tell you within my first week as I look at the men and women in uniform who are serving this nation and have served this nation for years, I have the utmost confidence in their ability to execute this plan going forward.

STAFF: Let's go to the back. Tom?

Q: Thanks. What's the percentage of individuals here in the Pentagon who have gotten the vaccination and what's the refusal rate?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Again, I -- I -- I think I may not have been clear on that one. So, the refusal rate is a -- is a statistic that I think we're not going to be able to give you because it's a voluntary vaccine.

Q: Let me rephrase the question and what's the -- the first part still, so what's the percentage? How many in the Pentagon have been vaccinated? And are you seeing people here in the Pentagon refuse to?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Are we seeing people who are declining to it? Yes.

Q: Okay.

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Yes. And I mean I've had people say that for a variety of reasons, they're pregnant, which is a very reasonable concern. They want to talk to their doctor first, very reasonable concern. I mean, yes.

So there are people who have said they don't want to get it. I'll have to get back to you on the latest numbers for the Pentagon. It changes daily and I don't have those numbers with me right now.

Q: Is it ongoing the --

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Yes.

(CROSSTALK)

Q: -- (inaudible)?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Yes. Every day we're -- we're doing vaccinations here in the building and our clinic downstairs is in charge of that.

Q: Thank you.

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: You bet.

STAFF: Okay. And last question, Abraham?

Q: Thank you. Abraham Mahshie with the Washington Examiner, this question is for General Friedrichs. So you mentioned 320,000 of military personnel, duty personnel, have been vaccinated. But you had 769,000 doses, so there's a -- there's a big gap there. You also said that there's sort of a trend line that matches civilian society that older folks are the ones who are accepting it at a higher rate.

And you also said that -- that -- that there's a tier of individuals for strategic and national security and those deploying, those people are generally younger. So are the people who are doing national security, strategic, and deploying turning down vaccines and still deploying without the vaccine?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: So, in some cases yes. It's a voluntary vaccine. I mean, there are people in I think every walk of life across our country who are making this choice as they're offered the opportunity to get vaccinated.

Certainly within the Department of Defense we had tried very hard to make it clear this is a voluntary vaccine. And while we certainly encourage people, and I asked for your help with that to reinforce the safety and the efficacy of this, it is ultimately a voluntary vaccine. And so, the answer is yes.

Q: And when they deploy or they do some important national security function like nuclear protection they are allowed to --

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Yes.

Q: -- continue to do that job?

BRIG. GEN. FRIEDRICHS: Yes.

Q: Okay.

STAFF: Gentlemen, thank you very much for your time and then we'll transition here to our -- our phase two of the -- of the conference.

(OFF-MIKE)

(CROSSTALK)

MR. KIRBY: Okay. You have a couple of things to read off at the top if you just bear with me. So, just some status updates. We have made a lot of progress over the last week alone in just getting new members to the Defense Department team. We've welcomed now 30 new appointees.

And just the last week another dozen are slated for next week. Of those, 25 came to the Office of Secretary Defense, the OSD staff. Two went to the Department of the Army and three went to the Department of the Navy.

Among these new arrivals are Kimberly Jackson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness inside the personnel and readiness directorate and Taylor Ferrell, as the Deputy General Counsel for Environment and Installations. And if you want a full list of the people we've on boarded happy to provide that after we're done here.

We also want to obviously thank Congress for their support in helping us get some of these positions filled. As you may know next Tuesday the Senate Armed Services Committee will hold a confirmation hearing for Dr. Kathleen Hicks who has been nominated to be the Deputy Secretary of Defense. We're grateful that that hearing

got scheduled in short order and we're certainly looking forward to a speedy confirmation for Dr. Hicks.

We're obviously very happy to see all our arrivals and we thank them for their willingness to serve. Now let me shift gears to Secretary Austin.

I think you've been seeing that we've been providing read outs of the calls that he's made to several international counterparts. He spoke again today with the Foreign -- French Foreign Minister -- I'm sorry, French Minister of the Armed Forces Florence Parly to reinforce the importance of this strategic alliance between our two countries.

They also discussed security stability in Africa, the need for continued vigilance against terrorism, and the pandemic, and of course the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as the broader Middle East.

He thanked her for her leadership on global security and defense issues. Said he looks forward to continued dialogue in the future -- in the future for the United State and France to work bilaterally and to -- obviously through the NATO alliance.

Second call we had today was with the Israeli Defense Minister, Benny Gantz, Mr. Gantz congratulated the Secretary on his position and the Secretary reaffirmed of course the -- the strong partnership and relationship that we have bi-laterally with Israel. The Secretary did reiterate U.S. commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative military edge and both leaders agreed to remain in close coordination on shared defense priorities, particularly in the region but also around the world.

I think you'll see the Secretary continue to reach out to the counterparts, two more calls tomorrow. One to the Defense Minister of Italy and the other to the Defense Minister of Canada. [ED NOTE. The call was with Mexico, not Canada.]

Taken outside behind -- beyond the building we'd like to announce that Arlington National Cemetery's going to commemorate the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with a whole year-long tribute. For nearly 100 years the Tomb of the Unknown, many of you have seen it has served as -- has served as the heart of Arlington National Cemetery, it's truly a peoples memorial and inspires reflection on service, valor, sacrifice, and mourning.

As a sacred memorial site and the grave of these unknown American service members the tomb connects visitors with the legacy of the U.S. Armed Forces throughout our nation's history and throughout the whole year the cemetery will hold events leading up to the centennial ceremony on November 11th of 2021. They've got a website set up, I encourage you to check it out, all the events will be available there.

And with that, I'll start taking questions. Lita.

Q: Let us take another stah at this.

MR. KIRBY: What's that?

Q: Let us take another stab at this. Can you give us some clarity on the FEMA request and what it may or may not include, what the Secretary's spot is on that? Active duty, not, active duty medical units and whatever and then just secondarily, Secretary spoke with the Germany -- German MOD yesterday --

MR. KIRBY: Yes.

Q: -- what can you say about the Secretary's thought on the ongoing plan to pull a significant number of troops out of Germany?

MR. KIRBY: Okay. Let me start with one, if I forget two, which is likely, please remind me because those are both weighty questions you just asked.

So, look, on the -- on the FEMA request, as I think Mr. Rose indicated that we are in receipt of a request by FEMA for Defense Department capabilities to assist in vaccine distribution. I am not able right now to go into great detail into what the request is.

It is going through, just like we would get from a combatant command, it's going through the same process and it just came in yesterday, actually in the evening and so it is being analyzed for resourcing and risk by the services and that's -- again, typical process, Lita, you know that. So, I'm -- I'm really loathe to get into the details of the request. Now, what I think what you're really getting at is how we're going to source it.

So, a couple of thoughts. First of all, we're obviously going to source this request. I mean the Secretary has made it very clear that we are going to provide as much capability and capacity as the Defense Department can afford to do to help with this national priority.

We also have other jobs to do clearly in the defense of the country and so there's risk whenever you pull capabilities away and we're going to have to balance that risk with this request but we're going to contribute and we're going to -- and we're going to do so in as aggressive a manner as we can.

And just as we do with every other request, when we put it out to the services for sourcing, because this would very much be a joint effort, this would not fall on any one service, each service has medical, clinical and non-clinical, as well as logistical capabilities. So, I would suspect you see when we fill this request it will be done jointly across the services.

I can't tell you definitively right now that it's going to be this particular mix of active duty or reserves or Guard. I would be surprised if it isn't a mix of all three. But again, it hasn't been sourced yet and as for the -- the numbers -- the numbers they asked for versus the numbers we're going to be able to source, again we're not there yet because

we also do have to -- we have to balance the risk to -- to the medical capabilities that we need in the fleet and in the field and to care for our members and their families.

So, it's a long answer to a good question. I -- I would just tell you that it's going through the same exact process that we would get and normally, Lita, and you know this, we wouldn't talk -- sit up here and talk about requests from combatant commands, right, especially not before their sourced, but in this case we thought it was important to acknowledge that we got the -- the request and that we are actively sourcing it.

When am I going to have answers for you? I don't know the exact day, but I would say it -- we're talking days, certainly not weeks, to get this sourced. We know there's an urgency, the Secretary knows there's an urgency, and he's made it clear that he wants the department to lean in and lean forward with as much as we can possibly do.

So, I think you're going to see us figure out the sourcing mechanism here within days and when we do and we have something more definitive we'll let you know. But look for a -- look for a blend and a mix.

On Germany, they had a great conversation yesterday. Without question, the issue of U.S. force presence in -- in levels in Germany came up, clearly. What I would tell you is that the Secretary made clear that he wants to take a look globally at force posture. As you would expect him to do when he first comes into office.

So, we'll certainly -- we're certainly going to look at the European lay down and we're going to bounce that against -- I'm sorry, not bounce, that's not a good verb -- we're going to measure it against you know what -- what the requirements are for the U.S. Military and what our strategy is in every region and he'll think through that thoughtfully with the advice of both civilian and military leadership.

What he did assert to the Defense Minister was that whatever decision we make, we'll do it in consultation with her and her government. There won't be any surprises. It'll be a collaborative effort as we look forward and -- and, Lita, last thing I'd say is I don't want you to take away from this answer that -- that there will be or won't be any specific change.

He made it very clear that he values the support that we've received for so many years from Germany as a veteran of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, he well knows the key role, logistical and medical role that -- that the German government has played in terms of providing us those -- the -- the infrastructure to provide those capabilities to the force and I can guarantee you that whatever we come to it -- it's going to be in the best interest of our national security interest and those of our key ally, Germany. That -- that get you?

Okay. Afghanistan, go ahead.

Q: Thank you very much, welcome back.

MR. KIRBY: You're welcome, thanks.

Q: My name is (inaudible) I am Afghan journalist.

MR. KIRBY: I know you.

Q: Thank you. What is the new plan out of the strategy of (inaudible) bring some change to U.S. and Taliban (inaudible) they are going to start again a war and start -- get (attacked to use ?) forces in Afghanistan?

MR. KIRBY: Yes, let's back up just a little bit. We are still involved in trying to get a negotiated settlement. The Taliban have not met their commitments. As you know, there is a looming deadline of early May that -- that before everybody in terms of you wanting to have the solution here.

But without them meeting our commitments to renounce terrorism and to stop the violent attacks on the Afghan National security forces and by dint of that the Afghan people, it's very hard to see a specific way forward for the negotiated settlement.

