



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

Ref: 22-F-1178
February 22, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This is a final response to your July 26, 2022, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on July 26, 2022, and assigned it FOIA case number 22-F-1178. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Washington Headquarters Service, Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review (DOPSR), a component of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, conducted a search of their records systems and located 10 pages determined to be responsive to your request. Mr. Paul Jacobsmeyer, DOPSR Deputy, in his capacity as an Initial Denial Authority, has determined that portions of the 10 responsive pages are exempt from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (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, Zachary Daniel, at zachary.j.daniel3.civ@mail.mil or 703-693-6489. 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-1178 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, Zachary Daniel, and reference FOIA case number 22-F-1178, if you have any questions or concerns.


Sincerely,

For Charles C. Marye
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>

McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA)

From: McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA)
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:27 PM
To: 'Luis Elizondo'
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] RE: DOPSR: Pre-Publication and Manuscripts Review 30 Sep 2020
Attachments: 20-SB-0149 Final Response - Signed.pdf; 20-SB-0149 First Page Stamped.pdf
Signed By: KELLY.A.MCHALE.CIV@MAIL.MIL

Mr. Elizondo,

I'm sorry you didn't receive the response. I sent it on Monday.

The screenplay titled "Alone" is cleared for public release. Attached is our final response letter and the first page of the screenplay with our clearance stamp. If you have any questions about this response, please let me know.

Thanks,

Kelly McHale
Security Review Specialist
Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review
Tel: 703.614.4903
<https://www.esd.whs.mil/DOPSR/>

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

From: Luis Elizondo [mailto:(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, December 3, 2020 12:15 PM
To: McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA) <kelly.a.mchale.civ@mail.mil>; McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA) <kelly.a.mchale.civ@mail.mil>; Jeff Springer <(b)(6)>
Cc: Luis Elizondo <(b)(6)>; Laura Bickford <(b)(6)>; Patricia Kennedy <(b)(6)>; Dan Farah <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] RE: DOPSR: Pre-Publication and Manuscripts Review 30 Sep 2020

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.

Greetings Ms. McHale,

I hope you had a pleasant Thanksgiving holiday.

It was brought to my attention that DOPSR has completed it's review of the draft script; however, I never received confirmation or the adjudication of the review. From my understanding, it was sent to me, yet I never received it? I also looked in my Spam folder in the event it was inadvertently sent there.

May I bother you to send me the final adjudication please?

Sorry for any inconveniences.

Best 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 Tue, Nov 3, 2020 at 2:26 PM, McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA)
<kelly.a.mchale.civ@mail.mil> wrote:

Mr. Springer,

I understand the timeline you are on. I'm estimating that we'll have the screenplay completed by the end of November.

Thanks,

Kelly McHale

Security Review Specialist

Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review

Tel: 703.614.4903

How am I doing? Let me know at Caution-https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=139133&s=110&dep=*DoD

From: Jeff Springer <(b)(6)>

Sent: Friday, October 30, 2020 8:20 PM

To: McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA) <kelly.a.mchale.civ@mail.mil>

Cc: Luis Elizondo <(b)(6)>; Laura Bickford <(b)(6)>; Patricia Kennedy

<(b)(6)>

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] RE: DOPSR: Pre-Publication and Manuscripts Review 30 Sep 2020

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.

Dear Ms. McHale:

Thank you very much for your October 20 email. We completely understand that COVID-19 has made everything more difficult and time-consuming, and we appreciate that you're dealing with a large volume of material.

Unfortunately our client is in a position where forward progress on the film project is stopped until the review is completed. If by now you might have a better idea of the estimated timeframe for completion, we would really appreciate an update.

Thanks again for your service, and we hope to hear from you shortly.

Kind regards,

Jeff Springer

Jeff Springer, Esq.

Lichter, Grossman, Nichols, Adler, Feldman & Clark, Inc.

