



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

Case: 102240
25 August 2026

JOHN GREENEWALD
27305 W LIVE OAK RD
STE 1203
CASTAIC CA 91384-4520

Dear John Greenewald:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated 6 August 2017 for a copy of the NSA Technical Journal article, 'Maybe It's Related to the Phase of the Moon' published in Fall 1972. A copy of your request is enclosed. Your request has been processed under the FOIA and the document you requested is enclosed. Certain information, however, has been protected in the enclosures.

This Agency is authorized by various statutes to protect certain information concerning its activities. We have determined that such information exists in this document. Accordingly, those portions are exempt from disclosure pursuant to the third exemption of the FOIA which provides for the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The specific statute applicable in this case is Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605).

Please be advised that the Agency reasonably foresees that disclosure of the withheld information would be harmful to an interest that is protected by the identified exemption.

Since these withholdings may be construed as a partial denial of your request, you are hereby advised of this Agency's appeal procedures.

If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below. NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving any appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

- ξ The appeal must be sent via U.S. postal mail, fax, or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132)
National Security Agency
9800 Savage Road STE 6932
Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

The facsimile number is 443-479-3612.

The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is
FOIA_PA_Appeals@nsa.gov.

- ξ It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- ξ Include the case number provided above.
- ξ Describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of the requested information was unwarranted.

You may 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:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Rd. - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
ogis@nara.gov
877-684-6448
202-741-5769 (Fax)

You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison at foialo@nsa.gov for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request.

Sincerely,



SALLY A. NICHOLSON
Chief, FOIA/PA Division
NSA Initial Denial Authority

Encls:
a/s

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>**

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"Maybe It's Related to the Phase of the Moon..."

BY HERBERT S. GUY, Jr.