But we're still committed to that. There's no question about that. The secretary has been clear in testimony that that's -- that we need to find a reasonable rational end to this war and that it's got to be done through a negotiated settlement.

That includes the Afghan government has to be involved in this. And thus far, the Taliban has been, to put it politely, reticent to their requirements. So -- and this gets to the -- the other number -- the other issue, which is U.S. force presence.

So we're down to 2,500 right now. Both General Miller, the commander in Afghanistan, and of course the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Milley, have made clear that they believe that this is a sufficient number to accomplish the mission, which is largely a counter terrorism mission right now.

We have many NATO partners in Afghanistan. In fact, that was another thing that we talked -- that the secretary talked about the German defense minister was their commitment to the NATO mission who were also involved in some advise and assist missions as well. So right now we think we have enough to do what we need to do.

But there's no -- let me put -- there hasn't been any decisions made now about what that force presence is going to look like going forward. And I would say this to the leaders of the Taliban, that it is going to be -- that they make it that much more difficult for final decisions to be made about force presence by their reticence to commit to reasonable, sustainable, and credible negotiations at the table. Okay.

Q: (Inaudible).

MR. KIRBY: Go ahead. (Inaudible). Go ahead.

Q: (Inaudible) with Fox Media News, nice to meet you.

MR. KIRBY: Nice to meet you.

Q: Sort of a follow-up on Lita's question.

MR. KIRBY: No follow-ups to Lita's question.

Q: Okay. This will be a new question.

MR. KIRBY: Once I'm done with Lita, I'm done.

Q: Okay. This will be a new stream of questions. You mentioned that you spoke today with Minister Parley of France. And you also said from here that he's looking at a force posture around the world.

Last summer on a trip by then Secretary Esper to -- many went to Minister Parley. Secretary Esper announced that the U.S. was going to cut back significantly its support for the French operations -- counter terrorism operations in France. And of course we --

MR. KIRBY: You mean not in France, you mean in Africa.

Q: Africa -- French operations in Africa, thank you.

MR. KIRBY: Yes.

Q: As well. I'm wondering did that come up as part of the conversation today and if so, is a review of the U.S. force posture in Africa helping the French underway to the point of this? Thank you.

MR. KIRBY: It did come up in the conversation. I think I mentioned that in the read out. They certainly did talk about Africa and to the Sahel specifically. The secretary certainly didn't commit to one course or another but he obviously expressed his appreciation for the work that France is doing counter-terrorism wise.

And in pledged that we would continue to look forward to what -- what our contributions might or might not look like going forward. So there wasn't -- there wasn't a specific commitment. But look I mean we're --

(CROSSTALK)

Q: Same as sort of with Germany, in other words, you can look at it and it's being sponsored with -- yes.

MR. KIRBY: That's where I -- yes, that's where I was going. So we're week one into the job and I think it's fair for everyone to expect that the secretary is going to want to take a look at operations around the world, what we're doing, whether it matches -- whether we're matching resources to the strategy, whether the strategy is itself appropriate.

And then what kind of operations need to be conducted going -- going forward when we're talking about an operational environment, which we're not in Germany. It's largely that there's a -- there's a large infrastructure there for forward basing of some troops and facilities.

But I think it's fair to say that -- that he will be looking at all the force presence around the world before he makes any specific decisions.

Q: Thank you.

MR. KIRBY: Yes, go ahead.

Q: Thank you very much. And, John, nice to meet you again. I'm (inaudible)

MR. KIRBY: Yes, I know. I remember almost all of you.

Q: Yes, I would come (prepared ?) for (four years ?) (inaudible). Can you tell us about -- have two questions for you. Can you tell us about the vaccinations, you know, situations for the U.S. troops stationed overseas?

And second question is the joint military exercise continues in South Korea where (it's intended ?) during the Trump administration, so what is the Biden administration in - for resuming this military exercise.

MR. KIRBY: So I'm -- I'm -- I'm not able to into the specific vaccination of troops overseas but we obviously can help pull that data.

So let me take that question because I don't want to speak to something I don't know about. Thanks for that reminder. Again, I would refer you more specifically to General Abrams and his staff. I don't want to speak for them.

I think just broadly, right, that we recognize the value of training and exercises to keep forces ready and no place is that more important than on the Korean Peninsula.

And even though some exercises were changed in character or in fact stopped over the last couple of years, while diplomatic negotiations were going on with -- with Pyongyang, I don't want to speak for General Abrams but my understanding is that they were still able to exercise and to train at a level that kept readiness capability intact.

And that is certainly what the secretary is committed to doing. And he'll work with the -- with his civilian staff as well as the chairman and General Abrams going forward to make sure that that's the case.

I meant the ready to fight tonight is -- is not just a slogan. It actually means something there on the peninsula and the secretary's committed to that. What that exercise regime is going to look like specifically going forward, I'm just not prepared to tell you but we -- he fully understands the need to stay ready and we're going to be committed to that.

Q: (Inaudible) tell you about the North Korea, you know, the new development of a new SLBM.

MR. KIRBY: I'm sorry the development of?

Q: Development of the new SLBM.

MR. KIRBY: Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile.

Q: Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile, yes.

MR. KIRBY: Yes.

Q: That's work. (Inaudible) in four years, yes.

MR. KIRBY: Thank you for that reminder, Mike. So I'm -- I'm not going to get into assessments of specific weapon systems now but all I'll just say is that we're certainly mindful of Pyongyang's desire to advance their military capabilities. We know exactly what those military capabilities are designed to do. And -- and we're -- we're going to continue to make sure that we have the readiness posture we need on the Korean Peninsula. And I think I'll leave it at that.

Let me -- let me get a question from the phone. I think Barb -- Barb, are you on?

Q: I am. I have two specific questions. I wanted to ask you to bring us up to date as much as possible, in as much detail as possible, about the work so far on trying to find a way ahead on countering domestic extremism in the military. What you've been looking at, what meetings you're having, and what your thoughts are.

But first, I want to go back to what you said about Afghanistan. You said it's very hard to see a specific way forward for negotiated settlement decisions made on going forward. You seem very much to be raising the prospect of keeping the door open to not going to zero in May because you're saying it's hard to see a specific way forward for the negotiated settlement. Is -- are you saying that the decision to go to zero is still open to review and discussion in the Biden administration?

MR. KIRBY: What I'm saying is that any decision of -- of force levels in Afghanistan is going to be driven by our security requirements there, our security commitments there, and driven by conditions. And I think we've been very clear about that, Barb. They'll be conditions-based.

We obviously want to see a responsible end to this war. We obviously want to see successful negotiated settlements to end it. We obviously want to see those settlements include the Taliban and the elected Afghan government but we have a commitment to -- to Afghanistan and to -- and to the Afghan National Security Forces that we take very seriously.

So I don't want to get into hypotheticals or -- you know, or -- or try to predict certain outcomes. I can tell you that that's still the goal. We know that that May -- that May deadline is out there. But we're going to be making our decisions in a sober, rational manner that is driven by what's in our best interests and the interests of our partner in Afghanistan, as well as our NATO partners and allies too.

Q: So the notion of -- which General Miller, I think, has articulated -- you would keep a small amount for counterterrorism -- Al Qaida, ISIS-K should it be there -- but that the agreement you reach was, under the Trump administration, was to -- signed I believe, was to go to zero. And now, you're saying that is a goal so it is under discussion to not go to zero.

MR. KIRBY: It is -- it is under discussion with our partners and allies to make the best decisions going forward on -- on -- on force presence in Afghanistan. I think, again, as the secretary has been very clear and I -- and President Biden has too, it's -- it's -- it's time to end this war but we want to do it responsibly. We want to do it in keeping with our national security interests and those of our Afghan partners.

So I don't want to -- I'm not trying to dodge the question. I'm telling you that, just like the answer to Lita on Germany, we're -- we're going to take a broad look here going forward about what -- what makes the most sense.

As I said, right now, General Miller and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs believe that the 2,500 is enough to do the job they've been given. The question is, you know, how much longer do they need to keep doing that job. And if we can get to a negotiated settlement, then there won't be the need for those troops. Right now, there is.

And it's difficult -- and in fact, impossible to look out here on the 28th of January to early May to see exactly where we're going to be. But we're going to constantly -- and we'll constantly talk to you about it, but we're going to constantly review it, as we do elsewhere.

And you had another question, Barb?

Q: Domestic extremism, as much as you can tell us about what you've been -- what you've been doing in the first week to try and look at that issue, which the secretary I believe also identified as a top priority.

MR. KIRBY: He did. I can tell you that he and Chairman Milley have spoken about this particular issue and they've both expressed their commitment to trying to get after it, to find the best way forward, to understand the scope of the problem inside the ranks and to better deal with the behavior -- the conduct that is driven by -- by extremist beliefs.

I want to say at the outset -- and I know you understand this, but the -- the vast, vast majority of men and women in the United States military serve with honor, and with character, and integrity, and dignity and they don't espouse these sorts of dangerous beliefs. But that doesn't mean that even the small number, while it may be small, is insignificant. And that -- and it doesn't mean that we don't think that there might be a problem. The problem is we don't understand the full scope of it.

So he and Chairman Milley have talked about this. There is, I think you guys know and have reported on -- had already been an ongoing review by the Personnel and Readiness directorate here at the Department to look specifically at extremism, to look at policies, laws, regulations that govern the conduct driven by extremist beliefs and to see whether there needs to be changes.

That work is ongoing and continues. The secretary has not shut that down. They have to finish their initial work by the end of March, so very soon here, with a plan to come up with milestones to be completed by mid-summer, I think.

So the secretary is not going to stop that work. He wants them to keep doing that. But in the meantime he's also, as I said, meeting with Chairman Milley and he's going to be talking to military leaders going forward about -- about what they think the scope of the problem is.

(CROSSTALK)

MR. KIRBY: Tom? Go ahead, Tom. Go ahead, Tom.

Q: I mean, do you expect -- does the secretary expect and the chairman expect fairly soon to get an idea on the scope of the problem? How many people have been kicked out for extremist behavior, how many recruits turned away for extremist behavior, and then how many investigations by the FBI?

We got figures from the FBI just for 2020 and half of the investigations by FBI last year -- half of them involved domestic extremism. Do we expect to get a sense of the numbers which would give you a sense of the scope of the problem?

