



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

Ref: 22-F-0953
August 23, 2023

Mr. John Greenewald Jr.
27305 W. Live Oak Road
Suite #1203
Castaic, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is a final response to your May 26, 2022 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on May 26, 2022, and assigned it FOIA case number 22-F-0953. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security, a component of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, conducted a review of their records systems and located 18 pages determined to be responsive to your request. Mr. Brian Kreitlow, Chief, Assessment, Capabilities, & Integration Division, in his capacity as an Initial Denial Authority, has determined that portions of the 18 responsive pages are exempt from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5), which pertains to inter- and intra-agency information of a pre-decisional, deliberative nature which, if released, could reasonably be expected to interfere with the government's deliberative process and (b)(6), as disclosure of the information 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, Hillary Maravilla, at 571-372-0418 or Hillary.e.maravilla.civ@mail.mil. 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 OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Toni Fuentes, at 571-372-0462, or by email at OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil. 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
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy Civil Liberties, and Transparency (PCLT), Office of the Secretary of Defense, at the following address: 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. If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference FOIA case number 22-F-0953 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, Hillary Maravilla, and reference FOIA case number 22-F-0953 if you have any questions or concerns.


Sincerely,

Stephen L. Fisher
For Stephanie L. Carr
Chief

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>

(b)(6)

From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Thursday, June 13, 2019 2:07 PM

To:

Carranza, Guillermo R SES OSD OGC (USA)

Cc:

Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)

Subject:

AATIP Elizondo & Mellon emails

Attachments:

FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP (7.25 MB); FW: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP (7.29 MB); FW: [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo (1.35 MB); RE: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP (1.40 MB); RE: former senior adviser to Secretary Mattis // + a former DASD(I) (8.03 KB)

(b)(5)

Regards,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (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
Attachments: AATIP 1.pdf; Reid_Letter_to_Lynn-1.pdf

(b)(6)

Do you know who is the OGC representative for OUSD(I)? (b)(5)
(b)(5)
(b)(5). Luis Elizondo is featured in a History Channel special for the next five weeks and this issue will continue to be in the public eye. I want to make sure we are not stepping out of our swim lane.

Thanks,
Chris

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: CHRIS MELLON [REDACTED]
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


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> >

(b)(6)

From: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (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
Attachments: AATIP 1.pdf; Reid_Letter_to_Lynn-1.pdf; RE: [Non-DoD Source] AATIP / Elizondo question (36.9 KB)

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

V/r,
Chris

Christopher Sherwood
Office of the Secretary of Defense
Pentagon

(b)(6) (b)(6)
direct (b)(6)
mobile: (b)(6)
NIPR: (b)(6)
SIPR: (b)(6)
www.defense.gov

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

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

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Sincerely,

~Christopher Mellon


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

(b)(6)

From: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 9:21 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo
Attachments: Lue_Elizond_Mission_Transfer_Documentation(2).pdf

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

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: Lue Abcde [REDACTED]
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

(b)(6)

From: Lue Abcde [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 1:03 PM
To: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)
Subject: Fw: [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Categories: Red Category

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.

Mr. Sherwood,
If it is at all helpful, below are a couple draft statements for your consideration should they be useful.

"Mr. Elizondo was an employee within the OUSDI and during this period he engaged in other duties as assigned including efforts involving AATIP"

Or...

"While assigned to OUSDI, Mr. Elizondo performed other duties as assigned involving AATIP. Those duties were conducted under the auspices of OSD rather than OUSDI specifically"

Regards,
Lue

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android < Caution-
https://go.onelink.me/107872968?pid=InProduct&c=Global_Internal_YGrowth_AndroidEmailSig__AndroidUsers&af_wl=ym&af_sub1=Internal&af_sub2=Global_YGrowth&af_sub3=EmailSignature >

----- Forwarded Mes [REDACTED]

From: "Lue Abcde" [REDACTED]

To: (b)(6)

Sent: Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 9:23 AM

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo

Thank you Mr. Sherwood for your response. For the sake of clarity, please be advised that the activities of AATIP never ended and the effort was never "disestablished". Although the initial funding for the effort may have terminated in 2012, the effort remained in tact. This too can be substantiated by many within the department and additional documentation.

Regarding the "semantics" of my duties...I will be satisfied with a simple statement that:

- 1) I was an OUSDI employee up until the point of my resignation
- 2) I performed other duties as assigned and managing AATIP being one of those duties.

If it is more palatable for those in OUSDI who have issue with me, it can further be clarified that I was performing those duties under the authorities of OSD, rather than OUSDI specifically.

Again, thank you for your time to this important matter. What is your estimated date of resolution regarding this matter? I am hoping for closure as soon as possible.

Regards,
Lue

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android < Caution-
https://go.onelink.me/107872968?pid=InProduct&c=Global_Internal_YGrowth_AndroidEmailSig__AndroidUsers&af_wl=ym&af_sub1=Internal&af_sub2=Global_YGrowth&af_sub3=EmailSignature >

On Thu, Jun 6, 2019 at 9:12 AM, Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)

(b)(6)

wrote:

Mr. Elizondo,

Thank you for the information, and what you have provided below. I am working with OUSD(I), the Navy and others to gain an accurate understanding of your duties after the ATTIP program ended. I believe it may be semantics on how to categorize your duties. I will keep you apprised of any additional statements or clarification of your duties while at OUSD(I).

Thank you again,

Chris

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)

From: Lue Abcd [REDACTED]
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Sincerely and respectfully,

Lue Elizondo

(b)(6)

From:
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject:

(b)(6)

Thursday, June 6, 2019 5:53 PM

Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)

(b)(6)

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

(b)(6)

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

From: (b)(6)

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

To: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)

Cc: (b)(6)

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

Chris,

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: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (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.

Christopher Sherwood

Office of the Secretary of Defense

(b)(6) Pentagon (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)

mobile: (b)(6)

NIPR: (b)(6)

SIPR: (b)(6)

www.defense.gov

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

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2019 4:41 PM
To: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: former senior adviser to Secretary Mattis

Chris,

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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Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Lue Elizondo/AATIP
Attachments: RE: Elizondo & Transfer of AATIP (29.6 KB); [Non-DoD Source] Substantiating documentation - Elizondo (1.34 MB)

Mr. Carranza,

(b)(5)

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

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Question (b)(5)

(b)(5)

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

V/r,
Chris

Christopher Sherwood
Office of the Secretary of Defense
(b)(6) Pentagon (b)(6)
direct (b)(6)
mobile (b)(6)
NIPR (b)(6)
SIPR:
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From: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)
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)

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

V/r,
Chris

Christopher Sherwood
Office of the Secretary of Defense
(b)(6) Pentagon, (b)(6)

direct: (b)(6)
mobile: (b)(6)
NIPR: (b)(6)
SIPR: (b)(6)
www.defense.gov

From: Sherwood, Christopher G CIV (USA)
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)

Do you know who is the OGC representative for OUSD(I)? (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6). Luis Elizondo is featured in a History Channel special for the next five weeks and this issue will continue to be in the public eye. I want to make sure we are not stepping out of our swim lane.

Thanks,
Chris

Christopher Sherwood
Office of the Secretary of Defense
(b)(6) 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/AAATP

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


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> >