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and research of John Greenewald, Jr., creator of:

The Black Vault



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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
2000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-2000

5720
Ser DNS-36DB/19U102763
June 28, 2019

Sent via email to: john@greenewald.com

Mr. John R. Greenewald
27305 W Live Oak Rd.
Suite 1203
Castaic, CA 91384

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act (PA) request dated April 26, 2019. Your request was received in our office on the same day and assigned case number DON-NAVY-2019-006272.

In the course of processing your FOIA request this office contacted the Deputy CNO for Information Warfare (OPNAV N2/N6) to conduct a search for applicable records. Accordingly, that office searched their local files for records relating to "...ALL emails sent TO / FROM (or cc'd or bcc'd) Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, which include the following keyword: "UFO" and/or "unidentified aircraft...".

OPNAV N2/N6 has identified 2 records totaling 63 pages that are responsive to your request. Upon review of these records, it has been determined that they contain instances of deliberative process privileged material, are predecisional in nature, and/or contain working versions of documents, and are thus exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5).

It has also determined that they contain instances of personally identifiable information (PII), such as the names and e-mail addresses. These instances of PII are exempt from disclosure under 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), since release of this information would result in a clearly unwarranted invasion of their personal privacy. The remainder of the document is released to you.

Because your request is partially denied, you are advised of your right to appeal this determination by writing to:

Office of the Judge Advocate General
1322 Patterson Ave SE Ste 3000
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

Your appeal must be postmarked within ninety calendar days from the date of this letter. A copy of your initial request and this letter must accompany the appeal. The appeal should be marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL" both on the envelope and the face of the letter. In order to expedite the appellate process and ensure full consideration of your appeal, your appeal should contain a brief statement of the reasons you believe this decision to be in error.

In this instance, the fees associated with the processing of your request are waived, but this action is not indicative of how future requests will be handled.

For this determination, you have the right to seek dispute resolution services from either the DoD Navy Component FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Chris Julka, at: Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil, via phone: (703) 697-0031; or by contacting the Office of Government Information Services at: (<https://ogis.archives.gov/>), (202) 741-5770, ogis@nara.gov.

Questions regarding the action this office has taken to process your request may be directed to our FOIA Service Center at (202) 685-0412 or via email at donfoia-pa@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Strong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Strong
Deputy Director,
DON FOIA/PA Program Office

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From: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:46 AM
To: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Subject: FW: Statement on unexplained aerial phenomena reporting

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Sir,

I sent your statement to The Washington Post who responded with the queries below.

V/r,
(b) (6)

From: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:43 AM
To: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Statement on unexplained aerial phenomena reporting

Hello, I'm still waiting to receive the official statement from you.

As a matter of expediency, below are follow up questions. I'd appreciate the opportunity to speak with someone this morning. We're aiming to publish early afternoon.

- What does the U.S. Navy constitute as a strange aerial sighting, for purposes of the new guidelines?
- The statement published by POLITICO says, "There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space in recent years." Can you elaborate on what this means?
 - Is "recent years" the last two years? Five? Ten?
 - Has there been an increase in sighting over that time period or has it remained constant? What prompted the Navy to draft these guidelines now?
 - How many sightings have there been?
- What are the drafted guidelines? Could you provide us with a copy of them?
- Prior to this, was there anything similar in place for unidentified aircraft sightings?
- Are there parallel guidelines for other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, like the Air Force?
- What type of analysis will be conducted?

(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:28 AM
(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Subject: Statement on unexplained aerial phenomena reporting

Thanks so much for sending the statement. Will send follow up questions once received.

(b) (6)
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From: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 1:16 PM
To: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: HOT ITEM: WASHINGTON POST follow-up Query on Politico story

Sir,

Just got my 7th call from the Washington Post reporter. She’s releasing this story early afternoon. I’ll be out of the office at 1500, yet feel free to send to (b)(6) who can send the answers back before she releases.