MR. KIRBY: I think in a perfect world, Tom, the answer to that would be yes. We would like to get that. The problem is it's not a perfect world, particularly when it comes to this problem because so many of the cases of conduct by people with extremist beliefs are adjudicated through the civilian investigative law enforcement and -- and -- and judicial processes.

So for instance, we received 143 notifications of investigation from the FBI last year for all conduct, 68 of them pertained to domestic extremism. So sometimes we are - - we are sort of beholden to the civilian law enforcement apparatus for that kind of data. That doesn't mean it's exclusively that, but mostly it's driven by the law enforcement data.

And you don't know what you don't know -- right -- until somebody acts on these kinds of beliefs. So it's very difficult to -- to get a hand on how many people at any given time espouse these kinds of beliefs and how many --

(CROSSTALK)

Q: (OFF-MIKE)

MR. KIRBY: -- Wait, wait -- how many act on it --

Q: -- Right. Right.

MR. KIRBY: So back to recruiting, for instance, you know this. I mean, we do extensive vetting of -- and screening of recruits. Just because somebody comes in, okay, doesn't mean that they somehow develop radical beliefs while they're in, through exposure online or from colleagues, so it's very difficult to get at the root of the -- where does the radicalization begin and how do you get to the left of that? And I think that's one of the things that they want to explore.

Q: Again, if you're getting just one figure from the FBI from 2020, I mean, why can't you guys -- we can ask the FBI, but they're going to listen to you much more than us. Why can't we get a numbers going back 10 years in the FBI? Has this increased over the past number of years? I mean, that's the kind of thing that everybody would want to know, right?

MR. KIRBY: Yes. Well, I point you to the FBI for that kind of data, I mean -- but and --

Q: (Inaudible).

MR. KIRBY: -- I -- no, I get it. And remember, disciplinary issues in the military are handled by the services. So again, one of the things I think we're looking at is how do we get -- how do we do the data pull? How do we get better visibility, and we just don't have the answers right now.

A lot of this is driven by the services themselves, and sometimes -- sometimes the conduct itself. While it may be driven by an extremist belief, it's not a behavior that you automatically look at and say okay, well there's white supremacy, you know. Maybe it's a violent crime for -- on one service member to another and it's not exactly clear what the motivation was.

The motivation may have been extremist beliefs. We -- that may not manifest itself in the investigative and adjudication -- in the military justice system. It may not -- it just may not manifest itself, so it's hard to get a perfect grasp on it.

But you're hitting it exactly why the Secretary and the Chairman are taking this so seriously and want to get a better grip on it. I don't think anybody can assure you that we're going to know, down to the very specific detail, every single case and what motivated it, but I can tell you they're committed to trying to find out.

And so, as they start to look at this, I mean that -- what we don't know and why we don't know it is going to be a part of that calculus.

Q: I want to follow-up on Afghanistan.

MR. KIRBY: All right, we'll go on Afghanistan and then Goyal, we'll go to you, and then I got to do some from the phone.

Q: Yes, Afghanistan and Iran -- yes, yes. It seems to me you're --

MR. KIRBY: Yes, yes.

Q: -- making a new interpretation of the agreement with Taliban because the issue of political reconciliation has nothing to do with the level of U.S. troops, based on what was declared back then in February. So my question is this, is the U.S. still committed in pulling out all troops by May if Iran cut -- if Taliban cut all ties with terrorist organizations? That's the first one.

On Iran, can you share with us your assessment of the, you know, state of play with Iran now? Are we still seeing the same level of tension with or threats coming from Iran has been assess previously by this huilding? And we saw yesterday like continuation of sending B-52 to the region.

We heard from Israel top general talking about readying plans for military plans, I guess Iran. Do you think these type of moves and statements are conducive to creating more room for diplomacy?

MR. KIRBY: Okay, on Afghanistan, I think I was pretty clear. I don't think I was trying to reinterpret the political settlement.

Q: (Inaudible) an Afghani track separate from pulling out, but we know -- but -- yes.

MR. KIRBY: Right, I said that -- I said the Taliban are not meeting their commitments to reduce violence and to renounce their ties to Al Qaida. And they are not meeting their commitments and as long as they're not meeting their commitments, it's going to be difficult for anybody at that negotiating table to meet their commitment, in fact, it wouldn't be the wise course.

I mean, we obviously are still committed to ending this war, but we want to do it in a responsible way. And I don't think it's helpful to be drawn now into specific hypothetical discussions about the troop numbers on a -- on a specific calendar basis.

We're still committed to ending this war and we obviously, the president has made it clear, he wants to bring American troops home from Afghanistan but we're going to do it in lockstep with the diplomatic process to try to find a negotiated settlement. I'm not trying to recast that.

Q: My question is not about ending the war, my question is not hypothetical, it's about an agreement that the U.S. signed by which it should pull out all troops by May if Taliban met its own requirements. Is that still the -- are you still committed --

MR. KIRBY: Yes, they did -- of course we are, but it's a big if isn't it?

Q: Yes, it's if -- Taliban, yes. So if Taliban commits its own -- met its own commitment, you are willing to pull out fully by May?

MR. KIRBY: There is no change, let me put it very clear, there's no change to the commitments we made that was done previous to our coming in, there's no -- been no change to that. We all want to see an end to the war, but you said if the Taliban meet their commitments and they haven't and they aren't.

So it's -- as I said at the very beginning of this, it's difficult to see how we get there from right where we are now. That doesn't mean we're not going to keep trying, doesn't mean we're not going to continue to support the efforts of our negotiators. That's exactly where we want this to go, okay.

On Iran, I mean I think Iran continues to be a malign actor in the region. It continues to support terrorism throughout the Middle East. And they still post threats to our partners and friends there. They still have an active ballistic missile program and they have been recently respinning centrifuges.

I won't speak for the State Department and the status of how they're looking at a return to the JCPOA, that's really not our issue here. I would tell you that from the Secretary's perspective, we still have national security interest in the Middle East, in the

Persian Gulf specifically. We still have partners and friends who we are committed to as well.

And we still have a significant interest in stemming the acts of terrorism that Iran continues to propagate throughout the region. I mean just recently, there have been attacks on facilities in Iraq, which we have reason to believe were the result of the Shia-backed militias.

So there's -- they're still -- they're still involved in significant and specific acts of violence. And to the degree that we have capabilities to try to deter that activity, I think you can expect we're going to use that, okay?

Q: Thank you.

MR. KIRBY: Goyal, Goyal, go ahead.

Q: Thank you John, first of all congratulations.

MR. KIRBY: Thank you.

Q: My question is that how much has been going on with when the U.S. and India (inaudible) relations? I understand Secretary have just spoken with the Indian defense minister, Mr. (inaudible).

MR. KIRBY: He did.

Q: And he has spoken about ongoing problems all around India and China in the region. So can we talk about that there, what was phone call about and what is the future of U.S., India military to military relationship.

MR. KIRBY: I had a good chat yesterday, I think you saw the readout of that, discussed a lot of issues, including our two nation's response to the coronavirus. And as I said in the readout, the Secretary made it very clear that we're going to remain committed to a strong U.S., India bilateral relationship. Let me go to Phil Stewart. Are you -- are you there, Phil?

Q: I am, yes. Thanks very much. First of all, welcome back to the briefing room.

MR. KIRBY: Thank you. Thank you.

Q: Yeah. So first, just going back the coronavirus issue. I think a lot of us were sort of alarmed, I hadn't been tracking the numbers very closely to see how many personnel and armed forces have contracted COVID.

And I wanted ask in the Biden administration comfortable with the military's performance and keeping troops free from infection given that the rate of infection

among -- among U.S. armed forces is similar to the general population. And then I have a question on Syria.

MR. KIRBY: Well, the short answer is yes, Phil, and I think you heard General Friedrichs talk about that. We're obviously committed to vaccinating as many as our troops as we possibly can. But as he noted, it is a voluntary vaccination and there is a tiered structure in terms of the priorities for doing that.

So, bottom line is yes, we are committed to vaccinating as many of our troops as possible.

Q: Yes, I guess what I'm asking is, like, are the rates of infection among -- among personnel in the armed forces acceptable at their current levels or do you think that they -- the military needs to do a better job safeguarding people from infection, not vaccinations right now, but infection until they can get vaccinated.

MR. KIRBY: I don't have the data on the rates of infection. So if that didn't come out previously, I mean we can get that to you. Obviously what we like to see in the ranks is zero infections, clearly. That's the -- that's the goal. I don't know what the threshold is here for driving a particular sense of urgency or different policy discussions.

So let me -- let me get back to you on the -- I'll take your question and I'll get back to you on the -- on the rates of infection but clearly we want to do everything we can to keep our people safe.

Did you have another one, Phil?

Q: And then on Syria -- on Syria what role did securing the oil in Syria play in the Biden administration's military strategy there?

MR. KIRBY: I think I'll just that -- that what our -- our view of the purpose of U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria are to continue to go after the ISIS threat. I'll leave it at that.

Go ahead, Joe?

Q: Thank you. Yes, I would like to know what's the -- what's the status of the decision to move Israel to the -- to the CENTCOM AOR? Is this decision final? Is it under review by the administration?

MR. KIRBY: Well, I mean when the previous commander in chief made that decision he did so within his full authority. So the decision has been made. The secretary believes that it -- from a geographic perspective it seems to make sense. But he also has indicated that just like in every other respect he wants to take a look and he wants to talk to our combatant commanders about that. And just to make sure.

But -- but at the outset where we are right now, the secretary would lead from a geographic perspective that makes a certain sense. But he does want to reserve the right and he will around the world to take a look at our laydown, to take a look at the geographic boundaries for the combatant commanders as you would expect him to do. Matt Salem?

Q: Hi, it's Seyler, thanks for doing this.

MR. KIRBY: Seyler. I apologize. I should have put my glasses on. Yes -- yes there it is right there.

(CROSSTALK)

Q: That's quite all right. (Inaudible). Anyway, you've answered most things. I just have one more question on the FEMA request that you might be able to answer. I believe I heard Mr. Rose say that it doesn't always make sense to pull say a National Guard doctor or nurse and task them with doing injections on a site because it would mean pulling them away from a necessary job they're already doing in their civilian capacity.

And it's my understanding that some states require some sort of medical certification to actually put shots in arms. So if you're tasking thousands of troops to do this, is there any effort underway that you're aware of to secure waivers for them or extra training to kind of lower the bar as to which troops are allowed to actually work and actually give injections?

