



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

Ref: 22-F-1364
June 6, 2023

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 September 21, 2022 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on September 21, 2022, and assigned it FOIA case number 22-F-1364. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security, 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 Plescow, Chief of Staff, 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)(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. 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, Raymond Hartwick, at raymond.j.hartwick.civ@mail.mil or 571-372-0432. 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-1364 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, Raymond Hartwick, and reference FOIA case number 22-F-1364, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Stephen L. Fisher

Stephanie L. Carr
For 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>

Office Goals, Progress: 2022

BUILD THE OFFICE

July - December

build experienced, driven, diverse workforce

with intelligence, operational, scientific, technical, and enterprise management expertise for establishing authoritative conclusions and for leading multi-faceted, cross-sector Col

cultivate partnership array

to codify stakeholders' UAP information needs, secure buy-in from data owners, implement collection and analytic standardization, and sync stakeholders' UAP response

establish base technologies and facilities infrastructure

to ingest, store, curate, analyze requirements, data, analyses from across the intelligence disciplines and DoD operations reporting channels

DEVELOP THE MISSION

September - December

develop integrated intelligence, science and technology, operations/response plans

for driving analytic and collection coherence across the Defense Intelligence Enterprise and for reliably informing DoD operations and IC functional management

craft iterative messaging and strategic-communications plan

for optimized shared awareness and collaboration between and among USG mission, enabling, and oversight elements, academia and industry partners, and the American public

develop streamlined, expanded, multi-faceted data integration plan

to resolve practical and perceived technical, procedural, legal, policy, oversight, and compliance barriers to ingesting, storing, and using UAP data from across multiple sectors, classifications

EXECUTE THE MISSION

October - March

identify opportunities for multi-INT reporting, data fusion, complex analyses

to efficiently develop multi-source data, adhering to intelligence tradecraft and scientific method standards and elevate UAP intelligence and scientific confidence-levels for warfighter and policymaker decisionmaking

analyze operations/response plans, recommend opportunities for improved effectiveness coherence

to strengthen unity of effort and consistency of practice across military and other stakeholders (e.g. combat air patrol responses, counterintelligence investigations)

normalize oversight practices with active, routinized, and productive engagements

to optimize alignment between AARO and its Senior Advisory Group, Executive Committee, stakeholders, and Executive and legislative oversight elements

Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for
Intelligence and Security



ALL-DOMAIN ANOMALY RESOLUTION OFFICE

The Defense Department's UAP Mission

Seán Kirkpatrick, Ph.D.

Director



AARO is a uniquely-capable, Defense Department & Intelligence Community organization that integrates **operational, scientific, and intelligence** capabilities to resolve UAP.



our mission

minimize technical and intelligence surprise and reduce operational risks, by synchronizing scientific, intelligence, and operational detection, identification, attribution, and mitigation of unidentified, anomalous objects in the vicinity of national security areas

our vision

unidentified, anomalous objects are effectively and efficiently detected, tracked, analyzed, and managed by way of normalized DoD, IC, and civil business practices; by adherence to the highest scientific and intelligence-trade-craft standards; and with greater transparency and shared awareness

Operational, Scientific, and Intelligence Capabilities

- Physical, technical, behavioral, and contextual **characteristics** of phenomena, their composition, and their movement
- **Capabilities, limitations, and vulnerabilities** of phenomena and any assessed technological gap between phenomena and the United States
- Indications and characteristics of **hazards, risks and/or threats** by phenomena to the United States, its people, its equities, and/or its instruments of national power
- **Attribution** of phenomena to natural and/or artificial sources
- Indications of **foreign observation** of and reaction to phenomena
- The **disposition** of observed phenomena



The potentially **ubiquitous presence** of UAP defines the national-security implications and drives the **broad range of stakeholders** and demand for rigorous **scientific understanding** of and intelligence on phenomena

US Territory & Operating Areas

- DoD observations and reporting of UAP most often in the vicinity of US military facilities and operating areas
- Threats to the immediate safety of US citizens and Government facilities, across domains, is priority
- Safety and security risks of UAP heighten US Government awareness and drives research and mitigation efforts

