



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

5720
Ser DNS-36KM/20U102742
December 8, 2020

Sent via email to: foia@americanoversight.org

Ms. Christine H Monahan
American Oversight
1030 15th St. NW B255
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Monahan:

This is in reference to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)/Privacy Act (PA) requests dated October 15, 2020. Your requests was received in our office on the same day and assigned case numbers DON-NAVY-2021-000370, DON-NAVY-2021-000375, and DON- NAVY-2021-000376.

In the course of processing your FOIA request this office contacted, Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), Chief of Naval Offices (CNO), Vice Chief of Naval Offices (VCNO), Office of Naval Research (ONR), U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), Fleet Readiness and Logistics (N4), Chief Fleet Forces Command (CFFC), Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) to conduct a search for applicable records. Accordingly, all has searched their databases for records relating to "... Advanced Technology International (ATI) and the entities listed below regarding the development of coronavirus vaccines or therapeutics..." and advised DNS-36 that they have found no records responsive to your request and to contact Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

In an effort to assist you, this office has the office listed on the flow chart provided and was informed that Mr. Runstrom "was not the right person to direct this to, for a number of reasons such as the mention of him is in relation to one of his former positions at US Fleet Forces Command. He left USFF one year before the COVID crisis began and would not have been involved in any of their response to the crisis. It is unknown how that relationship was drawn. It was also noted that there is no way that USFF has been involved in contracting efforts for a vaccine so mention of them is misguided."

Because no records were located, under 32 CFR §701.12(a), you may appeal this determination by writing to:

You have the right to an appeal within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Please provide the appellate authority (see below) the following:

- a. A letter requesting an appeal that explains what you are appealing with any supporting arguments or reasons you think may be worthy of consideration;
- b. A copy of your initial request;
- c. A copy of the letter of denial.

Also, please provide me a copy of your appeal letter at:

DONFOIA-PA@NAVY.MIL

There are two ways to file an appeal: through FOIAonline or by mail.

(1) Through FOIAonline. This will work only if you set up an account on FOIAonline before you make the request that you would like to appeal. To set up an account, go to FOIAonline (this is a website that will appear as the top hit if you search the internet for "FOIAonline"), click "Create Account" (a link located within the blue banner at the top in the upper right corner), enter your data into the field that subsequently appears, and click "Save" (at the bottom left of the screen). With your account thereby created, you will have the power to file an appeal on FOIAonline to any request you file on FOIAonline thereafter. To do so, locate your request (enter a keyword or the request tracking number in the "Search for" field on the "Search" tab), click on it, then the "Create Appeal" tab in the left-hand column. Complete the subsequent field, click "Save," and FOIAonline will submit your appeal.

(2) By mail. Address your appeal to:

The Judge Advocate General (Code 14)
1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

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,

Gregory Cason

G. Cason
By Direction
Deputy Director,
DON FOIA/PA Program Office