MR. KIRBY: Yes, great question. And I think that gets to my answer to Lita that now that's part of the analysis right of we have the request, we know what's being asked of us and now we have to source it. And sourcing it just like sourcing any request for military capabilities around the world, sometimes requires additional training.

And so while it's difficult for me to answer your questions specifically because we're -- we're still working our way through this. It is reasonable to conclude that there might have to be some additional training given to -- to members whether they're active or reserved before they contribute to this effort.

And we're 100 percent committed to doing that depending on what the -- what the need is and what the gap in the need and our capability happens to be. Does that answer your question?

Q: Thank you.

MR. KIRBY: Okay. I've got time for one more.

Q: This is Tony Capaccio, can I get a question?

MR. KIRBY: Sorry, go ahead, who's that?

Q: Tony Capaccio. I came in a little late so I wasn't on your list.

MR. KIRBY: Yes, you're not on my list, Tony, so I'm sorry, you're -- that's it, you're done.

Q: All right. Well, so are you then if you can't answer a question.

MR. KIRBY: Come on, Tony.

Q: Okay. Can I get a couple quickies?

MR. KIRBY: A couple quickies, sure.

Q: You mentioned -- you mentioned the number of appointees have come in. What is the status of a new acquisition undersecretary and a new undersecretary for research and engineering?

MR. KIRBY: Yes. So there's no -- I don't have -- I don't have an update on that, Tony.

Q: Okay. Another question then on the budget, which is obviously -- you're -- you guys are reviewing, at what do you think you'll be able to give some clarity on when the 23 budget will be released and how much of that is contingent on an OMB director being nominated -- being confirmed in an office?

MR. KIRBY: Well, I can't speak to -- to the timing for a new OMB director, Tony, and -- or as a capacity of OMB right now to -- to staff of a budget request by -- by the administration. What I can say is that the secretary knows that budget deadlines are coming and they're coming soon and he's already begun to prepare for that.

And I think we'll have more clarity in - in coming weeks about what it's going to look like. But I don't have a specific answer in terms of the deadline. I mean you -- as you know better than anybody, it's always in the spring, it's sometimes a moving target.

I think the secretary wants to be prepared to present and defend the budget in the normal fashion and that means for him as soon as possible. And I think in his mind regardless of what the actual timing ends up being, he's made it clear that he wants to get himself up to speed and get the Department ready in about the next three months or so.

Q: Okay. Fair enough. Thank you.

MR. KIRBY: Yes. Okay, guys I'm going to have to go. I've got to -- I go to go.

Q: On Taiwan -- just one on Taiwan.

MR. KIRBY: Okay, do that. Do you really want a question on Taiwan? I want to hear it. (Laughter.) All right.

Q: This morning the Chinese ministry of the banks that though Taiwan's independence would mean war. So I was just wondering what the Pentagon's reaction to that statement is and how you view the strategic importance of Taiwan.

MR. KIRBY: So let me start with the second one first. And nothing has changed about the Department's commitment to -- our -- our commitments to the Taiwan Relations Act and the three communiques about -- about Taiwan. As the secretary said in testimony this is something that has been supported in a bipartisan way for decades.

And -- and the Department of Defense under his leadership will continue that same support to -- we have -- we have obligations to assist Taiwan with their self-defense and I think you're going to see that continue.

To your other question, the Department sees no reason why tensions over Taiwan need to lead to anything like confrontation. And so we find that comment unfortunate and certainly not commensurate with our intentions to meet our obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act and to continue to, as Secretary Blinken at the State Department said yesterday, look for ways where we can cooperate with China.

We -- but we have obligations that we intend to meet. Okay. Thanks very much.

Q: Is the U.S. military ready and capable to defend Taiwan against a potential Chinese invasion.

MR. KIRBY: I'm not going to get into hypotheticals. But the United States -- the United States military remains ready in all respects to meet our security commitments in the region. Thank you very much.

**-END-**

**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: OSD(PA) COB

Hi (b)(6) - thanks for sending these!

Related to the COVID relief effort briefing yesterday, is there anything public or written that we can share with Congress? Max Rose has a meeting with Senate Appropriations clerks on Monday on COVID and I'd like to share with the clerks in advance.

Many thanks!

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Best,  
Jongsun

Ms. Jongsun A. Kim  
Deputy Comptroller for Budget and Appropriations Affairs

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (main)  
(b)(6) (direct)

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**From:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 8:49 PM

**To:** OSD Pentagon OUSD C List BAA <[osd.pentagon.ousd-c.list.baa@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-c.list.baa@mail.mil)>

**Subject:** FW: OSD(PA) COB

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**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Thursday, January 28, 2021 7:37 PM

**Subject:** OSD(PA) COB

ON TOP

\* FEMA Request for Vaccination Support: Released statement by Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby acknowledging receipt of request from FEMA for vaccination support: "The Department of Defense has received a request from FEMA for assistance in administering COVID-19 vaccine at various locations across the country. The Department is evaluating the request, and what kinds of support it can provide. Given the significance of the request, it will

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## THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



#### QUERIES OF NOTE

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<https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/01/28/world/covid-19-coronavirus/the-pentagon-says-prisoners-at-guantanamo-bay-will-be-offered-vaccination>. Kaylee Greenlee, The Daily Caller News Foundation, also asked whether the Pentagon said detainees at Guantánamo Bay will be offered COVID-19 vaccines. She wants to know how many vaccines will be made available, which vaccines and whether the troops stationed there receive vaccinations before the prisoners. Working the response with SOUTHCOM, CVTF and Detainee Policy Office.

\* Iraq Announcement of Killing ISIS Deputy Commander. Zachary Halaschak, Washington Examiner, and Tom Bowman, NPR, asked for confirmation/comment about Iraqi Prime Minister Al-Khadimi's claim that Iraqi Security Forces eliminated ISIS deputy commander Abu Yaser al-Issawi. Provided on-the-record comment that, "Today, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi announced that Iraqi Security Forces killed Abu Yaser al-Issawi, supervisor of ISIS operations in Iraq. The U.S. has NOT confirmed al-Issawi's death. If confirmed, this is a tremendous victory for our partners and for the Iraqi people."

\* Taiwan Relationship. Jessica Ni, TVBS News of Taiwan, asked for comment on the PRC comment regarding Taiwan's independence. Referred to Mr. Kirby's comments at the presser.

\* ASD(IPSA) Nominee. Sangmin Lee, Radio Free Asia, asked who was the nominee for IPSA. Replied that David Helvey is still Acting ASD(IPSA).

\* Korean Exercises and OPCON. Nari Baek, Yonhap News agency, asked for a comment on the ROK PM discussing OPCON transfer and exercises. Referred to Mr. Kirby's comments at the presser for exercises, and after coordination with OSD(Policy), provided previously cleared lines on OPCON: "Wartime Operational Control will transition when the mutually-agreed upon conditions are fully met. A conditions-based wartime OPCON transition is not only what the United States and Republic of Korea mutually agreed to, it is also necessary to ensure the security of our military forces, peoples, and the region. A commitment to a specific timeframe would put our forces and people at risk. Similarly, ensuring the security of military forces, peoples, and the region requires is more complicated than merely swapping the leadership of the Combined Forces Command."

\* DPAA/PLA Dialogue. Jennifer White, NHK, and Stacy Hsu, Taiwan's Central News Agency, asked for a comment on the story that said the DoD talked with the PLA this week. Coordinated with OSD(Policy) and replied with "From January 25-26, 2021, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) researchers conducted a first-ever Virtual Archival Exchange with their PRC counterparts at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Archives Department. The two-day event was a rare opportunity to seek new information, discuss previous requests, and raise possible field investigations in the coming year with the PLA Archives Department. There were 15 U.S. POW/MIA cases specifically discussed covering World War (WWII), the Korean War, Cold War, and the Vietnam War. DPAA will continue to engage with the PLA regarding these cases and the U.S. looks forward to safely executing activities in China once COVID -19 safety protocols and operational planning requirements are in place."

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Hypersonics. Closed out additional support to a recent interview with Sydney Freedberg, Breaking Defense and OUSD(R&E) Principal Director for Hypersonics, Mr. Mike White, focusing on conventional, theater hypersonic weapons, rather than intercontinental. Breaking Defense interviewed Mr. White in regards to a recent paper released by the Union of Concern Scientists on DOD Hypersonic programs, which was also written about in the NYT. Story expected to post today or tomorrow.

\* SECDEF Interview Request. Sean Kim, Seoul Broadcasting System, would like to interview Secretary Austin about military issues of Asia Pacific, as well as the Korean peninsula. Request placed in the SECDEF Interview Requests folder for review and processing.

\* Cyber Policy. Ellen Nakashima, The Washington Post, has an off-the-record conversation with Madeline Mortelmans, Principal Director Cyber Policy, Friday, Jan. 29 (4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.) in order to get to know her and perhaps get some off-the-record information about cyber policy, partnerships and the Defend Forward Strategy. Telephonic conversation will take place on a public affairs conference line and last between 10-15 minutes.

\* UAP Videos – Discovery Channel. Graham Evans, Discovery Channel, asked about using the UAP videos he had seen on YouTube for the Discovery Channel show, "Strange Evidence." Pointed him to where the videos were officially released on the NAVAIR FOIA Reading Room, and requested that the show cite U.S. Navy as the source, as well as use our standard disclaimer: "The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement."

\*JEDI. At 4 p.m. today, the DoD CIO sent an Information Paper on the Upcoming JEDI Cloud

Litigation Milestone to Congress, explaining that the Court of Federal Claims (COFC) will make a significant ruling within the coming weeks related to the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) Cloud contract post-award protest. The ruling is on the Government's Motion to Dismiss, in Part, Count Four of Amazon Web Services (AWS)'s protest complaint. Count Four relates to AWS's allegation of improper influence at the highest levels of government that, allegedly, unfairly affected the outcome of the JEDI Cloud competition. The parties are now waiting for the Court's ruling. After Congressional Notification was complete, the information paper was sent to DoD and interested trade media.