Secret Spoke

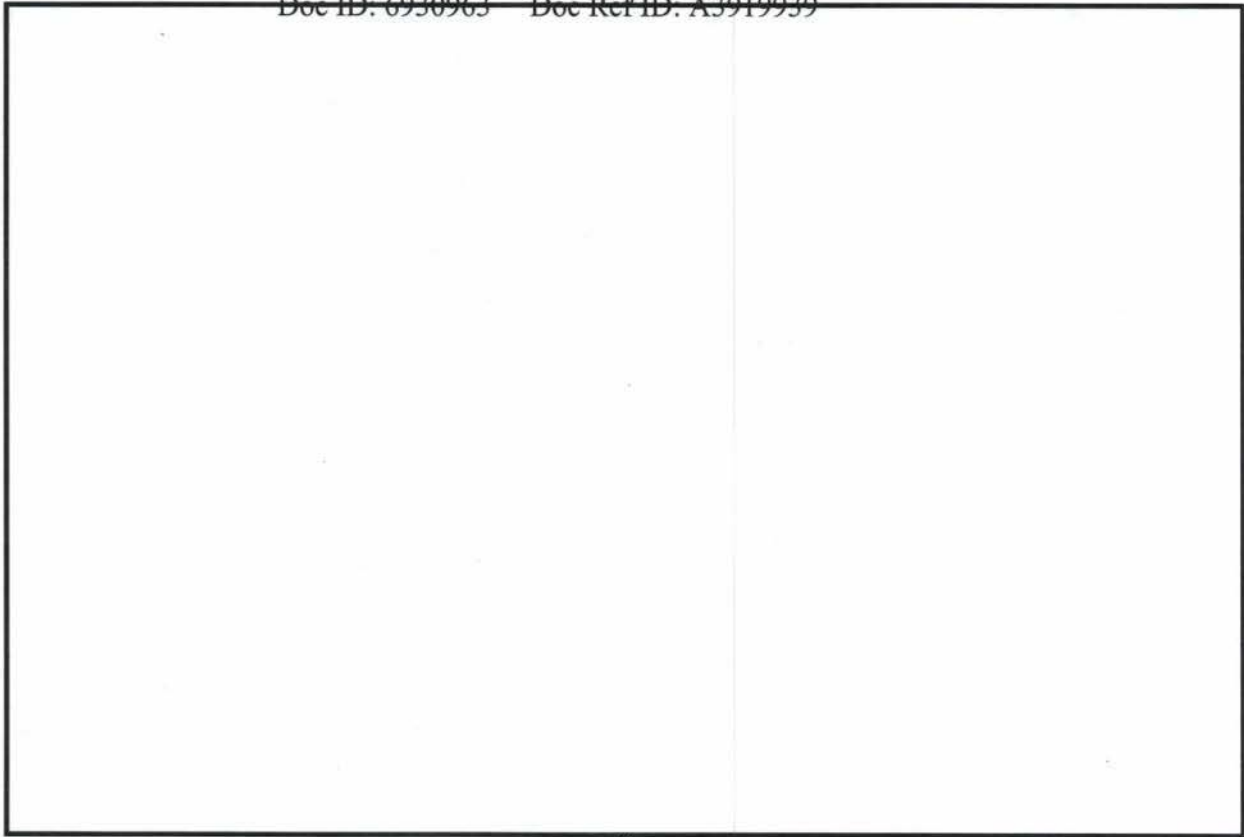
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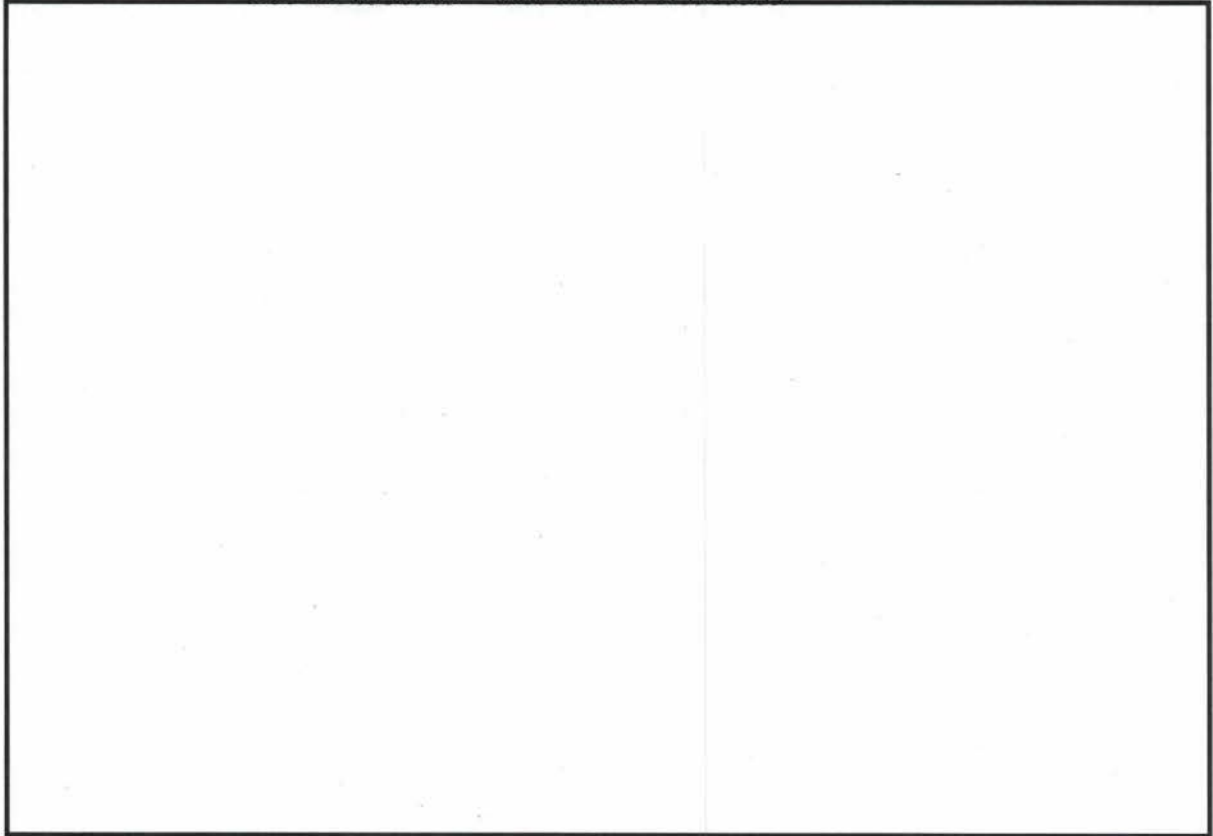
This story of the dissection of a callsign system proves the validity of that old saw, "Many a true word is spoken in jest." It proves a lot of other things, too—among them that it ill behooves the cryptanalyst to dismiss the word spoken in jest too quickly. But you may ask what a cryptanalyst is doing "dissecting" a callsign system in the first place. Isn't that a job for a traffic analyst? Well, in case some of us still don't believe that you can't really delimit the work of the cryptanalyst, the traffic analyst and the linguist, this story provides a bit more proof of that, too.