V/r,
(b) (6)

(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Public Affairs Officer, US Navy
Media Relations Officer & Spokesperson for US Navy Operations
Pentagon
(b) (6)(b) (6)

From: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 12:44 PM
To: Wright, B Lynn SES USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6); Stratton, John F (Jay) SES USN NIMITZ
OPINTELCEN DC (USA) (b)(6)
Cc: Kohler, Matthew J VADM USN (USA) (b)(6); OPNAV ALL N2N6 Front Office
(b)(6) > (b)(6)
(b)(6); Hicks, Gregory
L CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: WASHINGTON POST follow-up Query on Politico story

Roger all, Lynn...

That will work.

Regards,

Joe

From: Wright, B Lynn SES USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) (b) (6); Stratton, John F (Jay) SES USN NIMITZ
OPINTELCEN DC (USA) (b)(6)
Cc: Kohler, Matthew J VADM USN (USA) (b)(6); OPNAV ALL N2N6 Front Office
(b)(6) > (b)(6)
(b)(6); Hicks, Gregory
L CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) (b)(6)
Subject: RE: WASHINGTON POST follow-up Query on Politico story

From: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:43 AM
To: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6) >
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Statement on unexplained aerial phenomena reporting

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From: (b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:28 AM
To: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Subject: Statement on unexplained aerial phenomena reporting

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 5:48 PM
To: Spencer, Richard V HON SECNAV; Richardson, John M ADM USN CNO (USA)
Cc: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Subject: PA END OF DAY 23 APR 2019
Attachments: THE NEW YORK TIMES_23 APR 19_Navy SEALs Were Warned Against Reporting Their Chief for War Crimes.doc; POLITICO 23 APR 19_U.S. Navy drafting new guidelines for reporting UFOs.docx
Signed By: (b)(6)

UNIDENTIFIED AIRCRAFT REPORTING/POLITICO -- Responded to Politico ((b)(6)) query TODAY on recent Hill briefings by the Navy regarding unidentified aircraft. (b) (5)(b) (5)(b) (5)(b) (5)(b) (5)(b) (5) Responded: "There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space in recent years. For safety and security concerns, the Navy and the USAF take these reports very seriously and investigate each and every report. As part of this effort, the Navy is updating and formalizing the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions can be made to the cognizant authorities. A new message to the fleet that will detail the steps for reporting is in draft. In response to requests for information from Congressional members and staff, Navy officials have provided a series of briefings by senior Naval Intelligence officials as well as aviators who reported hazards to aviation safety." Article attached.

Vr,
Greg

CAPT Greg Hicks
Acting Chief of Information
Navy Office of Information
Navy Pentagon- 4B463
(b)(6)

From: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

Sent: Monday, April 22, 2019 10:37 AM

To: Hicks, Gregory L CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) (b)(6)

Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] Free for a quick catch up?

Sorry to be a pest but should I hound ONR directly? Thanks.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 29, 2019, at 1:22 PM, Hicks, Gregory L CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (US) (b)(6) > wrote:

Sorry (b) (6), nothing really. Only that it is in the intel lanes. VR/ Greg

From: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 3:02 PM

To: Hicks, Gregory L CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (US) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Free for a quick catch up?

Any thing to report here yet? Thanks

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: Hicks, Gregory CAPT CHINFO, OI-00 (b)(6)

Sent: Friday, March 1, 2019 2:01:02 PM

To: (b)(6)

Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Free for a quick catch up?

Sorry, nothing yet. I've asked the team to respond and reach out in our lifelines.

Sent with BlackBerry Work

www.blackberry.com

From: (b)(6)

Date: Friday, Mar 01, 2019, 1:57 PM

To: Hicks, Gregory CAPT CHINFO, OI-00

(b)(6)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Free for a quick catch up?

Sent from my iPhone

(b)(6)
Military Writer



500 Ala Moana Blvd., Tower 7, Suite 210
Honolulu, HI 96813
Office (b)(6) 9
Cell (b)(6)
Email (b)(6)

On Apr 25, 2019, at 2:43 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

(b) (6)(b) (6)

Thanks for the call. Below is the statement as discussed. You may attributed it to Mr. Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare.