\* News Media Travel to Guantanamo. Carol Rosenberg, NYT, and John Ryan, LawDragon, confirmed that they wanted to travel to Guantanamo to observe the arraignment of three men accused in the bombing of nightclubs in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 and the bombing of a J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2003. The arraignment is currently scheduled for not later than Feb. 20. Additional reporters are undecided: Ben Fox, A; Amy Walters, Al Jazeera English; and Julia Kastein, ARD German Public Radio. The Office of Military Commissions provided invitation to media which had expressed an interest in travelling to Guantanamo to see detainee operations. OMC gave a deadline of noon, Jan. 28, to RSVP. Travel is currently planned for Feb. 4.

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB  
**Date:** Friday, January 29, 2021 12:57:10 PM

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Sounds good.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 12:56 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB

Hi (b)(6)

She is the new BAA Director. The transcript is fine. However, I suggest not providing the prep book pages. If she asks for more information or material, we can provide her a briefing card or separate TPs.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:49 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: OSD(PA) COB

Team, see request from Comptroller below. Looks like they'll be happy with the transcript; thoughts on providing the prep book pages on COVID also?

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**From:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:44 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB

That's perfect and all we need. Thanks, (b)(6)

Ms. Jongsun A. Kim  
Deputy Comptroller for Budget and Appropriations Affairs

(b)(6)  
(b)(6) (main)  
(b)(6) (direct)

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**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:42 AM  
**To:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD(PA) COB

Hi Jongsun,  
I'll coordinate with my teammates who work COVID-19 response issues on what's releasable. I anticipate that we'll have the official transcript of yesterday's press briefing sometime today, and I'll share that with you once we have it.

Regards,  
(b)(6)

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**From:** Kim, Jongsun A SES (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 29, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:** Benjamin, Michael A SES OSD OUSD C (USA) (b)(6)  
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### THREE DAY FORECAST

(b)(5)



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\* Taiwan Relationship. Jessica Ni, TVBS News of Taiwan, asked for comment on the PRC comment regarding Taiwan's independence. Referred to Mr. Kirby's comments at the presser.

\* ASD(IPSA) Nominee. Sangmin Lee, Radio Free Asia, asked who was the nominee for IPSA. Replied that David Helvey is still Acting ASD(IPSA).

\* Korean Exercises and OPCON. Nari Baek, Yonhap News agency, asked for a comment on the ROK PM discussing OPCON transfer and exercises. Referred to Mr. Kirby's comments at the presser for exercises, and after coordination with OSD(Policy), provided previously cleared lines on OPCON: "Wartime Operational Control will transition when the mutually-agreed upon conditions are fully met. A conditions-based wartime OPCON transition is not only what the United States and Republic of Korea mutually agreed to, it is also necessary to ensure the security of our military forces, peoples, and the region. A commitment to a specific timeframe would put our forces and people at risk. Similarly, ensuring the security of military forces, peoples, and the region requires is more complicated than merely swapping the leadership of the Combined Forces Command."

\* DPAA/PLA Dialogue. Jennifer White, NHK, and Stacy Hsu, Taiwan's Central News Agency, asked for a comment on the story that said the DoD talked with the PLA this week. Coordinated with OSD(Policy) and replied with "From January 25-26, 2021, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) researchers conducted a first-ever Virtual Archival Exchange with their PRC counterparts at the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Archives Department. The two-day event was a rare opportunity to seek new information, discuss previous requests, and raise possible field investigations in the coming year with the PLA

Archives Department. There were 15 U.S. POW/MIA cases specifically discussed covering World War (WWII), the Korean War, Cold War, and the Vietnam War. DPAA will continue to engage with the PLA regarding these cases and the U.S. looks forward to safely executing activities in China once COVID -19 safety protocols and operational planning requirements are in place."

#### ADDITIONAL ITEMS OF INTEREST

\* Hypersonics. Closed out additional support to a recent interview with Sydney Freedberg, Breaking Defense and OUSD(R&E) Principal Director for Hypersonics, Mr. Mike White, focusing on conventional, theater hypersonic weapons, rather than intercontinental. Breaking Defense interviewed Mr. White in regards to a recent paper released by the Union of Concern Scientists on DOD Hypersonic programs, which was also written about in the NYT. Story expected to post today or tomorrow.

\* SECDEF Interview Request. Sean Kim, Seoul Broadcasting System, would like to interview Secretary Austin about military issues of Asia Pacific, as well as the Korean peninsula. Request placed in the SECDEF Interview Requests folder for review and processing.

\* Cyber Policy. Ellen Nakashima, The Washington Post, has an off-the-record conversation with Madeline Mortelmans, Principal Director Cyber Policy, Friday, Jan. 29 (4:30 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.) in order to get to know her and perhaps get some off-the-record information about cyber policy, partnerships and the Defend Forward Strategy. Telephonic conversation will take place on a public affairs conference line and last between 10-15 minutes.

\* UAP Videos – Discovery Channel. Graham Evans, Discovery Channel, asked about using the UAP videos he had seen on YouTube for the Discovery Channel show, "Strange Evidence." Pointed him to where the videos were officially released on the NAVAIR FOIA Reading Room, and requested that the show cite U.S. Navy as the source, as well as use our standard disclaimer: "The appearance of U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) visual information does not imply or constitute DoD endorsement."

\*JEDI. At 4 p.m. today, the DoD CIO sent an Information Paper on the Upcoming JEDI Cloud Litigation Milestone to Congress, explaining that the Court of Federal Claims (COFC) will make a significant ruling within the coming weeks related to the Joint Enterprise Defense Infrastructure (JEDI) Cloud contract post-award protest. The ruling is on the Government's Motion to Dismiss, in Part, Count Four of Amazon Web Services (AWS)'s protest complaint. Count Four relates to AWS's allegation of improper influence at the highest levels of government that, allegedly, unfairly affected the outcome of the JEDI Cloud competition. The parties are now waiting for the Court's ruling. After Congressional Notification was complete,

the information paper was sent to DoD and interested trade media.

\* News Media Travel to Guantanamo. Carol Rosenberg, NYT, and John Ryan, LawDragon, confirmed that they wanted to travel to Guantanamo to observe the arraignment of three men accused in the bombing of nightclubs in Bali, Indonesia, in 2002 and the bombing of a J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 2003. The arraignment is currently scheduled for not later than Feb. 20. Additional reporters are undecided: Ben Fox, A; Amy Walters, Al Jazeera English; and Julia Kastein, ARD German Public Radio. The Office of Military Commissions provided invitation to media which had expressed an interest in travelling to Guantanamo to see detainee operations. OMC gave a deadline of noon, Jan. 28, to RSVP. Travel is currently planned for Feb. 4.

(b)(6)



**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: OSD/JS FOIA Request 19-F-1400  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 1:05:42 PM

---

We're tacking that there was a FOIA of 3-72

RRO

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD/JS FOIA Request 19-F-1400

Thanks, good point, though presumably the ODS/JS FOIA office coordinated with JS for the release of this doc; but they may not have thought to alert OCJCS PA. And the JS office may not be as familiar with John Greenwald as many of us are – as soon as he gets this release, he will likely post the entire thing on his blog.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:47 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: OSD/JS FOIA Request 19-F-1400

(b)(6)

I don't have any issues. I hope they told JS, since this is their publication. This may generate media interested because the JS posted it online and then deleted it. It still is not listed on their publication site.

<https://taskandpurpose.com/news/joint-chiefs-of-staff-published-then-deleted-new-nuclear-doctrine>  
<https://www.jcs.mil/Doctrine/Joint-Doctrine-Pubs/3-0-Operations-Series/>

v/r

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office: (b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:29 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** FW: OSD/JS FOIA Request 19-F-1400

**Importance:** High

For whomever has DASD Nukes, and (b)(6) for STRATCOM. Let me know if you want to ask for a delay in this FOIA release. FYSA, John Greenwald, the requestor, runs a "news" blog called The Black Vault, in addition to freelance work that he does; he's one of my continual sources of UAP queries.

**From:** Hartwick, Raymond J Jr CIV (USA) (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 30, 2020 12:02 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

Fisher, Stephen L CIV WHS  
ESD (US) (b)(6) Carr, Stephanie L CIV WHS ESD (USA)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** OSD/JS FOIA Request 19-F-1400

Good Morning (b)(6)

This is to advise you of an upcoming release to the media or to a requester with the potential to obtain media dissemination. We intend to make this release within 24-hours, unless you advise this office that you require additional time to coordinate.

If 24-hours is not sufficient time, please let this office know immediately by contacting the action officer assigned to this case. In order to not further delay this response, we ask that your request for a delay not exceed three working days.

The attached final responses will be released to the requester on **October 1, 2020**. However, due to today being the last day of the Fiscal Year is it possible to receive your response today before 1600?

Respectfully,

Raymond Hartwick

Freedom of Information Division

OSD/JS FOIA Requester Service center

Action Officer

(b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR:

Let us know how we are doing: <https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=125562&s=110>

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA); (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6); Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6)  
(b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC; Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA); Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6)  
(b)(6); (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Ready for Release: Responses to Query from Greenwald  
**Date:** Monday, September 9, 2019 1:19:45 PM  
**Attachments:** image001.png  
image002.png

Joe,  
  
Looks good to me.  
  
y/r, (b)(6)

**From:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA); (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 12:43 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6); Sturgis, George R (Frosty) JR CIV WHS ESD  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6); Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424  
(b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424; Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)  
(b)(6); Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6)  
(b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424; (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Ready for Release: Responses to Query from Greenwald

All,  
  
Appreciate the updates received.  
  
(b)(5)

**Russo, Michael C CIV WHS ESD (US)**

---

**From:** Russo, Michael C CIV WHS ESD (US)  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2017 3:20 PM  
**To:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) (b)(6)@navy.mil  
**Subject:** RE: (U//FOUO)(U) ATTN: Russo - DOPSR Request-Part 3  
**Attachments:** Elizondo DOPSR Request 20170809.pdf

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

Lue,

If the Service-level OCA verifies to me (simple one-sentence email is fine) that removing the metadata from the videos makes them UNCLASSIFIED, please feel free to move forward with release.

Videos referenced:

GoFast.wmv  
FLIR1.mp4  
Ginble Vid.wmv

Thanks,  
Michael

---

Michael C. Russo  
Defense Office of Prepublication & Security Review  
Pentagon Room 2A534  
703-614-4922 (unsecure)  
NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: (b)(6)  
JWICS: (b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

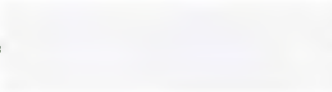
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 23, 2017 9:39 AM  
**To:** Russo, Michael C CIV WHS ESD (US); (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U) ATTN: Russo - DOPSR Request-Part 3

Thank you sincerely my friend. If it is easier for you or more streamline, then please consider our request for unrestricted release. However, my intent is to maintain positive control but I know it's a bit unique of a situation so whichever is easier for you and quicker. If at all possible, I would like to have authority to move it down to UNCLASS by tomorrow. Again, sorry for the inconvenience, I owe you a coffee and a donut!  
Thanks again!

