



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

Case: 114161
27 April 2026

JOHN GREENEWALD JR

Dear John Greenewald Jr:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 19 October 2016 to the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) for *"a copy of records, electronic or otherwise, of all e-mails within your FOIA office (please include all pertinent email address and personnel in the FOIA office) which contain the following keyword: "Black Vault" and/or www.theblackvault.com and/or theblackvault.com and/or www.blackvault.com and/or blackvault.com"*. DIA FOIA-00023-2017. A copy of your request is enclosed. The DIA referred one NSA-originated document (4 pages) to this office on 4 May 2022 for our review and direct response to you. This referral has been assigned NSA case number 114161.

The document has been reviewed by NSA as required by FOIA and is enclosed. Information has been protected in the enclosure.

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 this 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 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.

- 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.

- 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.
- Include the case number provided above.
- Describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.

In addition, the following agencies have asked us to protect some of their information pursuant to the exemptions cited below and annotated within the enclosed document as OGA:

DIA – (b)(3) and (b)(6) of the FOIA. The applicable (b)(3) statute is 10 U.S.C. 424.

CIA – (b)(3), (b)(5), and (b)(6). Exemption (b)(3) pertains to information exempt from disclosure by Section 6 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, as amended, and Section 102A(i)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended.

ODNI - 50 U.S.C. 552 (b)(3) and (b)(6) of the FOIA. The applicable (b)(3) statute is the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, section 102A(m), as amended, 50 U.S.C. 3024(m), which protects, among other things, the names and identifying information of ODNI personnel

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

Case: 114161

8601 Adelphi Rd. - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
ogis@nara.gov
877-684-6448
(Fax) 202-741-5769

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally A. Nicholson".

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>**

[redacted] (b) (3) - 10 USC 424
(b) (6)
OGA Per DIA

From: [redacted]
Sent: (b) (3) Wednesday, September 26, 2012 8:32 AM
To: (b) (6) [redacted]
Cc: OGA [redacted] Williams Alesia Y DIA USA Government; [redacted]
PER CIA [redacted] USA CIV; Phillips Pamela N NSA; DJ4 USA CIV; [redacted]
Subject: Re: FW: (U) New FOIA Request for IC Coordination? (b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Good Morning,

We have not received a request regarding threats relating to "all documents pertaining to any warnings to the United States regarding a potential terrorist attack on or around September 11th, 2012." We'll be on the lookout for it. Thank you for the coordination efforts.

Regards,
[redacted]

(b) (3)
(b) (6) PER CIA
OGA

UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

(b) (3) - 10 USC 424
(b) (6)
OGA Per DIA

From: [redacted]
Date: 09/26/2012 07:48 AM
Subject: Re: FW: (U) New FOIA Request for IC Coordination?
To: [redacted]
Cc: "Williams Alesia Y DIA USA GOV"; [redacted] "Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV"; [redacted]
This message is digitally signed.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

Good morning, Pam.

We'll check into this and see if we've received the same or similar request and we'll be back in touch.

[redacted] can you please look into this?

Thanks!

[redacted]
Information & Privacy Coordinator
CIO/IMS/IRRG/PIPD

[redacted] (b) (3)
OGA
PER CIA

(b) (3) - 10 USC 424

(b) (6)

OGA

Per DIA

From: "Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV" [redacted]
To: [redacted] "Williams Alesia Y DIA USA GOV" [redacted]
Cc: "Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV" [redacted]
Date: 09/25/2012 10:31 AM
Subject: FW: (U) New FOIA Request for IC Coordination?
Sent by: [redacted]

(b) (3)

(b) (6)

OGA

Per CIA

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b) (3)

(b) (5)

OGA

Per CIA

(U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted]

ODNI is checking to see if

they've received the request.

Alesia,

(U//~~FOUO~~) DIA may want to weigh-in, too.

Pamela

(U)

Pamela N. Phillips

Chief, DJ4

Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office

(U)

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 25, 2012 10:21 AM
To: Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: Re: FW: (U) New FOIA Request for IC Coordination?

(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024 (m)

(b) (6)

OGA

Per ODNI

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

No problem. While ODNI/FOIA is looking this request up in their queue, have you also reached out to CIA/FOIA to see if they received a similar request?

"Those who want to reap the benefits of this great nation must bear the fatigue of supporting it."
Thomas Paine

From: "Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV" [redacted]
To: [redacted]
Cc: "Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV" [redacted]
Date: 09/25/2012 09:29 AM
Subject: FW: (U) New FOIA Request for IC Coordination?
Sent by: [redacted]

(b) (3)-P.L. 86-36

(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024 (m)
(b) (6)
OGA

Per ODNI

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

[REDACTED] (U) Thanks for querying me, as I used an old email that popped up yesterday when I tried to send it. It probably didn't get to [REDACTED] either. I tried again this morning, so you may have gotten it from me, as well as my request for Regina's info, which you provided in your other email. Thanks! Hopefully you will both get this now.

Pamela

(U)
Pamela N. Phillips
Chief, DJ4
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office

[REDACTED] (U)

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

From: Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2012 2:24 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] Phillips Pamela N NSA-DJ4 USA CIV; [REDACTED]

Subject: (U) New FOIA Request for IC Coordination?

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

(b) (3) - 50 USC 3024 (m)
(b) (6)
OGA

Per ODNI

[REDACTED] (U//~~FOUO~~) Not sure if you're the right folks to contact about this since [REDACTED] is no longer doing FOIA there. Since you were involved in the recent coordination over [REDACTED] request, figured you might be the right place to start. Has a new FOIA Chief been named yet?

(U//~~FOUO~~) We received a new FOIA request from John Greenwald (The Black Vault) dated 19 September 2012 for "all documents pertaining to any warnings to the United States regarding a potential terrorist attack on or around September 11th, 2012. Please do not limit this search to only warnings relating to the Benghazi attack, but do include it."

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

Pamela

(U)
Pamela N. Phillips
Chief, DJ4
Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Office

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

[REDACTED] (U)

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