Attorneys at Law

9200 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 1200

West Hollywood, CA 90069

WORKING REMOTELY – TO SET UP A CALL, PLEASE EMAIL ME

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From: McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA) <kelly.a.mchale.civ@mail.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 10:20 AM
To: Jeff Springer <(b)(6)>
Cc: Luis Elizondo <(b)(6)>
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] RE: DOPSR: Pre-Publication and Manuscripts Review 30 Sep 2020

Mr. Springer,

Mr. Elizondo has been provided with an acknowledgment that the screenplay was received. Currently, manuscripts/screenplays are taking several months to complete. This is due to the high volume of submissions and COVID-related delays. We are doing our best to complete reviews in a timely manner but we cannot provide a definitive completion date at this time.

Thank you,

Kelly McHale

Security Review Specialist

Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review

Tel: 703.614.4903

How am I doing? Let me know at https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=139133&s=110&dep=*DoD < Caution-Caution-
https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=card&sp=139133&s=110&dep=*DoD >

From: Jeff Springer <(b)(6)> < Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> >
Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 6:54 PM
To: WHS Pentagon ESD Mailbox SECREV <whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil < Caution-Caution-
mailto:whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil > >
Cc: Luis Elizondo <(b)(6)> < Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> >; Laura
Bickford <(b)(6)> < Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> >; Patricia Kennedy
<(b)(6)> < Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> >
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: DOPSR: Pre-Publication and Manuscripts Review 30 Sep 2020

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.

Greetings Sir/Ma'am,

This law firm represents Luis D. Elizondo, former Director of the DoD's Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP).

I'm writing to follow up on the DOPSR review request our client made to this office on September 30, 2020, (copy below) with respect to the attached screenplay. Although our client is confident that the screenplay contains no classified information, our national security is of paramount importance, and we would greatly appreciate DOPSR confirmation that nothing in the screenplay would inadvertently pose a security risk.

We understand that reviews of this type typically take 10 - 15 working days, and 7 working days have now elapsed since the submission was made. Could you please acknowledge receipt of the screenplay on September 30 and confirm that the review will be completed no later than 15 working days from receipt?

Of course, we expect that COVID-19 has placed a strain on the DOPSR process in the same way it has affected other areas of life and are sympathetic to its impact. Due to the fast-paced nature of the film business, however, we'd greatly appreciate anything you could do to expedite the process.

Mr. Elizondo has followed up by email and by phone already but has not yet received a response. We hope to hear from you shortly so that escalation to the Washington Headquarters Services (what I understand to be the next step) is not required. Thank you for your service!

Kind regards,

Jeff Springer

Jeff Springer, Esq.

Lichter, Grossman, Nichols, Adler, Feldman & Clark, Inc.

Attorneys at Law

9200 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 1200

West Hollywood, CA 90069

Cell Phone: (b)(6)

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From: Luis Elizondo <(b)(6)> < Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)>
< Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> %3c Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)>
>>>

Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 7:21 AM

To: whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil < Caution-Caution-mailto:whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil >
< Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil >
<whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil < Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil <
Caution-Caution-mailto:whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil %3c Caution-Caution-Caution-
mailto:whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil >>>

Cc: Jeff Springer <(b)(6)> < Caution-Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> < Caution-
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Caution-Caution-mailto:(b)(6)> >>>

Subject: AATN DOPSR: Pre-Publication and Manuscripts Review 30 Sep 2020

Greetings Sir/Ma'am,

Per DoDI 5230.09, and DoDI 5230.29, attached is a partially fictionalized screenplay based on real individuals that were associated/affiliated with the Department of Defense and its activities/efforts. Specifically, one character, Mr. Luis Elizondo, is based after me (Luis D. Elizondo) who was the former Director of the Advanced Aerospace Threat

Identification Program (AATIP). This screenplay is based on a book by author, Ms. Lesley Keane, and not written by me, but because it uses my name and likeness, this review is being requested.

I have carefully and thoroughly reviewed the draft screenplay to ensure there is no inadvertent disclosure of classified/sensitive information. At no time, are real names, dates, or places used that could compromise ongoing operational activities by the Department, nor is any information revealed that could constitute a compromise of sources & methods, OPSEC, PERSEC, or INFOSEC.

