



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

FOIA Case: 79197A

31 May 2023

JOHN R GREENEWALD
THE BLACK VAULT INC
27305 W LIVE OAK RD STE 1203
CASTAIC CA 91384

Dear John Greenewald:

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated 19 September 2014, which we received on 22 September 2014. As stated in our initial response letter to you, dated 23 September 2014, your request was assigned Case Number 79197. Please refer to this number should you need to contact us about this request. NSA has processed your request under the provisions of the FOIA. There are no assessable fees; therefore, we did not address your fee category. Your request is seeking records, if they exist, from internal Intelink "Intellipedia" page[s], for which NSA provides a service of common concern for the Intelligence Community (IC) by serving as the executive agent for Intelink. For reasons described below, we are fully denying your request as we are not able to confirm or deny the existence or nonexistence of these records.

Intellipedia is an internal collaborative platform that the Intelligence Community (IC) uses to share knowledge across and within agencies. The pages on the platform range from Top Secret to Unclassified and are able to be updated, edited, and created by any affiliate within the IC who obtains an account for the platform. Information within this platform may reveal targets, sources, and collection methods, while the lack of information regarding a potential target, source, or method could reveal a vulnerability.

To respond to your request, NSA would have to confirm or deny the existence of records relating to "Intelligence Lessons Learned and History" on the Intellipedia webpages. In other words, your request would require NSA to disclose whether the IC has or does not have an interest in or knowledge of a specific topic and to what extent that interest/knowledge extends, as well as the involvement, if any, that each agency has with that topic. Were we to disclose in your case that records existed and denied the existence of records in other cases, requesters would be able to assess the targets, interests, and activities of the IC, including NSA. For such reasons, we can neither confirm nor deny the existence or non-existence of Intellipedia records on any specific group or individual, or specific topic/activity.

Please note, this is our standard response for any request seeking pages and/or information from Intellipedia. The release of any information from that platform, even that

which may appear innocuous, could be analyzed and fitted together to reveal the protected and classified targets, sources, and/or methods of the IC, including NSA.

The FOIA exempts several categories of information from disclosure. Its first exemption allows the withholding of information that is authorized by Executive Order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign relations, and is in fact properly classified. The fact of the existence or non-existence of the records you seek would reveal a connection or interest that is a properly classified matter and therefore this Agency can neither confirm nor deny the existence of the requested records. Executive Order 13526, Section 3.6(a) ("Classified National Security Information") specifically authorizes this type of response, which is also known as a Glomar response.

Moreover, the third exemption under the FOIA authorizes the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The fact of the existence or non-existence of records responsive to your request is currently exempted from disclosure by the following statutes: Title 18 U.S. Code 798; Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i); and Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605).

For the reasons described above, the Agency reasonably foresees that disclosure of the existence or non-existence of the requested information would be harmful to an interest that is protected by the identified exemptions.

You may appeal this decision. 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 Please include the case number provided above.
- ξ Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.

You may also 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 as follows:

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

Additionally, the following general information about intelligence may be useful to you: NSA collects and provides intelligence derived from foreign communications to policymakers, military commanders, and law enforcement officials. We do this to help these individuals protect the security of the United States, its allies, and their citizens from threats such as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, foreign espionage, international organized crime, and other hostile activities. What we are authorized to do, and how we do it, is described in Executive Order 12333. Information about how NSA conducts signals intelligence activities is available on the websites of NSA (www.nsa.gov) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (www.dni.gov).


Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paula A. Gill".

PAULA A. GILL
Chief, FOIA/PA Division
NSA Initial Denial Authority

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
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