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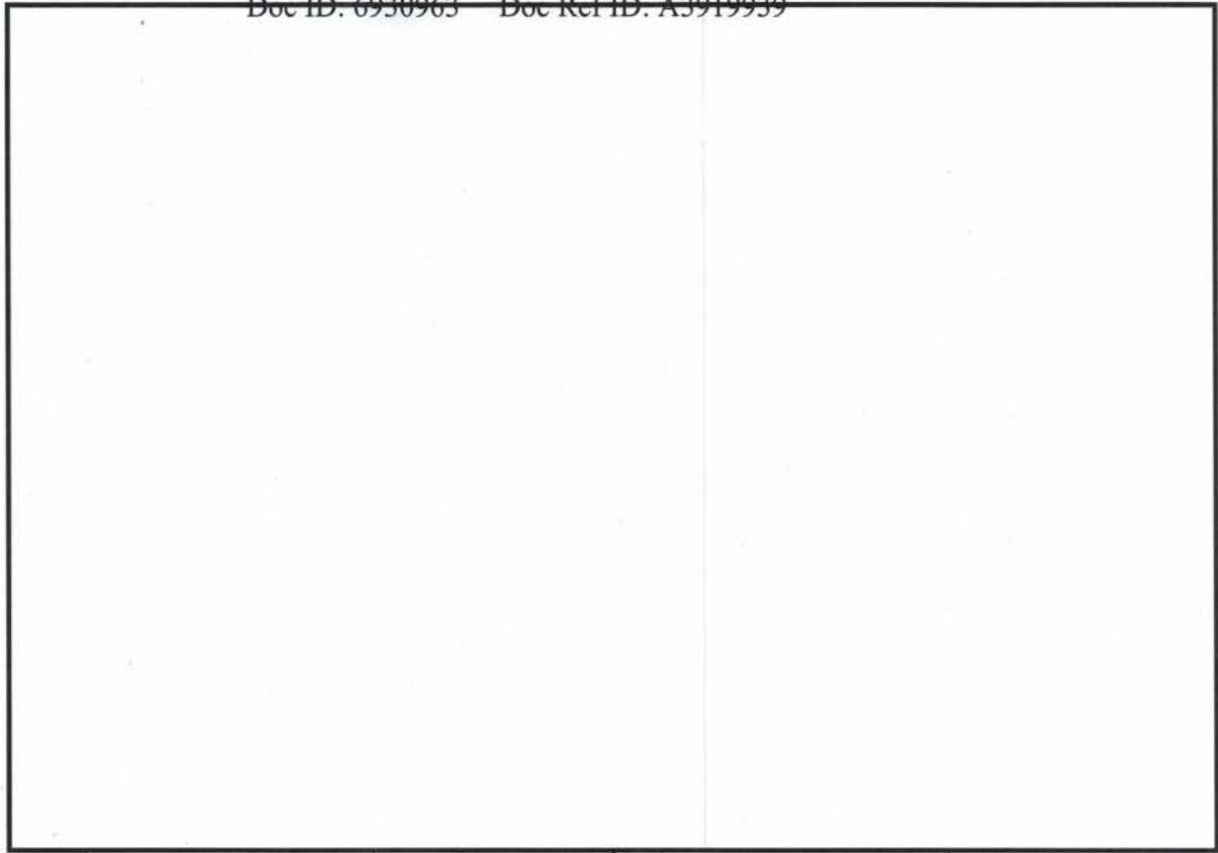
As the reader has probably guessed by now, the title of this piece was the "true word spoken in jest." It wasn't really spoken entirely in jest, however. We already knew that many of