GS

Mon 6/3/2019 7:08 AM

Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA) · 

@mail.mil &gt;

RE: RE: Media Enquiry

To (b)(6) 

Cc Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)

 You replied to this message on 6/3/2019 8:13 AM.

Hi John,

The videos were never officially released to the general public by DoD and should still be withheld.

Regards,

Sue Gough

Pentagon Spokesperson

Defense Public Affairs Operations

DOD website: <https://www.defense.gov/>Twitter: <https://twitter.com/DeptofDefense>Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/deptofdefense>Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DeptofDefense>LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-states-department-of-defense>

My intent, then, is to provide these to Greenwald before COB today.

Regards,

Joe

Joe Gradisher  
Captain, U.S. Navy (ret)  
N2N6 Strategic Engagements  
(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 12:25 PM  
**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Sturgis, George R (Frosty) JR CIV WHS ESD  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6) (b)(6), (b)(3) 10 USC § 424  
(b)(6), (b)(3) 10 USC § 424 Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6), (b)(3) 10 USC § 424 (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Ready for Release: Responses to Query from Greenwald

Joe

I do not have changes.

Thank you,

(b)(6)

**From:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 11:05 AM  
**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Sturgis,  
George R (Frosty) JR CIV WHS ESD (USA) <george.r.sturgis.civ@mail.mil> (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424

(b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424 Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424 (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Ready for Release: Responses to Query from Greenwald

Thanks (b)(6)

Appreciate the clarification!

Joe

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 10:43 AM

**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Sturgis, George R (Frosty) JR CIV WHS ESD (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424

(b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424 Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424 (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Ready for Release: Responses to Query from Greenwald

Joe, one small recommended edit to A1.

**From:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, September 9, 2019 10:36 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Sturgis,

George R (Frosty) JR CIV WHS ESD (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424

(b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424 Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424 (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Ready for Release: Responses to Query from Greenwald

All,

Unless otherwise directed, I will provide the attached responses to John Greenwald of the Black Vault (sent to you last Thursday for your look) later today so I can close this one out.

Thanks!

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

(b)(6)

**From:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)

**Sent:** Thursday, September 5, 2019 10:31 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) 'Sturgis,  
George R (Frosty) JR CIV WHS ESD (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3)-10 USC § 424

(b)(6); (b)(3)-10 USC § 424 Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6) Tipton, Neill T  
SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3)-10 USC § 424 (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] Request for comment - Videos release via DD Form 1910 - Navy was OCA

All,

As referenced earlier (below), I've been working the answers to a set of questions from John Greenwald from The Black Vault, concerning the 3 UAP videos that are out there and how they may have been released, etc.

Based on input from a great many of you, I've drafted a response to each of his questions, as contained in the attachment.

(b)(5)

I wish I could say that this will put the issue to rest... but I fully expect he (and others) will continue to send in questions.

For example, one set of questions that we are working is from Aerospace America Magazine... and a couple of their questions mirror closely Greenwald's questions.

I appreciate your help/patience/responses as we work each of these requests.

Warm Regards,

Joe

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

(b)(6)

**From:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA)

**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2019 10:39 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA) (b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6) (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] Request for comment - Videos release via DD Form 1910 - Navy was OCA

(b)(6) and All),

(b)(5)

Regards,

Joe

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

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Sunday, August 18, 2019 3:06 PM

**To:** Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Request for comment - Videos release via DD Form 1910 - Navy was OCA

Dear Mr. Gradisher,

I hope you recall our pleasant conversation a couple months ago. I appreciated your time on the phone. As a reminder, I work as

a television producer and writer in Los Angeles, and have reported quite a bit on the claims of "To the Stars Academy of Arts & Science", along with the U.S. Navy videos they released claiming they are UFOs/UAPs etc.

There is much controversy about what they label the FLIR1, Gimble and GoFast videos. In short, it has been determined that Mr. Luis Elizondo requested their release via a DD Form 1910, but only for USG use only, and not for publication. Now, through a recent FOIA release, a string of emails show Mr. Elizondo's communication with DOPSR. What I am seeking comment on, is the most chronologically recent email in the chain. I put a screen shot below for reference.

Mr. Luis Elizondo (GS-15, civilian) worded the DD Form 1910 request for USG use only and the videos were not to be published in any form to the public. However, through email, Mr. Elizondo said to broaden the request for usage to "unrestricted." Please look at DOPSR's Michael C. Russo's message below, in which he asked for the OCA (in this case, the Navy) to offer up their stance that if metadata was removed, the videos would be unclassified. If they did, unrestricted access would be granted by DOPSR. So, it relied on the Navy.

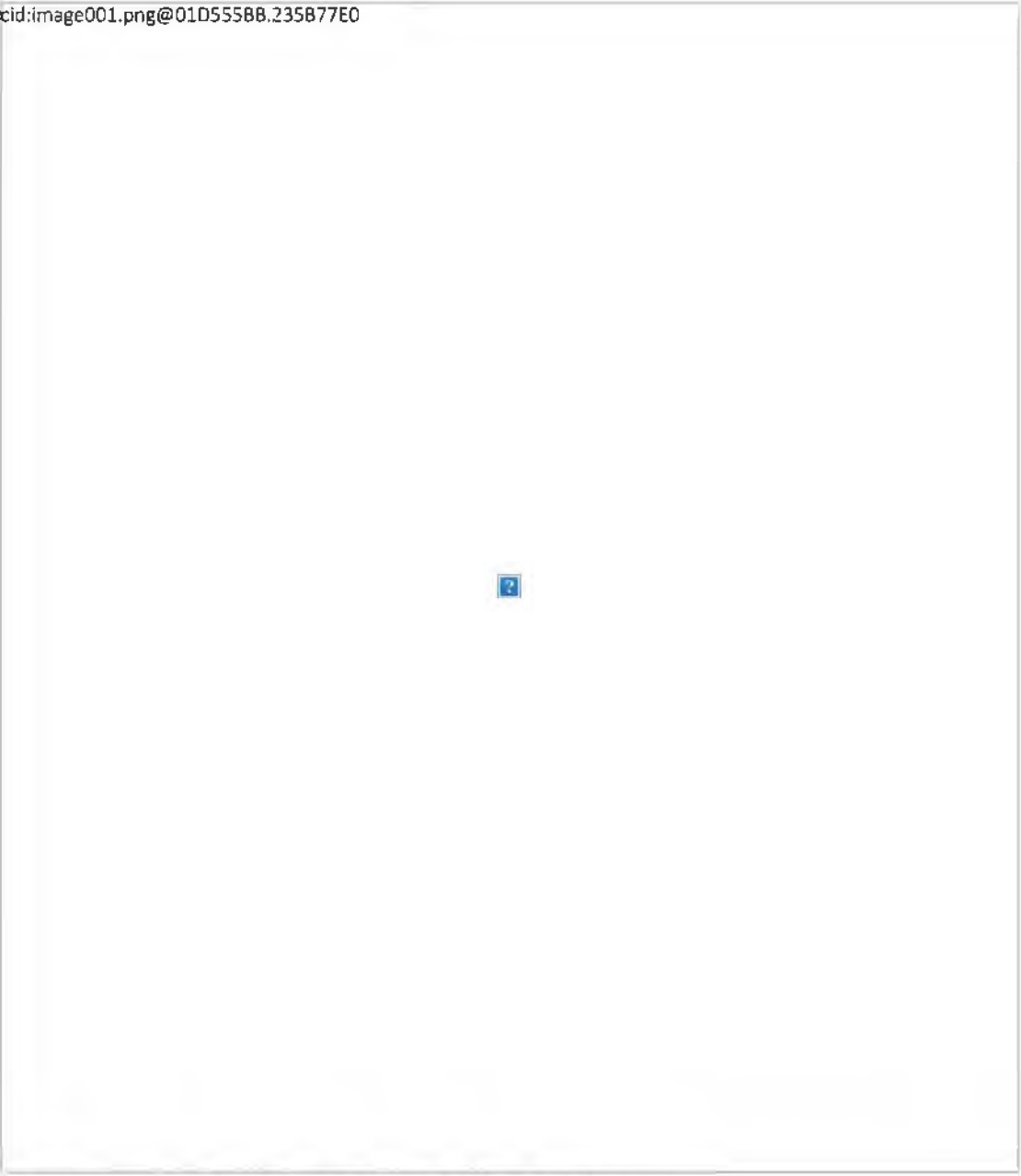
It appears by this FOIA request, that the Navy never communicated any verification. If they did, it was not released in this FOIA response. So, instead of operating off the assumption, I am seeking comment to the below questions, if possible. This is for a story this week, so I would appreciate any response you could give me as time permits.

- 1) Did the Navy respond to DOPSR's request to approve a "unrestricted" release authority to Mr. Elizondo in regards to these three videos? If so, does that email grant an unrestricted, PUBLIC, release for these videos?
- 2) Mr. Luis Elizondo described the videos on the DD Form 1910 as "UAV, Balloons and other UAS." In addition, Mr. Elizondo's emails describe the videos in generality, as "balloons, commercial UAVs, private drones such as quadcopters, etc). Does the Navy agree these are the proper identifiers to describe the referenced Flir1, Gimble and GoFast videos?
- 3) Mr. Elizondo, and To The Stars Academy of Arts & Science describe these three videos as UFOs or UAPs, and not with the same description as Mr. Elizondo on official paperwork. Can the Navy comment on the claims made by TTSA, that these videos represented as UFOs/UAPs by them, and the fact that they were described in a much different way on official documents?
- 4) I have a statement from OSD regarding the videos (which I will also put below for reference). I'd like to ask, since the Navy was the OCA for them, if you could comment as well. In question form, according to the U.S. Navy, were the videos labeled as FLIR1, Gimble and GoFast ever released to the public, or was the approval only for internal use?
- 5) If the answer to #4 is that the videos were not meant for public release, can you tell me the security classification of the videos at the time they were requested, and the security classification as it stands right now, if it has changed.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration. As I mentioned, time is of the essence, so anything you can provide me would be greatly appreciated.

