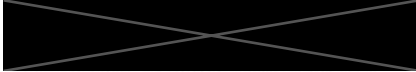




**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION  
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

Ref: 20-F-1360  
September 30, 2021

Mr. Alejandro Rojas



Dear Mr. Rojas:

This is a final response to your July 13, 2020 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on July 14, 2020, and assigned it FOIA case number 20-F-1360. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

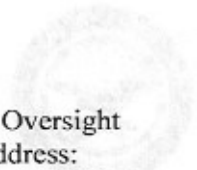
The Office of General Counsel (OGC), a component of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, conducted a search of their records systems and located four pages determined to be responsive to your request. Mr. David P. Bennett, in his capacity as an Initial Denial Authority for OGC, has determined that portions of the four pages are exempt from release pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(5), which pertains to inter- and intra-agency information of a pre-decisional, deliberative nature which, if released, could reasonably be expected to interfere with the government's deliberative process; and 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6), as disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of individuals.

In this instance, fees for processing your request were below the threshold for requiring payment. Please note that fees may be assessed on future request.

If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Torrey Dixon, at (571)372-0409 or [torrey.d.dixon.civ@mail.mil](mailto:torrey.d.dixon.civ@mail.mil). 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, Tonya R. Fuentes, at 571-372-0462 or by email at [OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil](mailto: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](mailto:ogis@nara.gov)  
Telephone: 202-741-5770  
Fax: 202-741-5769  
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448



You have the right to appeal to the appellate authority, Ms. Joo Chung, Director of Oversight and Compliance, Office of the Secretary of Defense, by writing directly to the following address: 4800 Mark Center Drive, ATTN: DPCLTD, FOIA Appeals, Mailbox# 24, Alexandria, VA 22350-1700.

Your appeal must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this response. Alternatively, you may email your appeal to [osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil](mailto:osd.foia-appeal@mail.mil). If you use email, please include the words "FOIA Appeal" in the subject of the email. Please also reference FOIA case number 20-F-1360 in any appeal correspondence.

We appreciate your patience in the processing of your request. As stated previously, please contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Torrey Dixon, and reference FOIA case number 20-F-1360, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*for Pamela Andrews*  
Stephanie L. Carr  
Chief

Enclosures:  
As stated

Office of Government Information Review  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8001 Adelphi Road-0115  
College Park, MD 20740  
Phone: (301) 837-1000  
TDD: (301) 837-1000  
Fax: (301) 837-1000  
Toll free: 1-877-684-6448

(b)(5); (b)(6)

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 12:10 PM

To: Gough, Susan L (Sue) CIV OSD PA (USA)

(b)(6)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] REF: AATIP -- ATTENTION: Ms. Gough; Request for Department Action

Ms. Gough,

My name is Luis D. Elizondo, and I am a former staff member of OUSD(I). As you know, since 2017 there has been considerable controversy and confusion generated by your conflicting and often inaccurate statements regarding the AATIP program and my role in it. I am therefore writing today to seek your assistance in correcting the record.

Last fall you released a statement erroneously characterizing the AATIP program, stating, "Neither AATIP nor AAWSAP were UAP related." While I am delighted that you have since corrected the record on this important issue, acknowledging that the program was in fact all about UAPs, you have yet to amend your equally false and misleading comment that I had "no assigned duties in the AATIP program." The truth, as everyone involved in the program knows, is that I ran the program.

After contacting your office to point out the inaccuracy of your statements regarding my role at AATIP, I largely refrained from public comment assuming that you would review this important issue and correct the record. Indeed, your colleague and predecessor, Mr. Sherwood informed me that in light of the Navy's recent admission of my involvement, the Department would be releasing a new statement in the near term that would exonerate me and finally set the record straight.