“There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space in recent years. For safety and security concerns, the Navy and the USAF take these reports very seriously and investigate each and every report. As part of this effort, the Navy is updating and formalizing the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions can be made to the cognizant authorities. A message to the fleet details the steps for reporting each incident. In response to requests for information from Congressional members and staff, Navy officials have provided a series of briefings by senior Naval Intelligence officials as well as aviators who reported hazards to aviation safety.”

Vr,
(b)(6)

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: (b)(6)
(b)(6) >
Date: Thursday, Apr 25, 2019, 8:25 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Honolulu Star-Advertiser/Navy UFO reporting

guidance

Hi (b)(6),

Here's the email follow-up.

If I could get the various Navy comments used by Politico and Wash Post on the upcoming Navy guidance, that would be great.

Thanks!

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Military Writer

(b)(6)

500 Ala Moana Blvd., Tower 7, Suite 210

Honolulu, HI 96813

Office (b)(6)

Cell (b)(6)

Email: (b)(6)

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From: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, May 2, 2019 3:48 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: [Non-DoD Source] Re: ELITE DAILY Media Query from Navy.mil website (CAPTCHA verified)
Signed By: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)

Hi (b),

Thanks for your interest in the Navy's procedures.

As for your questions below let me answer what I can for you:

- 1. whether there was a specific incident or cause that prompted the upcoming change.
There was no one specific incident that prompted the change in policy. The wide proliferation and availability of inexpensive unmanned aerial systems (UAS), such as commercially available quadcopters, has increasingly made airspace de-confliction an issue for our aviators. In this increasingly complex airspace including both military and civilian aviation environments, the US Navy is proactive in exercising due diligence in investigating any observation in training areas that could affect the safety of our aircrews. Based on this increased airspace complexity, US Navy aircrews were provided with reporting instructions in order to determine the frequency and location of any UAS operating in our training areas.
- 2. offer any detail on the new process.
The information obtained from each individual report of any suspected training range incursion will continue to be investigated in its own right. The information obtained in these reports will be catalogued and analyzed for the purpose of identifying any hazard to our aviators. This process could involve multiple Department of Defense and Intelligence Community organizations. Military aviation safety organizations always retain reporting of hazards to aviation as privileged information in order to preserve the free and honest prioritization and discussion of safety among aircrew. Furthermore, any report generated as a result of these investigations will, by necessity, include classified information on military operations. Therefore, no release of information to the general public is expected.
- 3. comment on whether there's been an uptick in reports.
Consistent with the wide proliferation and availability of inexpensive unmanned aerial systems (UAS), sightings of this nature have increased in frequency from 2014 until now.

V/r,

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From: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 5:17 PM

To: (b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)(b) (6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: ELITE DAILY Media Query from Navy.mil website (CAPTCHA verified)

Hi (b)(6),

Thanks so much for your reply. For our coverage, can the Navy or any representative offer any comment on whether there was a specific incident or cause that prompted the upcoming change, offer any detail on the new process, comment on whether there's been an uptick in reports, or offer any comment regarding the possibility of aliens among us? (We've gotta ask!)

Thanks for your time.

Best,

(b)
(6)

On Wed, Apr 24, 2019 at 3:24 PM (b)(6) > wrote:

----- Forwarded message -----

From: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Date: Wed, Apr 24, 2019 at 3:06 PM

Subject: Media Query from Navy.mil website (CAPTCHA verified)

To: (b)(6) >

Cc: (b)(6)

Good Afternoon,

Here is the statement from the Navy:

"There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space in recent years. For safety and security concerns, the Navy and the USAF take these reports very seriously and investigate each and every report. As part of this effort, the Navy is updating and formalizing the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions can be made to the cognizant authorities. A new message to the fleet that will detail the steps for reporting is in draft. In response to requests for information from Congressional members and staff, Navy officials have provided a series of briefings by senior Naval Intelligence officials as well as aviators who reported hazards to aviation safety."

Attributed to Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare.

Thank you.

V/r,

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Which Congressional members and staff have been briefed?

On Wed, Apr 24, 2019 at 3:33 PM (b)(6) > wrote:

Thanks!