## Reference Email from Michael C Russo:

cid:image001.png@01D5558B.235877E0



**Pentagon Statement about video release:**

cid:image002.png@01D555BC.ADBBB430

Sincerely,

**John Greenewald, Jr.**

**Owner/Founder**

**The Black Vault**

<http://www.theblackvault.com>

**Toll Free:** (800) 456-2228

**International:** 1 (818) 655-0474

**Fax:** (818) 659-7688

**Mailing Address:**

The Black Vault

27305 W. Live Oak Rd., Suite 1203

Castaic, CA 91384-4520

**From:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424 Grimm, John P CIV (US); Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** RE: reply -- RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 6:22:08 PM

---

Matt. Thanks for the TB and the string below. Right people at dia are looped in.

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
(www.blackberry.com)

---

**From:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 07, 2019, 5:56 PM  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424 Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US); (b)(6) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
(b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** reply -- RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Roger.

(b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424 will update this distro soon.

He checked on a few related issues today.

(b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424

##

---

**From:** (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 5:46 PM  
**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6) (b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
(b)(6); (b)(3):10 USC § 424  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

All,

I'm looping in my boss, (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 chief of Strategic Communications at the Agency, (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 our SES and Chief of OCC; and (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 our primary Media wrangler.

Sent with BlackBerry Work  
([www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com))

---

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Date:** Tuesday, May 07, 2019, 5:17 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (US)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

(b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//FOUO) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b)(6)

Luckily DIA was still at work.

The press should reach out to DIA at:

[DIA-PAO@dodis.mil](mailto:DIA-PAO@dodis.mil)

I have spoken to (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 (welcome to the fun (b)(6), (b)(3):10 USC § 424 in the PAO office and he will make sure that the appropriate folks at DIA handle any media requests and will ensure OUSD(I) is kept informed of DIA statements to the media.

Thanks!

Matt

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 5:03 PM

**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Tipton, Neill T SES

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Thank you, Matt!

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:59 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

~~CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b)(6)

I will reach out to DIA immediately, but I will probably not be able to get you a good answer until late tomorrow.

Matt

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

~~CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:17 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Thanks, (b)(6) The issue for us (b)(6) and I) is that when we answer, we're answering for all of DoD, for all of Elizondo's time in DoD, not just his time in OUSD(I). So while he may not have had any assigned responsibilities for these programs while in OUSD(I), if he did work on these programs

while assigned to a different DoD organization (e.g., DIA) previously to his time in OUSD(I), we have to confirm that -- or confirm that he didn't work on them at any time while assigned to DoD, whichever is true.

If anyone has a good POC for these programs at DIA, please let Chris and I know.

Regards,

(b)(6)

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 4:05 PM

**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

All,

Neill raises an important issue here—the Department may be putting itself in an awkward position of both contradicting previous “statements” (however they may have been misconstrued) and potential statements from Senator Reid, who has recently been active in the media and with his former colleagues on the Hill. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

As for other, more recent history, I am happy to discuss in person or in another venue/media.

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

---

**From:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 11:09 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

AATIP – “Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program” – name of the program initially created by Senators Reid and Inouye in 2008.

AAWSAP - “Advanced Aerospace Weapon System Application Program” – name of the contract that DIA executed and managed in accordance with the AATIP legislation.

To the questions that are being asked about Elizondo’s purported role in AATIP. As Tara has said for Garry and as I have said, Elizondo had no assigned responsibilities for this program. Elizondo worked for me from 2010 to early 2012. He worked for Garry for some years prior to his resignation from the government.

Of note and in the interest of absolute clarity:

I have seen one document that associates Elizondo with AATIP. It is a letter from Senator Reid’s office, dated 24 June 2009 that requested a security assessment. It had an attachment with a list of names of proposed ‘bigoted list of government personnel’. That list included Elizondo. That document was marked by Sen Reid’s office as containing information exempt from mandatory disclosure under FOIA, citing exemptions 1 and 5.

That letter from Senator Reid’s office pre-dates Elizondo being assigned to my office. At the time he was assigned to me, he brought with him no responsibilities for AATIP (and I was unaware of its existence).

That one document is the only written association of Elizondo with AATIP, it has nothing about who is ‘in charge’ of AATIP, and as we’ve said he had no responsibilities for the program while under my or Garry Reid’s oversight.

Thanks  
Neill

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:38 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

If the only evidence Elizondo can offer that he had any involvement in the AATIP is a misstatement by

Ms. White, I think that is a great indication that there's nothing to it.

But again, I don't know who can speak to his time outside of OUSDI. I cannot. All we can say is that he had zero when he worked for us. And Mr. Tipton has confirmed that as well for the time he worked for him.

You may just want to be honest with the reporter and point out that Ms. White was not quoted (the article only noted "she confirmed"), we do not know exactly what she said, but we can confirm that during his time in OUSDI he had no involvement in the AATIP.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 7, 2019 9:25 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

The reporter has a follow up question, he is asking DOD to confirm if he worked for/with AATIP (regardless of agency). He refers to the POLITICO article and Dana White's article. He called this morning as well, and said he may run his story today or tomorrow. And asked, can DOD confirm that he worked with the AATIP program at any point?

-----Begin-----

I got a response from Luis Elizondo's representative who said this:

**This ran in Politico in Dec 2017:**

"**Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White confirmed** to POLITICO that the program existed and was run by Elizondo. But she could not say how long he was in charge of it and declined to answer detailed questions about the office or its work, citing concerns about the closely held nature of the program."

So, Dana White, a Pentagon spokeswoman said Elizondo ran AATIP? But your recent statement to me said Elizondo had "no responsibilities" with AATIP?

I need to clear this up. Which statement is accurate?

Otherwise, I need to print that the Pentagon appears to have 100% changed it's story about Elizondo.

Thanks in advance for your response.

Steven Greenstreet

-----End-----

V/r,

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Monday, May 6, 2019 6:11 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** Re: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

We can only speak to his time in OUSDI. He had no AATIP responsibilities during his time here.

Never heard of the AAWSAP. Perhaps Neill's team has?

Thanks.

(b)(6)

iPhoned

On May 6, 2019, at 2:26 PM, (b)(6)

(b)(6) wrote:

(b)(6)

Seeking your help, the reporter came back with follow up questions.

Thank you! I need you to clarify this statement:

*Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI, up until the time he resigned effective 10/4/2017*

1) Does this mean Mr. Elizondo never had ANYTHING to do with AATIP at ANY time?

And my follow up question is this:

2) Did Mr. Elizondo work with the Advanced Aerospace Weapons Systems Application Program (AAWSAP)? And, if so, in what capacity?

Thank you, Chris!

Steven

V/r,

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon

direct:

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR:

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 4:37 PM

**To:** (b)(6) Cummings,  
Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Ma'am,

Thank you.

V/r,

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon

direct:

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)  
SIPR: [Redacted]  
[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 4:27 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T  
SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

I fear this will only increase suspicion and intrigue where none should exist. Believe it would be better to just state categorically:

Mr. Elizondo had no responsibilities with regard to the AATIP program while he worked in OUSDI, up until the time he resigned effective 10/4/2017.

Thanks,  
(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 3:18 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) Cummings,  
Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T  
SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

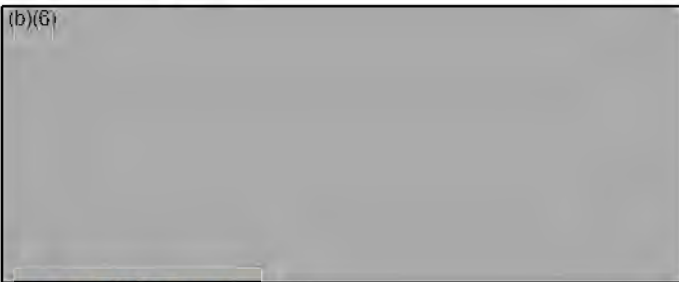
(b)(5)



If you approve, I'll provide the responses, or I can ask for more time to respond?

V/r,

(b)(6)



[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 1:45 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 1:33 PM

**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Mr. Cummings,

(b)(5)

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/12/16/pentagon-ufo-search-harry-reid-216111>

“Pentagon spokeswoman Dana White confirmed to POLITICO that the program existed and was run by Elizondo. But she could not say how long he was in charge of it and declined to answer detailed questions about the office or its work, citing concerns about the closely held nature of the program.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html>

I asked WHS for his employment dates. They provided that "at the time of Mr. Luis Elizondus' resignation, effective 10/4/2017, he was working for OUSD(I). His eOPF has been forwarded to the National Records Center."

V/r,

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon

(b)(6)

direct:

(b)(6)

mobile:

NIPR:

(b)(6)

SIPR:

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

---

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 10:22 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

**Thanks!**

**Matt**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 10:17 AM

**To:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T

SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Mr. Cummings,

Thank you.

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense

Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA)

(b)(6)

**Sent:** Friday, May 3, 2019 8:16 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

(b)(6) Tipton, Neill T  
SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: (U//~~FOUO~~) [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

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(b)(6)

(b)(6) is out until Monday. You may need to reach out to Navy PAO to see what they have said before. After further review, I have edited the answers for the part that C&SP can answer.

(b)(6)

Per your other e-mail chain with Neill, do you agree with the answer to #5?

(b)(6)

Can you help (b)(6) out with #2-4.

Thanks all!

Matt

(b)(5)

A large rectangular area of the document is completely redacted with a solid grey fill. The redaction covers the majority of the lower half of the page.

**Caution-**<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufu-harry-reid.html> < Caution-

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html> >

6. **What is the DoD's official stance on UFOs?** *The DoD is always concerned about maintaining positive identification of all aircraft in our operating environment as well as identifying any foreign capability that may be a threat to the homeland. DoD will continue to investigate, through normal procedures, reports of unidentified aircraft encountered by US military aviators in order to ensure defense of the homeland and protection against strategic surprise by our nation's adversaries.*

Matthew C. Cummings, DISL

(b)(6)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 9:30 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6) Cummings, Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Sir,

The reporter asked for a response by the end of this week.

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 30, 2019 8:27 AM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6) Cummings,  
Matthew C (Matt) SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
(b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

(b)(6)

We'll take a look. Is there a time urgency?  
Thanks  
Neill

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 2:31 PM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** FW: [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

Mr. Tipton,

Seeking your help with this media query from the New York Post. Attached are the latest talking points I could find, but they don't address his questions regarding Luis Elizondo.

