



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

Ref: 22-F-1322
DODOIG-2022-001027
April 2, 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 June 29, 2022 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Defense Office of Inspector General (DODOIG), a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on September 9, 2022, from the DODOIG along with two pages responsive to your request, and assigned it FOIA case number 22-F-1322. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The DODOIG located the document, totaling two pages, determined to be responsive to your FOIA 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 the two pages and it has been determined that this document is appropriate for release in its entirety, without excision.

This constitutes a full grant of your request and closes your case file in this office. There are no assessable fees associated with this response.

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

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 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.

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



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INTELLIGENCE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
5000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-5000

INFO MEMO

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: Garry Reid, Director for Defense Intelligence, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence

SUBJECT: (U) Update on Media Reporting Related to the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program (AATIP) and Actions of Former DoD Employee Luis Elizondo

(U//~~FOUO~~) **BLUF:** This memorandum summarizes recent media interest in the AATIP, which has been accentuated by the public statements of former DoD employee Luis Elizondo, who has aggrandized his role in the program. We are collecting facts regarding Mr. Elizondo's actual role in the AATIP, reviewing the program's history with DIA, Navy, and Air Force, and pursuing options to investigate Mr. Elizondo's possible mishandling of sensitive information.

- (U//~~FOUO~~) Mr. Elizondo was assigned to OUSDI from September 28, 2008 to October 4, 2017. He served as an action officer in Partner Engagement, and subsequently as a branch chief managing classified information to support the Office of Military Commissions. To the best of my knowledge, he had no job responsibilities related to the AATIP. The AATIP was terminated in 2012. An information paper on the program is at Tab A.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On October 3, 2017, Mr. Elizondo submitted a resignation letter (Tab B) requesting immediate termination of his employment. He was cleared out of USDI the next day. He provided no reason for the sudden departure.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On or about October 4, after Mr. Elizondo had departed the organization, a second resignation letter (Tab C) was delivered to the USDI Chief of Staff office. In this letter, which is formatted as a "Memorandum for Record" but uses the salutation "Mr. Secretary," Mr. Elizondo cites concerns over anomalous aerospace threats as the basis for his resignation. Given the uncertain provenance of the second letter, OUSDI retained a copy but did not provide it to the SecDef office.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) In a phone call on October 5, when asked about the second letter, Mr. Elizondo told me that for many years he had been secretly tasked by the Secretary of Defense as the program manager for investigating UFOs and other aerial threats. He said nobody in USDI was cleared for this program and would not discuss it further. I discussed his claims with senior officials who would likely have known of such an arrangement, but was unable to substantiate them.

~~Classified by: rb17411~~

~~Derived from: Multiple Sources~~

~~Declassify on: 2042120~~

- (U//~~FOUO~~) On October 12, I learned of a video featuring Mr. Elizondo that was posted on YouTube by the “To the Stars Academy for Arts and Sciences,” which appears to be his current employer. He asserts “for nearly the last decade I ran a sensitive Aerospace Threat Identification Program focusing on unidentified aerial technologies,” and later says “we are (also) planning to provide never before released footage from real US government systems.”
- (U//~~FOUO~~) Following discovery of the YouTube video, I requested an informal review of Mr. Elizondo’s conduct by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI), which is responsible for providing investigative support to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), including investigation of assigned personnel. In late November AFOSI advised that absent more tangible indicators of possible misconduct they did not have enough information to open a case on Mr. Elizondo.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On December 7, DoD was contacted by the New York Times (NYT) seeking information regarding the AATIP and noting that Mr. Elizondo’s recent resignation was submitted “to protest what he characterized as internal opposition and lack of resources for continued research.”
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On December 15, based on information contained in the NYT inquiry, I notified the OUSDI Security Officer that Mr. Elizondo may have misused government systems and may intend to release USG footage or information that he obtained during his employment with OUSD (I).
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On December 17, Mr. Elizondo appeared on national news programs providing commentary on a video that appears to be camera footage taken by a US military aircraft showing what he claims is an unidentified flying object. In the TV interview, Mr. Elizondo affirms his alleged role in leading the AATIP program and says “we are not alone...”
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On December 18, OUSDI located a classified email generated by Mr. Elizondo in August 2017, in which he requested assistance from a Navy civilian employee to declassify one or more videos. The video attached to the email is the same footage broadcast on national news on December 17. The email chain is incomplete, so we have yet to determine if the video was properly declassified, what process was followed, and how it ended up in the possession of the national media. We continue to research these email transactions.
- (U//~~FOUO~~) On December 21, I met with AFOSI agents to initiate a formal inquiry into Mr. Elizondo’s possible mishandling of classified materials.

Attachments:
As stated