US Strategic Capabilities

- Reporting on UAP proximity to strategic capabilities and critical infrastructure primarily historical; analysis limited by information currency and source reliability
- Consequence of UAP in the vicinity of strategic capabilities is high, potentially threatening strategic deterrence and safety of civil society
- DoD strengthening observations and reporting capabilities near US strategic capabilities and critical infrastructure

Foreign Territory & Operating Areas

- Reporting on UAP activity in foreign territory or operating areas limited by source reliability
- Consequence of such moderate-to-high, potentially leading to adversarial misattribution of UAP to the United States
- Allies and strategic competitors apply resources to observe, identify, and attribute UAP [\(open source\)](#)

Key partners and stakeholders include DoD, IC, DoJ, NASA, FAA

Key partners and stakeholders include DoD, IC, DoE and NNSA, DoJ, DHS

Key partners and stakeholders include DoD, IC, STATE, international partners

AARO leads integration of the Department's UAP **operations, research, analyses,** and **strategic-communications** to deliver exquisite data, advanced sensors, sound analytics, and shared mission awareness and ownership



synchronizing and sequencing Theater, IC, and other capabilities for optimized, cross-functional UAP detection, tracking, mitigation, and recovery

Integrated Operations

TARGET

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revealing and exploiting elusive and enigmatic signatures through advanced technologies and focused, cross-sector partnerships

SGT Research & Application



delivering peer-reviewed conclusions through deliberate syntheses of scientific and intelligence method, tradecraft, tools, and expertise

Integrated Analyses



driving shared awareness across mission partners, oversight authorities, and stakeholders—normalizing cross-sector partnerships and building trust with transparency

Strategic Communications



Our mission success and our ability to contribute to domain safety and national security depends on observations and insights from across sectors



Educate

The subject of UAP is laden with decades of imprecise—and often sensational—information

Promulgating accurate information about UAP, their implications to domain safety and national security, and our commitment to resolving them is foundational to our partnership with communities.

Sharing what UAP data is critically-important for scientific and intelligence analyses allows aviators and crews to optimize the value of their observations and reporting of phenomena

Encourage Reporting

Historically, reticence to UAP reporting has limited the Government's ability to guard against safety and security threats

Destigmatizing discussion *about* and reporting *of* UAP is essential for tracking, resolving, and defending against such phenomena

Government efforts to encourage military aviators and crews to report phenomena have substantially increased the quantity and quality of UAP data

Leverage Our Expertise & Systems

Persons informed about UAP and willing to report have historically had few official channels to submit observational data

We are working with military, civil, and industry partners to develop and field reporting mechanisms available across sectors

By leveraging our systems, we will be able to quickly incorporate reporting into the corpus of data, to optimize scientific and intelligence analyses, and to provide feedback to the reporting individual and/or organization

What kind of information would be necessary and sufficient for UAP analyses?



about the phenomenon

- UAP-event description or narrative
- UAP location relative to the observer, with as much precision as practicable
- Number of UAP-objects observed during the phenomenon and indications of intra UAP-object coordination and/or communication
- Indications of advanced and/or enigmatic capabilities
- UAP characteristics, including physical state (e.g., solid, liquid, gas, plasma); description (e.g., size, shape, color); signatures; propulsion means; payload
- UAP performance envelope, including altitude and/or depth; travel path and trajectory; velocity; maneuverability
- UAP behavior, including whether under apparent intelligent control, apparent response to observation and/or observer presence, and apparent indications of indifference or hostility

about the observer

- Observer's date, time, location, and travel path for first and last observation of the UAP, with as much precision as practicable
- Observer's behavior toward the UAP
- Sensors that detected the phenomenon (e.g., visual, radar)
- Any physiological, psychological, or other effects apparently corresponding to the UAP observation
- Observer's assessment of the UAP, including the nature of the phenomenon and whether it was benign, a hazard, or a threat
- Identification of any other observers

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