



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

Ref: 25-F-3260  
September 19, 2025

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

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is a final response to your May 19, 2025 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 May 20, 2025, and assigned it FOIA case number 25-F-3260. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

A component of OSD conducted a search of their records systems and located documents determined to be responsive to your request. The IDA, in their capacity as an Initial Denial Authority, has determined that the documents are withheld in their entirety 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)(7)(A), which could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings; (b)(7)(B), which would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication; (b)(7)(C), law enforcement records or information that could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; (b)(7)(E), which would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of law. 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.

Your request has been closed in this office. 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, Amy Steinfadt, at [amy.r.steinfadt.civ@mail.mil](mailto:amy.r.steinfadt.civ@mail.mil) or 571-372-4033. 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](mailto: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 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](mailto: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](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 25-F-3260 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, Amy Steinfadt, and reference FOIA case number 25-F-3260, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Stephen L. Fisher*  
Pamela Andrews  
*For* Chief, FOIA

Enclosure:  
As stated