A year has gone by and I am losing faith in you and your office. Consequently, in a final effort to clarify matters I am providing a list of individuals who can substantiate my lead role in the AATIP program:

The "Honorable Harry Reid"; former Senate Majority Leader and AATIP sponsor  
"Kate"; OSD Senior Executive, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Defense  
"Justin"; OSD Senior Executive, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Defense  
"Brad Byers"; OSD Senior Executive, Senior DoD Liaison to the White House  
"Neil Tipton"; OSD Senior Executive, Director of Defense Intelligence for Special Programs, OUSD(I)

"Jay [REDACTED]"; Senior Executive, Office of Naval Intelligence

[REDACTED] (b)(6) GS-15, Office of Naval Intelligence, SAPCO

[REDACTED] (b)(6); Lead AATIP Contractor; [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6); Lead Scientist, AATIP

[REDACTED] Senior Scientist for AATIP

[REDACTED]; GS-14, Counterintelligence and Security, OUSD(I)

[REDACTED] (b)(6); GS-14, Defense Intelligence Agency

[REDACTED] (b)(6); Contractor, OUSD(I)

[REDACTED] (b)(6); GS-13, Defense Intelligence Agency

[REDACTED] (b)(6); GS-14, [REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6)

[REDACTED] (b)(6); Civilian, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Intelligence

This is only a partial list of individuals I worked with in AATIP who can substantiate my role. If necessary, I can provide the names of other individuals from the Central Intelligence Agency, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and the Senate Staff. Many of these individuals received regular briefings from me and participated in meetings involving the program and its investigation of the UAP phenomenon.



Additionally, I arranged and attended many in-person, official briefings for senior OSD staff, accompanied by military pilots and other personnel involved in UAP incidents. Many of these meetings occurred in the Secretary of Defense office suite which I am certain there are records. If necessary I can supply those names as well, as these meetings occurred frequently and at the behest of senior ranking individuals in the Department. There is also official documentation and records substantiating these meetings and interactions within DoD holdings.

Finally, in the event the above does not suffice, you should know that I transferred my AATIP responsibilities to one of the named individuals above, in writing, and in the presence of other individuals. With this information in hand I cannot imagine any reason you cannot readily clarify the facts and correct the record. As all of these individuals can attest, I remained in the lead role, coordinating and investigating UAP activities in the Department until my resignation from OSD in October 2017.

I have been patient and hopeful for over a year. That is a long time when one's reputation is at stake. Again, I applaud you for finally correcting the record involving AATIP's mission, but your failure to correct the record regarding my involvement in UAP investigations in OSD from 2008 until my departure from OSD in 2017 is contributing to unnecessary misunderstandings and mistrust of both the Department and myself. This is a very serious issue given the impact on my credibility and career prospects, and also the credibility of OSD.

I therefore encourage you to seek whatever information you require (and I am happy to assist you) to ensure the public receives accurate information at the Unclassified level. As you know, there is already great public distrust of the Government regarding the UAP issue. Regrettably, your inconsistent and sometimes erroneous reporting has only intensified the problem.

Although I am confident that via the FOIA process, or through Congressional or press inquiries that the truth will eventually come to light, my hope is to see this issue resolved sooner rather than later. If you are unable or unwilling to correct

the record regarding my role on the UAP issue at DoD, I will have no other choice than to seek redress through the press, Congress, and/or the courts.

In that regard, I have to say that my experience and disappointment in your responsiveness is apparently not unique. As distinguished veteran reporter Tyler Rogoway of The Drive stated in an article in March:

“Simply put, my experience with Susan Gough has been the worst I have had with any of the Defense Department's public affairs personnel, ever. What has transpired, or more accurately what hasn't transpired, over the last six months leaves me with no confidence or trust in this official representing the DoD on the issue.

Having paid a deep personal, emotional, and professional price for your mistakes and inaction over the last year I confess I share Tyler's feelings and frustration. Nevertheless, I am willing to make a final effort to work with you to correct the record in hopes of sparing the Department any additional and unnecessary embarrassment. I hope you will reach out to those above and do so promptly so this matter can be put to rest.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Luis Elizondo