V/r,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Office of the Secretary of Defense  
Public Affairs Operations-Pentagon (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

[www.defense.gov](http://www.defense.gov)

**From:** Steven Greenstreet (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 29, 2019 2:17 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] New York Post questions re: AATIP

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

(b)(6)

thanks for taking these questions. A response sometime this week would be

great.

**Did AATIP study unidentified flying objects (UFOs)?**

**Did Luis Elizondo work in the AATIP program?**

**Was Luis Elizondo the head of the AATIP program (in a leadership role)?**

**How long was Luis Elizondo employed by DoD/DIA/Pentagon/Etc?**

**Were the military UFO videos included in this NYTimes article OFFICIALLY released by the DoD or were they "leaked"?**

**Caution-**<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html> **< Caution-**  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/16/us/politics/pentagon-program-ufo-harry-reid.html> **>**

**What is the DoD's official stance on UFOs?**

Thanks!

Steven Greenstreet

**STEVEN GREENSTREET**

Senior Manager, Video Production and Series Development  
1211 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK, NY 10036

WORK: (b)(6) MOBILE: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**From:** [Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** (b)(6); (b)(6); [Garrity, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC \(USA\)](#); (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** RE: Restated Question(s): Elizondo and UAPs  
**Date:** Monday, June 10, 2019 4:11:45 PM

---

(b)(6)

(b)(5)

Thanks  
Neill

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

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Monday, June 10, 2019 2:49 PM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL (USA); (b)(6); (b)(6)  
(b)(6); [Garrity, John F III SES OSD OUSD INTEL \(USA\)](#); (b)(6)  
**Cc:** [Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC \(USA\)](#); (b)(6); (b)(6); (b)(3); 10 USC § 424  
**Subject:** Restated Question(s): Elizondo and UAPs

(b)(5)

Regards,

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** RE: Today's Contracts - 19 Aug 2020 (3 pages)  
**Date:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:53:35 PM

---

Yes, I pulled it on the one on the O: drive.

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:53 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Today's Contracts - 19 Aug 2020 (3 pages)

Gotcha. Standing by. Did you see (b)(6) note about the Navy contract that needs to be pulled?

\*\*\*\*\*

NAVFAC is requesting to pull the following Navy Contract Announcement today, August 19, 2020. Please confirm receipt:

MNDPI Pacific JV, Honolulu, Hawaii, is awarded a task order (N6274220F0339) as an undefinitized contract action with a total not-to-exceed value of \$14,000,000 under an indefinite-delivery indefinite-quantity contract for various structural and waterfront projects and other projects at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. All work will be performed in Honolulu, Hawaii, and is expected to be completed by July 2022. Fiscal 2020 military construction (planning and design) contract funds in the amount of \$14,000,000 are obligated on this award and will not expire at the end of the current fiscal year. The Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pacific, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, is the contracting activity (N62742-20-D-0004).

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
(b)(6)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** RE: Today's Contracts - 19 Aug 2020 (3 pages)

No, not yet, I was busy with the honor cordon...and more UAP queries...

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 4:49 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Today's Contracts - 19 Aug 2020 (3 pages)

Hey (b)(6) Did contracts come out? I missed them if they did.

---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 12:40 PM

**To:** (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** RE: Today's Contracts - 19 Aug 2020 (3 pages)

Good afternoon,  
Contracts are done for the day.

Thanks!

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Operations  
1400 Defense Pentagon, Room (b)(6)

Washington, DC 20301-1400

Office: (b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

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---

**From:** (b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 19, 2020 9:39 AM

**To:** (b)(6) (b)(6)

**Cc:** (b)(6)

**Subject:** Today's Contracts - 19 Aug 2020 (3 pages)

Good morning, (b)(6)

Initial review of the contracts are done. So far, nothing over \$1B today.

USSOCOM did not provide an award amount for their modification, so I sent an email asking them to send. Also, waiting for Army's final submission.

I'll monitor the box for updates/corrections. Thanks!

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

Public Affairs Operations  
1400 Defense Pentagon, Room (b)(6)  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Office: (b)(6)

DSN: (b)(6)

Fax: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

~~This e-mail contains FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO) information which must be protected under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and/or the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a). Unauthorized disclosure or misuse of this PERSONAL INFORMATION may result in disciplinary action, criminal and/or civil penalties. Further distribution is prohibited without the approval of the author of this message unless the recipient has a need to know in the performance of official duties. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete all copies of this message.~~

**From:**

(b)(6)

**Subject:**

Statement by the Department of Defense on the release of historical Navy videos

**Date:**

Monday, April 27, 2020 9:40:07 AM

---

Media colleagues,

The below statement is attributable to Ms. Sue Gough, Pentagon spokesperson.

The Department of Defense has authorized the release of three unclassified Navy videos, one taken in November 2004 and the other two in January 2015, which have been circulating in the public domain after unauthorized releases in 2007 and 2017. The U.S. Navy previously acknowledged that these videos circulating in the public domain were indeed Navy videos. After a thorough review, the department has determined that the authorized release of these unclassified videos does not reveal any sensitive capabilities or systems, and does not impinge on any subsequent investigations of military air space incursions by unidentified aerial phenomena. DOD is releasing the videos in order to clear up any misconceptions by the public on whether or not the footage that has been circulating was real, or whether or not there is more to the videos. The aerial phenomena observed in the videos remain characterized as "unidentified." The released videos can be found at the Naval Air Systems Command FOIA Reading Room: <https://www.navair.navy.mil/foia/documents>.

Regards,

Duty Officer

Defense Public Affairs Operations

**From:**  
**To:**

(b)(6)

**Cc:**

**Subject:**

Tuesday's Update -- August 18

**Date:**

Monday, August 17, 2020 5:45:18 PM

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Team --

(b)(5)

[Redacted content]

In the office Tuesday:

(b)(6)

[Redacted content]

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(b)(6)

CHANGE FROM ROSTER

(b)(6)

ISSUES we'll deal with on Tuesday:

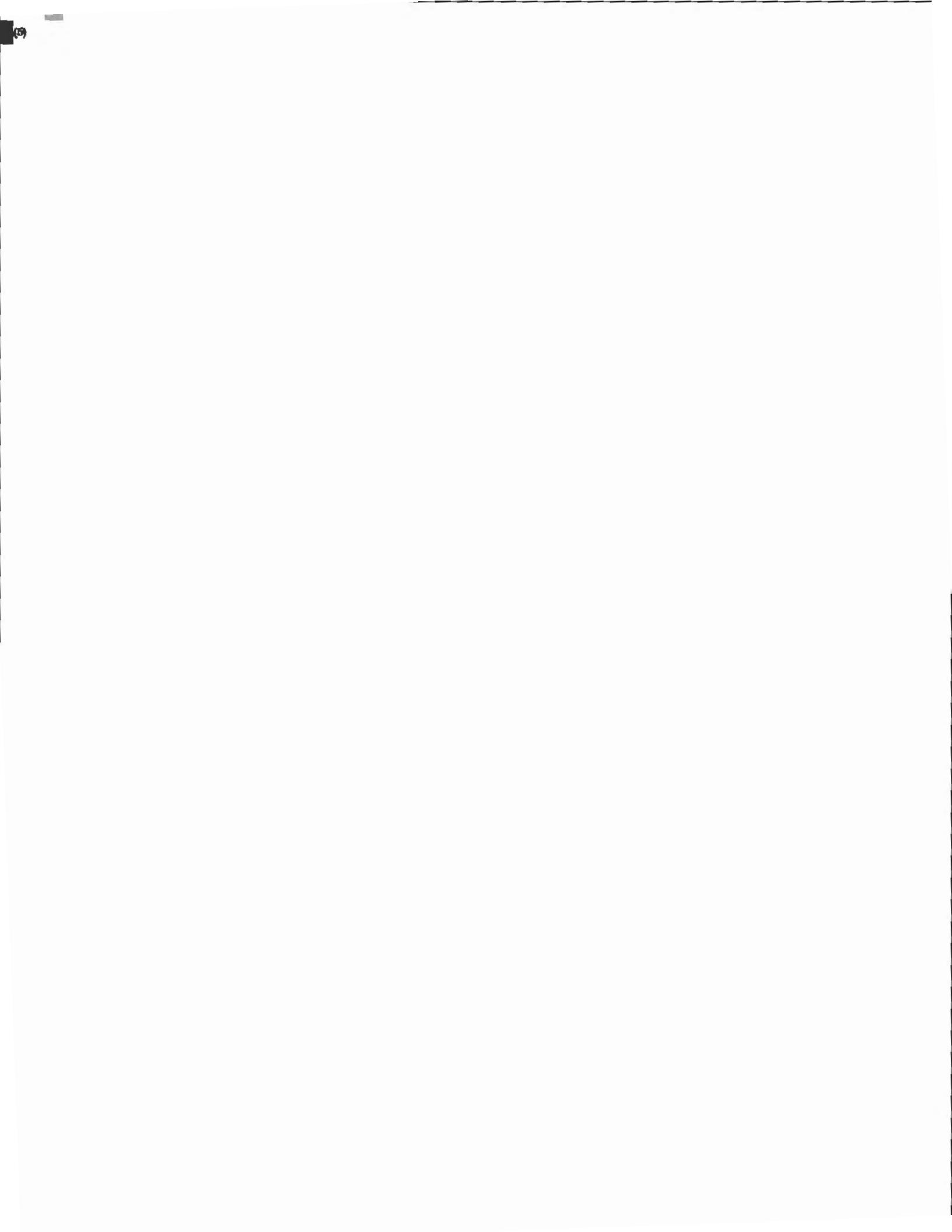
- Upcoming travel
- COVID #s
- Prep session updates and tough Qs updates for WED presser w/ ATSD-PA (Tentative)
- The usual -- surprises!

(b)(6)

**From:** (b)(6)  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** UAP/UAPTF Briefing Cards  
**Date:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 9:27:48 AM  
**Attachments:** (b)(5)

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The 27 Aug file is Navy/Joe Gradisher's card, that incorporates everything they were saying before we took over UAPs, as well as the UAPTF stuff, and the UAPTF card is mine from the UAPTF announcement.









(b)(5)



-usn-

Prepared by:  
Joseph F. Gradisher, Captain, USN (Ret)  
OPNAV N2N6 Public Affairs

(b)(6)

Coordinated with:

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