



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

Ref: 20-F-1129

May 29, 2020

Mr. Christopher Bing  
MuckRock News  
DEPT MR Ave  
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

Dear Mr. Bing:

This is an interim response to your May 26, 2020 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on May 26, 2020, and assigned it case number 20-F-1129. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

Although we have already begun processing your request, we will not be able to respond within the FOIA's 20-day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances which impact our ability to quickly process your request. The FOIA defines unusual circumstances as (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; and (c) the need for consultation with one or more other agencies or DoD components having a substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records. At least one, if not more of these scenarios applies or would likely apply to your request. While this office handles FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff (JS) and other component offices, we do not actually hold their records and our office is not geographically located with these organizations. As we do not hold the records, until the required records searches are complete, we are unable to estimate the potential volume of records or the number of consultations that will be required to make a release determination.

Your request has been placed in our complex processing queue and is being worked based on the order in which the request was received. Our current administrative workload is approximately 3,354 open requests.

In some instances, we have found that requesters who narrow the scope of their requests experience a reduction in the time needed to process their requests. If you wish to narrow the scope of your request or have questions about the foregoing, please do not hesitate to contact your Action Officer, Vivian Gales-Wilkes, at [Vivian.d.gales-wilkes.civ@mail.mil](mailto:Vivian.d.gales-wilkes.civ@mail.mil) or (571) 372-0436.

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, Melissa S. Walker, at 571-372-0462 or by email at OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil, or 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

We regret the delay to responding to your request and appreciate your patience. As previously stated, please contact your Action Officer, Vivian Gales-Wilkes, and reference 20-F-1129 for any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Stephen L. Fisher*

*For* Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief

Enclosure:  
As stated