I respectfully request a DOPSR review be conducted to ensure DoD concurs with this assessment prior to its broader distribution to studios/networks. Should a discrepancy be identified by your office, please specify which portion of the script requires our attention and remedy.

Lastly, if expedited service can be afforded, it would be greatly appreciated. We understand the limitations COVID-19 has placed on the DOPSR process and are sympathetic to its impact. Thank you for your service!

Sincerely,

Luis Elizondo

(b)(6)

CLEARED
For Open Publication

Nov 30, 2020

12
Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

ALONE

DRAFT DATED JANUARY 13, 2020

CURRENT DRAFT BY BRYCE KASS

A fictionalized screenplay based on

UFOs: Generals, Pilots and Government Officials Go On the Record,

a New York Times best seller by Leslie Kean

Cherry Pix, LLC
c/o Lichter, Grossman, Nichols, Adler, Feldman & Clark, Inc.
9200 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 1200
Los Angeles, California 90069
Attention: Jeff Springer, Esq.
Email: (b)(6)

McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA)

From: McHale, Kelly A CIV WHS ESD (USA)
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:03 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: DOPSR Case 20-SB-0149 - Screenplay Review

Dear Mr. Elizondo,

This email is to confirm the Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review (DOPSR) has commenced prepublication review of your screenplay "Alone", received on September 30, 2020. DOPSR will conduct a security review for classified information, controlled unclassified information, operational security related information, and a policy review to ensure accurate statements of DoD Policy. I am the assigned action officer and the manuscript is assigned case number 20-SB-0149.

Manuscript/screenplay reviews are averaging several months, and have been severely hampered by the current Pandemic mitigation measures that have affected the Department. DOPSR is currently on part-time telework and has reduced capabilities to complete manuscript/screenplay reviews efficiently. Other factors affecting review times are the complexity of the subject matter, the volume of information, and the number of components with equity in the manuscript/screenplay. DOPSR continues to strive to complete reviews in as timely a manner as possible.

DOPSR does not accommodate publishers' timelines, therefore, we recommend that you do not sign a contract with a publishing company, or provide copies of the manuscript/screenplay to a publisher or other individuals until the review is complete.

The DoD seal and seals of the Military Departments are protected by trademark restrictions: the DoD seal and the seals of the Military Departments can only be used for official purposes. Other DoD insignia, emblems, ribbons, and medals are protected under trademark licensing laws and require permission prior to use. See DoD Instruction 5535.12, "DoD Branding and Trademark Licensing Program Implementation," Section 2.d. Guidance on obtaining permission to use DoD insignia can be found at: www.defense.gov/Resources/Trademarks/Trademarks/.

If you have not done so already, please provide any photos, exhibits, tables, appendices, or any other material intended for use in your manuscript/screenplay. These materials should be emailed to our office inbox at: whs.pentagon.esd.mbx.secrev@mail.mil, and should reference the case number above.

Please direct any questions regarding this case to me at the contact information below.

Sincerely,

Kelly McHale
Security Review Specialist
Defense Office of Prepublication and Security Review
Tel: 703.614.4903
<https://www.esd.whs.mil/DOPSR/>



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEFENSE OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

November 30, 2020
Ref: 20-SB-0149

Mr. Luis Elizondo

(b)(6)

Dear Mr. Elizondo:

This is in response to your September 30, 2020, email requesting public release clearance of the screenplay titled, "Alone." The screenplay submitted for prepublication security review is **CLEARED** for public release. This clearance does not include any photograph, picture, exhibit, caption, or other supplemental material not specifically approved by this office, nor does this clearance imply Department of Defense endorsement or factual accuracy of the material.

A copy of the first page of the screenplay with our clearance stamp is enclosed. Please direct any questions regarding this case to Kelly McHale at kelly.a.mchale.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

for MCHALE.KELLY
.A. (b)(6)

Digitally signed by
MCHALE.KELLY.A. (b)(6)
Date: 2020.11.30 16:24:31
-05'00'

George R. Sturgis, Jr.
Chief

Enclosure(s):
As stated