On Wed, Apr 24, 2019 at 11:53 AM Chinfo Duty Officer (b)(6) wrote:

Good Morning Ma'am,

Here is the statement that the Navy put out:

"There have been a number of reports of unauthorized and/or unidentified aircraft entering various military-controlled ranges and designated air space in recent years. For safety and security concerns, the Navy and the USAF take these reports very seriously and investigate each and every report. As part of this effort, the Navy is updating and formalizing the process by which reports of any such suspected incursions can be made to the cognizant authorities. A new message to the fleet that will detail the steps for reporting is in draft. In response to requests for information from Congressional members and staff, Navy officials have provided a series of briefings by senior Naval Intelligence officials as well as aviators who reported hazards to aviation safety."

You can attribute this to Joseph Gradisher, spokesperson for Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare.

Thank you

V/r,

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 9:41 PM

To: Chinfo Duty Officer <(b)(6)>

Subject: Media Query from Navy.mil website (CAPTCHA verified)

ADCNO for Information Warfare (Acting)
OPNAV N2N6B

(b)(6)

From: Stratton, John F (Jay) SES USN NIMITZ OPINTELCEN DC (USA) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 2:25 PM

To: Wright, B Lynn SES USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: WASHINGTON POST follow-up Query on Politico story

Safety of aircrew is always a paramount concern to the US Navy and the Department of Defense. The wide proliferation and availability of inexpensive unmanned aerial systems (UAS) such as commercially available quadcopters has increasingly made airspace de-confliction an issue for our aviators. In this increasingly complex airspace including both military and civilian aviation environments, the US Navy is proactive in exercising due diligence in investigating any observation in training areas that could affect the safety of our aircrew. Based on this increased airspace complexity, US Navy aircrew were provided with reporting instructions in order to determine the frequency and location of any UAS operating in our training areas.

In response to past reports, the US Navy issued guidelines for responses to observations. Based on continued reporting under those guidelines, the US Navy has decided to further develop ways to help better understand the source and nature of the observations. As an example, in 2012 there were a number of lasing events near Naval Air Station Oceana, the US Navy took these hazards to aviation very seriously and working with Law Enforcement identified and prosecuted the individual. While the US Navy acknowledges that these hazards to aviation may be inadvertent or unintended, just as with the lasing events, the US Navy remains vigilant in addressing any and all hazards to aviation.

We are currently updating guidelines to be more aircraft specific in order to facilitate reports that support an objective data driven analysis while helping to remove any stigmas from reporting anything unknown in the airspace. Due to the operational and aircraft specific nature of these guidelines, security considerations preclude their disclosure. The US Navy is at the forefront of this effort but works across the Department of Defense to ensure other service partners maintain awareness for the safety of their aircrew. The US Navy is not working with any entities outside of the US government.

Military and civilian aviation has always had channels for reporting airspace violations and hazards to aviation safety. However, based on the enhanced guidelines that were implemented reporting became more consistent which lead to our recognition that more specific guidelines were needed. The US Navy continues to operate and train safely throughout the world.

From: Wright, B Lynn SES USN DCNO N2N6 (USA) (b)(6)

Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 12:25 PM

To: Gradisher, Joseph F CIV USN DCNO N2N6 (US) (b)(6); Stratton, John F (Jay) SES USN NIMITZ OPINTELCEN DC (USA) (b)(6)

Cc: Kohler, Matthew J VADM USN (USA) (b)(6); OPNAV ALL N2N6 Front Office (b)(6)

(b)(6)

L CAPT USN CHINFO WASHINGTON DC (USA) (b)(6)

Subject: RE: WASHINGTON POST follow-up Query on Politico story

Hicks, Gregory

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:43 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Statement on unexplained aerial phenomena reporting

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 - How many sightings have there been?
- What are the drafted guidelines? Could you provide us with a copy of them?
- Prior to this, was there anything similar in place for unidentified aircraft sightings?
- Are there parallel guidelines for other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces, like the Air Force?
- What type of analysis will be conducted?

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 11:28 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Statement on unexplained aerial phenomena reporting

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(b)(6)