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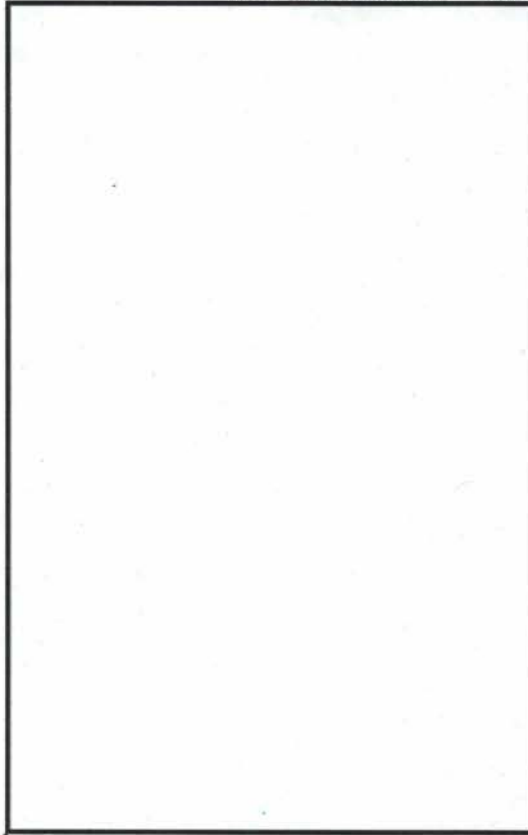


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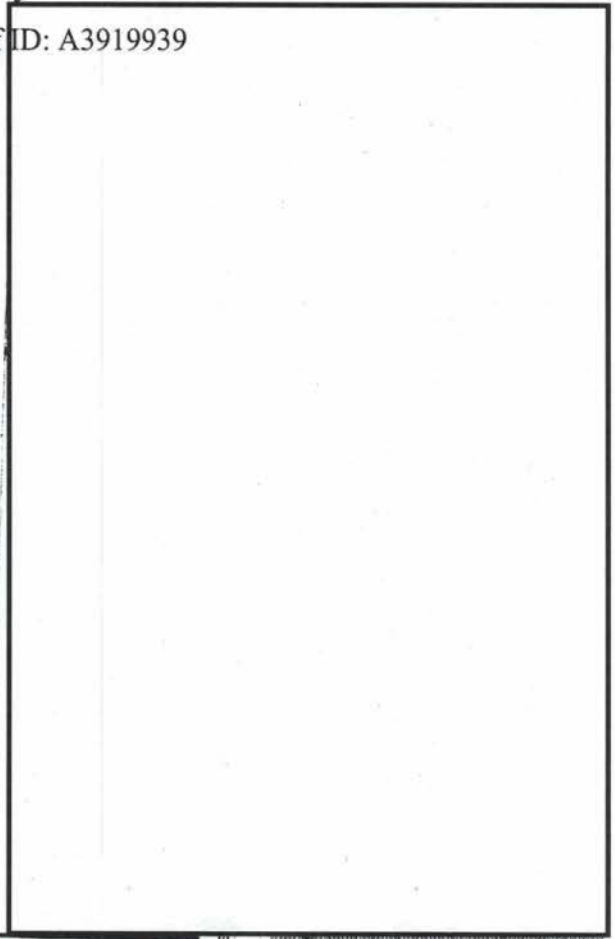
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Non-Responsive Record