



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE/JOINT STAFF
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155

Ref: 24-F-0968
September 5, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is a final response to your March 19, 2024 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. The Office of the Secretary of Defense/Joint Staff (OSD/JS) FOIA Requester Service Center received your request on March 19, 2024, and assigned it FOIA case number 24-F-0968. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

After review of your request, it has been determined that the fact of the existence or nonexistence of records which would reveal a connection or interest in the matters relating to records compiled for law enforcement purposes, and matters relating to private individuals set forth in your request 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;
- (b)(6), information which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of individuals;
- (b)(7)(A), which authorizes the withholding of "records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that production of such law enforcement records or information... could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings";
- (b)(7)(C), law enforcement records or information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7)(D), which could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source.

Please note that we have considered the foreseeable harm standard when 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 request.

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, Rose Cartwright, at rose.m.cartwright3.civ@mail.mil or 571-372-0413. 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, Virginia Burke, by email at osd.mc-alex.oatsd-pclt.mbx.foia-liaison@mail.mil or by phone at 571-372-0462. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration. 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, Mr. Michael Kremlacek, Acting Principal Deputy to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency (PCLT), Office of the Secretary of Defense, at: 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 24-F-0968 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, Rose Cartwright, and reference FOIA case number 24-F-0968, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

For Charles C. Marye

Pamela Andrews
Chief, FOIA

Enclosure:
As stated