



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

Ref: 21-F-1154  
May 13, 2024

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

Dear Mr. Greenwald:

This is a final response to your June 17, 2021 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on June 21, 2021, and assigned it FOIA case number 21-F-1154. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence & Security (OUSDI&S)), a component of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, conducted a search of their records systems and located two pages determined to be responsive to your request. The OUSDI&S Initial Denial Authority has determined that portions of the responsive pages are exempt from release, including one page withheld in its entirety. The redacted/withheld information is 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; and (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, Jasmine Anderson, at [jasmine.j.anderson.civ@mail.mil](mailto:jasmine.j.anderson.civ@mail.mil) or 571-372-0420. 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](mailto: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](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 21-F-1154 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, Jasmine Anderson, and reference FOIA case number 21-F-1154, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*For Charles C. Marye*  
Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief

Enclosures:  
As stated

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**From:** Elizondo, Luis D CIV (US) <(b)(6)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 8:30 AM  
**To:** Tipton, Neill T SES OSD OUSD INTEL & SEC (USA)  
**Cc:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** Re: DRAFT DepSECDEF letter (UNCLASSIFIED)

Perfecto!

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

**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 DepSECDEF letter (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 DepSECDEF letter (UNCLASSIFIED)

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

Greetings Neil,

Per SECDEF's Front Office guidance to you and me, I took the liberty of drafting a memo at the Unclassified level that (b)(5) At your convenience, please review (it's very short on purpose) and let me know if you want me to put more meet on it. (b)(6) same with you please...No pride in authorship, just want to make sure we answer the mail for the front office.

Standing by...

V/R  
Lue

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED  
CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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